Columbia River Treaty Update
a BC government perspective

CSG West Legislative Council on River Governance
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Ministry of Energy and Mines led CRT Review for BC

- Coordination of provincial ministries and federal agencies
- Consultation with First Nations
- Engagement of Basin residents and local governments
- Technical studies and discussion papers
- Recommendations to BC Government for decision
Provincial Decision

• Released March 13, 2014

• Generally reflects input from First Nations, local governments and public

• Decision to continue the Treaty and seek improvements within its existing framework

• 14 principles to guide BC in discussion of any potential Treaty changes
Provincial Decision - Principles

High level themes:
• Goal is to create and share benefits equitably
• There is a lot of value from upstream regulation provided by Canada to a broad range of U.S. interests
• Treaty operations continue to impact Canadian basin residents and regional interests
Benefits of the Treaty to the U.S.

• Prevents significant flooding, loss of life, property and infrastructure damage
• Increases power production potential
• Helps manage flows for fisheries enhancement
• Ensures relief during annual low flow periods and dry years
• Contributes to seasonal availability of water supply for irrigation, municipal, industrial uses
• Maintains commercial navigation conditions
• Prolongs recreation season
Arrow Lakes Reservoir at Nakusp
Tourism-dependent community key recreation site
Provincial Decision - Principles

• Changing flood control in 2024 from assured to ad hoc

Called Upon Flood Control

• Climate change will make collaboration even more important
Effectiveness of flood risk management - 2012

COLUMBIA RIVER AT BIRCHBANK AVERAGE DAILY DISCHARGE
(Brilliant Project + Brilliant Expansion + Brilliant Spill + Arrow Lakes Hydro + Hugh Keenleyside)
Summary 1937 - 2012 (unregulated) & Summary 1964 - 2012 (regulated) and Actual 2012

- Highest pre-dam recorded discharge = 374 kcf/s (10600 m³/s) on 9 Jun 1981
- 2012 calculated peak discharge (no dams) = 365 kcf/s (10340 m³/s) on 26 Jun
- Start of major regional flooding, 280 kcf/s (7929 m³/s)
- Start of minor regional flooding, 225 kcf/s (6371 m³/s)
- Start of localized minor flooding, 165 kcf/s (4672 m³/s)
- 2012 recorded peak discharge (with dams) = 213 kcf/s (6040 m³/s) on 22 Jul

Graph showing discharge data with labels for different discharge levels and dates.
Provincial Decision – Principles (cont’d)

• Treaty should be adaptable to changing conditions - balancing certainty with flexibility

• Treaty has flexibility to incorporate ecosystems and further improvements can be explored
  - changes to Treaty operations have been made over the last 15 years to benefit fisheries
Next Steps

• Conduct valuation of full suite of U.S. benefits
• Pursue further modeling of potential BC ecosystem option(s)
• Continue to work with Canada on developing a collaborative approach to any future negotiations
• Gain a further understanding of U.S. perspectives and next steps in U.S. process
• Explore options to increase benefits to both countries
Thank you