

# Map 6 of 26 – Farrell Creek East

Preliminary Impact Lines, Highway 29 Realignments and Agriculture Assessment

March 2013

## Kilometre

49-56

#### **Current Conditions**

#### Location

This map sheet covers from approximately river kilometre 49 to 56 (measured downstream from the W.A.C. Bennett Dam).

#### **Geology and Topography**

Between approximately river kilometre 49 and 54, the north riverbank comprises interbedded sand, silt and clay that is capped by a layer of sand and gravel. Most of the slopes are moderately steep to steep and are subject to natural erosion and shallow landslides. Some of these erosion and landslide features are currently encroaching on Highway 29.

Between approximately river kilometre 54 and 56, the north riverbank comprises a thicker layer of sand and gravel. Most of the slopes are moderately steep to steep and are subject to natural erosion.

Between approximately river kilometre 49 to 54, the south riverbank comprises sand and gravel terraces. A short high bank slope would be located adjacent to the proposed reservoir shoreline near kilometre 51.5 to 52.

Downstream of river kilometre 54, the south bank comprises silty shale bedrock that is capped by a sand and gravel terrace.

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

Highway 29 is located along the north bank of the river.

#### **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 1,000 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 24 metres at the upstream end to about 27 metres at the downstream end.

#### **Preliminary Impact Lines**

Most of 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. An exception is between approximately river kilometre 49.5 and 51.5 along the south bank. At this location the ground elevation is relatively low and the **flood impact line** extends further inland. On rare occasions, flooding of these low-lying areas could occur due to wind generated waves combined with high reservoir levels.

Between approximately river kilometre 49 and 54, the proposed shoreline along the north bank comprises interbedded sand, silt and clay with a cap of sand and gravel. The predicted amount of shoreline erosion in these materials is typically less than 50 metres and the **erosion impact line** is typically located within 50 metres of the crest of the slope. The **stability impact line** is typically located within 60 metres of the crest of the slope.

Further downstream, the shoreline would be in sand and gravel. The predicted amount of shoreline erosion in the sand and gravel over the life of the project is typically less than 20 metres. The **erosion impact line** is typically located within 10 to 20 metres of the crest of the slope. The **stability impact line** is typically located between 40 and 50 metres of the crest of the slope.

### Highway 29 Realignment - Farrell Creek East (Potential)

Between approximately river kilometre 49 and 54, Highway 29 is located on the reservoir side of the erosion and stability impact lines. At some locations, natural erosion and landslide processes are already encroaching on the highway. BC Hydro is proposing to realign the highway further inland, pending further geotechnical analysis.

#### 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.

