BC Hydro
Power smart

May 2016

# SITE C FIELD WORK PLANNED FOR 2016

*Throughout the construction period, BC Hydro will continue to conduct environmental and engineering field work on and around the Peace River between the Williston Reservoir and the Alberta border to inform construction plans, mitigation and monitoring programs.*

This notice provides a list of field work planned during 2016. This notice will be updated as new work is confirmed and will be available on-line at: www.sitecproject.com/news-and-information/field-study-notices.

Helicopters may be required for some of this work. BC Hydro will obtain permits, and complete environmental management plans and archaeological assessments as required.

Regular and ongoing BC Hydro work may also be taking place on the Peace River and tributaries related to BC Hydro's Peace River water licence requirements or other operations work.

To learn about construction activities, the anticipated duration of work and potential impacts, sign up for bi-weekly construction updates at www.sitecproject.com.

For further information, please contact **Kate O'Neil**, **Community Relations** at 250-785-3415.

The following pages include a summary of field study work currently underway or planned:

| **Environment Work:** |
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| **Climate & Air Quality Monitoring** |
| BC Hydro is collecting climate and air quality data in real time from monitoring stations between Hudson's Hope and Old Fort, south of Fort St. John. This work includes monthly visits for maintenance. |
| **Water and Sediment Quality Monitoring** |
| BC Hydro is conducting Peace River surface water, groundwater, and sediment monitoring and sampling in the area of the Site C project. This work is to assess the effects on water quality as it relates to fish and fish habitat, and municipal/industrial water supplies. |
| **Peace River Turbidity and Suspended Sediment Monitoring** |
| BC Hydro is continuing the collection of baseline turbidity in real time in the Peace River to inform the evaluation of potential effects of project construction on water quality as it relates to fish habitat and municipal/industrial water supplies. |

*Note: Access to public and private land may be required in order to complete study work. BC Hydro will request permission from land owners and provide notification to BC Hydro leaseholders before entry onto private or leased lands. BC Hydro will adhere to seasonal road restrictions.*

PO Box 49260
Vancouver BC V7X 1V5
Toll-free: 1 877 217 0777
sitec@bchydro.com
www.sitecproject.com

| Environment Work, continued: |
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| **Peace River Bull Trout Spawning Assessment** |
| BC Hydro will assess the timing, duration, distribution, and intensity of Bull Trout spawning in known spawning locations in the Halfway River watershed through aerial and snorkel surveys. A tag detection system and resistivity fish counters will be used to ground-truth estimates of spawn timing, duration, and intensity generated using the aerial and snorkel surveys. This work is to start in 2016, and through construction will happen annually during the months of September and October. |
| **Fish Population Indexing Survey** |
| BC Hydro will monitor tributary fish populations' responses to the project to provide measures of fish abundance and distribution in representative index sections including Maurice and Lynx creeks for Rainbow Trout, the Moberly River for Arctic Grayling, and Maurice, Lynx, and Farrell creeks and the Moberly and Halfway rivers for Kokanee. This work is to start in 2016, and through construction will happen annually during the months of September and October. |
| **Fish Stranding Monitoring Program** |
| BC Hydro will assess fish stranding risk in the diversion head pond and Peace River downstream of the dam site. This work is to start in 2016, and through construction will happen annually during the months of May through October. |
| **Avian Surveys** |
| BC Hydro will be conducting avian surveys along the Peace River between Hudson's Hope and the Alberta border and at natural wetlands in the project area. Surveys will be conducted using a combination of helicopter, fixed-wing aircraft, boat and possibly a drone. Surveys will be conducted March through August. |
| **Wetland Surveys** |
| BC Hydro will be conducting wetland surveys along the transmission line and at potential mitigation sites. Surveys will be conducted using a combination of all-terrain vehicles and quads. Surveys will be conducted May through August. |

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**Environment Work, continued:**

### Pre-Construction Rare Plant Surveys

BC Hydro will be conducting rare plant surveys along the Highway 29 realignments and the transmission line. Surveys will be conducted using a combination of foot, all-terrain vehicles and quads. Surveys will be conducted July through September.

### Bald Eagle Nest Platform Installation

BC Hydro will install nesting platforms to mitigate the removal of Bald Eagle nests within project construction areas. Platforms sites will be adjacent to the tree line or at the edge of openings near to the Peace River and future reservoir outside the erosion impact line, and to avoid interference with agricultural land use. During project construction approximately 38 platforms will be installed.

### Heritage Assessments

Throughout the project area, BC Hydro will be continuing to complete archaeological impact assessments, systematic data recovery and other mitigation as required. As construction work continues surface inspections or concurrent monitoring post ground disturbance of protected archaeology sites will be performed as required. This would also include responding to any unexpected discoveries (Chance Finds) during construction.

**Clearing:**

### Layout of Clearing Areas and Access Roads

BC Hydro is continuing to prepare the layout of clearing areas and access roads for the reservoir. This work will take place between the dam site and Cache Creek, primarily on private land on the north bank, with some work needed on the south bank. Timing for this work is June through September 2016.

The layout of new clearing areas and access roads upstream of Cache Creek on the north and south banks will take place in August 2016 through December 2017. Transmission line layout between the dam site and Hudson's Hope will take place July through November 2016.

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**Engineering Work, continued:**

### Geotechnical Investigations: Transmission Line Corridor

BC Hydro is conducting geotechnical investigations on the transmission line corridor. Work will include both sub-surface investigations, and the use of instrumentation and monitoring equipment. Contractors will be using a Cone Penetrating Testing (CPT) equipment to insert an approximately 2.5 inch steel shaft equipped with instrumentation to investigate approximately 55 sites. Test pitting is also planned along the transmission line corridor. Material removed by test pitting is anticipated to be used to back fill the pits upon completion. All disturbed areas will be restored to the present conditions. This work will be completed in the months of April and May.

### Center Line Survey and Structure Staking: Transmission Line Corridor

BC Hydro is conducting topographic surveys along the transmission line corridor. This work will include minor brushing along the transmission line in order to establish a line of sight for the survey equipment. This will is planned for May through July.

### Highway 29 Investigations

BC Hydro is conducting geotechnical investigations on the Highway 29 re-alignments at Halfway River and Bear Flat/Cache Creek. Work will include surveys as well as sub-surface investigations, and may include minor brushing of necessary access routes. As this work can be completed during both winter and summer, this work will be ongoing throughout 2016.

Investigations for potential construction materials may be conducted at Halfway River and Bear Flat/Cache Creek, along the proposed highway alignment as well as other potential sources in the vicinity. This work will include using a backhoe or excavator to dig exploratory test pits.

Subsurface investigations will include using a truck-mounted rotary drill and an excavator to dig exploratory test pits along the alignment.

### Telecommunications

BC Hydro is installing a VHF and a radio transmitter on the existing Telus radio site at Bear Flat and a VHF and a radio transmitter at Del Rio pit on an existing transmission pole. This work will be completed between the months of June 2016 and October 2016.

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**Engineering Work, continued:**

### Instrumentation Monitoring

BC Hydro is continuing instrumentation monitoring along the reservoir shoreline. There are approximately 80 sites throughout the reservoir area where geotechnical instruments are installed. Sites will be accessed in the spring, summer and fall for reading and maintenance. Enhanced monitoring at select sites on Crown land is planned for 2016, subject to approval. To maximize safety and efficiency, a helicopter will be used to access sites on the south bank.

### West Pine Quarry

Engineering investigations will be carried out at West Pine Quarry, an existing Ministry of Transportations and Infrastructure quarry. Work will include the development of a new access road, clearing for the new road, test blasting of material and sorting and stockpiling. Work will occur throughout 2016.

### Portage Mountain

Engineering investigations will be carried out at Portage Mountain. Work will include the development of a new access road, clearing for the new road and stockpile area, test blasting for construction material and sorting and stockpiling. Work will occur throughout 2016.

### Site Inspections

BC Hydro will be continuing with site inspections and visual surveys on the north and south banks of the Peace River at the dam site, the Moberly River area, along the transmission line right-of-way, Portage Mountain, Wuthrich and West Pine quarries and the 85th avenue industrial lands. These site inspections will be conducted periodically. Engineers will be confirming topography, reading instrumentation and taking photographs. Data collected will assist with planning and permit preparations.

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