

September 2017

### **Re: Notice of Site C Construction Activities: October to December 2017**

This letter describes the construction activities planned from October 1 to December 31, 2017.

The provincial government has asked the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) to review the Site C project. The review began on August 9, 2017. The terms of reference require a preliminary report from the BCUC within six weeks (by September 20, 2017), and a final report within 12 weeks (by November 1, 2017). Construction and procurement activities will continue during the review; however, no major contract awards will be made until the review has been completed and the government has made a decision.

For the upcoming three-month period, construction is planned to focus on the advancement of earthworks at the dam site and continued preparation for work in other project areas. Work and investigation areas will include the dam site, segments of Highway 29, Wuthrich Quarry, West Pine Quarry, Portage Mountain Quarry and the transmission line corridor and access roads. Please note that the following activities are subject to change.

For all of the activities described in this letter, the necessary permits, authorizations, licenses or government approvals have been or will be obtained as required to proceed with the work. Geotechnical site investigations, air quality monitoring, heritage and other field studies are ongoing. BC Hydro will continue to provide annual field study notices of these activities. In all of the identified work areas, geotechnical site investigations, including the drilling of test holes, may be required.

### **October to December 2017**

The following construction-related activities are expected to commence or continue in the period from October to December 2017:

#### **Dam site area**

- **Debris management**: Wood waste and debris will be disposed or removed from site.
- **Access roads**: Crews will continue to maintain the dam site access roads and existing south bank resource roads, including the petroleum development roads.
- **Main civil works**: The main civil works contractor will continue their construction activities during this period. In addition to the excavation mentioned above, this work will include:
  - Continued mobilization of crews, equipment and materials
  - Continued construction of site infrastructure
  - Installation of geotechnical instrumentation on the north and south banks
  - Excavation on the north and south banks, including north bank slope stabilization and excavation for the powerhouse. Excavated materials will be moved to the designated relocated surplus excavation material (RSEM) sites on both the north and south banks. Dikes will be constructed for the RSEM sites and some dredging may be required
  - Blasting on the south bank
  - Construction of the south bank drainage tunnel
  - The initiation of excavation for the diversion tunnels
  - Continued excavation for the south bank approach channel
  - Material will be crushed for the roller-compacted concrete (RCC) buttress on the

- south bank
  - Concrete batching will occur at the contractor's on-site batching facilities
  - Construction of the powerhouse buttress will occur, including concrete placement
  - Construction of the inlet and outlet cofferdams and north bank stage 1 cofferdam
  - Riprap placement along the cofferdams
  - Ongoing excavation and site preparation to prepare for the mobilization of the Site C substation contractor
  - Excavation will begin for the earthfill dam
- Dam site security: Security infrastructure will continue to be installed. A security boat will patrol the Peace River.
- Turbines and generators contractor: The turbines and generators contractor will continue to mobilize crews and equipment to their work area on the south bank. The contractor will ship material to the dam site by rail and will construct equipment in their on-site manufacturing facility.

### **Public roads and highways**

- Highway 29 at Halfway River, Farrell Creek East, Farrell Creek, Dry Creek and Lynx Creek: Survey work, geotechnical investigations and heritage monitoring may occur as required to support detailed design development.
- Public road upgrades: Upgrade work will be completed for 271 Road during this period.

### **Peace River/reservoir**

- Fish habitat enhancement project: Visual investigations will continue to prepare for the fish habitat enhancement project.
- Timber removal: Merchantable logs will be transported to local mills. Waste wood will be disposed. Some burning may occur.

### **Transmission works**

- Access road upgrades: Upgrades to portions of existing access roads will be completed in this period. This is required to provide safe access to the transmission line right-of-way. This work will include erosion and sediment control.
- Survey and investigative works: Survey and investigative works will continue along the transmission line right-of-way in preparation for the construction of the two new 500 kV transmission lines.

### **Production and transport of materials**

- Wuthrich Quarry: Riprap will be produced for use in construction at the dam site. Blasting will occur as part of this work.
- West Pine Quarry: Riprap will be produced for use in construction at the dam site. Blasting will occur as part of this work.
- Portage Mountain Quarry: Access roads will be completed during this period.
- 85<sup>th</sup> Avenue Industrial Lands: The main civil works contractor will continue work at the 85<sup>th</sup> Avenue Industrial Lands. This will include the preparation of offices, a parking lot and laydown/stockpile areas. Work will occur to prepare the Industrial Lands for excavation.

- Conveyor belt system: Preparatory work will continue for the temporary conveyor belt system. Fencing will continue to be installed along the conveyor right-of-way. Construction of the conveyor may begin.

### **Water Licence(s) and Leaves to Commence Construction**

During the course of construction, BC Hydro will apply for a series of Leaves to Commence Construction (LCCs) under its Water Licences in order to construct particular project works or components of project works. Construction-related activities under the LCCs are also independently reviewed by the Independent Engineer and the Independent Environmental Monitor as required by BC Hydro's Water Licences.

To date, BC Hydro has obtained LCCs for:

- Initial works
- RSEM storage areas
- North and south bank excavations
- South bank stage 1 cofferdam
- Clearing of the eastern reservoir
- North bank cofferdams and diversion tunnel works
- RCC buttress foundation preparation and RCC placement
- Geotechnical investigations for the Hudson's Hope Shoreline Protection and Halfway River debris boom
- Earthfill dam excavation, foundation preparation, fill placement and approach channel foundation preparation and placement

In the upcoming three-to-six month period, BC Hydro will also be seeking an LCC for construction, operation and maintenance of the Halfway River debris boom.

BC Hydro has applied for a Water Licence for the temporary and permanent fish passage facilities. A decision from the Office of the Water Comptroller is anticipated on these Water Licences in the upcoming three-to-six month period.

### **What to expect**

During this time period, the following can be expected:

- There will be truck traffic on public roads as the hauling of materials, equipment, rock, and timber continues. This will include increased industrial traffic on resource roads and public roads from Chetwynd leading to the site on the south bank.
- Day, night and weekend shifts are anticipated for the duration of the project.
- Some noise will occur in the vicinity of the dam site, along public roads and in other work areas as a result of the scheduled construction activities.
- Some noise and vibration will result from the periodic blasting and other work that is occurring in Wuthrich Quarry and West Pine Quarry. Material hauling may occur at night.
- There will be construction occurring in and around the Peace River at the dam site.
- Public safety signs and beacons have been installed on the north and south banks of the Peace River, upstream and downstream of the dam site, to mark the boundaries of the active construction area. Until further notice, boaters will be able to pass through the dam site, but will not have shoreline access in the dam site construction area. A security boat will be actively monitoring boat traffic.

- BC Hydro is monitoring air quality in the Site C project area. This data is being added to the Ministry of Environment's B.C. Air Quality Monitoring Data (<http://www.bcairquality.ca>). The Ministry uses this data to report on air quality trends. In the event of poor air quality, the Ministry will release air quality advisories through a notification list.

### **Learn more**

- Visit the project website: [sitecproject.com](http://sitecproject.com)
- Follow the Site C Twitter account: [@sitecproject](https://twitter.com/sitecproject)
- Call the toll-free project line: 1-877-217-0777
- Email the project team: [sitec@bchydro.com](mailto:sitec@bchydro.com)
- Send an enquiry or feedback online at: <https://www.sitecproject.com/contact-us#enquiry>