

FIELD STUDIES INFORMATION SHEET

April – September 2012: Avian Study Program

The Site C Clean Energy Project (Site C) is now in Stage 3, the environmental and regulatory review phase, which will include an independent environmental assessment. Stage 3 work includes conducting environmental and engineering field studies on and around the Peace River between the Williston Reservoir and the Alberta border. Site C is in the early stages of a cooperative environmental assessment process by federal and provincial regulatory agencies, which includes a joint review panel.

Throughout the spring and summer of 2012, BC Hydro will conduct avian field studies to gather data on the presence and habitat use of select bird species within the Peace River valley and within and adjacent to sites that will be directly affected by the proposed project.

Work will include ground based surveys (boat, foot and/or vehicle based) which will be completed using a combination of call playback surveys, point counts and nest searches. During call playback surveys, calls of target species are broadcast to stimulate vocal responses from territorial males and/or breeding pairs. During point counts for songbirds, surveyors listen and record all birds heard singing or observed. Helicopter surveys for conspicuous raptor nests will be conducted.

Suspected nesting of raptors (hawks and owls) will be investigated by searching the area around the sighting for nests or young birds. Previously documented nest sites will be re-visited to determine occupancy. Once located, the characteristics of the nest will be described.

Field study updates are available at www.bchydro.com/sitec and in the Community Consultation offices in Fort St. John and Hudson's Hope.

For further information, please contact:
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AVIAN STUDY PROGRAM April – September 2012

- BC Hydro is conducting avian field studies in the Peace River Region
- Keystone Wildlife Research is leading the work
- BC Hydro will obtain the necessary permissions before land is accessed and work is performed
- Work will be conducted to Resource Inventory Committee Standards