

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION

### VOLUME 1, SECTION 9

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.

Comprehensive consultation with the public – including local and regional governments, communities, stakeholders, property owners and the general public – has taken place since 2007. This consultation includes BC Hydro-led consultation, as well as agency-led public comment periods as part of the environmental assessment process.

#### **PUBLIC CONSULTATION: METHODS AND ACTIVITIES**

Since 2007, the project team led or participated in more than 500 consultation meetings, presentations, local government meetings, community events or open houses. BC Hydro has also responded to approximately 3,000 public inquiries received via email, phone, fax, in-person at the project's consultation offices (Fort St. John and Hudson's Hope), or through written submissions. These are in addition to information requests submitted as part of the environmental assessment process.

BC Hydro has documented all of its consultation activities, which are posted to the project website, including discussion guides, feedback forms, and project information updates. A key component of the consultation process has been the independent reporting of the meeting notes and preparation of consultation summary reports.

Key consultation activities and topics include:

- Pre-Consultation in 2007-2008, and four rounds of Project Definition Consultation led by BC Hydro between 2008 and 2012.
- Regional and Local Government Liaison Program, including the Regional and Local Government Liaison Committee, Local Government Technical Engagement, and council presentations.
- Property Owner Liaison and Consultation, which is a separate liaison and consultation program with property owners. Consultation included: Highway 29 realignment options (2008–2009), Site C Project and Field Study Update (2011), and Preliminary Impact Lines and Highway 29 Realignment (2011–2012).
- Local Area Consultations are area-specific consultations where project-related plans and effects were of local interest. Topics included Hudson's Hope Shoreline Protection and 85th Avenue Industrial Lands.

#### **INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION: METHODS AND ACTIVITIES**

Methods and activities used to exchange and disseminate project information include:

- Community relations – Community consultation offices; presentations/meetings with stakeholders; and community outreach
- Project website – Project information, current news, notices about consultation opportunities

- Field study notices and project information sheets – Notifications regarding technical and environmental field studies and activities
- Public inquiries – Toll-free line, email, fax, mail, and at the Community Consultation Offices
- Business liaison program – Business Information Sessions and the Business Directory
- Media relations – Inform the media, conduct interviews, respond to inquiries, provide a forum for public notification of consultation opportunities

## ISSUES, CONCERNS, AND INTERESTS

The EIS includes detailed issue tracking tables that summarize the issues, concerns and interests raised by local and regional governments, communities, stakeholders, property owners and the general public since 2007. It describes how BC Hydro has considered and responded to the issues raised and how this input has informed project planning.

## AGENCY-LED CONSULTATION

During the pre-Panel Review Stage, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEA Agency) and the B.C. Environmental Assessment Office (BCEAO) held a 45-day public comment period on the draft EIS Guidelines (April 17, 2012 to June 1, 2012).

During six Agency/BCEAO-led open houses, BC Hydro provided project team subject matter experts to provide specific technical information. BC Hydro provided responses to 1,388 comments from 912 individual submissions received during the public comment period.

BC Hydro will also participate in public open houses during the Agency/BCEAO-led public comment period for the EIS, as well as public hearings during the Joint Review Panel (once established).

## CONSTRUCTION PHASE COMMUNICATIONS

Should the project proceed to construction, BC Hydro proposes to:

- Facilitate regular community and stakeholder communications
- Maintain cooperative relationships with regional and local governments
- Maintain strong relationships with the business community
- Maintain and build relationships with the public through ongoing and regular project updates
- Communicate construction activities and schedules traffic information
- Maintain the Community Consultation Offices

## 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)

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