



**Date:** 14/08/2019

## **AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

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**To:** Chair and Directors, Cariboo Regional District Board

**And To:** Choose an item.

**From:** John MacLean, Chief Administrative Officer

**Date of Meeting:** Cariboo Regional District Board\_Aug23\_2019

**File:** Atlantic Power and the Burning of Rail Ties

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### **Short Summary:**

Atlantic Power Use of Rail Ties as Fuel

### **Voting:**

Corporate Vote - Unweighted

### **Memorandum:**

At the last meeting the Board determined that a fulsome discussion of the potential use of rail ties as fuel by Atlantic Power was justified. At that meeting the following resolution was made, and then deferred to this meeting:

#### **2019-7-41**

Moved Director Delainey

Seconded Director MacDonald

That the agenda item summary from Alice Johnston, Manager of Corporate Services/Deputy CAO, dated July 10, 2019, regarding a request from Director Delainey to revisit the topic of the Board's position in relation to the burning of rail ties by Atlantic Power in Williams Lake, be received. Further, that a letter be forwarded to BC Hydro strongly encouraging that the requirements of the Clean Energy Act continue to be maintained.

#### **Dealt with by resolution 2019-7-42**

We have attached a number of relevant documents for the Board's information going into this discussion. We also reached out directly to Atlantic Power, but at the time writing this document, we had not yet connected.

The Board previously discussed this issue, in 2015, and agreed to support Atlantic Power utilizing rail ties as fuel as long as all environmental regulations were met.

The permit allowing the burning of ties has been through the appeal process with the Environmental Appeal Board approving the use with conditions. Those conditions include:

- Rail ties cannot exceed 35% on a wet weight basis of the total biomass fuel load on an annual basis
- The combined rail tie and clean construction and demolition waste does not exceed 50% on a wet weight basis of the total biomass fuel load on a daily basis
- Development of monitoring program
- Atlantic Power will make public its annual report.

Atlantic Power plays an important role in removing wood waste (fuel) from the forest eco system and is a good corporate citizen of the City. They have applied for and received, after an appeal, their permits.

Director Delainey's resolution will be deemed to be on the floor as it was essentially deferred to this meeting.

### **Attachments:**

- Environmental Appeal Board Decision
- Atlantic Power website excerpt
- Paper – Disposal of Retired Rail Ties
- Clean Energy Act (2010)
- BC Hydro – Integrated Resource Plan

### **Financial Implications:**

Not applicable

### **Policy Implications:**

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### **Alignment with Strategic Plan:**

- ☐ Ensuring Sufficient and Sustainable Funding
- ☐ Building on our Relationships
- ☐ Providing Cost Effective High Quality Services
- ☐ Focusing on Being Well Governed

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### **CAO Comments:**

The CAO does not feel that any action is warranted at this time. The permit has been fairly and fully adjudicated.

### **Options:**

1. Approve Director Delainey's resolution
2. Not approve Director Delainey's resolution

### **Recommendation:**

That the agenda item summary from John M. MacLean, Chief Administrative Officer, dated August 14, 2019, regarding the Atlantic Power permit to use rail ties as fuel, be received. *Further action at the discretion of the Board.*