



File: 120106-161228

July 6, 2015

Bettina Sander
Regulatory Manager
BC Hydro and Power Authority
Four Bentall Centre
1100-1055 Dunsmuir Street
Vancouver, V7X 1V5

Dear Bettina Sander:

Re: Peace River –Ford Crossing: Notification for Changes In and About a Stream – 120106-161228

Thank you for submitting your *Water Act* Notification for Changes In and About a Stream Application to Front Counter British Columbia on or about January 22, 2015.

The Water Act **Notification** Application consists of proposed “Changes In and About a Stream” requesting authority to ford across the Peace River with two pieces of heavy equipment. The proposed instream works/temporary ford crossing is detailed within the submitted Notification Application # 120260-161228, described as approximately 120m in length with measured water depths to not exceed 1.5m.

The fording is limited to the one proposed location and one crossing (over and back) for each piece of equipment a feller buncher (1) and Skidder (2) required for construction. Where additional movements of equipment may be required, additional notifications will be submitted to the Ministry.

The details of the proposed works were reviewed by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations Habitat Officer; the following below mentioned concerns were noted:

- A variance to the Peace Timing Windows will be allowed as work will occur between August 15, 2015 (first pass) and March 31, 2016 (second pass - two pass system). The proposed timing is considered optimum when considering all values impacted (Fish, Wildlife, and Habitat) if the alternate option to install a crossing were selected. BC Hydro Site C Project details; specifically, the Environmental Assessment conditions and Environmental Impact Statement associated with the project outlines recommendations for preferred winter clearing operations to avoid impacts to nesting birds, breeding mammals, and soil erosion.



- Safety and environmental monitoring will be concurrent with proposed activities undertaken to complete the ford crossing. BC Hydro will undertake surveys at the ford location to assess access routes along approaches and streambeds to determine if suitable site conditions and parameters exist prior to commencement of works. An Environmental Protection Plan will be developed to ensure public safety and environment protection concerns are included within the works proposed.
- A completed Environmental Protection Plan (EPP) providing a summary of field surveys/assessments at the ford crossing site is to be submitted to the Ministry 30 days prior to commencement of operations.
- BC Hydro and Power Authority will ensure an Environmental Monitor is engaged and present during active operations to provide follow-up inspection and reporting services to the Ministry.
- BC Hydro will ensure an Independent Environmental Monitor is engaged to provide oversight and audit reporting services to the Ministry is engaged to oversee the implementation of the project.
- BC Hydro must obtain and be in possession of the required land tenure permissions/authority needed to conduct works on Crown land.

In addition, BC Hydro is required to adhere to federal and provincial conditions such as BC Environmental Assessment Certificate and BC Hydro Site C – Construction and Environmental Plan during operations. All applicable provincial, federal and/or municipal legislation and regulations including, but not limited to, the [Water Act](#), [Water Regulation](#) (Sec. 44(1)(w)) and [Peace Terms and Conditions](#) will be complied with. It is also expected that all work will be consistent with the [Standards and Best Practices for Instream Works](#).

x Direct Overlap with an area of significant archaeological potential.

Provincial records indicate that the proposal area has significant potential to contain an archaeological site protected under the *Heritage Conservation Act (HCA)*. It may be necessary that you hire an eligible consulting archaeologist to determine if an archaeological impact assessment is warranted. For more information, visit the Archaeology Branch website (www.for.gov.bc.ca/archaeology) or contact the Branch at 250-953-3334.



Ministry of
Forests, Lands and
Natural Resource Operations

The effective date of this Notification is July 7, 2015. If you have any questions and/or concerns regarding this communication, you can contact me at (250) 774-5530.

Mike D'Aloia

Sincerely

Mike D'Aloia, RFT, RBT
Habitat Officer
Northeast Region