

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Introductory Meeting – Fort St John

October 5, 2011

Site C Project Team





Agenda

- Site C Overview
- Project Description
- Setting
 - Socio-Economic and Heritage
 - Environmental Setting
- Consultation and Engagement
- Next Steps

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About Site C

- A third dam and hydroelectric generating station on the Peace River
- A publicly owned facility
- Would provide 5100 GWh, enough energy to power more than 450,000 homes per year
- Firm energy will support renewables
- 35,000 direct and indirect jobs
- Reducing our carbon footprint low GHGs







Multi-Stage Evaluation Process



Provincial government decision on whether to proceed to next stage





Project Description Report

Purpose:

- 1. Determines need for EA
- 2. Promotes regulator coordination
- 3. Formal regulatory process initiated once regulators review and accept PDR
 - ✓ Submitted to BCEAO and CEAA on May 17, 2011
 - ✓ Acceptance announced in August 2011







Site C's Reservoir Area

Reservoir Area (hectares)



 Site C would produce approximately 35% of the electricity of the W.A.C. Bennett Dam with five per cent of the reservoir area





A Mid-Sized Hydroelectric Facility







Energy Planning





BC Hydro Energy Planning Methods

- BC Hydro has a mandate to provide cost-effective, reliable electricity to its service area
- Need for additional resources based on forecast gap between demand and available resources, reflecting:
 - Current and forecasted electricity demand
 - Current and forecasted electricity conservation measures
 - Existing and committed generation resources
 - Uncertainties in load growth and project delivery
- Methodology established in BC Hydro's Long-Term Acquisition Plan (LTAP) and Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) processes





Meeting Demand



Fiscal Year (year ending March 31)





Meeting Future Growing Demand

- B.C.'s electricity needs expected to grow by approximately 40 per cent over the next 20 years
- Demand driven by industrial growth
- Province's population is estimated to grow by more than one million people in 20 years
- Emerging trends could increase demand (e.g., electric vehicles)
- BC Hydro has been a net importer of electricity in nine of the last ten years









Our Plan to Meet Demand







Conserving more

Power Smart; energy efficiency standards for buildings; rate incentives; public campaigns

Buying more Wind; small hydro; biomass; geothermal

Building more

Reinvesting in existing assets, considering new options for firm energy





Alternatives Analysis

- The 2010 Resource Options Report being developed for the IRP will contain preliminary data on alternative resources, including:
 - Energy and capacity demand-side management
 - Other Supply Options:
 - Onshore and offshore wind
 - Small hydro
 - **Biomass**
 - Pumped storage
 - Geothermal
 - Natural gas –fired generation
 - Upgrades to existing BCH facilities
 - Solar and others





Updated Project Cost Estimate

- Estimated capital cost of \$7.9 billion, and cost per megawatt hour ${}^{\bullet}$ ranging from \$87 to \$95
 - Reflects key upgrades to the project design, and current market prices for labour, equipment and materials
- Site C would be among the most cost-effective resource options to help meet B.C.'s future electricity needs





Project Description





Project Components and Activities

- Dam, Generating Station & Reservoir
- Highway 29 and Construction Access Roads
- Transmission
- Reservoir Slopes
- Offsite Construction Materials
- Reservoir Preparation and Clearing
- Workforce Requirements and Worker Accommodation





Oversight

- Peer Reviews
- Use of Independent Experts: Spillway Design, Geotechnical, Reservoir Shoreline Studies
- International Technical Advisory Board
- BC Hydro Executive and Project Board
- BC Hydro Board









Dam and Generating Station

Type: Height: Length: Energy: Capacity: Generating Units: Earthfill dam 60 metres above riverbed 1,050 metres 5,100 GWh/yr Up to 1,100 MW 6 Francis turbines; 183MW per unit





Roads and Temporary Access Bridge







Reservoir

Total Reservoir Surface Area: Total Flooded Land Area*: Crown land: BC Hydro-owned land: Private land: Maximum Normal Reservoir Fluctuation: Length: Width:

Extent of Flooding of Tributaries: Lynx Creek

Farrell Creek Halfway River Cache Creek Moberly River 9,310 hectares
5,340 hectares
4,318 hectares (81%)
666 hectares (12%)
356 hectares (7%)
1.8 metres
83 kilometres
2-3 times the current river (on average)

0.8 kilometres2.5 kilometres14 kilometres8 kilometres10 kilometres



* Based on proposed reservoir elevation of 461.8m



Planned Sequence of Construction

The project design continues to evolve and this information is subject to change





















Temporary Facilities at Dam Site

- Offices, storage facilities & staging areas
- Workshops, labs & testing facilities
- Concrete batch plants & aggregate/filter processing plants
- Explosive & fuel storage facilities
- Fabrication shops
- Fully serviced worker housing
- Waste treatment & management facilities
- Truck washing & vehicle maintenance workshops
- Safety, first aid & security





Break for Q&A





Highway 29 Realignment & Construction Access Roads





Highway 29 Realignment






Highway 29 – River & Creek Crossing Options

BRIDGE SPAN ONLY OPTION



Example of causeway construction With riprap protection

Example of an earthfill causeway and bridge

Existing Halfway River Bridge





Construction Access Roads







Transmission





Transmission Line

- Existing transmission right-of-way corridor – Site C to Peace Canyon Substation; two138kV lines
- Current Transmission Planning /ROW
 - Three 500-kilovolt (kV) circuits connecting the generating station to the new 500 kV switchyard
 - Two 500 kV Alternating Current lines, approximately 77 km in length, along existing 138 kV right-of-way, connecting the switchyard to Peace Canyon Substation
 - Widening of the right-of-way by approximately 35 metres
 - Access roads







View looking east from where 500kv circuits

Transmission Right-of-Way Cross Section







Reservoir Slopes





Reservoir Slopes

Historical Approach

- Residential safeline developed in 1978
- BCUC concerns re: land use impacts
- Best practice review development of impact line approach





Stage 3 Work – Impact Line Approach

Objectives

- Ensure safety
- Maximize land use flexibility
- Minimize land required for the project
- Use international best practices to get better information about impacts of the reservoir





Reservoir Slopes

- Predict the geotechnical response of the reservoir shoreline and slopes to operation of the proposed reservoir and future public safety and land use considerations
- Types of Impact Lines
 - Flood Impact Lines
 - Erosion Impact Lines
 - Stability Impact Lines
 - Landslide Generated Wave Impact Lines





Flood Impact Line

- To be defined by a specified <u>elevation</u> above reservoir full supply level •
- Includes allowance for floods, wind and waves •
- Includes potential reservoir surcharge caused by spillway operations ٠





Erosion Impact Line

- Predicts erosion and slope retreat over 100 years
- Current work: collection of wind data and refine understanding of shoreline geology



REGENERATIO



Hudson's Hope Berm







Stability Impact Line

- Beach erosion, plus long term slope retrogression to a stable angle
- Current work: refine understanding of slope geology and ultimate slope angles







1973 Attachie Slide







Study Areas Regarding Potential Landslide Generated Wave







Field Investigation and Risk Assessment

- Require confirmation of surface and subsurface conditions at select areas
 - Geology, groundwater, evidence of prior or ongoing ground movement
 - Access to property to conduct surface mapping, geotechnical drilling, installation of instrumentation
- Stability Analysis & Risk Assessment
 - Site Specific Slope stability modeling (current conditions and with reservoir)
 - Adjustment of location of the stability impact line based on site specific info and analysis
 - Hazard/risk zonation within the stability impact line





Construction Materials





Fill Material Requirements

- Components:
 - Dam
 - Highway 29 Re-alignment
 - Access Roads
 - Hudson's Hope Berm
- Materials:
 - Impervious till
 - Gravel and Aggregate
 - Temporary Rip Rap
 - Permanent Rip Rap





Materials Needed to Construct the Dam







Reservoir Preparation and Clearing





Reservoir Preparation and Clearing

- Clearing for constructions sites, and preparing reservoir for flooding
- Reservoir Preparation considerations also include:
 - realignment of segments of Highway 29
 - reservoir impact line management (e.g. shoreline erosion and stability)
 - reservoir and shoreline property management (property and infrastructure)
 - potential contaminated site management
 - water management during river diversion and reservoir filling
 - construction of a berm for shoreline protection at Hudson's Hope
 - development of recreation and environmental mitigation sites





Workforce Requirements and Worker Housing











Worker Housing

The plan is being developed in consultation with communities

- Dam site construction camps
 - north bank
 - south bank
- Regional camps
 - Highway 29
 - Jackfish Lake Road
- Local in-community housing
- Scenarios for local resident / employment





Socio-Economic & Environmental Setting





Socio-Economic & Environmental Setting

- Socio-Economic Setting
- Aboriginal Communities
- Land and Resource Use
- Human Health
- Heritage Resources
- Environmental (physical, aquatic, terrestrial)





Social and Economic Setting





Social and Economic Setting

- Social and Community nearby communities:
 - Regional population of 63,000
- Economy:
 - Cyclical natural resource driven economy
 - Low unemployment rate (active economy)
 - Infrastructure and Services
- Transportation:
 - Developed urban service areas, and remote rural residential











Social and Economic Setting

Key Issues and Related Study Areas:

- Workforce during construction
- Economic and employment
- Government finances
- Transportation
- Direct impacts on infrastructure





Aboriginal Community Assessments

Focus on Communities in vicinity of the Project

Key Issues to be identified through Community-Specific Studies, may include:

- Traditional Land Use
- Social Setting
- Economic Setting, employment, business
- Community Housing and Infrastructure
- Health and Healthy Living





Land and Resource Use Setting

- Fort St. John and Dawson Creek land use planning area, Peace Moberly Tract
- Private land use (e.g. residential, commercial, agricultural)
- North bank dominated by private land uses, agricultural, rural residential
- South bank dominated by crown land uses



Peace River at Halfway River, looking upstream





Land and Resource Use

Key Issues and Related Study Areas:

- General baseline data collection to identify potential project interactions
- Forestry
- Oil, Gas and Energy
- Minerals
- Aggregate
- Hunting and Fishing
- Trapping and Guide Outfitting
- Outdoor Recreation





Land and Resource Use (cont'd)

Agricultural soil capability mapping:

- Updated agricultural capability maps
- Field inspections throughout reservoir area
- Review capability mapping in broader project area

Agricultural Resource Use:

 Interviews with farmers and ranchers (up to 19 farm operations in vicinity of project)



Completing a field inspection – a shovel test for agricultural soil sampling





Human Health

Potential Human Health Topics:

- Healthy Living: Workforce
- Healthy Living: Public considerations
- Air Quality, Noise & Vibration
- Methyl Mercury
- Electro Magnetic Fields





Heritage

Heritage Setting:

- Paleontological eras
- Archaeological evidence of ~10,000 years of human occupation
- Historic fur trade (1793 1820's), farming settlements 1900's to current

Key Issues and Related Study Areas:

- Inventory for archaeological sites
- Inventory for historic sites
- Field reconnaissance for paleontological potential



Ammonite fossil found along the Peace River, August 2011




Physical, Aquatic and Terrestrial Environment







Physical Environment – Water

Current Setting:

- Mainstem and downstream conditions in • project area influenced by upstream flow regulation, existing water licenses
- Groundwater domestic, agricultural, and industrial

- Water quantity
- Water quality
- Groundwater conditions
- Ice Regime •
- Water Management •







Physical Environment – Land

Current Setting:

• Flow regulation has occurred for many decades and river is or has adjusted to changes

- River morphology
- Sediment transport
- Contaminated Sites







Physical Environment - Atmosphere

Current Setting:

- Continental climate seasonal Arctic (Cold) and western (moist, warm)
- Distinct valley bottom microclimate

- Micro-climate change due to reservoir
- GHG Emissions
- Air Quality
- Noise and Vibration







Fish and Aquatics

Current Setting

- Diverse resident fish community
- 31 species resident species
- Spatial distribution of fish follows habitat conditions







Fish and Aquatics

- Fish habitat
- Fish populations
- Fish movement
- Aquatic Productivity
- Fish Passage
- Mercury







Wildlife and Vegetation

Current Setting:

- Abundant and diverse wildlife populations
- Peace River Basin eco-region, Peace Lowlands (PEL) eco-section
- Biogeoclimatic zone: "Boreal White and Black Spruce "
- Valley bottom landscape modified by agricultural land use and upstream river regulation
- Ungulate winter range, high diversity of song birds







Wildlife

- Habitat
- Populations
- Habitat Use
- Migrations







Vegetation

- Vegetation Community assessment
- Rare plant communities
- Invasive plant surveys
- Rare ecosystem features







Consultation & Engagement

Aboriginal Groups Public, Stakeholder and Property Owners Government Agencies





Consultation and Engagement - Aboriginal

- Project lies within Treaty 8 territory
- Engagement ongoing with 51 Aboriginal groups
- Consultation with Aboriginal groups in the project area and downstream from the Project
- Project information provided to Treaty 8 First Nations located outside of the Peace or Slave River watersheds
- Objective of consultation: identify potential impacts of the project on section 35(1) rights and communities and work with Aboriginal groups to identify strategies to avoid, prevent, or mitigate impacts



Map of First Nations Traditional Territories



SITE CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT





Consultation Agreements

- Under negotiation or concluded with First Nations located in and downstream of the project area and with two First Nations located at the north end of the Williston Reservoir
- Set out the agreed-upon funding, principles, processes and scope for Stage 3 consultations
- 8 agreements have been concluded, representing 11 First Nations
- Consultation topics may include:
 - Key project components
 - Development of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Guidelines
 - Ongoing baseline studies
 - Alternative site assessments
 - Development of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)





Traditional Studies

- BC Hydro has entered into a number of Traditional Land Use Study (TLUS) agreements with First Nations to carry out studies, to enable data sharing and to set out confidentiality
- TLUS data, where available, will be considered in effects assessment
- First Nations Opportunities Strategy has been developed with a focus on trades training, and procurement opportunities







Issues Identified during Stage 2:

- Potential impacts on section 35(1) rights and cultural and heritage resources
- Historic grievances
- Cumulative effects
- Short- and long-term employment and economic opportunities
- Effects on wildlife, fish, water quality and quantity
- Access to traditional hunting areas
- Energy conservation strategies, alternative energy sources
- Effect on existing infrastructure and local communities





Public and Stakeholder Consultation: Objectives

- To consult meaningfully with the public, stakeholders and property owners on impacts, benefits and features of the Site C project, consistent with BC Hydro's commitment to consultation
- To consider input in combination with technical, environmental and economic analysis
- To keep communities, stakeholders and the public informed about the project and the many opportunities for public involvement





Stage 2: Consultation and Technical Review

- Three rounds of consultation
- Nearly 1,000 participants in each round
- 121 stakeholder meetings and open houses
- Consultation topics included:
 - Impact lines
 - Highway 29
 - Reservoir preparation
 - Energy resource options, and more
- Community Relations:
 - Consultation offices
 - Presentations, updates

/our Name:	
Date:	
our Comment or Inquiry:	
Reply required: 🗆 yes 💷 no	
(our email and/or telephone#:	





Stage 2 Consultation: Key Themes

- Consultation Summary Reports, all public meeting notes, available online
- Consideration Memos document consideration of input
- Key themes:
 - Avoiding or mitigating local impacts
 - Potential effects to air quality, water and agricultural land
 - Energy conservation and other alternatives to Site C including other renewable electricity sources (e.g., wind, solar, biomass and geothermal)
 - Potential benefits such as jobs, skills training, upgrades to local and regional infrastructure





Stage 3 Consultation

- Environmental Assessment Public Comment Periods (led by regulators)
- Additional BC Hydro-led consultations will include:
 - Regional and Local Government Liaison
 - Property Owner Consultation & Liaison
 - Local Area Consultations, i.e. Hudson's Hope Berm Options Fall 2011
 - Preliminary Design Consultation, 2012
 - Highway 29
 - Recreation
 - Reservoir preparation
- Worker Housing
- Construction Access Roads
- Agriculture







Opportunities for Input

- Range of consultation methods will be used:
 - Community Consultation Offices
 - Website
 - Public enquiries
 - Stakeholder meetings
 - Open houses
 - Print and online feedback forms
 - Written submissions
- For more info: www.bchydro.com/sitec







Regional and Local Government Engagement

- Regional and Local Government Liaison Committee
 - Committee, chaired by BC Hydro Executive Vice President, with representation from region's mayors and regional district directors
- Local Government Technical Engagement
 - Individual, staff-level committees with each regional, local government
 - Capacity funding provided
- Updates to councils







PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT



Ongoing Public Notification

- Monthly Field Studies Summary
- Field Studies Information Sheet
- Study updates
- Project updates
- Media relations

Available at:

- www.bchydro.com/sitec
- Community Consultation Offices -Hudson's Hope and Fort St. John
- Hudson's Hope Bulletin





Next Steps





Next Steps

- Review and evaluate Draft BC Canada Agreement for EA process
- Prepare and file draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Guidelines





www.bchydro.com/sitec

