

## **Summary of Comments from Paul Henning, Vice President Strategic Projects, Western Canada, Rio Tinto Alcan, conveyed at a meeting with the NEEF Management Committee on March 16, 2012**

- Kenney Dam, Skins Lake Spillway, Nechako Reservoir, Kemano Generating Station, transmission line and the smelter at Kitimat are all tied together.
- Rio Tinto Alcan's (RTA) current and ongoing re-investment in its infrastructure (smelter modernization, completion of second tunnel, etc) shows it is committed to the area for the long-term. RTA's water licence is a fundamental asset underpinning its operations and it wants to use it to its fullest.
- The 1997 BC/Alcan Agreement is now 15 years old and the context has changed since then. What are the implications of the changes since 1997? The NEEF MC needs to grapple with that.
- RTA doesn't envision a water release facility in the short term given the liabilities that would be associated with it and which RTA cannot transfer. The concept of combining a water release facility with power generation to make it economic raises the question of how much water would be available and guaranteed to support a business case.
- The NEEF MC needs to provide ample opportunity for input by the public, First Nations and interests without getting bogged down. NEEF cannot solve all the issues in the watershed – what can it accomplish in today's context?
- RTA wants to develop its assets fully. It needs to make full use of its water licence and deal with flood management downstream in the process. Dredging Tahtsa Narrows would help do that. Developing a water use plan to optimise reservoir operations makes sense for the long-term.
- The concept of a legacy fund established from NEEF should be thoroughly investigated as part of moving forward.
- The White Sturgeon issue needs to be addressed, perhaps with the Province responsible for the recovery program and providing in-kind contributions.