



Williams Lake & District CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

"THE VOICE OF BUSINESS"

Location: 1660 South Broadway
Mailing: PO Box 4878, Williams Lake, BC V2G 2V8
Phone: 250-392-5025 • Fax: 250-392-4214
Email: visitors@telus.net
www.williamslakechamber.com

October 8, 2015

Ministry of Environment:

On behalf of the board of directors of the Williams Lake & District Chamber of Commerce we offer our support to Atlantic Power (Williams Lake Power Plant), as it is a major employer of the Williams Lake business community.

Since 1993, it has provided a stable source of electricity for the BC Hydro grid, well-paying long-term jobs and economic stability for its employees and the local economy.

A brief list of the positive impacts the Plant has had on the community include the following:

- The plant has helped to reduce particulate emissions in the Williams Lake Airshed by 90 % since it began operating in 1993;
- It directly employs 32 people;
- It supports many more jobs in the region through the annual expenditure of about \$8 million on goods and services;
- It is the Number One tax payer for the City of Williams Lake at \$1.3 million per year
- It contributes through donations generously to services in the community

Recently, the Board has become familiar with the Plant's intentions to extend its EPA with BC Hydro for another 10 years. A critical part of that action is the Plant's request of the Ministry of Environment to expand its current permitted use of rail tie fuel from 5 % to 25 % of the overall annual fuel use. The Plant has completed a rigorous scientific review, including detailed air modeling, of any potential human health or environmental impacts that could occur due to this change. These studies and analyses have demonstrated that the design of the plant's combustion and pollution control systems can effectively control the burning of rail ties without any adverse impacts.

The Chamber believes that what are at stake are family supporting jobs, substantial annual economic activity and continuing cleaner air in the community.

Accordingly, the Chamber strongly recommends that the Ministry of Environment, BC Hydro and CN Rail approve the necessary steps to ensure the continued long-term presence of this valuable member of our Williams Lake community.

Yours truly,



Angela Sommer
President

/cb

cc Ministry of Environment, BC Hydro, CN Rail, MLA Donna Barnett and Coralee Oakes, City of Williams Lake

