Key Topics

A summary of priority questions from the Xaxli'p community meeting held November 20th

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Land, Air, and Water

Q *How much land is needed?*

The proposed utility is 2 hectares (5 acres), and will be designed to and maintain the *Ecosystem Land-Based Management Plan.*

Q *Will hydrogen production affect drinking water?*

No, drinking water is not affected, and any downstream applications, such as irrigation and recreational use, are unaffected by the operation of the utility. The operational design of the utility, as well as stringent assessments, ensure water security for the long term.

End Use Opportunities

Q *Where will the hydrogen fuel initially be used?*

Transportation industry: According to the BC Trucking Association, heavy-duty freight trucks move 90% of all consumer goods by weight and are responsible for up to 50% of greenhouse gas emissions. Converting these vehicles to hydrogen fuel will help the province meet its emission reduction targets and ensure we have a healthier future.

Fixed applications: Remote northern and coastal communities that currently use diesel can switch their primary fuel source to hydrogen, with diesel as a backup option. Other fixed stations, such as data centres and port facilities, are also compatible with hydrogen technologies.

Q *Is hydrogen cheaper than other fuels?*

Not yet, but costs will drop as production scales up, the hydrogen sector continues to grow, and governments successfully implement their hydrogen fuel strategies.

Q *How much power will be used?*

While the Front-End Engineering Design (FEED) study still needs to be completed, the proposed hydrogen production utility and planned Biocultural Innovation Centre is expected to consume 31 megawatts (MW) of clean energy, and possibly as little as 25 MW.

Q *What jobs are expected to be available for Xaxli'p community members?*

This opportunity is more about 51% ownership and the projected profits it will bring to the community, and less about job creation. However, there may be some opportunities during construction, and interested job seekers can contact GNS for further information. There may also be limited roles in operations (specialized equipment, security). The Xaxli'p community will lead the direction of and manage additional jobs through the proposed Biocultural Innovation Centre.

Q *Is certified training required to work at the facility?*

Yes, certification and safety training is mandatory for people working at energy utilities. Requirements depend on the equipment involved, specific role, and the nature of the work.

Safety and Local Impact

Q *How safe is hydrogen compared to other fuels?*

The safety of hydrogen depends on its specific application and how it is handled. When used with proper safeguards, particularly in fuel cells, it can be safer than using fossil fuels. Safety advantages of hydrogen over fossil fuels include:

- Environmental impact: Hydrogen does not contaminate soil or water if leaked
- Ground risk: Hydrogen is 14 times lighter than air, so it rises and disperses quickly if leaked
- Toxicity: Hydrogen is non-toxic (fossil fuels contain carcinogens and other harmful substances)

Canada's *Hydrogen Codes and Standards* sets the stage for low-carbon hydrogen codes and standards development. Facilities in Ontario report no incidents, and most Canadian provinces have identified hydrogen as a provincial clean energy priority.

Q *How will the operation of the utility affect highway traffic and Ranch Road?*

Access is via the highway only, and Ranch Road will remain open to the community. To prevent traffic issues, proper turn-off and highway access lanes are part of the design.

Q *Will the facility coordinate with local emergency services?*

Yes. There are also some initial discussions for local fire departments to potentially fill their trucks with reclaimed water from the utility.

Community Involvement

Q *How can the community be involved?*

Information sessions: Regular outreach through multiple channels, *especially* with members on the flats and with Elders. Online options are also available.

Community meetings: Feedback from the Xaxli'p community will be critical to the success of the utility. Please come out to any or all of the the scheduled meetings:

- **Saturday, 13 December**: In Vancouver, Sandman Inn, 180 Georgia, 10am to 2 pm
- **Sunday, 14 December**: In Kamloops, Coast Conference Centre, 850 Rogers Way, 10am to 2pm
- **Wednesday, 14 January 2026**: Xaxli'p Community Meeting with ISC, 5pm to 8pm, with dinner
- **Monday, 26 January 2026**: Referendum – Land Vote, Xaxli'p Hall, 9am to 8pm