

ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION

VOLUME 1, SECTION 9

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) details the environmental assessment undertaken for the Site C Clean Energy project. The EIS includes the project rationale, identifies potential effects and proposes measures to avoid or mitigate these effects. The EIS also describes the benefits Site C would provide for customers, Aboriginal groups, northern communities and the province as a whole.

APPROACH

BC Hydro began consultation with Aboriginal groups about the project in late 2007, before any decision to advance the project to an environmental assessment. BC Hydro has conducted consultation with Aboriginal groups regarding project components and activities, the potential effects of the project, and the potential changes to the environment resulting from the project. BC Hydro has also supported consultation with Aboriginal groups as part of the environmental assessment process, including the review of the draft EIS Guidelines.

ABORIGINAL GROUPS

BC Hydro has consulted in greater depth with Treaty 8 First Nations in B.C. that are in closer proximity to the project and whose members may experience effects from the project. BC Hydro has also consulted with other Treaty 8 First Nations who are located in B.C. or downstream of the project. This includes those Treaty 8 First Nations in Alberta, in proximity to the Peace River Watershed, and those in proximity to the Slave River through Alberta and into the Northwest Territories. Consultations with Aboriginal groups located away from the project activity zone have focused on the potential downstream changes resulting from the project. Consultation has also included the Tsay Keh Dene First Nation and Kwadacha First Nation to fulfill commitments in formal agreements with those First Nations. Consultation has also been carried out with two Métis groups in B.C., three located in Alberta, and one in the Northwest Territories.

PRE-PANEL REVIEW STAGE

BC Hydro has negotiated consultation agreements that provide funding to facilitate Aboriginal participation in the consultation process. As of the end of November 2012, and dating back to 2008, BC Hydro has provided approximately \$8.5 million in capacity funding to Aboriginal groups to engage on the project, including \$1.3 million to support traditional land use studies.

Topics consulted on during the pre-panel Review Stage have included permits for geotechnical investigations, environmental field studies, the environmental assessment process, project components, the need for, purpose of, and alternatives to the project through the Integrated Resource Plan, the potential effects of the project, the potential changes to the downstream conditions, the EIS Guidelines, and the EIS. Consultation with potentially-affected Aboriginal groups will continue through construction and operations.

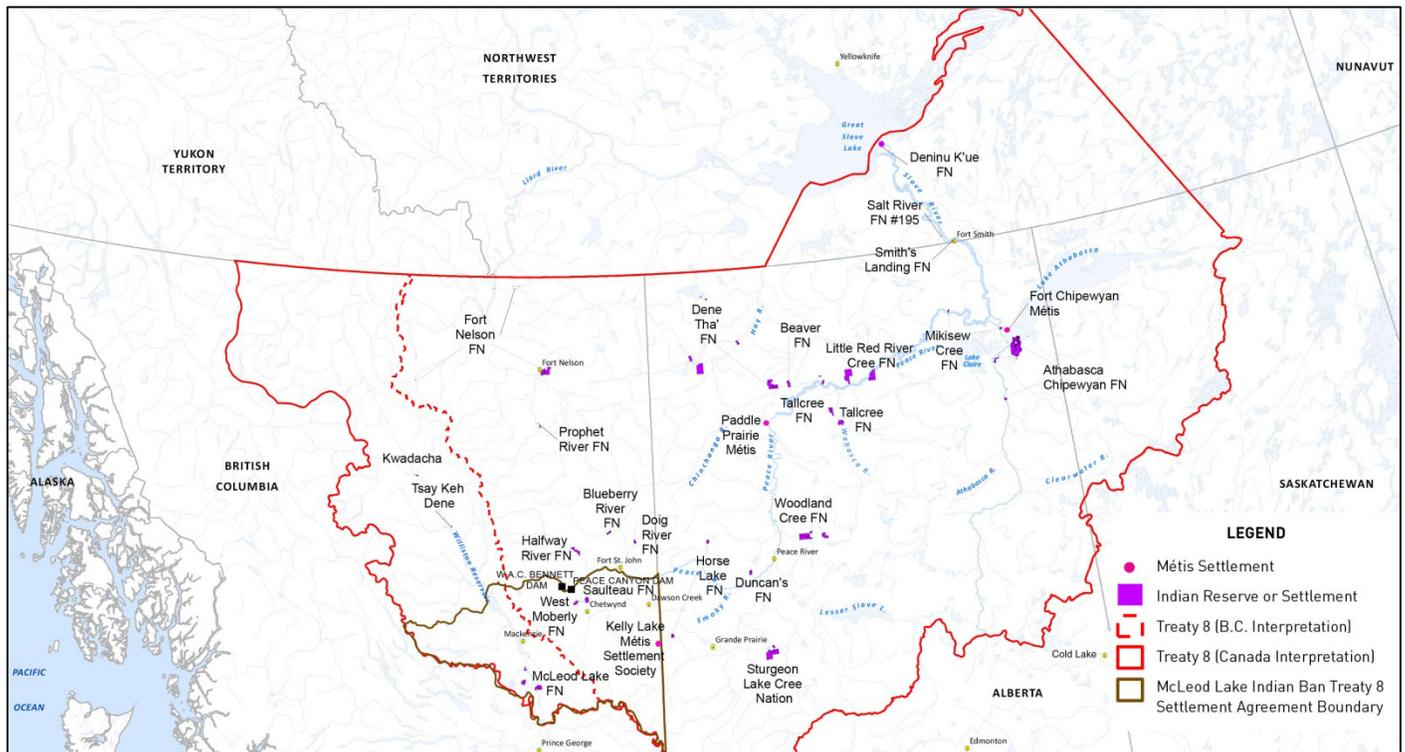
ISSUES, CONCERNS, AND INTERESTS

BC Hydro has tracked the issues, concerns and interests identified by Aboriginal groups through the consultation process in a comprehensive data base. A summary of these, and BC Hydro's corresponding consideration and response, as well as where the issue is addressed in the EIS, is provided in an issues tracking table in the EIS. The issues identified by Aboriginal groups also informed the selection of valued components (VC) and were considered in the development of each of the effects assessment sections for the VCs.

CONSTRUCTION PHASE COMMUNICATIONS

BC Hydro is committed to ongoing dialogue with Aboriginal groups that have expressed interest in the project. Should the project proceed to construction, BC Hydro proposes to:

- Continue to facilitate a two-way exchange of information
- Negotiate and implement the terms of any impact benefit agreements reached
- Negotiate and implement the terms of any other agreements, such as communication protocol agreements that may apply
- Communicate economic opportunities to Aboriginal groups
- Continue to consult with Aboriginal groups on permits and other authorizations as required
- Continue to track and report regulatory issues and concerns raised



Map of Treaty 8 Territory

ABOUT THE SITE C CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT

Site C is a proposed third dam and hydroelectric generating station on the Peace River in northeast B.C. Site C would provide 1,100 megawatts (MW) of capacity, and produce about 5,100 gigawatt hours (GWh) of electricity each year – enough energy to power the equivalent of about 450,000 homes per year in B.C.

Site C is undergoing a cooperative environmental assessment by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEA Agency) and the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office (EA0). The environmental assessment process commenced in August 2011 and is anticipated to take approximately three years to complete.

FOR MORE INFORMATION visit bchydro.com/sitec

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