

ABORIGINAL AND TREATY RIGHTS

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The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) details the environmental assessment undertaken for the Site C Clean Energy project. The EIS includes the project rationale, identifies potential effects and proposes measures to avoid or mitigate these effects. The EIS also describes the benefits Site C would provide for customers, Aboriginal groups, northern communities and the province as a whole.

ABORIGINAL GROUPS

As set out in EIS Guidelines, BC Hydro focussed its consultation efforts on 29 Aboriginal groups, including Treaty 8 First Nations and Métis groups in British Columbia, Alberta and the Northwest Territories, as well as two non-treaty First Nations in B.C.

The EIS includes summaries of background information for each Aboriginal group, including maps of their traditional territories, where they have been made available to BC Hydro. Aboriginal land and resource use summaries have been prepared for each Aboriginal group involving a review of information made available by Aboriginal groups through traditional land use studies, as well as other publicly available information. This information helped inform BC Hydro's understanding of past, current and reasonably anticipated future use of lands and resources by the 29 Aboriginal groups.

ASSERTED OR ESTABLISHED ABORIGINAL AND TREATY RIGHTS

The EIS contains an assessment of the potential adverse impacts of the project on the exercise of asserted or established Aboriginal rights and treaty rights of the identified Aboriginal groups.

This assessment includes BC Hydro's understanding of each Aboriginal group's asserted or established Aboriginal rights and treaty rights, and how the exercise of those rights may be affected by the project. This information is derived from the effects assessment carried out for the Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes valued component.

ABORIGINAL ACCOMMODATION

The EIS presents measures to mitigate or accommodate potential adverse impacts of the project on the exercise of the identified asserted or established Aboriginal rights and treaty rights.

As of the submission of the EIS, Aboriginal groups have provided BC Hydro with a few specific suggestions for measures to avoid, reduce, or otherwise mitigate the potential adverse impacts of the project. These are set out in the EIS, along with BC Hydro's response to these suggestions.

BC Hydro is committed to continuing consultation with all interested Aboriginal groups potentially affected by the project to cooperatively explore options for mitigation. Suggestions made to BC Hydro through this Aboriginal consultation process will be incorporated into the EIS prior to the submission of the EIS to the Joint Review Panel.

OUTSTANDING ABORIGINAL ISSUES AND OTHER INTERESTS

The issues and interests raised by Aboriginal groups are described fully in the EIS in an issues tracking table, and are considered in the effects assessments for each applicable valued component. BC Hydro is also working to build capacity among Aboriginal people who may benefit from opportunities that may arise as a result of the project.

Consultation with Aboriginal groups respecting potential impacts of the project on the exercise of asserted or established Aboriginal and treaty rights is ongoing. In some cases, Aboriginal groups have raised issues, concerns or interests that at the time of the filing of the EIS and in the view of BC Hydro, have not been fully addressed.

ABORIGINAL CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

BC Hydro will continue to consult with Aboriginal groups in order to identify and consider outstanding issues throughout the environmental assessment process, and additional information made available to BC Hydro by Aboriginal groups will be considered prior to submission of the EIS to the Joint Review Panel. If the project receives approval, consultation with potentially-affected Aboriginal groups will continue through construction and operations.

ABOUT THE SITE C CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT

Site C is a proposed third dam and hydroelectric generating station on the Peace River in northeast B.C. Site C would provide 1,100 megawatts (MW) of capacity, and produce about 5,100 gigawatt hours (GWh) of electricity each year – enough energy to power the equivalent of about 450,000 homes per year in B.C.

Site C is undergoing a cooperative environmental assessment by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEA Agency) and the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office (EAO). The environmental assessment process commenced in August 2011 and is anticipated to take approximately three years to complete.

FOR MORE INFORMATION visit bchydro.com/sitec

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