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Re: Notice of Site C Construction Activities: January to March 2024

As part of our engagement with Indigenous Nations, we share regular updates and information about Site C construction activities. This letter describes the construction work planned for January 1 to March 31, 2024. You can also <u>read this email online.</u>

We've been working on the option of starting reservoir filling this fall, one year earlier than scheduled. However, there are some critical work areas that still need to be completed before reservoir filling could begin. With winter weather and colder conditions setting in, the window to safely begin reservoir filling was closing. As a result, BC Hydro made the prudent decision to stay on track with its current project schedule.

Work on the Site C project will continue to advance on schedule and be ready for reservoir filling to begin in fall 2024. The project remains on-track to achieve first power in 2024, have all six generating units in-service by 2025, and be completed within the approved budget.

For the upcoming period, our focus will be on completing critical work areas including the approach channel, spillway gates and powerhouse intake gates, in addition to the other work outlined below.

Construction activities: January to March 2024

- Progression of earthworks at the dam site.
- Construction of a drainage channel on the dam and on the left bank of the river.
- Commissioning of the spillway and intake gates and hoists.
- Construction of the penstock flexible couplings for Units 1 to 6.
- Construction of the powerhouse, generators, and turbines.
- Construction of the balance of plant (mechanical, electrical, architectural scopes).
- Construction of the permanent fishway facility.
- Hauling of riprap from West Pine Quarry to site via train and trucks through Chetwynd and Jackfish Lake Road.
- On-call archaeological studies, as required.
- Decommissioning of the <u>conveyor belt system</u>.

For all activities described in this letter, the <u>necessary approvals</u> will have been obtained before work begins. Geotechnical site investigations, air quality monitoring, heritage and other field studies are ongoing. We'll continue to provide <u>annual field study notices</u> of these activities.

For the safety of the public and workers, please use caution when hunting, shooting, or setting traps in Site C project areas.

The following information outlines work taking place in different areas of the project.

Dam site

- Access roads: Crews will continue to maintain dam site access roads and existing south bank resource roads, including petroleum development roads.
- Diversion headpond:
 - The Peace River was diverted in October 2020. During the river diversion phase, water accumulates behind the upstream cofferdam in what is called a headpond. The headpond begins at the dam site and could extend as far back as 15 kilometres or approximately up to Cache Creek.
 - This means water levels could rapidly rise in areas upstream of the dam site.
- Main civil works:
 - Excavation, hauling and stockpiling of aggregate within the dam site.
 - Construction in the left bank drainage adit and right bank drainage tunnel.
 - Rail and truck delivery of riprap to site and placement on the dam, tailrace, and approach channel.
 - Permanent dam site road construction.
 - Construction of drainage channels on the dam and on the left bank of the river.
 - Haul road realignments on the dam site.
 - Reclamation and recontouring of completed areas of the dam site.
- Permanent fishway facility: Construction of the permanent fishway will continue.
- Generating station, spillways, and right bank foundation enhancements:
 - Commissioning of the spillway and intake gates and hoists.
 - Construction of the powerhouse.
 - Replacing the penstock flexible coupling for Units 1 to 6.
- Turbines and generators:
 - Installation of the turbine and generator components in the powerhouse will continue.
 - Assembly of generator components will continue inside the powerhouse main service bay and at the contractor's on-site shop.
- Balance of plant:
 - Electrical and mechanical equipment components will continue to be safely delivered to and installed at site.
 - Installation of electrical and mechanical equipment inside the powerhouse, intakes and spillways will continue.
 - Construction of control rooms and office space within the powerhouse will continue.
- **Transmission lines:** Construction of three 500 kilovolt transmission lines between the Site C substation and the Site C generating station will continue.

Public roads and highways

• **Highway 29:** Final paving of the intersection of Highway 29 and the future Halfway River

boat launch will take place in the spring.

Peace River and reservoir area

- **Boat launches:** The existing boat launch at Halfway River is closed until the start of the boating season in spring 2024. It will remain open until we begin reservoir filling in fall 2024.
- **River closure:** A short section of the Peace River is permanently closed at the dam site.
- **In-river debris management systems:** Debris management structures are in place on the Moberly River. The boom on the Peace River was removed in November for the winter season.
- Archaeology: On-call archaeological studies, as required, anywhere on the project.
- **Removals:** Environmental clean-up of found contamination will take place. Acquired residences and structures located within impact lines will be removed or relocated. Fences on acquired properties will be removed.
- **Surveys and site investigations**: Will take place within the footprint of the reservoir area.

Production and transport of materials

- **Conveyor belt system**: The conveyor system has completed the transfer of till materials to site and its removal will continue.
- Area E: Materials transfer to the dam site is now complete.
- **Debris management:** Burning of waste wood may occur in early spring during approved venting windows and when ground conditions are suitable.

Environmental Assessment Certificate

Environmental Assessment Certificate #E14-02 for the project consists of Schedule A, the project description, and Schedule B, the conditions under which the project must be built and operated. If we wish to make a change to either Schedule A or Schedule B of the Environmental Assessment Certificate, we are required to submit a written request to the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO). The EAO consults with regulatory agencies, Indigenous Nations and/or the public on the request and issues a written decision on the request.

To date, we have requested and been granted 11 amendments to the Environmental Assessment Certificate. The most recent Amendment allows BC Hydro to retain temporary structures permanently in the reservoir and become submerged if retaining the structures will not have an adverse effect on fish or fish habitat.

BC Hydro is complying with all conditions of the Environmental Assessment Certificate and its amendments.

Water Licences and Leaves to Commence Construction/Diversion

We hold Water Licences for the diversion and use of water, the storage of water, and for the temporary and permanent fish passage facilities. During construction, we will apply for a series of Leaves to Commence Construction under the Water Licences to construct project works or components of project works. Construction-related activities under the Leaves to Commence Construction are also independently reviewed by the Independent Engineer and the Independent Environmental Monitor as required by the Water Licences.

To date, we have obtained Leaves to Commence Construction authorizing construction works, including but not limited to excavations and construction of cofferdams; generating station civil works and spillway civil works; construction of the temporary and permanent fish passage facilities, reservoir clearing and boat launch construction, Hudson's Hope berm construction, turbines and generators installation, balance of plant works, and right bank foundation enhancements.

In May 2023, the Water Sustainability Act Engineer issued a Leave to Commence Diversion under the Water Licences. This Leave authorizes tunnel conversion, reservoir filling, wet testing and commissioning of the generating units and hydromechanical gates and decommissioning of the diversion tunnels.

Notice of completed activities

The following work, described in previous notifications, is complete or is anticipated to be complete by the date of issuance of this letter:

- Approach channel.
- Lynx Creek boat launch.
- Construction of the tailrace and spillway apron.

View all previously completed work in our construction bulletins and notification letters.

What to expect during construction

During this period, the following can be expected:

- **The Peace River remains closed** both immediately upstream and downstream of the dam site; caution should be exercised at the shoreline. Public safety signs and beacons have been installed on both banks of the Peace River, and on both sides of the dam site, to mark the active construction area.
- There will be project-related traffic on public roads leading to the dam site, transmission line corridor, reservoir, and Highway 29.
- We're monitoring air quality in the Site C project area. This data is being added to the Ministry of Environment's <u>B.C. Air Quality Monitoring Data</u>. The Ministry uses this data to report on air quality trends. In the event of poor air quality, the Ministry will release air quality advisories through a notification list. If you're interested in being part of this notification list, please email <u>sitec@bchydro.com</u>.

Kindest regards,

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