

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

VOLUME 4, SECTION 30

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.

ABOUT THE ASSESSMENT

The project effects on community infrastructure and services were assessed by taking into consideration changes in the demand for, or the provision of, community, emergency, education and health, and social services, and specific displacement of, or effects to, infrastructure, such as sewer and water systems.

The assessment considers the following:

- Health and social services: Vital statistics, medical service expenditures; medical and dental facilities; practitioner numbers and services
- Emergency services: Police, court, fire protection, ambulance services; provincial emergency planning
- Education services: Public schools; private schools; post-secondary institutions
- Community services: Recreation and leisure facilities, sewer and water services
- Potential displacement to, or effects on, local government infrastructure, such as water and sanitary sewer systems, whose functionality may be directly affected by project components.

ASSESSMENT AREA

The local and regional assessment areas include the cities of Fort St. John and Dawson Creek, the districts of Taylor, Hudson's Hope and Chetwynd, and the Peace River Regional District.



SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

| POTENTIAL EFFECTS | KEY MITIGATION MEASURES |
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| <p>Change in demand for, or provision of, services</p> | <p>Health and Social Services - provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health care services (e.g. doctor, nurse) for project workforce • Workforce and camp population statistics to Northern Health for planning • Information about local health, education, and social services to new families • Funding for additional daycare spaces in Fort St. John area |
| | <p>Emergency Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ security, firefighting, first aid, and medical transport services for all project construction sites and activities ○ direct funding to the RCMP during construction to increase policing in region ○ on-site first aid and emergency transport; on-site firefighting services • Develop emergency plans, including integration with existing BC Hydro facilities • Implement: policies on safe living and work environment; traffic management plan • Communicate project management plans and activities to emergency services |
| | <p>Education Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide funding to Northern Opportunities to support pre-apprenticeship program • Provide early notice to education institutions for planning; partner with on training |
| | <p>Recreation and Leisure Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide recreation facilities and programming at camps for workforce • Work with local government on potential workforce policies or service agreements regarding use of community leisure and recreation facilities |
| | <p>Solid Waste:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement construction waste management plan, including reduction and recycling policies and management of industrial waste; coordinate planning with PRRD • Deliver and stockpile landfill cover material for Fort St. John landfill |
| | <p>Sewer and Water:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate options to integrate sewer and water systems required for the workforce camps to provide lasting benefits to the City of Fort St. John system |
| <p>Displacement of Infrastructure</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund relocation of Hudson's Hope water intake, pumping station, and treatment plant • Work with each local government to develop an approach to determine or monitor the effects of the project on the Hudson's Hope sewage lagoon, Fort St. John water supply (production and access), Taylor water supply (well site access), and PRRD's Charlie Lake outfall. Fund appropriate mitigation measures to maintain functionality of these municipal systems if adverse effects from the project are identified. |

KEY FINDINGS

- The regional population forecast is for substantial growth in the region, even without the project. Demand on community infrastructure and services is expected to increase, even without the project. The project would advance expected population growth by about two years during construction.
- The increased project demand for health and social services associated with the incremental population gain is not expected to create capacity issues with major facilities and services. However, it is expected to create additional demand where there are currently wait-lists to access programs and services, and where Northern Health experiences challenges in recruiting health care specialists. Northern Health and other service providers would not experience effects that they have not regularly addressed over the last decade with major development projects.
- Project induced population increases that would affect provincially funded services would be addressed through existing provincial budget planning. The provision of forecast and actual labour information will help these agencies plan for projected increases, alongside their usual sources of information for future planning. Project induced population increases would also result in a higher local tax base, which would support local government in increasing their service levels.
- BC Hydro will continue discussions with local governments toward community agreements that will include consideration of any specific effects on their communities. Where the project would displace or impair the functioning of municipal infrastructure, appropriate measures would be implemented, funded by BC Hydro, to maintain the functionality of these systems.
- Project effects on policing would be driven by population change, by the project's increased use of roads, and the presence of the camp population. Therefore, BC Hydro will provide funds to support the RCMP in providing incremental policing.
- As the workforce accommodation will be self-sufficient and designed to accommodate the vast majority of worker needs, it is expected that there will be limited additional demand for community infrastructure and services from the project.
- In consideration of proposed mitigation, expected population growth in absence of the project, the limited duration of effects, and regional experience managing similar changes in demand for services, residual effects on community infrastructure and services are considered not significant.

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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