INFORMATION SHEET

SITE C RESERVOIR

The Site C Clean Energy Project (Site C) would be the third hydroelectric facility on the Peace River, along with the W.A.C. Bennett and Peace Canyon dams. The Site C reservoir would be approximately 83 kilometres long and would be, on average, two to three times the width of the current river. It would flood approximately 5,550 hectares of land and would have a total surface area, including the current river area, of approximately 9,330 hectares.

The Site C reservoir would be comparatively smaller than BC Hydro’s other major hydroelectric projects because it would rely on the existing Williston Reservoir for water storage.

As the third project on the Peace River, Site C would re-use the same water flowing downstream from the two upstream facilities and simply pass it along. This would enable Site C to generate approximately 35 per cent of the energy produced at the W.A.C. Bennett Dam, with only five per cent of the reservoir area.

The Site C reservoir would be one of the most stable in the BC Hydro system with relatively little fluctuation in water levels during typical operations.

The proposed maximum normal operating range for the Site C reservoir would be 1.8 metres — between 460.0 metres and 461.8 metres. However, during typical operations the reservoir would be expected to fluctuate within a smaller range.

Downstream of the facility, at the B.C./Alberta border, flows are expected to be within today’s normal range. Far downstream at the Peace-Athabasca Delta — approximately 1,100 kilometres away — studies filed in the environmental assessment found that the Site C project would have no noticeable influence.

“The Panel finds that BC Hydro’s proposed dam would benefit hugely from the upstream storage and regulation, providing firm, seasonally modulated power for many decades beyond its amortization period.”

“The Project would not have any measurable effect on the Peace-Athabasca Delta.”
- Report of the Joint Review Panel, page v