

NAVIGATION

VOLUME 3, SECTION 26

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 navigation assessment considers changes to water-based navigation (navigation) and air navigation (aviation). These include: navigability and navigation use of water bodies; aviation routes and visibility; and operation of the ferry and ice bridge crossing of the Peace River at Shaftesbury and Tompkins Landing in Alberta

ASSESSMENT AREA

The local assessment area and regional assessment area for navigation is the project activity zone, the Peace River downstream to Peace Island Park, and the locations of the Shaftesbury and Tompkins Landing ice bridges.

The aviation local assessment area represents the area around the North Peace Regional Airport in which potential adverse effects are assessed from a land use perspective. The regional assessment area includes the area from North Peace Regional Airport to the crest of the proposed Site C dam.

SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL EFFECTS	KEY MITIGATION MEASURES
Changes to navigability, navigational use, and access during construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide recreational boaters with information about restricted navigation zones at the dam site, any temporary navigation or boat launch access closures associated with active work areas for reservoir clearing, Highway 29 relocation, and Hudson’s Hope shoreline protection construction, as part of the Public Safety Management Plan • Build three boat launches along the reservoir accessible via Highway 29 to support navigability and navigational use • BC Hydro will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fund community groups to support re-establishment of recreational sites on the reservoir and downstream, and to re-establish and create new use patterns and access ○ Provide technical support to outdoor recreational providers to facilitate further public and private sector investment opportunities associated with the use of the reservoir and downstream ○ Fund the development of a Navigation and Recreation Opportunities Plan to enable the local communities to plan for boating and recreation opportunities created by the reservoir

POTENTIAL EFFECTS	KEY MITIGATION MEASURES
Navigation use restrictions during construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Hydro's Public Safety Management Plan and supporting boater communication protocols, inclusive of adhering to the Canadian Dam Association Guidelines for Public Safety Around Dams, will address navigability and navigational use, and the identification of potential hazards and interferences in waterways • Provide public communication about areas that remain open to navigation and are accessible during construction (inclusive of boat launches and other public access)
Changes to navigability, navigational use, and access during operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide boater communications to enable trip planning and safety for boaters' recreational boating activities in consideration of any temporary navigation restrictions or public safety concerns during the early years of the reservoir operations
Potential navigational hazards in waterways during operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate navigational hazards to boaters and supporting boater communication protocols during the operations phase through the Public Safety Management Plans. Signage, as required, will be provided in accordance with the Guidelines for Public Safety Around Dams

MONITORING

BC Hydro will regularly monitor shoreline conditions during the early years of reservoir operations, and the shoreline monitoring program results will support implementation of the Public Safety Management Plan boater communication protocols related to managing navigation hazards and public safety within the Reservoir.

KEY FINDINGS

The dam and associated permanent restriction to navigation would remain after mitigation measures are in place. However, new types of navigable uses on the reservoir would be available during project operations.

Considering all aspects of navigation, and implementation of the mitigation measures, the project's net effect on navigation is considered not significant.

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

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