

Large dams aren't the only answer to B.C.'s power needs

BY STEVE THOMSON, THE PROVINCE FEBRUARY 27, 2011

The reason electricity can be produced at existing dams today for a low price is because previous generations made the investments, and paid the bills, for these heritage assets.

Contrary to Friday's editorial, getting electricity from clean power producers today can be just as cost effective as building large hydro facilities.

For anyone to claim that we can build new generating capacity that produces power for \$7.19 per megawatt hour is wrong. New power generation to meet our growing needs costs more -whether it is B.C. Hydro or clean and renewable power producers building it.

Even with B.C. Hydro's \$6 billion investment in its aging facilities, B.C.'s electricity costs will remain among the lowest in North America. This infrastructure renewal amounts to \$7 per month in each of the next three years for an average residential customer.

By making investments in conservation and efficiency, along with clean and renewable power today, we'll ensure future generations benefit from B.C.'s energy advantages.

Steve Thomson, Minister of Energy

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