

MONTHLY FIELD STUDIES SUMMARY

March 2011

BC Hydro is conducting environmental and engineering field studies on and around the Peace River between the Williston Reservoir and the Alberta border as part of Stage 3 of the Site C Clean Energy Project. Environmental and socio-economic studies will advance from baseline work to effects assessment, including identifying and evaluating potential options for mitigation.

An overview of studies that will be taking place in March 2011 is below. Additional study activities may occur; notice of these studies will be posted at www.bchydro.com/sitec.

Overview
◆ Wildlife Studies in the Peace Region – Avian Study Program
◆ Wildlife Studies in the Peace Region – Fisher Study
◆ Wildlife Studies in the Peace Region – Mule Deer, Moose and Elk Study
◆ Wildlife Studies in the Peace Region – Bat Hibernacula Study
◆ Physical Environment Studies - Air Quality Monitoring
◆ Physical Environment Studies - Climate Monitoring in the Peace River Valley
◆ Geotechnical Studies
◆ Danger Tree Assessment on the South Bank of the Proposed Dam Site

Some field studies may require access to public and private land. BC Hydro will obtain permission before accessing private property.

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

For further information, please contact:
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OTHER BC HYDRO ACTIVITIES

- Ongoing, regular BC Hydro work may also be taking place on the Peace River and tributaries.
- This work is in addition to the Site C field study activities outlined here and is related to BC Hydro's Peace River water license requirements program or other operations work.
- For more information, please visit: www.bchydro.com/planning_regulatory/water_use_planning/northern_interior.html.

March 2011

Study Name	Description	Timing
<p>Wildlife Studies in the Peace Region – Avian Study Program</p>	<p>Beginning in March, BC Hydro will be continuing to conduct avian field studies, initiated in 2010, within and adjacent to the Peace River valley between Hudson's Hope and the Alberta border.</p> <p>The objectives of the studies are to gather data on the presence and habitat use of select bird species both within the proposed Site C project area and the region.</p> <p>Data will be collected for northern goshawk, broad-winged hawk, owls, grouse, marsh birds, songbirds and swallows through species-specific surveys. Helicopter based surveys for conspicuous raptor stick nests will also be conducted.</p> <p>Work will include ground based surveys (boat, foot and/or vehicle based) which will be completed using a combination of call playback surveys, point counts and nest searches.</p>	<p>March - September 2011</p>
<p>Wildlife Studies in the Peace Region – Fisher Study</p>	<p>BC Hydro is conducting a study to further the understanding of fisher habitat use and movement patterns in and adjacent to the Peace River Valley.</p> <p>The study area extends from the Peace Canyon Dam to the confluence of the Pine and Peace Rivers on both sides of the Peace River.</p> <p>Fishers are members of the weasel family. They are about 60 cm in length and weigh 3 to 5 kg (6 to 11 lbs).</p> <p>The study begins with setting-out capture stations, hair sampling stations and pre-baiting activities within the north and south study areas. Capture of individual fisher will occur between January and March 2011. During this time, approximately 25 to 30 fishers will be outfitted with radio-transmitters.</p>	<p>December 2010 to April 2013</p> <p><i>Capture and fitting of fishers with radio-transmitters will take place between January and March.</i></p>

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	<p>Over the next two years, both fixed-wing and ground based telemetry will be used to track instrumented fishers.</p>	
<p>Wildlife Studies in the Peace Region – Mule Deer, Moose and Elk Study</p>	<p>BC Hydro is conducting a mule deer, moose and elk study in the Peace River area from Hudson’s Hope to the B.C. – Alberta border.</p> <p>The purpose of the study is to further the understanding of mule deer, moose and elk habitat use and movement patterns in the Peace River region.</p> <p>Monitoring and habitat data collection began in mid-February 2010 and will continue for up to 24 months. Animals will be located using a combination of ground based telemetry and fixed wing telemetry flights. Flights are scheduled for the first and last week of the month (weather dependent).</p> <p>Ground-based locating of animals occurs during both the first and last week of the month.</p> <p>Between February and March 2011, BC Hydro, with the assistance of the Ministry of Natural Resource Operations, will be leading the re-deployment of eight GPS collars on mule deer, moose and elk and 10 VHF collars on mule deer. Additional GPS collars that become available during these months will also be redeployed.</p> <p>Animals will be captured using either aerial net gunning or ground based drop net.</p>	<p>March 2011</p> <p><i>Re-deployment of collars will occur between February and March 2011.</i></p> <p><i>Phase 2 monitoring will occur from February 2010 to winter 2012.</i></p>

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Study Name	Description	Timing
<p>Wildlife Studies in the Peace Region – Bat Hibernacula Study</p>	<p>BC Hydro is conducting a bat hibernacula study. The purpose of the study is to document the presence of bat hibernacula within and outside the proposed Site C reservoir area.</p> <p>The work will be conducted between the location of the proposed Site C project and the Alberta border, and other potential sites in the surrounding area.</p> <p>Additional monitoring at potential hibernacula will occur during periods of warm weather in the winter months of 2010 and 2011.</p>	<p>March 2011</p> <p><i>Ongoing studies.</i></p>
<p>Physical Environment Studies - Climate Monitoring in the Peace River Valley</p>	<p>BC Hydro is collecting climate data from seven monitoring stations on private and BC Hydro owned land between Hudson’s Hope and the proposed Site C dam location.</p> <p>Information on various climate parameters will be gathered, including: air temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction, fog frequency and density, and precipitation. This climate data will be used to establish baseline conditions and to inform the effects assessment of the Site C project on in-valley climate.</p> <p>Stations are visited regularly to retrieve data. Access to the monitoring stations is by vehicle and foot.</p>	<p>March 2011</p> <p><i>Ongoing monitoring from February 2009.</i></p>
<p>Physical Environment Studies - Air Quality Monitoring</p>	<p>BC Hydro is conducting air quality monitoring by installing two air quality monitors at Old Fort, south of Fort St. John.</p> <p>The study will provide baseline measurements of air quality, which are representative of air quality in the area near the proposed project location and will be used to assess the potential effects of the proposed project on the air quality in the area.</p>	<p>March 2011</p>

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	<p>Air quality readings from the monitors will be recorded on a data logger that will be located in one of the monitor enclosures. The data from the logger will be downloaded remotely through a cellular modem.</p> <p>The monitors will be visited regularly to check equipment and performance maintenance. Field crew access will be by vehicle and foot.</p>	
<p>Geotechnical Studies</p>	<p>BC Hydro is conducting geotechnical studies along the Peace River.</p> <p>On March 2, members of the Site C engineering team will be conducting a helicopter flight above the south bank of the Peace River to review areas of proposed geotechnical investigations.</p> <p>This assessment is being done as part of 2011 geotechnical field work planning.</p>	<p>March 2011</p>
<p>Danger Tree Assessment on the South Bank of the Proposed Dam Site</p>	<p>BC Hydro is conducting a danger tree assessment for trees located on the south bank at the proposed dam site.</p> <p>In accordance with WorkSafeBC regulations, trees that may pose a hazard to workers accessing the area must be identified and made safe by limbing, topping or cutting the tree down.</p> <p>The assessment will take approximately two – four weeks and is part of 2011 geotechnical field work planning. Cutting of identified danger trees is expected to take place in April.</p> <p>Field crew access for assessment work is expected to be by vehicle.</p>	<p>March 2011</p>

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