

OUTDOOR RECREATION AND TOURISM

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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.

ABOUT THE ASSESSMENT

The Outdoor Recreation and Tourism assessment considers the project's interactions with outdoor recreation and tourism features, amenities, sites, activities, visitor levels, and use levels.

Changes in outdoor recreation and tourism infrastructure are considered using the following indicators:

- Outdoor recreation features and amenities, including recreation sites, trails, parks, and Peace River Boudreau Lakes proposed protected area
- Tourism features and amenities, including visitor centres, tourist accommodations, and attractions
- Commercial outdoor recreation interests
- Recreation activities undertaken on the land base, including activities, locations, and seasonal nature of activities

Changes to outdoor recreation use levels and regional tourism visitor levels consider outdoor recreation use levels, and regional tourism visitor levels.

ASSESSMENT AREA

The local assessment area is the project activity zone, the area within the reservoir impact lines and the Peace River downstream to Peace Island Park. The regional assessment area is the Peace River Regional District.

SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL EFFECTS	KEY MITIGATION MEASURES
Changes in outdoor recreation and tourism infrastructure during construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and operate three new permanent reservoir launches and day use sites (Cache Creek and Lynx Creek trailer launches and Hudson's Hope Shoreline Protection small craft launch) to replace flooded boat launch areas • Identify public communications procedures for public safety hazards, and access restrictions and closures during construction of the dam using a Public Safety Management Plan • Provide funds to the District of Hudson's Hope for the enhancement of Alwin Holland Park or other community shoreline recreation areas • Provide a Community Recreation Site Fund to support development of new shoreline recreation sites on the reservoir and on the Peace River and tributaries between the project and the Alberta border

POTENTIAL EFFECTS	KEY MITIGATION MEASURES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical support to outdoor recreation providers who require access to the reservoir to assist with their development along, or adaptation to, new shoreline conditions • Establish a permanent north bank dam site public viewpoint
Change in outdoor recreation and tourism use levels during construction	<p>The project is anticipated to increase recreation and tourism use levels during construction, and would not require specific mitigation measures. Implementing the following housing measures would also support recreation and tourism use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the private sector and local government to develop new RV sites • Implement on-site workforce housing
Changes in outdoor recreation and tourism infrastructure during operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Public Safety Management Plan that will identify public communications procedures for public safety hazards, and access restrictions and closures during operation • Identify public communications procedures for public safety hazards, and access restrictions and closures during operation • Fund the development of a Peace River and Site C Reservoir Navigation and Recreation Opportunities Plan

KEY FINDINGS

- Some recreation opportunities would be temporarily reduced for short periods during the construction phase, and while new infrastructure is being developed. As a result, during construction, a residual adverse effect is expected due to temporary losses of recreation and tourism access and infrastructure.
- BC Hydro will provide replacement boat launches and day use areas in the reservoir and will implement a number of measures to support other community groups and the District of Hudson's Hope in developing new reservoir recreation infrastructure. During operations recreation and tourism are expected to benefit due to new recreation opportunities. Considering the temporary and long-term changes to outdoor recreation, the residual effect is not considered significant.

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

PO Box 2218

Vancouver, B.C. V6B 3W2

Toll-free: 1 877 217 0777

Email: sitec@bchydro.com

Fax: 604 695 5290

Community Consultation Offices

9948 100th Avenue

Fort St. John, B.C.

V1J 1Y5

The Pearkes Center

10801 Dudley Street

Hudson's Hope, B.C. V0C 1V0