

## FIELD STUDIES INFORMATION SHEET

### October 2010 – BC Hydro Heritage Study Program

The Site C Clean Energy Project is now in the regulatory review phase, which will include an independent environmental assessment. Stage 3 work includes conducting environmental and engineering field studies on and around the Peace River between the Williston Reservoir and the Alberta border.

BC Hydro anticipates formally entering the environmental assessment process in early 2011 with the submission of a Project Description Report to the provincial and federal environmental assessment agencies.

The Heritage Study Program of the Site C project area is one of the field programs that BC Hydro is currently conducting. The archaeological study has been designed in consultation with the Archaeology Branch and meets the requirements of the *Heritage Conservation Act*. The work will be completed under a heritage inspection permit issued by the BC Archaeology Branch and an investigative use permit issued by the Integrated Land Management Bureau.

The assessment will identify, record and evaluate archaeological, historical and palaeontological sites located within the proposed Site C project area; assess potential impacts by the Site C project to these sites; and recommend mitigation options.

The majority of the work will be shovel tests, as well as visual inspections of areas with good soil exposures, such as freshly tilled fields. Crews will be primarily on foot, with land access by road or boat, supported occasionally by helicopter or all-terrain vehicles. The assessment will begin in October 2010 and will continue through to the end of 2011, with the possibility of additional studies being required in 2012.

Golder Associates is leading the work, supported by its Fort St. John office staff and a team of experts. Over fifty aboriginal people from the region have been trained as archaeological field assistants, a number of whom will be hired as field assistants to support this program.

Field study updates are available at [www.bchydro.com/sitec](http://www.bchydro.com/sitec) and in the Community Consultation offices in Fort St. John and Hudson's Hope.

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#### HERITAGE STUDY PROGRAM October 2010

- BC Hydro is assessing archaeological, historic and palaeontological sites located within the proposed Site C project area.
- BC Hydro will obtain the necessary permissions before land is accessed and assessment work is performed.
- Golder Associates are leading the work from its Fort St. John office, supported by locally trained and hired field assistants.