

## FIELD STUDIES INFORMATION SHEET

### June – October 2012: Rare Plants Study

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.

BC Hydro is conducting rare plant surveys to collect additional baseline data on locally, provincially, nationally and globally rare plants within the proposed project area. Surveys will occur within the Peace River valley, within and adjacent to sites that will be directly affected by the proposed project, along the transmission line, and within the broader Peace Region between June and October 2012.

This field study will build on the rare plant surveys BC Hydro conducted in 2005, 2006, 2008 and 2011. Sampling will be conducted by a professional botanist and field technician. The focus will be on areas containing high-probability features within and immediately adjacent to project footprints. Additional sampling will be conducted within the broader region for species believed to be extremely rare on the landscape.

Specimens may be collected for later confirmation of field identification. Photos will be taken to record occurrences and when it may not be appropriate to remove a specimen due to small numbers of individual plants. Rare plant surveys will take place over a minimum of two sample periods, widely-separated across the growing season, to ensure that plants with different times of emergence and flowering are sampled in their prime condition.

Accessing properties for the field studies will be through a mix of road, quad and foot. A boat may be required to access some portions of the river where there are no roads to access the required locations.

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

For further information, please contact:  
Kate O'Neil, Community Relations  
Site C Clean Energy Project  
Community Consultation Office  
Fort St. John  
Office: 250-785-3415 Cell: 250-793-5416

### RARE PLANTS STUDY June - October 2012

- BC Hydro is conducting a rare plant study in the Peace Region
- Specimens will be collected and photographed
- BC Hydro will obtain permissions before land is accessed
- Keystone Wildlife Research is leading the work