

FIELD STUDIES INFORMATION SHEET

Heritage Study Program: May – December 2011

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. BC Hydro anticipates formally entering the environmental assessment process in early 2011 with the submission of a Project Description Report to the provincial and federal environmental assessment agencies.

Starting in May and running through November, BC Hydro will be continuing the Heritage Study Program of 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*. The work will be completed under a heritage inspection permit issued by the BC Archaeology Branch.

The assessment will identify, record and evaluate archaeological, historical and palaeontological sites located within the proposed 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. Crews will be primarily on foot, with land access by road or boat, supported occasionally by helicopter or all-terrain vehicles. The assessment will begin again in May 2011 and will continue through to the end of 2011, with the possibility of additional studies being required in 2012.

Golder Associates is leading the work, supported by its Fort St. John office staff and a team of experts. Over 50 aboriginal people from the region were trained in 2010 as archaeological field assistants and many participated in the Year 1 field program. In the 2011 field season, a number of last year's participants will be rehired as field assistants. In addition, training and employment will be offered to other local people in the region.

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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BC HYDRO HERITAGE STUDY PROGRAM May to December 2011

- BC Hydro is assessing archaeological, historic and palaeontological sites located within the proposed Site C project area
- BC Hydro will obtain the necessary permissions before land is accessed and assessment work is performed
- Golder Associates is leading the work from its Fort St. John office, supported by locally trained and hired field assistant