

north shore news

LETTER: Tower of power worth considering

North Shore News

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Dear Editor:

Site C, meet the Tesla Power Wall.

After reading about the new Tesla Power Wall, which simplifies storing electricity for household use, I wondered how this might change how we think about power in B.C.

The Site C Dam is estimated to cost \$7.9 billion, and cover 5,550 hectares under its reservoir, much of that agricultural land. It is a plan which has been around for more than 30 years, with roots that go back to the 1950s. The controversy around this project is well documented, yet it is deemed necessary to meet projected peak demand.

I propose an alternative approach to our power needs: what if, instead of building a dam, we invested part of the money in technology similar to the Power Wall? \$6.7 billion would provide one of these devices to every household in the province, allowing electricity to be stored when demand is lowest. By evening out demand throughout the day, total generating capacity could be reduced.

This effect could be ramped up by adding solar panels to those households in suitable climates, to actually reduce the kilowatt-hours needed from the grid. By generating some power where it is used, there would be no need for additional transmission lines. It is even possible that Tesla chairman Elon Musk could be convinced to locate a factory here, in exchange for such a large investment. Or some enterprising soul could develop a homegrown version, keeping the investment here in B.C.

If this thing were well managed, we could have ample electricity, more agricultural land, more live fish, an improved environment, fewer conflicts and long-term manufacturing jobs.

Craig Johnston
North Vancouver

What are your thoughts? Send us a letter via email by clicking [here \(http://www.nsnews.com/opinion/send-us-a-letter\)](http://www.nsnews.com/opinion/send-us-a-letter) or post a comment below.

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Site C, would, like most of the power distributed by BC Hydro, allow power to be "stored" for use at other times. Unlike wind and solar power, which are costly to both produce and "store" (~\$3000 to store 7kWh daily, ie. at 10cents/kWh is "worth" about \$2600), hydroelectric power is available/used when demand is there. The pay-back period on investment exceeds 10 years. The article, does not present a full cost-benefit analysis. - cjk