



September 17, 2021

Job Number: 119136
vFCBC Tracking Number: 100356482

British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority
9th Floor-1111 West Georgia ST
Vancouver, BC V6E 4M3

Dear British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority,

Notice of Authorized Changes - Changes In and About a Stream (File 9000689)

Thank you for your Authorized Change Application for changes in and about a stream regarding the construction and use of winter stream crossings (ice bridge, winter ford or snowfill), for the project stream crossing locations as outlined in the attached Table 1 pdf. document. Crossings are associated with the Site C Transmission Line – 138 kV Removal project. This letter acknowledges that the proposed activities meet the requirements as identified for Authorized Changes under the *Water Sustainability Act*.

As per Section 39(1)(n)(i)(ii), you may make changes as per the regulation.

Should the work plan or scope of work change, you must notify the Habitat Officer. If the proposal is outside the authorized changes as described by Section 39 of the *Water Sustainability Regulation*, you will be directed to obtain an Approval under Section 11 of the *Water Sustainability Act*.

All works shall be completed in accordance with the:

- Notification submitted on August 13th, 2021 (tracking number 100356482).
- BC Hydro Site C Clean Energy Project Construction Environmental Management Plan (at time of issuance was Revision 8: June 21, 2021).
- Allteck Overall Construction Environmental Protection Plan Site C Transmission Line Construction Project (at time of issuance was Revision 16, dated April 13, 2021).
- Provincial "Standards and Best Practices for In-stream Works 2004" <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/iswstdsbpsmarch2004.pdf> and "A Users' Guide to Working In and Around Water" https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/natural-resource-use/land-water-use/crown-land/working_around_water.pdf.

As the Habitat Officer under the *Water Sustainability Act*, I am requiring that the proposed changes in and about a stream be made in accordance with the following terms and conditions

to protect fish, fish habitat, and/or water quality as per Section 42(2) of the *Water Sustainability Regulation*.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

a) THE TIMING WINDOW DURING WHICH THE CHANGE MAY BE MADE

The least risk fish window is between July 15 and August 15 to accommodate both spring and fall spawning fish species that may be present.

As a Habitat Officer I authorize a variance for your instream works; permitting works from October 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022 with conditions:

Minimize the amount of time the work site is in a disturbed state by completing work as quickly as possible, while considering worker safety and minimizing environmental risk.

b) THE MINIMUM INSTREAM FLOW OR THE MINIMUM FLOW OF WATER THAT MUST REMAIN IN THE STREAM WHILE THE CHANGE IS BEING MADE

The natural rate of water flow must be maintained upstream and downstream of the worksite during all phases of instream activity.

c) THE REMOVAL OF MATERIAL FROM THE STREAM OR STREAM CHANNEL IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHANGE

In the case of ice bridges, any logs, timber and other structural materials used are to be removed, before ice breakup, without causing a significant risk of harm to public safety, the environment, land or other property.

The removal of material must not lead to stream channel instability or increase the risk of sedimentation into the watercourse.

Only remove material needed to alleviate flood or debris flow risk. Retain, where possible, existing instream and riparian vegetation and other features. These include trees, bushes, shrubs, weeds, or tall grasses along any stream bank, mats of floating vegetation, overhanging vegetation, natural, large woody debris that does not appear to be causing damage to the bottom, and large boulders.

Any spoil materials must be placed in a location which ensures that sediment or debris does not enter the watercourse.

d) THE ADDITION OF SUBSTANCE, SEDIMENT, DEBRIS OR MATERIAL TO THE STREAM OR STREAM CHANNEL IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHANGE

In the cases of ice bridges, winter fords or snowfills, only clean ice and snow are used in the construction or maintenance and are to be removed from the stream channel before ice breakup.

Equipment used in close proximity to the wetted perimeter must be free of deleterious material (e.g. hydrocarbons) and in good mechanical condition (e.g. no fuel or hydraulic leaks).

Ensure all hydraulic machinery entering a stream uses environmentally sensitive hydraulic fluids that are non-toxic to aquatic life and that are readily or inherently biodegradable.

Fuelling and servicing of vehicles and equipment must occur a minimum of 30 metres away from all streams, lakes and waterbodies. Keep a spill containment kit on site and train onsite staff in its use. Immediately report any spill of a substance that is toxic, polluting, or deleterious to aquatic life of reportable quantities to the Provincial Emergency Program 24-hour phone line at **1-800-663-3456**.

Design, install and maintain stream crossing structures to ensure that the crossings do not restrict the cross-sectional area below the high water mark, change the stream gradient, or reduce or restrict fish passage, and to ensure that the streambed characteristics are retained or replicated.

Measures must be taken to ensure that no harmful material (e.g. fuel and other hydrocarbons, soil, road fill, or sediment) which could adversely impact water quality, fish and other aquatic life, and/or fish habitat, be allowed to enter the wetted perimeter as a result of the project activities.

Erosion and sediment control structures are to be available onsite and utilized as necessary.

Do not work in weather conditions likely to contribute to sediment production to the stream.

e) THE SALVAGE OR PROTECTION OF FISH OR WILDLIFE WHILE THE CHANGE IS BEING MADE OR AFTER THE CHANGE HAS BEEN MADE

Do not disturb wildlife and/or their residences (e.g. beaver lodges) within the project area.

f) THE PROTECTION OF NATURAL MATERIALS AND VEGETATION THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM OR STREAM CHANNEL STABILITY

Minimize disturbance to natural materials (e.g. embedded logs) and vegetation that contribute to habitat or stream channel stability.

Minimize the disturbance to existing vegetation on and adjacent to the stream banks.

g) THE RESTORATION OF THE WORKSITE AFTER THE CHANGE HAS BEEN MADE

Protect disturbed soil areas on the banks and areas adjacent to the stream from surface erosion.

h) THE REQUIREMENT TO OBTAIN AN APPROVAL FROM THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND OCEANS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHANGES

Proponents are responsible for complying with the federal *Fisheries Act*. No serious harm to fish is authorized by this document, where serious harm is the death of fish or any permanent alteration to, or destruction of, fish habitat.

Proponents are responsible for determining whether Fisheries and Oceans Canada (FOC) must be consulted and whether an authorization from FOC is required prior to making the change.

i) OTHER

This Notification **does not** constitute a *Wildlife Act Authorization*.

This letter does not cover works previously conducted without Authority.

This document does not supersede the requirements of the *Water Sustainability Act* and Regulations, *Federal Fisheries Act* or any other related legislation. The proponent is obligated to comply with all applicable federal, provincial or municipal enactments. For more information on the *Water Sustainability Act*, Section 11 Change Approval and Authorization for “Changes In and About a Stream” can be found at: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/water-licensing-rights/working-around-water>.

Retain a copy of this document on site during construction of the works.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kerry.Harvey@gov.bc.ca who can also be reached at 778-576-1136.

Sincerely,



Kerry Harvey
Senior Ecosystems Biologist

Cc:
Enclosure(s)



Table 1.pdf