

August 14, 2024

Dear Old Fort neighbours,

We want to provide you an update on our next milestone on the Site C project: reservoir filling.

Filling the reservoir is one of the last steps in building the Site C project, and allows the generating station, spillways, turbines and generators to come into operation. All necessary construction areas of the project have been completed to safely begin filling.

We plan to start reservoir filling the last week of August, subject to potential changes resulting from wildfires, significant rainstorms, or other operational considerations on the BC Hydro system. It will take up to four months to completely [fill the Site C reservoir](#). Filling the reservoir will proceed at varying rates, with water levels rising between 30 centimetres and three metres per day.

***Downstream flows during reservoir filling and generating unit commissioning***

During the early stages of reservoir filling, Peace River flows directly downstream of Site C are expected to be variable, but more often near the project's minimum licensed flow of 390 cubic metres per second (m<sup>3</sup>/s) for approximately one month.

Water will pass through the spillway into 2025. This will mean regular use of the spillway until flows are transferred to the generating units.

During the later stages of reservoir filling, the commissioning process for the generating units will begin and continue into 2025. We expect power from the first generating unit will be online and supplying customers this December.

Please always use caution, for your safety and for others, as water levels in the river around the dam can rise and fall rapidly and without warning, depending on the demand for electricity.

For additional information please reference the Site C Project Downstream effects on the Peace River Fact Sheet [here](#).

***Boating and access on the river***

Due to rapidly changing water levels, strong currents, and turbulent flow, there is no public access in the downstream Danger Zone between the dam and the Peace River construction bridge. Boaters and fishers are advised, for their personal safety, to please stay downstream of the bridge at all times. A Warning Zone extends a further two kilometres downstream of the bridge for shoreline users and boaters to be aware of rapid changes in flow and water level.

Hazard warning signs are posted. Please use caution and remain aware of the water level, the surroundings, and any observable changes in these areas.

***Boating on the new reservoir***

[Boaters](#) will not have access to the Peace River between Fort St. John and Hudson's Hope during reservoir filling and for at least one year afterwards until spring 2026, as we monitor for slope stability and erosion. When it is safe to open, the Site C reservoir will create opportunities for recreation with three new access points.

The existing boat launch within the reservoir area at Halfway River was permanently closed on August 12, before reservoir filling begins. The D.A. Thomas and Lynx Creek boat launches are closed.

***Ongoing work and next steps***

As the project nears completion, most of the remaining construction work at site is taking place inside the Site C powerhouse.

Virtually all the earth moving work has been completed and heavy operating equipment traffic on site has been significantly reduced from the 2022 and 2023 construction seasons. However, our dust suppression measures continue with regular watering of site construction roads and a calcium chloride application.

Thank you for your continued patience and we will provide you another update on reservoir filling later in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Site C Project team