

# MONTHLY FIELD STUDIES SUMMARY

## December 2011 – January 2012

The Site C Clean Energy Project (Site C) is now in Stage 3, the environmental and regulatory review phase, which will include an independent environmental assessment. Stage 3 work includes conducting environmental and engineering field studies on and around the Peace River between the Williston Reservoir and the Alberta border.

An overview of studies that will be taking place in December 2011 and January 2012 is below. Additional study activities may occur; notice of these studies will be posted at [www.bchydro.com/sitec](http://www.bchydro.com/sitec).

Overview
<b>Socio-Economic Studies</b>
◆ Socio-Economic Assessment
<b>Wildlife Studies</b>
◆ Fisher Study Program
◆ Mule Deer, Moose and Elk Study Program
<b>Physical Environment Studies</b>
◆ Climate and Air Quality Monitoring

Some field studies may require access to public and private land. BC Hydro will obtain permission before accessing private property and will notify property owners who may be directly impacted by helicopters. Ongoing regular BC Hydro work, in addition to the Site C field study activities outlined here, may be taking place on the Peace River and tributaries. This work is related to BC Hydro's Peace River water license requirements program or other operations work.

Field study updates are available at [www.bchydro.com/sitec](http://www.bchydro.com/sitec) and in the Community Consultation offices in Fort St. John and Hudson's Hope.

For further information, please contact:  
**Kate O'Neil, Community Relations**  
 Office: 250-785-3415 Cell: 250-793-5416

December 2011 – January 2012

Study Name	Description	Timing
<p><b>Socio-Economic Studies – Socio-Economic Assessment</b></p>	<p>BC Hydro has initiated a socio-economic assessment, which will include all components of the Site C project.</p> <p>Topic areas within the socio-economic assessment include: economic, land and resource use, socio-community, visual and aesthetic resources, health, and First Nations community assessments. The study components may be revised in scope or timing on the basis of input from the public, First Nations, government agencies or consultant expertise, as part of the Pre-Application stage of the Environmental Assessment process.</p> <p>The first phase of the study involves baseline data gathering. Starting in August and continuing through the year, the team will be contacting local government, government agencies, businesses, and local organizations to request baseline information within the potential effect topic areas.</p> <p>During the study members of the socio-economic team will be in the local area conducting informational interviews, gathering data and taking photographs.</p>	<p>August 2011 – March 2012</p> <p><i>Data gathering phase</i></p>
<p><b>Wildlife Studies – Fisher Study Program</b></p>	<p>BC Hydro is conducting a study to further the understanding of fisher habitat use and movement patterns in and adjacent to the Peace River Valley.</p> <p>The study area extends from the Peace Canyon Dam to the confluence of the Pine and Peace Rivers on both sides of the Peace River.</p> <p>Fishers are members of the weasel family. They are about 60 cm in length and weigh 3 to 5 kg (6 to 11 lbs).</p> <p>Animals that have been fitted with radio-transmitters will be located monthly, via fixed-wing aircraft flights. Weekly locations will be obtained during ground visits during the breeding season to identify den sites (April through June). Weekly locations will also be obtained all year in some areas.</p> <p>Habitat assessments will be conducted at key fisher locations (e.g., den sites, rest sites) to document characteristics associated with the site. Establishment</p>	<p>December 2010 – April 2013</p> <p><i>Capture and instrumentation of additional study animals will occur between December 2011 and March 2012.</i></p> <p><i>Tracking of instrumented animals will take place between January 2011 and April 2013.</i></p>

December 2011 – January 2012

Study Name	Description	Timing
	of trap sites and pre-baiting will occur.	
<p><b>Wildlife Studies – Mule Deer, Moose and Elk Study Program</b></p>	<p>BC Hydro is conducting a mule deer, moose and elk study in the Peace River area from Hudson’s Hope to the B.C. – Alberta border.</p> <p>The purpose of the study is to further the understanding of mule deer, moose and elk habitat use and movement patterns in the Peace River region.</p> <p>Monitoring and habitat data collection began in mid-February 2010 and will continue for up to 24 months. Animals will be located using a combination of ground based telemetry and fixed wing telemetry flights. Flights are scheduled for the first and last week of the month (weather dependent).</p> <p>Ground-based locating of animals occurs during both the first and last week of the month.</p> <p>Starting in January 2012, animals will be re-captured using aerial net gunning for collar removal.</p>	<p>Phase 2 monitoring will occur from February 2010 to December 2011.</p> <p>Phase 3, collar removal, will occur from January to March 2012.</p>
<p><b>Physical Environment Studies - Climate &amp; Air Quality Monitoring in the Peace River Valley</b></p>	<p>BC Hydro is collecting climate and air quality data from eight monitoring stations on private and BC Hydro owned land between Hudson’s Hope and Old Fort, south of Fort St. John.</p> <p>Information on various climate parameters will be gathered, including: air temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction, fog frequency and density, and precipitation. Monitoring of particulate matter (mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets in the air) will be conducted at Old Fort and Halfway River.</p> <p>This data will be used to establish baseline conditions and to inform the effects assessment of the Site C project on in-valley climate and air quality in the area.</p> <p>Stations are visited regularly to retrieve data. Access to the monitoring stations is by vehicle and foot.</p>	<p>December 2011</p> <p><i>Ongoing monitoring from February 2009.</i></p>

*Note: Access to public and private land may be required in order to complete study work. BC Hydro will obtain permission from land owners and provide notification to BC Hydro leaseholders before entry onto private or leased lands.*