

# Alaska Highway News

## Lowest power rates

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To the Editor:

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. That's why we currently pay among the lowest electricity rates on the continent.

Contrary to Wednesday's editorial (Hydro needs to get back to its roots), 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 just plain wrong. New power generation to meet our growing needs costs more – whether it is BC Hydro or clean and renewable power producers building it.

Even with BC 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.

B.C. is blessed with an abundance of clean and renewable resources – from our rivers to our winds to our forests. 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