

Map 7 of 26 – Farrell Creek to Halfway River

Preliminary Impact Lines, Highway 29 Realignments and Agriculture Assessment
March 2013

Kilometre Current Conditions

54-62 Location

This map sheet covers from approximately river kilometre 54 to 62 (measured downstream from the W.A.C. Bennett Dam).

Geology and Topography

Between approximately river kilometre 54 and 62, both riverbanks comprise a sand and gravel terrace overlying silty shale bedrock. Along the north bank the proposed reservoir shoreline would be in sand and gravel between approximately river kilometre 54 and 59, and in bedrock between approximately kilometre 59 and 62. Most of the slopes are steep and are subject to natural erosion.

Highway 29 and Other Infrastructure

Highway 29 is located along the north edge of the north bank terrace and away from the crest of the riverbank.

Agriculture Assessment

Improved (irrigated and/or drained) agricultural land capability ratings are provided for the Site C project component areas where additional soil survey work has been undertaken as part of the Agriculture Assessment.

For remaining lands outside the Site C project component areas, including the Peace River valley downstream of the Site C dam, unimproved agricultural land capability ratings are provided. The unimproved ratings reflect published agricultural capability maps from the 1970s, based on an assumed low climatic moisture deficit (CMD) during the growing season in the range of 34 mm. However, subsequent climate studies have confirmed much drier conditions in the Peace River valley, with a CMD in the range of 148 mm, which results in a Class 3 unimproved climatic capability rating. With irrigation, it is likely that Peace River valley soils downstream of the Site C dam historically rated as Class 2 or Class 3 with aridity or soil water holding capacity limitations, which would now be rated as unimproved Class 3 due to climatic limitations, would improve to Class 2 or Class 1 with irrigation.

Reservoir Conditions and Preliminary Impact Lines Related to the Proposed Site C Reservoir Proposed Reservoir

Within this map sheet, the proposed Site C reservoir would have a width ranging from about 800 metres to 1,100 metres. Based on the river surface elevation at the time of topographic survey, the reservoir would cause an increase in water depth over river conditions ranging from about 27 metres at the upstream end to about 30 metres at the downstream end.

Preliminary Impact Lines

Most of the proposed reservoir shoreline comprises steep slopes and the reservoir shoreline and the **flood impact line** would be located close together in aerial-view when the reservoir is first filled.

Between approximately river kilometre 54 and 59, the north bank shoreline would be in sand and gravel. The predicted amount of shoreline erosion in the sand and gravel over the life of the project is typically less than 20 metres. The **erosion impact line** is typically located within 15 metres of the crest of the slope. The **stability impact line** is typically located within 45 metres of the crest of the slope.

Further downstream, the north bank shoreline would be in bedrock. At these locations, the **erosion impact line** is typically located below the crest of the slope and the **stability impact line** is typically located within 20 metres of the crest of the slope.

Highway 29 Realignment – Farrell Creek East (Potential)

At river kilometre 54, Highway 29 is located on the reservoir side of the erosion and stability impact lines. At some locations natural erosion and landslide processes are already encroaching on the highway. BC Hydro is proposing to realign the highway further inland, pending further geotechnical analysis.

Land Use Within Preliminary Impact Lines

BC Hydro has developed an approach to land use on private property within the impact lines. The approach focuses on public safety, maximizing flexibility for land owners, and minimizing the amount of land required by the project. BC Hydro's approach would be as follows:

- BC Hydro would purchase land between the current river shoreline and the area required for the proposed reservoir, up to the Maximum Normal Reservoir Level (461.8 metres above sea level)
- No new residential structures would be permitted within impact lines
- Non-residential structures could remain, pending site specific geotechnical assessment
- Within the Stability Impact Line, existing residential structures could remain for a period of time, at the owner's request and provided a site-specific geotechnical assessment determines that it is safe to do so
- Within the Flood, Erosion or Landslide-Generated Wave Impact Line, existing residential structures would not be permitted to remain, to protect public safety
- Other activities such as agriculture, grazing and trapping could continue within the impact lines

The establishment of reservoir impact lines is intended to ensure public safety while maximizing land use flexibility, and to minimize the amount of land required by the project. BC Hydro will purchase the property rights required for the impact lines. Where impacts and implications on zoning, land use and property acquisition cannot be avoided, BC Hydro will identify and evaluate options for mitigation.

BC Hydro is meeting directly with property owners whose land may be impacted to discuss their specific property interests.

Peace River Valley Definition

BC Hydro defined the Peace River Valley as a spatial area, reflecting the Peace River mainstem from the Peace Canyon Dam to the B.C.-Alberta border. The upper edge of the Peace River Valley is defined as the crest of the top of high bank slopes, typically between El. 620 and 850m. The purpose of spatially defining the valley was to provide a consistent area for use where relevant in the Environmental Impact Statement.

