



Aboriginal Group Communication Plan 2017-2018 Annual Report

Site C Clean Energy Project

Reporting period: July 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018

Date: August 3, 2018

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Table of Acronyms

BRFN	Blueberry River First Nations
DFN	Duncan's First Nation
DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
DRFN	Doig River First Nation
DTFN	Dene Tha' First Nation
EAO	BC Environmental Assessment Office
FLNR	BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development
FNFN	Fort Nelson First Nation
HLFN	Horse Lake First Nation
HRFN	Halfway River First Nation
KLMSS	Kelly Lake Métis Settlement Society
MLIB	McLeod Lake Indian Band
MNBC	Métis Nation British Columbia
MOTI	BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
PRFN	Prophet River First Nation
SFN	Saulteau First Nations
WMFN	West Moberly First Nations

1 Background

1.1 The Site C Clean Energy Project

The Site C Clean Energy Project (the Project) will be the third dam and generating station on the Peace River in northeast B.C. The Project will provide 1,100 megawatts of capacity and about 5,100 gigawatt hours of energy each year to the province's integrated electricity system. The Project will be a source of clean, reliable and cost-effective electricity for BC Hydro's customers for more than 100 years.

The key components of the Project are:

- an earthfill dam, approximately 1,050 metres long and 60 metres high above the riverbed;
- an 83 kilometre long reservoir that will be, on average, two to three times the width of the current river;
- a generating station with six 183 MW generating units;
- two new 500 kilovolt AC transmission lines that will connect the Project facilities to the Peace Canyon Substation, along an existing right-of-way;
- realignment of six segments of Highway 29 over a total distance of approximately 30 kilometers; and
- construction of a berm at Hudson's Hope.

The Project also includes the construction of temporary access roads, a temporary bridge across the Peace River, and worker accommodation at the dam site.

1.2 Description of Site Preparation and Construction Activities during the Reporting Period

The reporting period for this annual report coincides generally with the third year of project construction.

Below is a high-level summary of construction activities that took place during this period:

- The main civil works contractor continued excavation on the north and south banks, work on the powerhouse roller-compacted concrete buttress and preparation for river diversion;
- The temporary on-site manufacturing facility was completed and manufacturing of steel structures for the turbines and generators began;
- The substation contractor began work on the south bank;
- Offices and infrastructure for the spillways civil works were set up on the north and south banks;

- Clearing occurred in the transmission line right-of-way and access roads continued to be upgraded;
- Work began to upgrade the Peace Canyon substation;
- Construction of access roads and clearing continued for the reservoir area; waste wood has been removed or disposed; and
- Geotechnical work and site investigations occurred for designs of the Highway 29 segments and Hudson's Hope shoreline protection project.

More detailed descriptions of construction activities that took place during the reporting period can be found in the quarterly Notices of Construction Activities (described in section 3.2 of this report, below).

2 Objective and Scope

2.1 Objective of the Aboriginal Group Communication Plan

The objective of the June 5, 2015 Aboriginal Group Communication Plan (AGCP) is to fulfill the requirements of Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) conditions 27 and 72, and federal Decision Statement (FDS) condition 14.2.

The AGCP establishes a communications program for informing Indigenous communities and harvesters about construction activities related to the Project that may affect their harvesting opportunities for plants, fish and game, as well as access to those opportunities.

2.2 Scope and Reporting Period

This annual report describes BC Hydro's communications and engagement activities with Indigenous groups through implementation of the AGCP from June 2017 through June 2018. This is the third annual report of the AGCP.

3 Implementation of the Plan – June 2017 through June 2018

This report summarizes the implementation of the communication and consultation initiatives specific to Indigenous groups that are described in [section 5.0 of the AGCP](#).

The bulleted list of communication activities shown at the beginning of section 5.0 is not specific to Indigenous communities, but these materials are publicly available and it is expected that they are utilized by members of Indigenous communities. These activities are described in [section 3.2 of the Construction Communication Plan \(CCP\)](#) with more information available in the annual reports for the CCP, found on the Project website in the Site C Project Reports section of the [Environmental Management document library](#).

Communications specific to Indigenous groups that were undertaken in the reporting period are described below.

Unless otherwise indicated, the communications summarized below are sent out to all Indigenous groups named in the EAC and federal Decision Statement: Saulneau First Nations, West Moberly First Nations, Prophet River First Nation, Blueberry River First Nations, Doig River First Nation, McLeod Lake Indian Band, Halfway River First Nation, Fort Nelson First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation, Métis Nation British Columbia, Kelly Lake Métis Settlement Society, Duncan's First Nation, and Dene Tha' First Nation. For purposes of brevity, acronyms for the above Indigenous groups are used in this annual report. A list of acronyms is provided at the beginning of this report.

3.1 Notices of Construction Activities

These quarterly notices to Indigenous groups address EAC condition 27 and FDS condition 14.2 requiring BC Hydro to provide information to Indigenous harvesters about construction activities that may affect their harvesting opportunities; they serve as the "Indigenous Harvesters Information Sheet" described in the Aboriginal Group Communication Plan.

The notices are in the form of a letter describing construction-related activities that are expected to commence, continue or be completed in the three-month period covered by the letter and are accompanied by a map (or maps) showing the location of the activities described in the letter. The notices also include information about other ways to find out more information about project construction.

The current schedule seeks to send out the construction notices roughly 15-30 days prior to the start of the notification period. As required, updates to the notices are sent out to provide more information on construction works that are of particular interest to Indigenous communities or within closer proximity to Indigenous communities.

- On **September 18, 2017** BC Hydro sent out the Notice of Construction Activities for the period of October through December, 2017.
- On **December 15, 2017** BC Hydro sent out the Notice of Construction Activities for the period of January through March, 2018.
- On **March 12, 2018**, BC Hydro sent out the Notice of Construction Activities for the period of April through June, 2018.

The Notices of Construction Activities are posted for Indigenous groups on the *Site C Information for Indigenous Groups* SharePoint site (see section 3.6). A public version of the notice with confidential information removed (such as SharePoint log-in information or other sensitive material) is posted along with construction bulletins on the Project's public website at the following address:

<https://www.sitecproject.com/construction-activities/construction-bulletins>

3.2 Biweekly Information Updates to Indigenous Groups

Emails are distributed to provide regular updates on construction activities and field work.

The updates provide Information on the following topics as they become available:

- News updates;

- regulatory/permitting updates;
- environmental management information;
- safety advisories;
- reminders of upcoming consultation and engagement activities;
- employment and training information, and;
- procurement updates.

The emails also provide notice of new documents uploaded to the SharePoint site such as Environmental Protection Plans and Environmental Completion Reports, monthly monitoring summary reports, interim and annual reports from Site C's Heritage Program and other project mitigation/monitoring programs.

The emails are sent directly to members of each Indigenous group's distribution list which often includes Chief and Council as well as other contacts requested by the band. A copy is saved on the Indigenous groups SharePoint site.

A summary of the periodic information provided in the updates is listed below. Recurring updates such as new Construction Bulletins, list of documents added to SharePoint, etc. are not included.

July 7, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reminder of the notification letters with information on proposed treatment of invasive plant species sent on June 16, 2017. Feedback requested by July 12, 2017. • A reminder of the upcoming Permitting Forum on July 25, 2017.
July 26, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisions to the Cultural Resources Mitigation Plan were proposed including a more detailed process for identifying and developing mitigation measures. The proposed revisions were sent to Indigenous groups for review and comment. • Revisions to the Heritage Resources Management Plan were proposed to clarify the process by which mitigation measures for heritage resources are incorporated into construction planning. • Notification of blasting commencing at Portage Mountain Quarry in early August and expected to continue until September 15, 2017. • Request for Proposals (RFP) on BC Bid for Powerhouse Bridge and Gantry Cranes Supply and Install Contract
August 18, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reminder of blasting commencing at Portage Mountain Quarry in early August and expected to continue until September 15, 2017. • A reminder of the upcoming Regional Community Liaison Committee on September 6, 2017.
September 8, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update on the review of the project by the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC). • Announcement of the opening of the Site C Viewpoint on the north bank

	<p>of the Peace River above the dam site..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request for Proposals (RFP) on BC Bid for the supply of geotechnical and civil instruments. • Request for Proposals on BC Bid for the 500 kV transmission line overhead conductors. • On July 21, 2017 BC Hydro received Leave to Commence Construction (LCC) No. 8 under Conditional Water Licences 132990 and 132991 authorizing Earthfill Dam Excavation, Foundation Preparation, Fill Placement and Approach Channel Foundation Preparation and Placement.
September 25, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A link to the Notice of Construction Activities for the period of October through December 2017, which was sent out to Aboriginal groups via email on September 18, 2017. • Request for Proposals on BC Bid for the construction of two new transmission lines.
October 6, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update that BC Hydro has submitted our final response submission to questions set out in the British Columbia Utility Commission's Preliminary Report issued on September 20, 2017.
October 31, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2017 Heritage Program field work is largely complete, and we expect approximately 35 interim reports on archaeological impact assessment and systematic data recovery to be sent to First Nations for review in November and January. No reports will be sent out in December. • Request for Proposals (RFP) on BC Bid for truck wash stations
November 17, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On Nov. 3, 2017, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) issued an amended Order related to erosion and sediment control at the Site C dam site.
December 15, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A notification that the government has announced their decision to proceed with construction of the Site C project.
January 5, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On January 3, 2018 BC Hydro posted a public advisory about upcoming transmission line work for the Site C Project. Crews will be working at various points along the 75-kilometre transmission line corridor between the Site C dam site and the Peace Canyon Dam. This work is now underway and will continue through 2024. • An updated construction schedule is now available on the Project website • BC Hydro has selected the Aecon-Flatiron-Dragados-EBS Partnership (AFDE Partnership) as the preferred proponent to move to the next phase for the Site C generation station and spillways (GSS) civil works contract.

<p>January 25, 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list of field studies planned for 2018 was shared. Field studies will be concentrated on and around the Peace River between the Williston Reservoir and the Alberta border. Information gathered from this work will be used to inform construction plans and mitigation and monitoring programs. • An online Project Information Index is now available • Public safety announcement to watch for active work along the transmission corridor between Site C and Peace Canyon Dam
<p>February 6, 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic and Pavement Monitoring Report – Year 2 available online • Information bulletin on clearing activities in reservoir area • Information bulletin outlining the details of Regional Request for Quote process • Request for Proposals (RFP) has been posted seeking a BC Bid for a Qualified Professional to advise on Acid Rock Drainage and Metal Leachate • A notification that BC Hydro is requesting an amendment to the Site C Environmental Assessment Certificate related to the Generating Station and Spillways design. We described the amendment request in a letter to Indigenous groups on January 29, 2018, • On January 24, 2018 the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development sent Treaty 8 First Nations a letter regarding an update to the consultation process for provincial permit applications. We followed up on February 1, 2018 with a letter to the same First Nations to provide more information on the updated consultation process, supporting information and a visual process flowchart.
<p>February 26, 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification that BC Hydro has agreed to stop clearing and access road work in the western section for the Site C transmission line, identified as a “critical area” by West Moberly First Nations in its injunction application filed in January. Work will stop until October 1, 2018 or until a decision is made in court on the injunction application, whichever is earlier; • Clearing and debris management activities are underway for the new reservoir and transmission line corridor. Wood waste and non-merchantable trees may be chipped, mulched, spread as coarse woody debris or burned on site; • BC Hydro looking for four agricultural producers to sit on the board of a \$20 million fund to support agricultural production and agrifoods initiatives in the Peace Region; • Request for Proposals (RFP) has been posted seeking a Construction Environmental Management Services; • Request for Proposals (RFP) has been posted seeking a Agricultural

	<p>Mitigation and Compensation Fund Administrator; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Hydro made a request for an EAC amendment to reflect design improvements in the generating station and spillways. On January 29, 2018 we sent letters out to First Nations informing you of these changes and the requirements for the amendment.
March 20, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification of revised plan describing how project-related burning will be conducted and best practices for reducing smoke emissions; • A \$1.6 billion contract, the second largest on the project, has been awarded to Aecon-Flatiron-Dragados-EBC Partnership (AFDE Partnership) for generating stations and spillways civil work; • Two additional contracts were awarded for construction of the Site C substation and for the design, supply and commission of the generating station and spillways powerhouse bridge and gantry cranes; • On March 9, 2018 we submitted our final Site C EAC Amendment request to the Environmental Assessment Office related to updates to the design of the Generating Station and Spillways. The amendment request was described in a letter sent to Indigenous groups on January 29, 2018; and • Request for Proposals (RFP) yesterday for a Qualified Environmental Professional in Invasive Species Management.

3.3 Consultation Meetings

3.3.1 Permitting Forums

These meetings allow for sharing and reviewing upcoming permit applications with Treaty 8 First Nations. The purpose, objectives, and outcomes of Permitting Forums were developed by participants at the first Permitting Forum in July 2016. Representatives from First Nations, the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development, federal agencies and BC Hydro meet to discuss draft permit application information and to address potential questions and requests for clarification before permit applications are finalized and referred to First Nations by permitting agencies for consultation and review. The First Nations invited to attend the forum are the same nations that the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development consults with on provincial permit applications.

Permitting Forum held during the reporting period are described below.

- Permitting Forum #6 was held on **July 25, 2017** and was attended by representatives from DFN, SFN, BRFN, DTFN, DRFN, HRFN, HLFN, MLIB, Nun wa dee Stewardship Society, BC Hydro, Transport Canada and MFLNRO. BC Hydro provided an overview of the transmission line tower applications currently under review. The Highway 29 Cache Creek Replacement Bridge and associated permits were discussed, along with an update on the Heritage Program was discussed.
- Permitting Forum #7 was held on **November 9, 2017** and was attended by representatives of BRFN, DTFN, DRFN, DFN, HRFN, MLIB, SFN, BC Hydro, Transport

Canada and MFLNRO. On the agenda were updates on Site C and the BCUC review, reviews of provincial permit applications for Highway 29 Geotechnical Investigations, Transmission Line Construction and a Heritage Program update.

- Permitting Forum #8 was held on **March 14, 2018** and was attended by representatives of SFN, BRFN, HRFN, DFN, DTFN, HLFN, BC Hydro, Transport Canada, and MFLNROD. On the agenda were *Wildlife Act*, Scientific Fish Collection Permit applications for the Reservoir Tributaries Mitigation Evaluation and Fish Salvage in Pine River Tributaries, the EAC Amendment Request for the Generating Station and Spillways design, and dam site area permit applications for the Work Camp Water Supply and the widening of the Peace River Construction Bridge.

BC Hydro uses the Indigenous groups SharePoint sites described in section 3.6 to share meeting presentations, permit applications and spatial data, and summaries of discussion and requests for follow-up from the meetings.

3.3.2 Environmental Forum

Site C Indigenous Relations is establishing an Environmental Forum in collaboration with project's Environment team. The Forum will be a place for BC Hydro and Indigenous groups to collaborate and share information, input and participation opportunities related to environmental mitigation plans and monitoring programs. The topics for the Environmental Forum will include fish and fish habitat, wildlife, vegetation and heritage and may be linked to conditions of the Environmental Assessment Certificate, Federal Decision Statements, permits or authorizations. The first meeting is planned for May, 2018.

3.3.3 Culture and Heritage Resources Committee

This committee has been established with Indigenous groups to advise BC Hydro on the management of Project effects on cultural resources. The committee initially met on July 30, 2015 and meets as determined by the Committee members. The committee provides opportunities for discussion and information exchange, as well as the development of mitigation measures related to cultural and heritage resources.

More information on the Cultural and Heritage Resources Committee can be found in the [Cultural Resources Mitigation Plan](#) (CRMP), available on the Project website in the [Environmental Management document library](#); annual reports detailing activities undertaken during the reporting period are available in the *Site C Project Reports* section of this document library.

3.3.4 Regional Community Liaison Committee

These meetings foster dialogue between BC Hydro, Peace region local governments and First Nations. The committee is an advisory forum for members to receive information about project construction, mitigation and compliance reporting and to bring forward community interests, issues and concerns about the project.

Invitations to sit on the Committee were sent to the following Indigenous groups on April 6, 2016:

- Blueberry River First Nations
- Doig River First Nation
- Halfway River First Nation
- McLeod Lake Indian Band
- Saulteau First Nations
- West Moberly First Nations

To date, Blueberry First Nation, Doig River First Nation, McLeod Lake Indian Band and Saulteau First Nations have accepted the invitation to participate as members of the Committee. Follow-up invitations for each meeting continue to be sent to the First Nations who have not yet participated in the Committee.

For more information on the Committee and a summary of its activities, please refer to the Project website's Regional Community Liaison Committee page (<https://www.sitecproject.com/in-the-community/regional-community-liaison-committee>).

3.4 Saulteau First Nations registered trapline holders

BC Hydro remains engaged with Saulteau registered trapline holders whose tenure areas are affected by project construction and operations. BC Hydro contacts registered trapline holders in advance of any project investigations or construction activities planned to take place within their respective trapline areas.

3.5 Site Visits and Ground Truthing

BC Hydro maintains a standing invitation to Indigenous groups to meet and discuss issues or concerns regarding the Project as construction proceeds. This may include site visits in the project activity zone with interested groups. Site C's Indigenous Relations staff has hosted site visits and ground truthing activities in the dam site area, along the transmission line, and on the Peace River between Halfway River and Taylor.

The [Aboriginal Plant Use Mitigation Plan](#) (APUMP) and the [Cultural Resources Mitigation Plan](#) (CRMP) describe ground truthing as it pertains to plants of traditional Indigenous value and cultural sites, respectively. Ground truthing activities conducted by or with Indigenous groups are described in annual reports for these plans, found on the Project website in the Site C Project Reports section of the [Environmental Management document library](#).

3.6 Site C Information for Indigenous Groups SharePoint Site

This SharePoint site is a central repository for documents and information shared with Indigenous groups. It is password protected and only accessible with log in information provided to select Indigenous groups. Categories include:

Current Project and Construction Information

- Biweekly Information Updates

- Notices of Construction Activities
- Construction maps

Environment and Heritage

- Protection plans
- Environmental reports
- Fish, aquatics, vegetation and wildlife reports
- Heritage reports

Regulatory Documents

- Mitigation and monitoring plans
- Compliance oversight and enforcement documents
- Environmental Assessment Information
- Applications for federal approvals and provincial Leaves to Commence Construction under the project's Water Licence

Forums and Meetings

- Permitting Forum
- Environmental Forum
- Culture and Heritage Resources Committee

Information about the SharePoint site along with sign-in information is provided to Indigenous groups in communications described above in sections 3.1 and 3.3 of this report.

3.7 External Project website

The Site C Clean Energy Project website provides additional information including:

- Mitigation and Monitoring Plans and Annual Reports
- Employment and business opportunities
- Federal authorizations and provincial permits
- Construction activities
- Environmental Management Plans and Reports
- Permits and Authorizations
- Environmental Assessment Reports
- Project Planning and Evaluation Reports
- Consultation and Engagement Reports
- Environment and Socio-Economic Reports
- Engineering and Technical Reports
- Historical Site C Reports
- Quarterly Progress Reports to the BCUC
- Employment Statistics

- Construction Contracts

3.8 Fish Monitoring Program

BC Hydro will communicate the results of the Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Monitoring and Follow-up Program to Indigenous groups through the annual report for the FAHMFP, found on the Project website in the Site C Project Reports section of the [Environmental Management document library](#). Additionally, annual reports of the individual monitoring programs that comprise the FAHMFP will be made available to Indigenous groups on the Project website and/or the SharePoint site as they are finalized. Annual reports from the 2016-2017 programs were shared with Indigenous groups in September 2017 on the SharePoint site, and are also available on the project website.

BC Hydro will work with interested Indigenous groups to coordinate community meetings to discuss the programs and findings with community members.