

FIELD STUDIES INFORMATION SHEET

Heritage Program: May – October 2015

BC Hydro is continuing to conduct environmental and engineering field studies on and around the Peace River between the Williston Reservoir and the Alberta border to inform detailed mitigation and monitoring planning. In December 2014, the Site C project received approval from the provincial government to proceed to construction.

Starting in May and running through October, BC Hydro will be continuing the Heritage Program in the Site C project area. The archaeological component of the heritage study has been designed in consultation with the B.C. Archaeology Branch and meets the requirements of the *Heritage Conservation Act* (HCA). The work will be completed under HCA permits issued by the B.C. Archaeology Branch.

Heritage Inventory

Heritage assessments identify, record and evaluate archaeological sites and further investigate previously recorded archaeological sites located within the Site C project area; assess potential impacts by the Site C project to these sites; and recommend mitigation options.

The majority of the work will be shovel tests, as well as visual inspections of areas with good soil exposures, such as freshly tilled fields.

Heritage Mitigation

Heritage mitigation for project-related effects on heritage resources includes field work to record, recover and analyse heritage resources within the Site C project area. The majority of the work will be archaeological excavations as large as 1 m³. Excavations will be placed within selected heritage sites, and are typically 1m x 1m x 1m or more deep, and may be either spaced apart or adjacent to each other depending on the artifacts being found during the excavations. Excavated soils will be screened and returned to the test hole following inspection.

In addition, visual inspections and surface collections of exposed artifacts will be undertaken in areas such as freshly tilled fields or fossil exposures.

The majority of the work will focus on excavations by shovels and trowels at each of the selected sites.

For all heritage work, crews will be primarily on foot, with land access by road or boat, supported occasionally by helicopter or all-terrain vehicles.

Golder Associates is leading the work from its Fort St. John office, supported by locally trained and hired field assistants.

For further information, please contact:
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HERITAGE PROGRAM May – October 2015

- BC Hydro is completing archaeological assessments within the Site C project area, as well as conducting heritage mitigation at archaeological and palaeontological sites located within the dam site area.
- Crews will be primarily on foot, with land access by road or boat, supported occasionally by helicopter or all-terrain vehicles.
- The majority of the work will be shovel tests and surface inspections.