

The needs will be enormous in Canada and US; in relation to power in addition to BC Hydro's Site C, LNG will play a leading role because of that industry's need for large amounts of electricity (which will in turn drive material increases in greenhouse gases). The required power for LNG is likely to be produced inside the fence. For example four of the proposed LNG projects will require a total of 3,000 MW of natural gas-fired generation adding to the greenhouse gas emissions regardless of the cleanliness of LNG. The British Columbia government is pursuing the path of LNG; arguably, it will be successful. From our viewpoint, LNG is big business, and will continue to grow; we are already involved with a number of projects both on the gas and procurement-side with Asia showing great interest to buy into LNG.

- P. John Landry, Partner, Davis LLP

Generally speaking, there are limits as to what loads can be hauled in B.C.; loads often have to be broken-down and made lighter to meet the axle weight restrictions on B.C. roads and bridges. Another challenge British Columbia faces is availability of big, heavy lifting cranes; these often have to be brought in from outside the province or even from outside of country. This means there are considerable costs when moving 30 to 80 loads of equipment hundreds of miles for a specific project. Saying that, permitting in British Columbia is efficient and relatively easy with costs that are somewhat in line with other provinces and jurisdictions.

- Devlin Fenton, President DLB Cranes, part of the Surespan Group

There is a dramatic geographic diversity between the wind regimes of Vancouver Island and the Columbia Gorge region. We found that the coastal wind regime has a winter-peaking system that drops off in the summer and then returns; the Columbia Valley region has exactly the opposite. If these resources are combined, they result in average with a generally similar profile to base-load power throughout the year; however, there will be the odd occasion when weather phenomena occurs, i.e. no wind in either region; back-up from dams or gas plants will be required, but using far less of those resources than if the geographic diversity were not being exploited at all. The only way that this valuable geographic diversity can be captured is by construction of more cross-border transmission capacity connecting the regions, increasing the capacity and ability to shift the power from one area to another as it is available.

- Paul B. Manson, President and CEO, Sea Breeze Power Corp. Site C is a legacy project that could provide clean energy to the province for decades. History has demonstrated that construction of the large hydroelectric dams 40 to 50 years ago, has allowed British Columbia to become a competitive resource-based economy. However, the government could also achieve a similar or perhaps a greater legacy benefit by looking at and developing alternative projects to Site C, including constructing a number of clean and renewable energy projects, such as wind, solar, run-of-river, geothermal as well as natural gas fired generation projects, in different areas of the province to ensure a diverse supply of distributed generation sources which would stimulate longer term economic development in the different communities. British Columbia was a leader in developing renewable energy projects, but it is questionable as to whether it will remain a leader.

- Charles W. Bois, Partner, Miller Thomson LLP

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It is challenging for Canadians to participate in U.S. markets: they are highly uncertain, the regulatory regime is extremely risky and the liabilities are extreme. It is hard to have confidence Canadian firms are going to be treated fairly in the United States. That said, the United States is an enormous market, so Canadian companies have a financial interest to compete there. In my view, only the largest companies can survive; the United States has largely put itself outside the reach of smaller players because it is too difficult of a market from a regulatory and liability perspective.

- Chris W. Sanderson, Partner, Lawson Lundell LLP

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- Paulo Brinholi, Practice Leader, Natural Resources, Design Group Staffing