

Construction Communications Annual Report

Site C Clean Energy Project

July 27, 2022

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1.0 Background

The Site C Clean Energy Project (the project) is a hydroelectric dam and generating station under construction in northeast B.C. Construction started in July 2015 and the project will be in service in 2025. The project will help meet future electricity needs by providing 1,100 megawatts of dependable capacity and producing about 5,100 gigawatt hours of energy each year — enough to power the equivalent of 450,000 homes per year. Once built, the project will be a source of clean, reliable and cost-effective electricity in B.C. for more than 100 years.

The key components of the project are:

- Access roads and a temporary construction bridge across the river, at the dam site.
- Worker accommodation at the dam site.
- Upgrades to 240, 269, 271 and Old Fort roads.
- The realignment of seven segments of Highway 29.
- Two temporary cofferdams across the river to allow for construction of the earthfill dam.
- Two new 500 kilovolt transmission lines connecting Site C to the Peace Canyon Substation, within an existing right-of-way.
- Shoreline protection at Hudson's Hope, including upgrades to DA Thomas Road.
- An 800-metre roller-compacted-concrete buttress to enhance seismic protection.
- An earthfill dam, approximately 1,050 metres long and 60 metres high above the riverbed.
- A generating station with six 183 MW generating units.
- An 83-kilometre-long reservoir that will be, on average, two-to-three times the width of the current river.

2.0 Environmental Assessment Certificate Requirements

The Site C Construction Communication Plan (the Plan) has been developed in accordance with the Conditions 39, 43 and 72 of the Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC), and guides construction communications and community relations during the construction phase.

This annual report provides a review of the construction communications activities undertaken as part of the Plan during the third year of construction. Note that the reporting period covered by this annual report is **July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022**.

Table 1 describes how BC Hydro is meeting the EAC Conditions that relate to the Plan.

Table 1. EAC Conditions Addressed in the Construction Communications Plan

Condition Number	Condition	Plan Reference
EAC Condition 39	The EAC Holder must provide information to the Province of Alberta, during construction and operations, to assist in their communications with anglers in Alberta regarding changes in downstream fishing opportunities due to construction activities and longer-term changes in fish community composition.	No downstream effects have originated from the Site C project as of June 30, 2022. A letter will be sent to the Province of Alberta with the required information when available.
EAC Condition 43	The EAC Holder must develop an Emergency Services Plan that includes at least the following to describe how the EAC Holder will implement measures to: Communicate project emergency management plans to all emergency service providers and provide updates as plans are amended.	BC Hydro is meeting this condition. BC Hydro Site C Emergency Action Plan is reviewed and updated regularly.
EAC Condition 72	The EAC Holder must manage effective communications for the Project by implementing measures in communication plans and a business participation plan. The following communication and participation plans are to be developed and implemented: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Participation Plan; • Construction Communication Plan; and • First Nations Communication Plan. Each plan in addition to plan specific conditions identified in this document will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear Statement of Objectives; • Audiences; • Key activities and tools; and • Annual summary reporting. 	BC Hydro is meeting this condition. The following plans have been developed and are actively being implemented. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Participation Plan; • Construction Communication Plan (Appendix C); and • Aboriginal Group Communication Plan (Appendix D).

2.1 Construction Communications Plan Structure

Consistent with EAC Condition 72, the [Construction Communications Plan](#) provides the following items:

- A clear statement of objectives,

- Audiences,
- Key activities and tools, and
- The requirement to provide annual summary reporting.

2.2 Implementing the Construction Communications Plan

In order to implement the Construction Communications Plan and achieve the goal of keeping members of the public and project stakeholders informed about current and upcoming construction activities, a variety of key activities and tools are being used.

These key activities and tools cover a range of items to ensure a broad distribution of construction-related information. In addition, information and notification will be provided through ongoing community relations, as well as Indigenous group engagement and consultation. Please refer to the [Aboriginal Group Communication Plan](#) for more information about how construction information is being shared with Indigenous groups.

During this reporting period, the project continued to focus its attention on managing and communicating with stakeholders about BC Hydro's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts on the project, Site C construction progress continued. The project also completed and energized the second new transmission line connecting the Site C Substation to the BC Hydro electrical grid. This occurred in spring 2022 and was completed ahead of schedule.

Construction communications activities were ongoing including numerous virtual meetings and presentations with Indigenous groups, community groups and stakeholders.

The key activities and tools listed below have been implemented to meet the specific objectives of the Plan. Please see the report appendices for detailed information.

Status of Construction Communications Plan Activities, July 2021– June 2022		
Construction Communications Activities		
Activity or Tool	Purpose (as stated in the Construction Communications Plan)	Status During the Reporting Period (July 2021 – June 2022)
Project Website (sitecproject.com)	<p>The project website will be updated to include regular information about COVID-19 updates, site preparation, early works and construction activities, as well as all construction-related information.</p> <p>This information is expected to include an eight-year construction schedule summary, a one-month look-ahead schedule for construction, and background information on construction. In addition, the website will include relevant project maps, a construction photo gallery, and information for businesses and workers.</p>	<p>The project website was updated frequently over the course of the seventh year of construction with updates about the COVID-19 status on the project and updates from provincial and regional health authorities, current and planned construction activities, as well as general construction-related information.</p> <p>This information includes biweekly construction bulletins, and background information on construction activities. In addition, the website includes project maps, a construction photo gallery and information for businesses and workers.</p> <p>Please see Appendix A for more information.</p>
Public Enquiries Program	<p>A public enquiries program has been developed to support two-way communication with members of the public and project stakeholders. This system includes a toll-free phone line, Site C email address, online enquiry form and staffed consultation office.</p> <p>Using these various methods, members of the public can receive up-to-date information about construction activities and provide feedback or comments about the project</p>	<p>The Site C communications team monitors all communications channels, and tracks, reviews and responds to all public enquiries.</p> <p>554 public enquires were received and responded to during the reporting period of July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022.</p> <p>To date, most enquiries have been related to job and business opportunities.</p> <p>Please see Appendix B for more information.</p>

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<p>Construction Bulletins</p>	<p>Site C construction bulletins will be developed, posted on the project website, delivered to key news outlets and emailed to web subscribers. The construction bulletins will provide advance notification of construction activities, its potential impacts and duration.</p>	<p>Biweekly construction bulletins provide a two-week look ahead of upcoming construction activities both at the dam site and in other project areas, including potential impacts and duration.</p> <p>The bulletins are posted to the project website and sent to 6,727 public email subscribers, media, local and regional government contacts and other internal and external stakeholders.</p> <p>In the seventh year of construction, 25 construction bulletins were sent out and posted online (note, reporting period is July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022).</p> <p>Please see Appendix C for more information.</p>
<p>Letters, emails and mailings</p>	<p>BC Hydro will send notices by mail prior to the commencement of any work in close proximity of homes and/or businesses, as appropriate</p>	<p>Construction notification items were sent by mail, email, as well as delivered via door-to-door drop to directly impacted residents, as needed.</p> <p>In the reporting period, eight construction notification items were provided directly to residents and/or stakeholders.</p> <p>Four quarterly construction notification letters were sent to Indigenous groups and local governments. These letters are also posted on the Site C website.</p> <p>Please see Appendix D for more information.</p>
<p>Information Materials</p>	<p>BC Hydro will develop public information materials on the construction phase, including an updated brochure, fact sheets and backgrounders</p>	<p>In the past year, information materials were developed and shared with the public email distribution list (6,727 subscribers), posted to the project website and distributed to local stakeholders and Indigenous groups, as appropriate.</p> <p>Please see Appendix E for more information.</p>

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Media Relations	BC Hydro will inform local media outlets of key construction activities as part of its information and notification program.	<p>The biweekly construction bulletin and the monthly employment statistics are shared with media outlets.</p> <p>In addition, 26 news releases, information bulletins and public advisories were issued about key construction and procurement milestones and construction-related information (e.g., boater advisories).</p> <p>Please see Appendix F for more information.</p>
Social Media	BC Hydro will use social media networks, such as Twitter, to inform and notify key audiences about construction activities	<p>The Site C Twitter account was used during the reporting period.</p> <p>The account currently has 1,495 followers.</p> <p>Please see Appendix G for more information.</p>
Signage	Appropriate signage will be placed at construction sites for the project, as well as on public roads and highways where construction activities are taking place	<p>Signage at the dam site gates identifies the project and provides contact information for the project team. In addition, signage is used as necessary to identify active work areas and enhance public safety.</p> <p>No appendix is required for this section.</p>
Advertising	BC Hydro will advertise in local and regional media outlets to inform and notify key audiences about construction-related activities, prior to the start of work, as appropriate.	<p>The project advertised as needed to notify the public and stakeholders about construction work, safety programs and permit applications.</p> <p>Advertising is also used to notify key audiences of events, meetings and construction-related activities, such as changes to Peace River and Halfway River navigation, as appropriate.</p> <p>Please see Appendix K for more information.</p>

Community Relations Activities		
Activity or Tool	Purpose	Status During the Reporting Period (July 2021 – June 2022)
Community Consultation Offices	The project's community consultation office is in Fort St. The offices will be staffed throughout the construction phase to provide a location where the public can get information about the project, ask questions and submit feedback.	The Community Consultation Office in Fort St. John is open for meetings by appointment. No appendix is required for this section.
Neighbourhood Meetings	As appropriate, BC Hydro will meet with property owners near construction activity, prior to the work commencing, to provide information about schedule, work hours and activities. The meetings will also provide an opportunity to answer questions and hear feedback or concerns.	One neighbourhood meetings was held during this period. Please note that the Site C properties team contacted impacted property owners as required. No appendix is required for this section.
Open Houses, Community Events and Presentations	BC Hydro will hold public information meetings to provide information about Site C construction activities, including schedule, impacts and duration of work. The meetings will also provide an opportunity for BC Hydro to answer questions, gather feedback and hear about concerns.	The Site C team provided seven public presentations, hosted one virtual public meeting and hosted two tours. Please see Appendix H for more information.
Council Presentations and Meetings	Project team representatives will continue to provide updates to local and regional government councils on major project milestones and construction-related activities.	The Site C team provided nine presentations to city or district councils or boards during the reporting period. Please see Appendix I for more information.
Community Liaison Committees	During the construction phase, BC Hydro will establish Community Liaison Committees. The Committees will provide an opportunity to BC Hydro to keep communities informed of project activities, as well as to answer questions and hear about concerns.	Four Regional Community Liaison Committee meetings were held during this period. Please see Appendix J for more information.

2.3 COVID-19 Communications

BC Hydro has been monitoring COVID-19 closely since January 2020 and has implemented and adapted safety measures to protect its employees, contractors and facilities. This included working closely with the Northern Health Authority and provincial health authorities.

BC Hydro continues to work closely with health officials to strictly follow federal and provincial health guidelines to ensure the site remains safe for workers and the wider public.

BC Hydro continued to engage extensively with local communities during the COVID-19 pandemic, to address concerns from the community, share information and answer questions about measures taken at Site C.

Forms of communication include regular phone calls with local government and First Nations, as well as regular email updates.

The COVID-19 [webpage](#) was maintained and updated on a daily and then weekly basis to provide information on COVID-19 and Site C. Materials shared on the webpage include answers to frequently asked questions, infographics, and regular updates on active and resolved COVID-19 cases, camp occupancy, isolation statistics and BC Hydro's vaccination policy.

Phone calls

Phone meetings with health authorities, local government and First Nations were held on an as needed basis during the reporting period.

Email updates

From July 2021 to June 30, 2022, weekly email updates were sent to local government and First Nations.

Appendix A. Project Website

The project website (www.sitecproject.com) was frequently updated over the course of the seventh year of construction. Updates include information about construction activities, procurements, business opportunities, employment, as well as maps, reports, permits and authorizations.

Specific updates include:

- Regular updates to the [Construction Activities](#) page.
- Regular updates to the [Construction Photo and Video Gallery, including drone videos.](#)
- Regular updates to the [Site C COVID-19 Updates](#) section.
- Regular updates to the [Project Status Dashboard](#) page.
- New [Work Completed to Date](#) section.

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- A frequently updated [News and Information](#) section that includes construction-related information, information on project milestones, procurement information and project updates (e.g., burning advisories).

Document Library Maps FAQ Contact Us

BC Hydro
Power smart

Site C Clean Energy Project

About the Site C Project Construction Activities Environmental Programs In the Community Jobs & Business Opportunities Indigenous Relations News & Information



Site C construction progress | Winter 2021-2022

Our first drone video of 2022 shows the latest construction progress on the Site C powerhouse, roller-compacted concrete buttress, earthfill dam, Highway 29 realignment and Hudson's Hope shoreline protection.

[See more photos and videos](#)

Latest Information

West Moberly First Nations, B.C., BC Hydro and Canada reach settlement related to the Site C project

VICTORIA - The Province of British Columbia, BC Hydro, Canada and West Moberly First Nations have negotiated a settlement related to the Site C project.

[Learn more](#)

Public Advisory: Boaters urged to use caution near Maurice Creek spawning Shoal

[Learn more](#)

Two agricultural associations to receive \$1 million in grants through BC Hydro Peace Agricultural Compensation Fund

Two cooperative associations in B.C.'s Peace Region have been approved for \$1 million through the BC Hydro Peace Agricultural Compensation Fund's (PACF) Agricultural Impact and Opportunities Initiative. The Fort St. John Seed Cleaning Cooperative Association and South Peace Grain Cleaning Cooperative Association will receive \$746,000 and \$254,000, respectively.

[Learn more](#)

Appendix B. Public Enquiry Program

Public enquiries can be provided to the Site C project team by toll-free phone line, email, an online feedback form, by fax and in person at events and at the Fort St. John Community Consultation Office (by appointment).

The Site C communications team monitors all communications channels (listed above) and tracks, reviews and responds to all public enquiries.

Please see the next several pages for a breakdown of enquiries, including topic area and channel.

BC Hydro Site C Public Enquiries Report

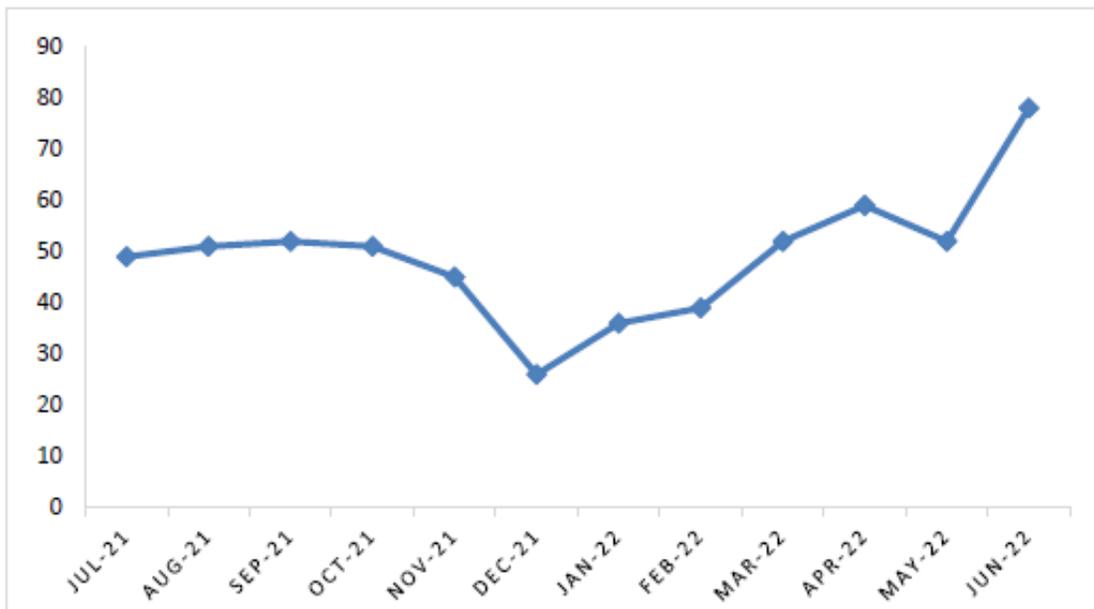
July 2021 – June 2022

Please find below the **Public Enquiries Report** for the period of **July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022**.

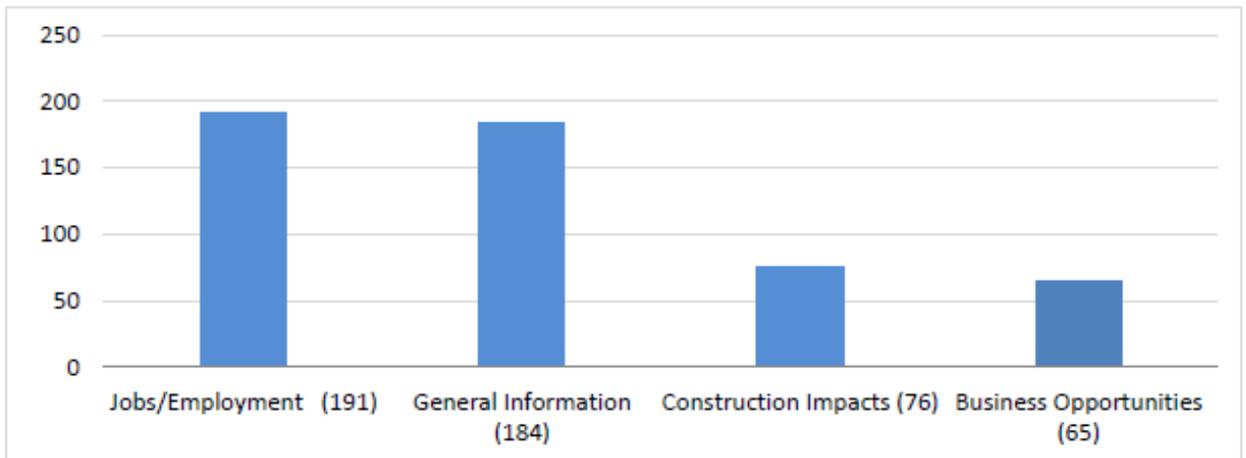
- **554 total enquiries were received between July 2021 – June 2022**
- Of these, the **top enquiry topics** were:
 - 1) **Jobs/Employment: 191 enquiries (32%)**
 - 2) **General Information: 184 enquiries (31%)**
 - 3) **Construction impacts: 76 enquiries (13%)**
 - 4) **Business opportunities: 65 enquiries (11%)**

Enquiry Topics

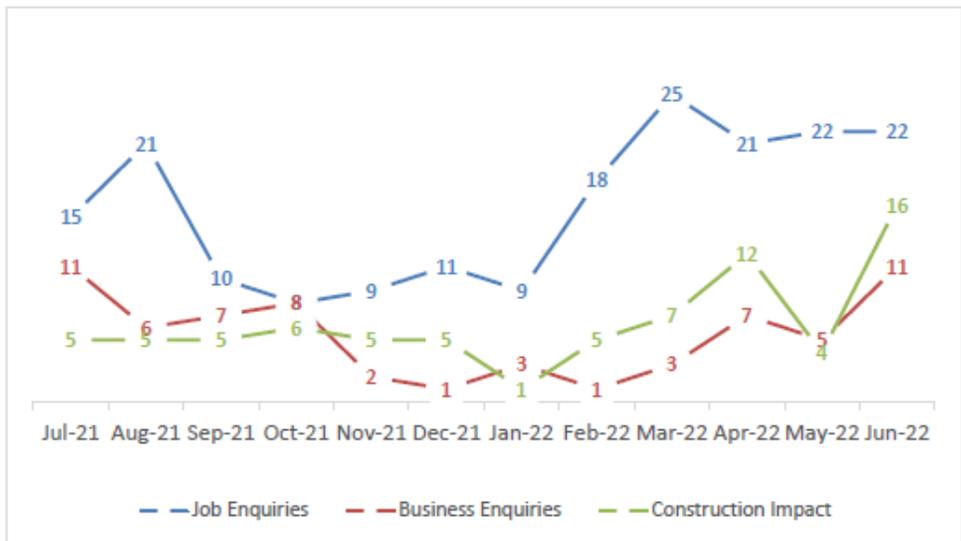
Enquiries
July 2021 – June 2022
(554 total enquiries)



Top Enquiry Topics
 July 2021 – June 2022
 (554 total enquiries)



Trends in Jobs/Employment, Business Opportunities and Construction Impact Enquiries



Breakdown of Public Enquiries by Topic

****Note 554 enquiries regarding 590 topics****

Topic	Number	Percentage
Jobs/Employment	191	32%
General Information	184	31%
Construction impact* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction Impact – Air Quality / Dust: 26 • Construction Impact – Noise: 17 • Construction Impact – Traffic / Road Conditions: 15 • Construction Impact – Safety: 12 • Construction Impact – Light: 3 • Construction Water – Quality: 2 • Construction Impact – Vibration: 1 	76	13%
Business Opportunities	65	11%
Property Owner	15	3%
Environment -Permits and Regulatory/Wildlife	15	3%
Recreation	11	2%
Tour and Presentation Requests	5	0.8%
Procurement	5	0.8%
Reservoir	4	0.6%
Hudson's Hope Berm	4	0.6%
Expression of Support	3	0.5%
Donation Request	3	0.5%
Dam Safety	3	0.5%
River Closure	2	0.3%
Highway 29	1	0.1%
Indigenous Relations	1	0.1%
Expression of Opposition	1	0.1%
Agriculture / Agriculture Fund	1	0.1%

Breakdown of Public Enquiries by Source

Source	Number	Percentage
Email	291	53%
Phone	186	33%
Online Feedback Form	73	13%
Other	4	1%

Appendix C. Construction Bulletins

Regular, biweekly construction bulletins are produced. They provide a two-week look ahead of upcoming construction activities, including potential impacts and duration.

The bulletins are posted to the project website and sent to 6,727 public email subscribers, media, local and regional government contacts and other stakeholders.

In the reporting period, 25 construction bulletins were sent out and posted online.

All files can be found here: <https://www.sitecproject.com/construction-activities/construction-bulletins>.

Appendix D. Letters, Emails and Mailings

Letters, emails and mailings are used to provide information about construction activities that may impact a small area or specific group of residents. During the seventh year of construction, items were sent by email and delivered by door-to-door drop. Information items were also shared with Indigenous groups and local government contacts, as appropriate.

- September 15, 2021: Notification letter with an update on [Site C project construction work near Hudson's Hope](#).
- October 15, 2021: Notification letter on [Hudson's Hope slough update](#).
- March 16, 2022: notification/public advisory regarding anticipated start-up of the till-conveyor system.
- May 4, 2022: Notification letter on [second comment period on Environmental Assessment Certificate amendment beginning](#).
- Letters to the community of Old Fort related to the nearby fish enhancement work were sent as follows:
 - March 7, 2022: an invitation to a virtual open house.
 - April 6, 2022: questions and answers generated prior to the virtual open house.
 - June 3, 2022: safety update.
 - June 29, 2022: construction progress update.
- In addition, construction notification letters are produced quarterly. They provide an overview of construction activities that can be expected over the course of the quarter (three-month period). They are emailed to Indigenous groups and local governments and posted on the Site C website.
 - [September 2021](#)
 - [December 2021](#)
 - [March 2022](#)
 - [June 2022](#)

Appendix E. Information Materials

Information materials were developed in the past year. These items are distributed using a variety of methods, including posting to the project website and distribution by email to the public, local stakeholders and Indigenous groups, as appropriate.

These include:

- **Information Sheets:** new or updated information sheets were posted to the project website. They are available here: <https://www.sitecproject.com/news-and-information/information-sheets>.
- **Photos and video:** more than 320 photos were posted to the Site C website during this reporting period. They are available here: <https://www.sitecproject.com/construction-activities/photo-and-video-gallery>.

Appendix F. Media Relations

The biweekly construction bulletin is shared with media outlets.

In addition, 26 news releases and information bulletins on a variety of topics were issued throughout the seventh year of construction, including:

- Key contract awards and procurement information.
- Construction milestones like completion of the transmission line work and roller-compacted concrete foundation program.
- Public safety advisories.
- Information about community benefits and project mitigation measures.
- Site C updates regarding construction, employment statistics or other relevant information.
- COVID-19 information related to the project.

All releases, bulletins and advisories are available here: <https://www.sitecproject.com/news-and-information>.

Where appropriate, the information is also issued by email to the Site C public email distribution list (6,727 people).

Appendix G. Social Media

During the reporting period, the [@sitecproject](#) Twitter account posted 133 tweets.

Topics included:

- Construction milestones
- Videos and photography of the project
- Operational updates
- Indigenous and community engagement

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The account currently has over 1,495 followers.



Appendix H. Open Houses, Community Events, Presentations and Tours

Where possible, as allowed by the COVID-19 pandemic, BC Hydro participated in open houses, community events and tours during the reporting period.

BC Hydro provided the following virtual public presentations:

- July 6, 2021: Winston's Breakfast Club (Prince George).
- October 7, 2021: Catalyst PA Virtual Employee Engagement Event.
- November 18, 2021: Canfor Energy Engagement Event.
- January 11, 2022: West Fraser BC Energy Awareness Event.

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- May 19, 2022: Mackenzie Chamber of Commerce.
- June 19, 2022: Engineers and Geoscientists BC (EGBC) Annual General Meeting.

BC Hydro organized and conducted the following virtual public meeting:

- April 7, 2022: Public meeting with the community of Old Fort on planned Fish Habitat Enhancement works.

BC Hydro organized and conducted the following tours of the Site C construction area:

- May 3, 2022: North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA).
- May 17, 2022: Mennonite Christian School Grande Prairie (viewpoint).

Peace River Hydro Partners (PHRP), Site C's main civil works contractor, participated in the following events and sponsorship activities:

- October 2021: Heavy Equipment Operator pre-apprentice program.
- February 27, 2022: City of Fort St. John Youth Changing Tomorrow conference.
- April 14, 2022: Chetwynd Job Fair.
- May 5, 2022: Horse Lake Job Fair.
- June 15, 2022: Indigenous Youth Trades Explorations Day.
- June 21, 2022: Fort St. John Job Fair.

Aecon-Flatiron-Dragados-EBC Partnership (AFDE Partnership), Site C's generating station and spillways contractor, participated in the following events and sponsorship activities:

- July 2021: Sauteau First Nation Golf Tournament.
- August 2021: Seven Nations Hockey Team.
- September 2021: Fort St. John Job Fair.
- November 2021: Engineer presentation to NPSS students "Engineering your career."
- January 2022: Moose FM Virtual Job Fair.
- August 2021: Sauteau First Nation community employment and training open house.
- August 2021: McLeod Lake Indian Band presentation on "Career Opportunities in Construction."
- February 2022: Spark Women's Conference.
- February 2022: St. Patrick's Day Run (supporting Watt School of Irish Dance).
- February 2022: North Peace Cricket Foundation.
- February 2022: 11th Annual Arnie Isberg Memorial Softball Tournament.
- April 2022: Treaty 8 First Nations "Spirit of the Peace Powwow."
- May 2022: Sauteau First Nation Golf Tournament.
- May 2022: Sauteau First Nation Pemmican Days.
- May 2022: Sauteau First Nation Culture Camp.
- May 2022: Halfway River Group Trade Show.

- May 2022: Treaty 8 First Nations Indigenous Youth Trades Exploration Day.
- June 2022: West Moberly Corporate Alliance Reverse Trade Show.
- June 2022: Annual Halfway River First Nation Rodeo.

Appendix I. Council Presentations and Meetings

The Site C team provided the following presentations to city or district councils or boards during the reporting period:

- Presentations to the McLeod Lake Indian Band Working Group on the following dates:
 - July 26, 2021
 - October 18, 2021
 - January 26, 2022
 - May 16, 2022
- March 14, 2022: Presentation to the Peace River Regional District.
- Updates to the Peace Williston Advisory Committee (PWAC) on the following dates:
 - August 27, 2021
 - November 26, 2021
 - February 18, 2022
 - May 27, 2022

Appendix J. Regional Community Liaison Committee

A Regional Community Liaison Committee (RCLC) was created and provides a forum for BC Hydro and elected officials to share information and discuss community interests, enquiries and potential benefits related to the project.

BC Hydro established the RCLC during project construction to foster dialogue between BC Hydro, Peace Region local governments and Indigenous groups. The RCLC provides awareness of construction activities, construction schedules, local interests (including procurement and employment opportunities), enquiries and concerns, and encourages participation and input from RCLC representatives. The RCLC acts as an advisory committee to BC Hydro.

Meetings were held virtually in Fort St. John on the following dates:

- September 29, 2021
- December 8, 2021
- March 16, 2022
- June 15, 2022

Meeting minutes can be found [online](#).

Appendix K. Advertising

The Site C project advertised to notify the public about upcoming construction work, safety programs and permit applications, as needed:

Newspaper ads

- April 14, 2022 to June 30, 2022: Weekly advertisements placed in the Alaska Highway News, the Chetwynd Coffee Talk Express, and the Hudson's Hope Bulletin newspapers reminding people about boater safety and the seasonal portage program on the Peace River.

Radio ads

- Boater safety and portage program on the Peace River: April 13, 2022 to May 31, 2022: two daily radio ads on Moose FM and Move FM (formerly Sun FM).