

Cultural Resources Mitigation Plan 2021-2022 Annual Report

Site C Clean Energy Project

Reporting period: April 2021 through March 2022

March 31, 2022

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1 Background

1.1 The Site C Clean Energy Project

The Site C Clean Energy Project (the Project) will be the third dam and generating station on the Peace River in northeast BC. The Project will provide 1,100 megawatts of capacity and about 5,100 gigawatt hours of energy each year to the province's integrated electricity system. The Project will be a source of clean, reliable electricity for BC Hydro's customers for more than 100 years.

The key components of the Project are:

- an earthfill dam, approximately 1,050 metres long and 60 metres high above the riverbed;
- an 83 kilometre long reservoir that will be, on average, two to three times the width of the current river;
- a generating station with six 183 MW generating units;
- two new 500 kilovolt AC transmission lines that will connect the Project facilities to the Peace Canyon Substation, along an existing right-of-way;
- realignment of six segments of Highway 29 over a total distance of approximately 30 kilometres; and
- construction of a berm at Hudson's Hope.

The Project will also include the construction of temporary access roads, a temporary bridge across the Peace River, and worker accommodation at the dam site.

1.2 Description of Construction Activities During the Reporting Period

The Project completed construction of the upstream cofferdam in February 2021 and the downstream cofferdam in March 2021. With these important components of the earthfill dam complete, the area between the two cofferdams was dewatered in Spring of 2021 to allow for the excavation of the centre section of the dam core trench.

With that milestone complete, crews excavated and then began placing material in the earthfill dam. To December 31, 2021, approximately 30 per cent of the total required volume of material had been placed in the dam.

Concurrent to dam construction, work advanced on roller-compacted concrete placements in the dam and core buttress. Together with the powerhouse and spillways buttresses, the dam and core buttress forms a key safety component in the Project's design.

In October 2021, BC Hydro completed the dam and core buttress, marking the completion of the Project's overall roller-compacted-concrete program. Since the program began in 2017, crews placed a total of 1.7 million cubic metres of roller-compacted concrete in the three large buttresses.

In the generating station, work on the concrete foundation and enclosure of the powerhouse structure were completed in 2021. Placement of the concrete that embeds the turbines and forms the floors in the powerhouse is advancing at a pace to match the turbines and generators contractor's schedule.

As of December 31, 2021, 81 penstock sections (out of a total of 90 sections) had been installed, and in the spillways, more than 50 per cent of the spillways concrete had been placed.

Away from the dam site, work progressed on all six segments of the Highway 29 realignment sub-project, including the substantial completion of the Halfway River bridge in August 2021 and the opening of the Farrell Creek East segment to traffic in October 2021.

Construction of the second 500 kV transmission line connecting Site C to the Peace Canyon Generating Station continued in 2021. All foundations were completed, and all towers were assembled and installed on the foundations by March 2021. In July 2021, conductor stringing began; by the end of the year, the line was approximately two-thirds complete.

More detailed descriptions of construction activities that took place during the reporting period can be found in the quarterly Notices of Construction Activities¹.

2 Objective and Scope

2.1 Objective and Scope of the Cultural Resources Mitigation Plan

The objective of the June 5, 2015 Cultural Resources Mitigation Plan (CRMP) is to fulfill the requirements of Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) condition 63. The CRMP outlines the approach to cultural resources mitigation initiatives for the Project, including forming a Cultural and Heritage Resources Committee (Committee) that will consider elements such as identification and naming of key cultural sites, documenting historical use of the area, commemoration of sites lost to inundation, cultural awareness and orientation of workforce training, and support for cultural camps through financial in-kind support. Other activities or initiatives may be considered as recommended by the Committee.

The CRMP covers the Project Activity Zone (PAZ) as described in the EIS and as defined in the Federal Decision Statement (FDS) section 1.15.

2.2 Reporting Period

This annual report describes BC Hydro's engagement activities with Indigenous Nations through the implementation of the CRMP from April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022. In some cases, consultation and engagement with Indigenous Nations on measures described in the CRMP that took place prior to this reporting period are also summarized here for context.

This is the seventh annual report of the CRMP.

2.3 COVID-19

BC Hydro's top priority is the health and safety of our employees, contractors, members of the public, and Indigenous Nations. BC Hydro has been monitoring COVID-19 closely since January 2020 and has been taking appropriate action as the situation evolves. To minimize the risk of transmission and continue to fulfil the requirements of Environmental Assessment

¹ Also referred to as Construction Notification Letters, or Construction Notices. These are available on the project website along with the bi-weekly Construction Bulletins: <https://www.sitecproject.com/construction-activities/construction-bulletins>

Certificate condition 63, BC Hydro has been required to adapt its engagement with Indigenous communities to mitigate the risk of a COVID-19 event occurring.

These include:

- Strictly following Ministry of Health guidelines and implemented a range of protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19;
- Scaled back, or transition to virtual platforms, for certain activities to reduce or eliminate the number of in-person meetings, site visits, training sessions, and community gatherings;
- Restrictions on non-essential travel for BC Hydro employees and consulting service providers; and
- Implemented the requirement for proof of COVID-19 vaccination from all employees and contractors working for the Site C project.

3 Implementation of the Plan – April 2021 through March 2022

This report summarizes the implementation of the mitigation initiatives described in section 5.0 of the CRMP.

3.1 Establish the Committee

In accordance with EAC condition 63, BC Hydro is engaging Indigenous Nations on the development and implementation of mitigation measures respecting the potential effects of the Project on Indigenous culture and heritage through the Committee.

On September 24, 2014, BC Hydro invited all Indigenous Nations named in the EAC and federal Decision Statement² to participate in the Committee. The Committee considers mitigation measures, which could include identification, naming and commemoration of key cultural sites; documenting historical use of the area, including trails, sites and stories; cultural awareness and orientation of the workforce; and support for cultural camps through financial in-kind support. BC Hydro offered to provide an honorarium and to cover costs associated with travel to attend in-person Committee meetings. Starting in September 2021, this offer has been extended to also include support to attend in-person Cultural Centre Working Group meetings.

On October 17, 2014, BC Hydro provided Indigenous Nations with the draft CRMP, which included the proposed Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Committee, for review and comment. Comments received on the draft CRMP were considered in preparing the final CRMP. Additionally, the ToR has been reviewed by Committee members, including the proposed cultural resources mitigation initiatives detailed in the CRMP.

To date there have been two revisions to the CRMP:

² Unless otherwise specified, the term Indigenous Nations applies to the following “Aboriginal groups” as defined in the Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) and federal Decision Statement (FDS): Sauteau First Nations, West Moberly First Nations, Prophet River First Nation, Blueberry River First Nations, Doig River First Nation, McLeod Lake Indian Band, Halfway River First Nation, Fort Nelson First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation, Métis Nation British Columbia, Kelly Lake Métis Settlement Society, Duncan’s First Nation, and Dene Tha’ First Nation.

- Revision 2 (Summer 2017) to include an additional process for (a) discussing, identifying and developing mitigation measures for cultural resources outside of the Committee and (b) incorporating mitigation measures for cultural resources into construction planning. Revision 2 of the CRMP was shared with Indigenous Nations on July 25, 2017. The revised plan was presented and discussed at the Committee meeting on July 26, 2017.
- Revision 3 (November 2018) to include the following changes: Providing a definition of “cultural resources” (Section 2.2); Setting out roles and responsibilities for implementation of the CRMP (Section 2.3); Establishing a process for review and revision of the CRMP (Section 2.5); Clarification of the role and structure of the Cultural and Heritage Resources Committee (Section 5.1); Describing the process for developing mitigations measures for cultural resources in collaboration with individual Indigenous Nations, including ground-truthing activities and the preparation of site specific mitigation plans (Section 5.3); and, Identifying potential management options for cultural resources, including avoidance, mitigation, and compliance verification as applicable (Sections 6.0). The revisions were shared with the Environmental Assessment Office and Indigenous Nations for review and input on October 10, 2018.

BC Hydro will continue to work with the Committee on the implementation of the CRMP and to respond to issues and concerns raised by Indigenous Nations on the CRMP.

3.1.1 Frequency, Duration and Location of Meetings

In the CRMP and Terms of Reference for the Committee, it was proposed the Committee meet on a quarterly basis for the first and second years of Project construction. The frequency thereafter would be determined by the Committee members. Starting in the third year of Project Construction the Committee adopted a structure that incorporates a sub-regional approach within the broader Committee meetings. As the Committee has progressed initiatives that mitigate Project impacts to cultural resources (such as the travelling exhibit, educational videos and community display cases of artifacts), the focus of the Committee in 2021/2022 has shifted to advancing the Site C Cultural Centre Development Project (the “Development Project”).

The Development Project was initiated by the Committee as a legacy project to further offset project impacts to cultural resources. The Development Project will commemorate and celebrate the culture and heritage of Indigenous Nations impacted by the Site C Project; it will support truth and reconciliation with Indigenous Nations; it will be a space to appropriately store, and display artifacts recovered through the Site C Project; and it will be a gathering space for teaching, workshops and meetings. The Committee is shifting to annual Committee meetings and has formed a Cultural Centre Working Group that will meet on a monthly basis or as often as needed until completion of the Development Project which is anticipated for July 2026.

The Committee held its first meeting on July 30, 2015 and its first Cultural Centre Working Group meeting on September 16, 2021. From 2015 to present, representatives from each of the thirteen Indigenous Nations named in the EAC and Federal Decision Statement have attended at least one or more of the Committee meetings or Cultural Centre Working Group meetings. Attendees include representatives from Doig River First Nation, Blueberry River First Nations,

Halfway River First Nation, Prophet River First Nation, West Moberly First Nations, Fort Nelson First Nation, Sauleau First Nations, Dene Tha' First Nation, Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation, McLeod Lake Indian Band, Métis Nation BC, and Kelly Lake Métis Settlement Society.

During this reporting period, the Committee has held 3 Committee meetings and 4 Cultural Centre Working Group meetings. 6 of the 7 meetings were held by video conference call due to COVID-19 safety concerns; one Cultural Centre Working Group meeting was held in-person in an outdoor setting to accommodate COVID-19 safety concerns and protocols in place at that time.

3.1.2 Development of Cultural Resources Mitigation Initiatives in Collaboration with the Committee

The Committee continues to work collaboratively on cultural resources mitigation initiatives. This includes identifying measures to commemorate sites that will be lost to inundation, identification and naming of key cultural sites, documenting historical use of the area, including trails, sites, and stories, and discussing and developing an approach to Indigenous cultural awareness and orientation of the workforce. The Committee is supported in its work by a third-party facilitator, through Four Directions Management Services.

Culture and Heritage Resources Committee Projects Completed to Date

Travelling Artifacts Exhibit

The Committee has successfully completed a traveling exhibit that travels to Indigenous and local communities displaying artifacts, stories and visuals that reflect the history and culture of Indigenous Nations in the Peace region, as well as a series of commemoration videos on the impacts of the Project from the perspective of Indigenous Nations.

Commemoration & Cultural Activities Support

The Committee has allocated funding from the overall committee budget to support commemoration and cultural activities that will be implemented individually by each of the 13 Indigenous Nations. The funding could include activities such as trail mapping, ceremonies and documentation of stories.

Telling the Story – Curator Training Program

During the reporting period, the Committee also developed and delivered a curator training program called “Telling the Story”, in partnership with Tse'k'wa House and NENAS. The 10 day program explored the artifacts and story behind the artifacts from an Indigenous perspective. Elders and youth gathered in a virtual and in-person format to learn about archaeology and the curation of artifacts that have been unearthed in building of the Site C dam. The purpose of the program was to have participants select artifacts that will be displayed in their community display cases and eventually in the Cultural Centre that is in development.

Cultural Awareness Training

The Committee has reviewed and endorsed BC Hydro's INDIG-201 training session for employees, acknowledging its importance in reconciliation. The Committee has recommended the training be mandatory for all Site C employees and recommended Nation-specific local content be developed to enhance the cultural awareness training for employees. Education videos completed by the Committee in the previous reporting period were further shared and highlighted to BC Hydro employees through a virtual presentation by Committee and Saulteau First Nations member, Nathan Parenteau. During the presentation held on March 3, 2022, Nathan touched on his experience supporting the video project and talked about creation and migration stories from Saulteau First Nations' perspective; 215 BC Hydro employees joined the virtual session.

Culture and Heritage Resources Committee Projects Underway

Initiatives underway include:

- Signage shelters at the Project's northbank viewpoint to document historical use of the area and further educate the visiting public and workforce in the region;
- A calendar of community events to provide cross cultural awareness to employees and the public; and
- Display cases located in communities to showcase artifacts recovered through the Project.

Below is a summary of the meetings held by the Committee within the reporting period of this annual report:

- On May 12, 2021, (meeting #31) the Committee met and provided updates on the status of the Travelling Exhibit, north bank viewpoint signage and video projects. The Committee's discussion focused on reviewing the Cultural Centre draft terms of reference, providing an overview of the Cultural Centre design development process and understanding the next steps in content development for the Cultural Centre. The Committee also reviewed next steps in developing the community display cases of artifacts and discussed Tse'k'wa as a temporary repository for Site C artifacts. The Committee meeting was attended by BC Hydro, Colliers Project Leaders and representatives from Blueberry River First Nations, Dene Tha' First Nation, Duncan's First Nation, Doig River First Nation, Halfway River First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation, Kelly Lake Métis Settlement Society and McLeod Lake Indian Band.
- July 14, 2021, (Meeting #32) the Committee discussed the status and next steps of the Cultural Centre draft terms of reference, reviewed the next steps and schedule of Cultural Centre development, reviewed the design for the community display cases or artifacts and received an overview of the curation training program while also connecting with the program participants. The Committee meeting was attended by BC Hydro, Colliers Project Leaders and representatives from Blueberry River First Nations, Duncan's First Nation, Doig River First Nation, Halfway River First Nation, Horse Lake

First Nation, Kelly Lake Métis Settlement Society, Metis Nation BC, McLeod Lake Indian Band and Saulteau First Nations.

- March 15, 2022, (Meeting #33) the Committee met to review the 2021 archaeological field program and receive an overview of the 2022 archaeological field program, they discussed ongoing projects including viewpoint signage and community display cases of artifacts. The Committee reviewed the Committee budget, structure and frequency of meetings going forward. The Committee meeting was attended by BC Hydro and representatives from Blueberry River First Nations, Doig River First Nation, Duncan's First Nation, Prophet River First Nation, Halfway River First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation, McLeod Lake Indian Band and Metis Nation BC.

Committee meeting minutes are shared with participants and leadership of the represented Indigenous Nations for review and comment prior to being finalized. Meeting minutes are sent by email following the meeting dates. Additional information exchanged during meetings, such as presentations, photos and follow-up responses, are also provided to participants by email.

As additional meetings were added to the Committee's schedule to discuss the Cultural Centre Development Project, the Committee agreed to focus future meetings on the cultural centre.

3.1.3 Site C Cultural Center Development Project

The Site C Cultural Centre (the "**Cultural Centre**") is a proposed facility to commemorate, educate and celebrate the culture and heritage of the Indigenous Nations impacted by the Site C Clean Energy Project (Site C). This facility will be located at or near Site C and it is intended to support truth and reconciliation with Indigenous Nations impacted by Site C and to provide a respectful space to store and display artifacts recovered during Site C construction. Central to this effort is the sharing of stories and history of the original inhabitants of the region and to meet recommendations for preserving cultural heritage provided by the Site C Culture and Heritage Resources Committee (CHRC).

The Site C Cultural Centre Development Project (the "**Development Project**") includes the formation of several committees and decision-making processes to support the site selection, design, content and construction through to the opening of the Cultural Centre. The timeframe for this process is anticipated to be from Spring of 2021 to Summer 2026.

Below is a summary of the meetings held by the Cultural Centre Working Group within the reporting period of this annual report:

- September 16, 2021 (Meeting #1) the Cultural Centre Working Group met for the first time to gather ideas from the Nation participants into a storyboard vision of the Cultural Centre physical spaces. This was the first visioning workshop held by the group. The Cultural Centre Working Group meeting was attended by BC Hydro, representatives from the Cultural Centre project team (Colliers Project Leaders, WSP Global Inc., Architecture 49, a Heritage Consultant), and representatives from Blueberry River First Nations, Doig River First Nation, Halfway River First Nation, McLeod Lake Indian Band and Saulteau First Nations.
- October 18, 2021, (Meeting #2) the Cultural Centre Working Group met to further discuss the physical spaces for the Cultural Centre and to gather descriptions to advise on the size and function of spaces within the Cultural Centre. This was the second visioning workshop held by the group. The Cultural Centre Working Group meeting was

attended by BC Hydro and representatives the Cultural Centre project team (Colliers Project Leaders, WSP Global Inc., Architecture 49, a Heritage Consultant), and representatives from Blueberry River First Nations, Duncan's First Nation, Doig River First Nation, Halfway River First Nation, McLeod Lake Indian Band, Sauteau First Nations, Fort Nelson First Nation, Metis Nation BC and Kelly Lake Metis Settlement Society.

- February 8, 2022, (Meeting #3) the Site C Cultural Centre Working Group met to review options for the building concept and spaces for the Cultural Centre and to identify three themes to develop further through the project process. This was the third and final visioning workshop held by the group. The group discussed next steps of further developing the three themes to later present to the Elders and Chiefs Committee of the Cultural Centre Development Project for approval to proceed to the next phase of the project. The Cultural Centre Working Group meeting was attended by BC Hydro and representatives from the Cultural Centre project team (Colliers Project Leaders, WSP Global Inc., Architecture 49, a Heritage Consultant), and representatives from Blueberry River First Nations, Doig River First Nation, Duncan's First Nation, Halfway River First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation, McLeod Lake Indian Band, Fort Nelson First Nation, Sauteau First Nations and Métis Nation BC.
- March 16, 2022, (Meeting #4) the Cultural Centre Working Group met to review and discuss the three themes for the cultural centre that were further developed by the project team. The Working Group representatives voted on a leading theme for recommendation for further development to the Elders & Chiefs' Committee meeting. The Elders & Chiefs' Committee meeting will be scheduled in April 2022. The Cultural Centre Working Group meeting was attended by BC Hydro and representatives from the Cultural Centre project team (Colliers Project Leaders, WSP Global Inc., Architecture 49, a Heritage Consultant), and representatives from Blueberry River First Nations, Duncan's First Nation, Doig River First Nation, Sauteau First Nations, McLeod Lake Indian Band, Horse Lake First Nation, Prophet River First Nation, West Moberly First Nations, Fort Nelson First Nation and Métis Nation BC.

3.2 Development of Mitigation Measures in Collaboration with Individual Indigenous Nations

3.2.1 Identifying and Mapping the Locations of Cultural Resources within Planned Construction Areas

The Project continued to consult with individual Indigenous Nations regarding construction plans and offered opportunities for site visits within the PAZ prior to construction. Further in-person activities such as boat and highway tours were postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions and safety concerns.

BC Hydro remains open to ground truthing additional areas of interest related to cultural resources³ with Indigenous Nations where ground truthing has not already occurred. As such, on August 12, 2021, BC Hydro invited Indigenous Nations to ground truth Area E (a contingency gravel source) and Ice Bridge Road (access road).

During this reporting period, BC Hydro followed up with interested Indigenous Nations to coordinate field visits and ground truthing activities with BC Hydro field support. Ground truthing and other field activities such as site visits, undertaken during the reporting period are summarized in Table 1, organized by Indigenous group. For the purposes of this report, these activities relate to cultural resources.

Table 1: Site Visits and Ground Truthing Activities Undertaken

Indigenous Nation	Project Component	Results
Saulteau First Nation	Site C transmission line	On August 16 to 17, 2021 BC Hydro hosted the Nation to review and assess the vegetation re-growth along the Site C transmission line right-of-way.
Blueberry River First Nation	Area E and Ice Bridge Road	On September 16, 2021 BC Hydro hosted the Nation to conduct a site visit and ground truthing of the access road and Area E, a proposed aggregate mine.
Doig River First Nation	Area E and Ice Bridge Road	On September 16, 2021 BC Hydro hosted the Nation to conduct a site visit and ground truthing of the access road and Area E, a proposed aggregate mine.
Halfway River First Nation	Site C transmission line	On October 20, 2021 BC Hydro hosted the Nation to conduct a site visit of the Site C transmission line. This site visit was in support of their ITUF project and mitigating project impacts to wildlife.
Halfway River First Nation	Area E and Ice Bridge Road	On October 21, 2021 BC Hydro hosted the Nation to conduct a site visit and ground truthing of the access road and Area E, a proposed aggregate mine.

BC Hydro has reviewed existing information submitted by Indigenous Nations describing cultural resources which may be adversely affected by Project construction, including traditional land use studies, community baselines profiles, and existing ground truthing reports or investigative study reports. BC Hydro remains open to Indigenous Nations providing further information, which could include identifying the location of the cultural resources(s) with greater specificity or providing further details in respect of the cultural resources.

³ Cultural resources are defined in Section 2.2 of the CRMP to be a site, location or feature of cultural importance to an Aboriginal Group and identified as such by an Aboriginal Group. Cultural resources may include, but are not limited to: prayer flags, trails, camps (including sites for cultural gatherings), habitation sites, and spiritual sites, including sweat lodges, and reported but unconfirmed burials.

3.2.2 Identification of Feasible Avoidance or Mitigation Measures for Cultural Resources

As per Section 5.3 of the CRMP, BC Hydro will seek input from Indigenous Nations and with applicable contractors as appropriate, to identify feasible avoidance or mitigation measures, including monitoring where appropriate, for cultural resources identified to BC Hydro that will be adversely affected by Project activities.

3.2.3 Preparation of Site-Specific Mitigation Plans

For cultural resources identified to BC Hydro that may be adversely affected by Project activities, BC Hydro is working with Indigenous Nations to prepare Site Specific Mitigation Plans identifying avoidance, mitigation, other activities, and ceremonies that have been completed, are in-progress, and that are planned and proposed prior to construction activities or key project milestones. Cultural resource information has been identified to BC Hydro through Traditional Land Use and Knowledge studies, ground-truthing, and on-going consultation.

During this reporting period, BC Hydro is working with Indigenous Nations to prepare for reservoir filling in summer 2023, the changes that will come to the Peace Valley as a result, and the impacts it will have on cultural resources. Indigenous Nations are being invited to identify ways in which their communities would like to prepare for such changes at locations of cultural importance through such activities as additional site visits, identifying opportunities for cultural ceremonies, or documenting areas for a final time before cultural resources are lost to inundation.

Where appropriate and subject to protecting the confidentiality of information provided by Indigenous Nations, copies of the Site-Specific Mitigation Plans will be appended to the annual reports in future reporting periods.

3.2.4 Addendum to Chance Find Procedures

An addendum to the Project's Chance Find Procedures was developed outlining a revised procedure to be followed in the event of a chance find of human remains. The purpose of the addendum is to ensure that the procedures in place for responding to chance finds of human remains are culturally appropriate and sensitive, include appropriate communication protocols respecting Indigenous Nations' interests, and provide for effective protection and management measures to be implemented given the associated cultural and spiritual implications. In February 2018, the draft addendum was sent to Indigenous Nations seeking their input. Input received since that date has been incorporated.

3.3 Cultural Monitoring

As per section 7.0 of the CRMP, BC Hydro is employing mitigation measures to mitigate or reduce adverse effects on cultural resources. This includes cultural monitoring of construction activities by Indigenous Nations to ensure culturally appropriate management and protection of cultural resources. The cultural monitoring program is intended to: contribute towards construction work planning and compliance verification, provide additional opportunities for

Indigenous Nations to engage in conservation, and site protection measures, and build community capacity through communications, education, and the intergenerational transfer of culture.

During this reporting period, cultural monitors were on-site monitoring various pre-construction and construction activities at the dam site, Highway 29 realignment segment areas, and within the future reservoir areas. Additionally, the cultural monitors attended eagle nest removals and eagle nest platform erections, as well as taking part in field visits to learn about the rare plant translocation program and fish monitoring activities. As of March 2022, members from 7 of the Indigenous Nations have been participating in cultural monitoring, and more than 4209 person-days of cultural monitoring have been undertaken since the program began.

BC Hydro continues to work with Indigenous Nations on the on-going development of the cultural monitoring program.

3.4 Schedule

BC Hydro will continue to work with the Committee and individually with Indigenous Nations to plan and carry out activities described in the CRMP, as appropriate, on an ongoing basis throughout the construction phase of the Project.