



Ministry of
Forests, Lands and
Natural Resource Operations

File: 120106-176588

July 21, 2015

Bettina Sander
Regulatory Manager
BC Hydro and Power Authority
Four Bentall Centre
1100-1055 Dunsmuir Street
Vancouver, V7X 1V5

Dear Bettina Sander:

Re: Beaver Dam Removal: Notification for Changes In and About a Stream – 120106-176588

Thank you for submitting your *Water Act* Notification for Changes In and About a Stream Application to Front Counter British Columbia on June 19, 2015.

The *Water Act* Notification for Changes In and About a Stream was reviewed for the proposed installation of beaver dam water control devices, removal of beaver dams and/or houses to support instream works and construction activities scheduled during Year 1 of construction within the Project Activity Zone of the Site C Clean Energy Project – Year 1 up to the confluence of Wilder Creek and the Peace River mainstem as per attached map (Year 1 Construction Area Boundary).

This Notification review **does not** extend to BC Hydro and Power Authority the ability to conduct instream works to manage water levels impounded by beaver dams, remove or destroy beaver dams or houses:

- upstream of the aforementioned confluence of the Wilder Creek and Peace River mainstem,
- authority to enter onto privately held land without landowner permission, and
- where beaver dam activity poses no imminent damage to BC Hydro and Power Authority property or Site C Clean Energy Project – Year 1 construction.



Ministry of
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Natural Resource Operations

It is the Ministry's understanding is that BC Hydro and Power Authority will:

- adhere to the conditions of Wildlife Permit: FJ14-154005 issued under the Wildlife Act authorizing BC Hydro and Power Authority to conduct beaver management activities as prescribed within the Wildlife Permit.
- to confirm and verify fish presence on streams and follow prescribed timing windows of least risk "[Peace Terms and Conditions](#)" prior to undertaking any instream works regarding proposed beaver management activities.
- manage all streams as fish bearing in the absence of known fish presence evidence and/or stream/fish survey confirmation report, declaring the watercourse non fish bearing. Assessment of fish presence or absence will be completed to Ministry; Resources Information Standards Committee (RISC) survey standards.
- for works that cannot be feasibly delayed or conducted to comply with the timing windows of least risk "[Peace Terms and Conditions](#)", in -stream works affecting fish and fish habitat will be guided through the Fisheries Act Authorization issued by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans..
- for emergency works BC Hydro and Power Authority, as required may undertake works such as emergency flood and erosion protection works (Sec. 44(1)(O) of the Water Regulation) identified as Type 2 emergencies where situations present a high potential danger to human life, significant damage to property, or the environment as detailed within Sec. 7.8.4 "Best Practices Protocol to Manage Emergency Works and to Mitigate Impacts During Their Construction" of the Standards and Best Practices of Instream Works, March 2004 manual.
- follow the attached Ministry of Environment, "General BMPs and Standard Project Considerations: Beaver Dam Removal – Standards and Best Practices for Instream Works V.01" during operations.
- provide the ministry upon request a copy of sediment control plan detailing measures to protect the environment in the form of a "Environmental Protection Plan" document

In addition, all works in and about a stream must be compliant with applicable provincial, federal and/or municipal legislation/regulations including; but not limited to, the [Water Act](#), [Water Regulation](#), and Site C – Clean Energy Project – Construction Environmental Management Plan requirements.



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BC Hydro and Power Authority will ensure an Independent Environmental Monitor is engaged to provide oversight and audit reporting services to the Ministry as required and an Environmental Monitor is engaged to oversee the implementation of the project.

It is also expected that all work will be consistent with the [Standards and Best Practices for Instream Works](#).

The effective date of this Notification is July 23, 2015. If you have any questions and/or concerns regarding this communication, you can contact me at (250) 774-5530.

Mike D'Aloia

Sincerely

Mike D'Aloia, RFT, RBT
Habitat Officer
Northeast Region