

# Map 12 of 26 – Cache Creek/Red Creek

Preliminary Impact Lines, Highway 29 Realignments and Agriculture Assessment **March 2013** 

SITE		CLEAN ENERGY PROJEC
Kilometre	<b>Current Conditions</b>	
Cache	Location	
Creek/Red	This map sheet covers Cache Creek/Red Cree	
Creek	Creek enters F	Peace River near river kilometre
	Geology and Tonography	

eek and the tributary drainage of Cache Creek. Cache

## Geology and Topography

The north bank of Peace River generally comprises sand and gravel terraces.

The south bank generally comprises colluvium, interbedded sand, silt and clay, and layers of sand and gravel that overlies silty shale bedrock slopes. The slopes on the south bank are quite high and extend to an elevation of about 660 metres above sea level. There is evidence that large landslides have occurred on these higher slopes in the past.

The banks of Cache Creek generally comprise high shale bedrock slopes that are overlain by interbedded sand, silt and clay and colluvium (landslide debris). There is evidence that large landslides have also occurred on these slopes in the past.

### **Highway 29 and Other Infrastructure**

Highway 29 is located along the north bank of the river on a lower terrace that would be inundated by the proposed reservoir.

## **Agriculture Assessment**

Improved (irrigated and/or drained) agricultural land capability ratings are provided for the Site C project component areas where additional soil survey work has been undertaken as part of the Agriculture Assessment.

For remaining lands outside the Site C project component areas, including the Peace River valley downstream of the Site C dam, unimproved agricultural land capability ratings are provided. The unimproved ratings reflect published agricultural capability maps from the 1970s, based on an assumed low climatic moisture deficit (CMD) during the growing season in the range of 34 mm. However, subsequent climate studies have confirmed much drier conditions in the Peace River valley, with a CMD in the range of 148 mm, which results in a Class 3 unimproved climatic capability rating. With irrigation, it is likely that Peace River valley soils downstream of the Site C dam historically rated as Class 2 or Class 3 with aridity or soil water holding capacity limitations. which would now be rated as unimproved Class 3 due to climatic limitations, would improve to Class 2 or Class 1 with irrigation.

# Reservoir Conditions and Preliminary Impact Lines Related to the Proposed Site C Reservoir **Proposed Reservoir**

Within this map sheet, the proposed Site C reservoir would have a width ranging from about 700 metres to 1,600 metres. Based on the river surface elevation at the time of topographic survey, the reservoir would cause an increase in water depth over river conditions ranging from about 40 metres at the upstream end to about 42 metres at the downstream end.

### **Preliminary Impact Lines**

The terrace slopes along Peace River either side of Cache Creek are fairly gentle. Consequently the flood impact line extends several metres inland from the proposed reservoir shoreline. On rare occasions, flooding of these low-lying areas could occur due to wind generated waves combined with high reservoir levels, or from small landslide-generated waves. The erosion and stability impact lines through this section are located close together in aerial-view, and just outside the flood impact line.

Elsewhere the proposed reservoir shoreline comprises steep slopes and the reservoir shoreline and the flood impact line would be located close together in aerial-view when the reservoir is first filled. The erosion impact line is typically located near the crest of the terrace slopes and the stability impact line is typically located within 35 metres of the crest of the terrace slopes.

Where the reservoir would be in contact with high bank slopes the erosion impact line is located near the toe of the slope and the **stability impact line** is generally located above the crest of the slope.

# Highway 29 Preferred Realignment - Bear Flat/Cache Creek

Realignment of Highway 29 is required through this section. A preferred corridor for a new bridge crossing at Cache Creek has been identified, and the final road alignment will be determined based on the results of additional geotechnical investigation.

## Land Use Within Preliminary Impact Lines

BC Hydro has developed an approach to land use on private property within the impact lines. The approach focuses on public safety, maximizing flexibility for land owners, and minimizing the amount of land required by the project, BC Hydro's approach

- BC Hydro would purchase land between the current river shoreline and the area required for the proposed reservoir, up to the Maximum Normal Reservoir Level (461.8 metres above sea level)
- No new residential structures would be permitted within impact lines
- Non-residential structures could remain, pending site specific geotechnical assessment
- Within the Stability Impact Line, existing residential structures could remain for a period of time, at the owner's request and provided a site-specific geotechnical assessment determines that it is safe to do so
- Within the Flood, Erosion or Landslide-Generated Wave Impact Line, existing residential structures would not be permitted to remain, to protect public safety
- Other activities such as agriculture, grazing and trapping could continue within the impact lines

The establishment of reservoir impact lines is intended to ensure public safety while maximizing land use flexibility, and to minimize the amount of land required by the project. BC Hydro will purchase the property rights required for the impact lines. Where impacts and implications on zoning, land use and property acquisition cannot be avoided, BC Hydro will identify and evaluate options for mitigation.

BC Hydro is meeting directly with property owners whose land may be impacted to discuss their specific property interests.

#### **Peace River Valley Definition**

BC Hydro defined the Peace River Valley as a spatial area, reflecting the Peace River mainstem from the Peace Canyon Dam to the B.C.-Alberta border. The upper edge of the Peace River Valley is defined as the crest of the top of high bank slopes, typically between El. 620 and 850m. The purpose of spatially defining the valley was to provide a consistent area for use where relevant in the Environmental Impact Statement.

