

FIELD STUDIES INFORMATION SHEET

June – September 2012: Agricultural Assessment Study

The Site C Clean Energy Project (Site C) is now in Stage 3, the environmental and 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. Site C is in the early stages of a cooperative environmental assessment process by federal and provincial regulatory agencies, which includes a joint review panel.

BC Hydro is conducting an Agricultural Assessment Study for the Site C project, which will be supported by a technical field program, as well as interviews with provincial agencies, potentially affected farmers and ranchers, and the Peace River agricultural community. The agricultural assessment will include a resource inventory, an economic evaluation and the development of relevant agricultural mitigation and industry / productivity enhancement strategies.

The study started in December 2010 with a technical review and update of existing agricultural information and resource mapping for the Site C study area, including the proposed reservoir and surrounding lands potentially impacted by the project. The study continued during 2011 with a field program to verify and refine agricultural resource mapping, and interviews were conducted with local ranchers, farmers and resource agency specialists to update and gather additional data on agricultural resources in the study area.

The field program to verify and refine agricultural resource mapping will continue in 2012. The study will update and gather additional data on agricultural resources in the study area. The study will involve inspections of the land to assess soil capability. It may involve subsurface testing, consisting of periodic shovel tests supplemented in some cases by use of hand augers. Soil samples may be taken off-site for laboratory testing of agricultural capability parameters including texture, pH, salinity, etc. The lab analyses will not be carried out for contamination testing purposes.

Surveys will occur within sites that will be directly affected by the proposed project, along the transmission line, dam site, Highway 29 realignment areas and within the areas included within the project erosion impact line between May and October 2012.

For further information, please contact:
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AGRICULTURAL ASSESSMENT STUDY June – September 2012

- BC Hydro is conducting an agricultural assessment study for the Site C project
- Golder Associates is leading the work
- BC Hydro will obtain the necessary permissions before land is accessed and assessment work is performed