

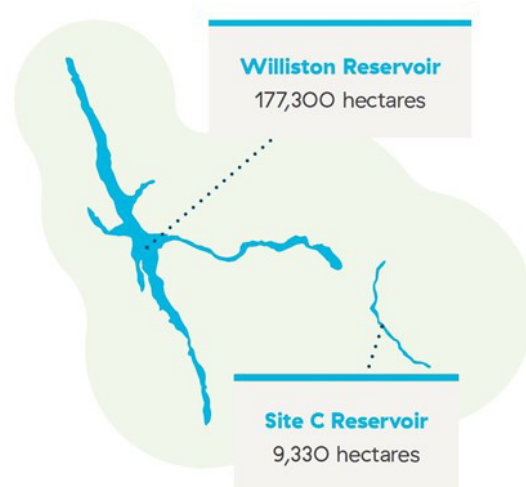
Filling the Site C Reservoir

September 2023

One of the last milestones in building the Site C dam is to fill the reservoir. Filling the reservoir with water allows us to put the generating station, spillways, turbines and generators into operation, creating enough energy to power the equivalent of about 450,000 homes, or 1.7 million electric vehicles.

The reservoir will widen the Peace River by three times

- Covers 5,550 hectares of land, with a total surface area of about 9,330 hectares
- Depth will vary – 52 metres close to the dam, 36 metres at Halfway River, and 18 metres near Hudson's Hope
- 83 kilometres long and, on average, two to three times the width of the current Peace River (Moberly River, Halfway River and Cache Creek will also widen)
- Will generate approximately 35 per cent of the energy produced at the W.A.C. Bennett Dam, with just five per cent of the reservoir area
- Uses water already stored in and released from the Williston Reservoir



Reservoir filling planned for fall 2023

The timeline for reservoir filling will depend on construction progress, regulatory approvals, provincial authorizations, and environmental compliance. It also will consider weather-related constraints that could affect upstream operations of the Peace River system.

To meet our projected in-service date of 2025, Site C reservoir filling could begin as early as fall 2023. Before filling the reservoir, the following must occur:

- Highway 29 realignments complete and open to traffic
- Reservoir cleared of vegetation and final sweeps
- Dam built and fit for service
- Ongoing Indigenous engagement
- Diversion tunnels converted

Did you know?

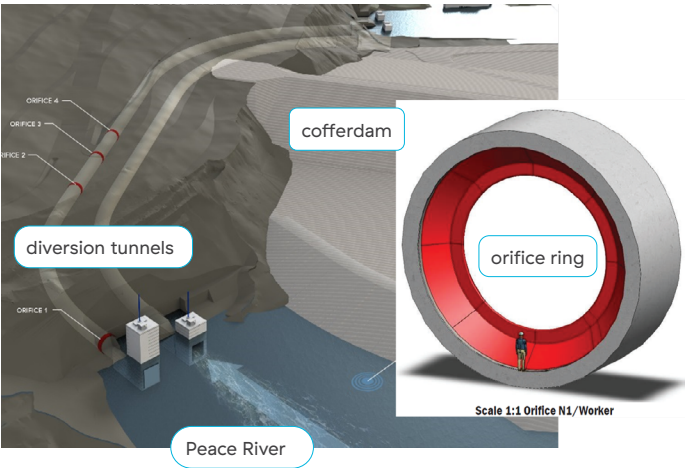
- Once the reservoir is ready to fill, it will take approximately four months for the water to reach its full depth.
- The reservoir will fill at a varying rate of 0.3 metres to 2.5 metres per day.

Closing the diversion tunnels

Tunnel conversion, a key step in preparing for reservoir filling, is complete.

Since 2020, two tunnels have been [diverting the Peace River](#) around the dam site to allow us to build the earthfill dam. We started the process of tunnel conversion in June 2023. Over the course of 12 weeks, we installed large rings inside one of the tunnels to slowly restrict the flow of water during the initial phase of reservoir filling.

It was essential for tunnel conversion to take place between July and September due to environmental, operational, and weather-related constraints as well as construction progress. The window to safely begin filling the reservoir starts in the fall following tunnel conversion.



CURRENT SCHEDULE



Boater safety and reservoir access

During filling, existing boat launches will be inaccessible. The D.A. Thomas and Lynx Creek boat launches that previously provided access to the Peace River will not be open for use this summer and will remain inaccessible once the reservoir is created.

The Halfway River boat launch will remain open via a gravel access road from Highway 29 for the 2023 boating season. It will then be permanently closed in late September prior to reservoir filling.

The new reservoir boat launches at D.A. Thomas Road, Lynx Creek and Halfway River will remain closed for at least one year after reservoir filling to allow time for slope stability and erosion monitoring.

Access to the reservoir through BC Hydro's boat launches will be re-established for public use based on the results of monitoring reservoir conditions related to slope stability and debris management over the first year of reservoir operations.



How will the reservoir be filled?

Using your mobile device, scan the QR codes below to learn more on filling the Site C reservoir.



WATCH VIDEO:
[Filling the Site C reservoir](#)



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Site C Reservoir

