



January 21, 2025

File No. 1-70-23

Premier David Eby
PO Box 9041 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Sent via email:premier@gov.bc.ca

Dear Premier Eby:

Re: Urgent Appeal to Support Continued Operation of Williams Lake Power Plant

We would like to provide you with an update on the Williams Lake Power Plant as the days count down and a viable solution has not been found.

We have reached out to your new team of cabinet ministers, and we are grateful for Hon. Tamara Davidson for meeting with the City, and for the recent visit from Hon. Ravi Parmar for a tour of the power plant facility and introduction to key biomass suppliers like Tsi Del Del/Cariboo Chilcotin Rehabilitation. I also had the opportunity to connect with other members of your team at the recent Natural Resources Forum.

From my discussions over the past few months, there is no doubt that there is enough suitable material that could be made available through some minor changes in policy direction; most notably, changes to wildfire mitigation policies that would result in more purchase opportunities for all of the residual users in the Cariboo. While we have been advocating hard for the Williams Lake Power Plant, this work to create better forest policy will impact all residual users in this region. These policy changes could also provide important wildfire reduction and make our region more resilient. I trust that the Minister of Forests took the recommendations from our community seriously and will continue to work on amending the policy direction that would see this work become a priority.

While I am grateful for the conversations, a solution is still out of reach without immediate attention from BC Hydro.

I appeal to you to consider the geo-political climate that we find ourselves in and seriously consider the strategic misstep that will occur if Atlantic Power Corporation decides to close the Williams Lake Power Plant. I believe it would be extremely short-sighted to allow an operating power generating facility in British Columbia to shut down and be stripped for parts when we have the threat of tariffs and a potential trade war looming with the United States. If this situation does result in tense times ahead would we be able to purchase power in high demand times from Washington State? Does it not make sense for British Columbia to be as self-reliant as possible to meet the demands for energy now and in the future? The current contract with the Williams Lake Power Plant ends in 2029, which would see us through to the end of the Trump

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administration. If the situation does not improve, we could count on the Williams Lake Power Plant to increase production and provide this valuable resource to BC Hydro.

We urge your government to consider that the 66 MW Williams Lake Power Plant not only generates renewable energy for the BC Hydro grid but also plays a crucial role in maintaining the stability of the local 69 kV power grid. Long-distance transmission lines, like those running through Williams Lake, experience natural voltage drops due to resistance and other electrical effects. This can result in power quality issues such as voltage fluctuations, which can lead to inefficiencies, equipment malfunctions, or even power outages. For this reason, having local generation sources along the power lines is vital to ensuring the system operates smoothly and reliably.

The Williams Lake Power Plant helps address this issue by providing reactive power to the grid. Reactive power is essential for maintaining the voltage levels needed for electricity to flow efficiently through the transmission lines. There are no other significant generating stations in the area, making the plant's role even more valuable to the local community and BC Hydro. By generating power near the demand source, the plant reduces the strain on long transmission lines, helping prevent voltage drops. This dual role of generating clean energy and stabilizing the grid ensures that the electrical system remains reliable and capable of meeting the province's energy needs. The plant is a key contributor to the region's energy efficiency and grid stability.

I understand that BC Hydro is an independent Crown corporation that makes its own decisions. I would urge your government to provide it with direction that will help to support our infrastructure in British Columbia to see us through what will likely be a challenging four years ahead of us.

We in Williams Lake remain committed to working to save this facility and find those fibre solutions. We urge your government to be part of the solution in directing BC Hydro to take this closure seriously and consider the threat from the south that makes this more important than ever.

Yours sincerely,



Mayor Surinderpal Rathor

- c: Hon. Adrian Dix, Minister of Energy and Climate Solutions
- Hon. Diana Gibson, Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation
- Hon. Tamara Davidson, Minister of Environment and Parks
- Hon. Ravi Parmar, Minister of Forests
- Deputy Minister Fazil Mihlar, Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation
- Asst. Deputy Minister Tim Lesiuk, Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation
- MLA Lorne Doerkson, Cariboo Chilcotin