

# REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## VOLUME 3, SECTION 18

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) details the environmental assessment undertaken for the Site C Clean Energy project. The EIS includes the project rationale, identifies potential effects and proposes measures to avoid or mitigate these effects. The EIS also describes the benefits Site C would provide for customers, Aboriginal groups, northern communities and the province as a whole.

### ABOUT THE ASSESSMENT

The Regional Economic Development assessment analyses potential effects of the project on regional business and contracting opportunities, capabilities and capacity in consideration of regional business, and contracting characteristics. The assessment compares the project’s contracting requirements with the regional business and contracting profile, capabilities, and capacity, including consideration of Aboriginal businesses.

### ASSESSMENT AREA

The local assessment area includes the Peace River Regional District and the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality, which together comprise the boundaries of the B.C. Northeast Development Region. The Northeast Development Region is a regional economic unit with business services clustered in its southern communities of Fort St. John and Dawson Creek, and in the north in Fort Nelson. The regional assessment area consists of the Peace River Regional District, the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality, and the Fraser-Fort George Regional District.

### SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL EFFECTS	KEY MITIGATION MEASURES
<p>Change in business opportunities during construction</p> <p>Change in Local Assessment Area business and contracting profile, capabilities, and capacity during construction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue the project business liaison program                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Work with Local Economic Development Commission, Chambers of Commerce, and other business organizations</li> <li>○ Continue to deliver business information sessions</li> <li>○ Broadly communicate contracting opportunities</li> <li>○ Encourage use of, and participation in, the project business directory</li> </ul> </li> <li>• BC Hydro’s procurement approach will support the Site C Project’s objectives which include providing business and economic opportunities for northern communities, Aboriginal groups and the Province</li> <li>• Seek information on Aboriginal businesses and capabilities</li> </ul>

### KEY FINDINGS

- The project is anticipated to have beneficial effects on regional economic development during construction, as opportunities would be created for businesses and contractors directly involved in project construction, as well as for those involved in industries and activities that would benefit from indirect and induced expenditures.

- The project would increase regional business opportunities during construction and operations of the project. In addition to total labour costs of \$1.7 billion, direct purchases from supplier industries in B.C. are estimated to be \$1.4 billion. Regional economic increases are estimated at \$225 million in direct and indirect expenditures to businesses in the region, with an additional induced impact of approximately \$100 million. This would accompany regional increases of \$130 million in total GDP and \$80 million in total household income. Total direct, indirect and induced regional supplier output is estimated to total approximately \$320 million
- Beneficiaries would include suppliers in the following industries: construction, transport, finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing services, manufacturing, professional, scientific and technical services, wholesale trade and operating, office, cafeteria, and laboratory supplies.



## ABOUT THE SITE C CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT

Site C is a proposed third dam and hydroelectric generating station on the Peace River in northeast B.C. Site C would provide 1,100 megawatts (MW) of capacity, and produce about 5,100 gigawatt hours (GWh) of electricity each year – enough energy to power the equivalent of about 450,000 homes per year in B.C.

Site C is undergoing a cooperative environmental assessment by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEA Agency) and the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office (EAO). The environmental assessment process commenced in August 2011 and is anticipated to take approximately three years to complete.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** visit [bchydro.com/sitec](http://bchydro.com/sitec)

PO Box 2218

Vancouver, B.C. V6B 3W2

Toll-free: 1 877 217 0777

Email: [sitec@bchydro.com](mailto:sitec@bchydro.com)

Fax: 604 695 5290

Community Consultation Offices

9948 100th Avenue

Fort St. John, B.C.

V1J 1Y5

The Pearkes Center

10801 Dudley Street

Hudson's Hope, B.C. V0C 1V0