

Map 1 of 26 – Peace Canyon Dam

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

Kilometre Current Conditions

21-27 Location

This map sheet covers from approximately river kilometre 20.5 to 27 (measured downstream from the W.A.C. Bennett Dam). It extends from the upstream end of the proposed Site C reservoir near Peace Canyon Dam downstream to the west end of Hudson's Hope. Alwin Holland Park is located near river kilometre 24.

Geology and Topography

The riverbanks on both sides of the river predominantly comprise siltstone and sandstone bedrock that, in most locations, is capped by a layer of sand and gravel. The slopes are steep and range from about 45 to 85 degrees. Where the slopes are steeper, they are sometimes subject to small rock slides, topples, and falls. The sand and gravel cap at the top of the banks is often subject to surface erosion.

Highway 29 and Other Infrastructure

Highway 29 crosses the Peace River about 750 metres downstream from Peace Canyon Dam and runs north-east along the north bank of the river towards Hudson's Hope.

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 175 metres to 850 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 less than 1 metre at the upstream end to about 11 metres at the downstream end of the map sheet.

Preliminary Impact Lines

Due to the steepness of the natural bedrock slopes, the reservoir shoreline and the **flood impact line** are located very close together in aerial-view.

Typically less than 1 metre of shoreline erosion is predicted over the life of the project within the bedrock and so the **erosion impact line** is also located very close to the shoreline.

The **stability impact line** is typically located between 5 and 25 metres from the crest of the slope, depending on the steepness and height of the slope and thickness of the gravel cap. It is extremely unlikely that sudden landslides will reach the position of the stability impact line within the life of the project.

Highway 29 Realignment

No changes to Highway 29 or the bridge would be required within this map sheet.

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 would be as follows:

- 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.

