PEACE REGIONAL ENERGY COMMITTEE

MINUTES
FRIDAY, MAY 09, 2025 AT 9:30 AM
TOWN OF GRIMSHAW COUNCIL CHAMBERS

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84556517152?pwd=IVjOastwgw3DzCeO7JnrC4llapQmE1.1

Present:

Terry Ungarian (Chair)	Reeve, County of Northern Lights
Brenda Yasinski	Deputy Reeve, County of Northern Lights
Josh Hunter	Acting CAO, County of Northern Lights
Teresa Tupper	Executive Assistant, County of Northern Lights (Admin Support)
Bob Willing (Vice Chair)	Reeve, MD of Peace
Sandra Eastman	Deputy Reeve, MD of Peace
Kelly Bunn	Acting CAO, MD of Peace
Corinna Williams	Reeve, Northern Sunrise County
Cindy Millar	CAO, Northern Sunrise County
Wendy Wald	Mayor, Town of Grimshaw
Brian Allen	CAO, Town of Grimshaw
Elaine Manzer	Mayor, Town of Peace River
Shelly Shannon	Councillor, Town of Peace River
Barb Miller	CAO, Town of Peace River (virtual)

Guests:

Ali Hounsell	Sideways Rain Strategies Inc. (virtual)
Amy Longhorn	Project Director, Energy Alberta (virtual)

Regrets:

Art Laurin	Deputy Reeve, Northern Sunrise County
Stacey Messner	Deputy Mayor, Town of Grimshaw
Gerhard Stickling	CAO, County of Northern Lights

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1. Call to Order

   Chair Ungarian called the Friday, May 09th, 2025, Peace Regional Energy Committee Meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda *(by consensus)*

   By consensus, the May 09, 2025, PREC meeting agenda was adopted with the following additions:
   5. New Business g) Update from Energy Alberta
   5. New Business h) Mandate Letter from Government of Alberta

3. Adoption of Previous Minutes

a) *Monday, April 07, 2025, Meeting Minutes*

By consensus, the Monday, April 07, 2025, PREC Meeting Minutes were adopted as presented.

4. Updates from Old Business
   a) *Action Step: CAO's to discuss and draft an RFP /EOI for a communication strategy or plan and communications person who can create a strategy and follow through.* ***(see 4.a)***

Discussion around the table was held with the following highlights:

- What is the message?
- Who should be providing that message? PREC, IAAC, CNSC, E.A.
- How do five municipalities coordinate a message?
- Is PREC jumping the gun as municipalities have no legislative authority at this time as the province has yet to write legislation around nuclear energy indicating roles and responsibilities?
- What are the perimeters/timeframe/particulars/conditions of the grant funding?
- What exactly is PREC's mandate?
- We do have infrastructure discussions that need to take place. (housing, roads, bridges, traffic)
- Revenue sharing discussions? Too early in the process as the project is only a proposed project.
- In Ontario, municipalities do not receive tax revenue, it goes directly to the province.
- The unknown – Alberta provincial government framework and legislation not written.
- Currently, there is no legislative role or authority for municipalities.
- Maybe each municipality can speak to their own residents?
- Do we need a 'nuclear' coordinator - a liaison between municipalities and the proponent?
- Do we need to rethink what we are doing here?
- Do other municipalities need to be represented in the committee?
- As far as attraction of economic growth opportunities from a regional perspective:

STAGE 1 - ATTRACTION

- Provision of a unified regional voice to encourage large scale energy/industrial development to promote long term economic growth.
  - Energy Alberta – substantially complete but requires some on-going maintenance with respect to relationship building - ongoing
  - Other Projects – actively search for other opportunities that fit within the PREC mandate – ongoing

STAGE 2 - ACCOMMODATION

- Infrastructure Capability/Capacity
  - What do the municipalities have "shovel ready" to deal with large scale projects?
  - What infrastructure needs to be improved/expanded to accommodate the anticipated growth?
  - Will secondary growth be "directed" to areas/municipalities that have the infrastructure in place to accommodate it, or will they continue to compete for that growth?
    - If "directed", will tax revenues be shared?
    - If "directed" will infrastructure development costs be shared?
  - What soft services need to be enhanced or added and what is the lobbying strategy

STAGE 3 - AFFORDABILITY

- Will tax revenues be shared on new projects?

- If yes, what are the parameters with respect to the sharing arrangement?
  - Who should be included?
  - What level/value of development triggers the sharing agreement?
  - What is the formula?

- The consultant that CAO, Cindy Miller talked with is available after May 20th to have a virtual meeting with PREC to discuss communication strategy/plan.

Committee Consensus: re-focus committee's mandate

Amy Longhorn's input into the communication discussion:

- Energy Alberta are the communicators of the project.
- PREC are the receivers of information on the project.
- PREC would provide evaluations of the impact of the project on the municipalities.
- PREC should have clear and detailed conversations with the provincial government regarding impacts of the project on their municipalities and region.
- Indicate to your residents the municipal impacts/concerns you are bringing forward to the proponent, agencies and provincial government.
- A consultant could collect feedback from municipal government and residents and arrange it in a format that can be provided to the proponent, agencies and other levels of government.

Ali Hounsell's input into the communications discussion:

- Direct project specific questions to Energy Alberta.
- Reiterates having a consultant to collect community concerns, municipal government concerns and to arrange in a format that can be provided to agencies and other levels of government.
- A consultant would or could be considered a 'shared resource' for the five municipalities, crafting messages for PREC and each municipality. A shared resource collectively and individually.
- Advises PREC to focus on lobbying for studies. i.e. dangerous route zones study, housing, schools, traffic/infrastructure.

In this early stage of the process, Energy Alberta has a high-level plan to address all types of engagement including broader input and specific smaller groups.

MOVED BY Reeve Corinna Williams and carried by consensus to have the Chair and Vice-Chair meet with Jake to discuss a communications plan/strategy.

ACTION STEP: The five municipal CAO's and Amy Longhorn will meet to discuss timelines/schedule/structure.

Ali Hounsell, exited the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

b) Action Step: Admin/Chair to send purpose statement to Ali. ***COMPLETED***

c) Action Step: CAO, Gerhard Stickling to respond to email and arrange a meeting with IAAC. Preferable dates for committee: April 28, 29, 30. ***COMPLETED (see 4.c)***

- PREC and all five Municipal member councils were invited to a virtual meeting with IAAC on May 30, 2025. The slide deck from that meeting is attached to the minutes.
- PREC indicated some errors in the IPD, (i.e. DMI to Mercer)
- Amy indicated that they are updating and correcting the document.

d) *Action Step: Chair to talk with Arcadis regarding a third-party consultant in assisting with responses & communication.*

Chair Ungarian spoke with representatives from Arcadis but felt that their services were not what PREC required at the moment but are available at a later time in the process if required.

5. New Business
   a) *Possible Conflict of Interest*

The committee discussed the optics and public perception of CAO, Kelly Bunn at the PREC table. Consensus was that his tenure is for a very limited timeframe with MD of Peace and while at the table, he is speaking as CAO.

b) *PREC Group submission on the Peace River Nuclear Power Project. Deadline May 13, 2025.*

ACTION STEP: CAO's and admin support to draft IPD comment response and submit by the deadline.

c) *Disseminating information regarding funding from IAAC to Organizations that PREC gave introduction letters/presentations too.*

ACTION STEP: Admin support to send letters to the Organizations to provide awareness of the submission of the proposed project to IAAC and CNSC and indicate the available funding application that can be applied for to assist in engagement.

d) *Financial Update* ***(see 5.d)***

By consensus, the committee accepted for information the Financial Update as presented.

e) *CANHC Press Release coming out of their AGM* ***(see 5.e)***

By consensus, the committee accepted the Press Releases for information and attach them to the May 09th meeting minutes.

f) *Participant Funding Program Application Form for the Planning Phase of Impact Assessments* ***(see 5.f)***

Moved by Reeve Williams to have CANHC submit the Participant Funding Program Application Form for the Planning Phase of Impact Assessments for the Peace River Nuclear Power Project to IAAC. *(Carried by consensus)*

g) *Update from Energy Alberta – Amy Longhorn*

The new Federal Government has requested a meeting regarding new energy projects. Energy Alberta will be speaking with Federal Ministers.

Energy Alberta is following the Integrated process and getting a better understanding of the potential impacts of the project.

h) *Mandate Letter from the Government of Alberta*

ACTION STEP: Chair and Vice-Chair to follow-up with Ministers to see where the government is on the drafting of framework and legislation concerning nuclear energy in the province of Alberta.

ACTION STEP: Include letter with meeting minutes.

6. Round Table

Josh Hunter, Acting CAO, CNL – clarification on who is writing the IPD comment submission.

ACTION STEP: CAO, Cindy Miller will draft comments and submit by the deadline.

Elaine Manzer, Mayor, T of PR – attended the CNSC Conference with Barb Millar, CAO of the Town. Encouraged others to attend future conferences. Information learned regarding supply chain, laundry facilities, and multiple opportunities for the Region within the supply chain. There was a session on Women in Nuclear.

Barb Miller, CAO, T of PR – learned of a medical waste company that transports around the world.

Robert Willing, Reeve, MD of Peace – attendance at the CANHC AGM was worth the trip. Talking to community Economic Development Officers, Elected Officials. We can certainly use CANHC as a resource. However, the nuclear industry does work differently in Ontario. *(OPG - is a Crown corporation and "government business enterprise" that is responsible for approximately half of the electricity generation in the province of Ontario. It is wholly owned by the government of Ontario.)* The Town of Ignace has a 'Host Agreement' where they receive funds every year for the next 40 years.

The CNSC Conference was very good. 1700 attendees. Double the registration from last year. Including Energy Ministers from Alberta and New Brunswick with Administrator from Crown Investment Corp. on a discussion panel. It was apparent that a nuclear project is a National Project.

Highlights:

- Expansions & refurbishments
- Education for young students
- Medical isotopes
- Things to consider - plus for airport, waste heat that could be used for commercial businesses
- Norway switched from windmills to nuclear energy for a sustainable, efficient energy source.

I encourage people to attend, you learn so much.

Terry Ungarian, Reeve, CNL – welcomes PREC members to the County's Public Meeting for their ratepayers at the Weberville Community Hall. Date and Time to be determined.

7. Next Steps
   a) *Host for next Meeting, Town of Peace River, Thursday, June 12, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. (LTD)*

8. Adjournment

Chair Ungarian adjourned the Friday, May 09th, 2025 PREC meeting at 11:56 a.m.

Chair, Reeve Terry Ungarian

June 12/25
Date Signed

Premier of Alberta

October 16, 2024

The Honourable Nathan Neudorf
Minister of Affordability and Utilities

The Honourable Brian Jean
Minister of Energy and Minerals

The Honourable Rebecca Schulz
Minister of Environment and Protected Areas

Dear Ministers Neudorf, Jean, and Schulz:

Alberta is committed to responsible and innovative energy development, and nuclear energy offers a significant opportunity to provide a reliable and stable energy source for Albertans. With Alberta's long history of responsible and safe energy resource management, the province is uniquely positioned to develop this critical sector.

To advance Alberta's priorities in nuclear development and to streamline ongoing efforts, the Minister of Affordability and Utilities will assume responsibility for the legislative, regulatory, and policy development of nuclear energy in Alberta as well as its implementation. As lead, the Minister of Affordability and Utilities will:

- Initiate a comprehensive review of nuclear energy development by conducting a public and industry wide consultation on the utilization of nuclear energy in Alberta.
- Develop a nuclear regulatory framework to provide certainty to industry stakeholders and to ensure projects can be advanced as soon as possible.
- Provide analysis on what role, if any, the provincial government should have in nuclear energy development in the province.
- Establish and convene a quarterly working group that includes the participation of the Ministers of Energy and Minerals and Environment and Protected Areas, as well as representatives from my office, to ensure the effective coordination of energy and environmental considerations within the nuclear regulatory regime and for industrial implementation.
- Assess projects from nuclear energy proponents to ensure alignment with provincial policy.

To reflect this new authority, initiatives related to nuclear energy from the mandate letters of the Ministers of Energy and Minerals and Environment and Protected Areas are now the responsibility of the Minister of Affordability and Utilities. This includes efforts to develop and improve regulatory regimes to incentivize small modular reactor investment; coordinate with other provinces and the federal government to further explore and promote small and micro modular reactor technologies and pave the way for their use in oil sands operations and petrochemical production; and the development and implementation of a regulatory framework for small modular reactor technology use in Alberta. The appropriate number of FTEs will be moved from the Ministries of Energy and Minerals and Environment and Protected Areas to Affordability and Utilities to ensure adequate Human Resources are in place. The Minister of Affordability and Utilities will continue to work closely with the Ministers of Energy and Minerals and Environment and Protected Areas in the advancement of nuclear energy development in Alberta.

Executive Council will reach out shortly to assist with the necessary arrangements to support this transition.

Since forming government, we have taken clear and decisive action to grow and diversify our economy towards the long-term success and prosperity of the province. Maximizing energy performance will position Alberta to meet the increasing demands of a growing economy and population in a safe, reliable, and affordable manner.

Thank you,

Hon. Danielle Smith
Premier of Alberta