

## FIELD STUDIES INFORMATION SHEET

### May – September 2012: Garter Snake Hibernacula Study

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. Site C is in the early stages of a cooperative environmental assessment process by federal and provincial regulatory agencies, which includes a joint review panel.

BC Hydro is conducting additional surveys between May 1 and September 30, 2012 to determine if garter snake winter hibernacula are present within and adjacent to sites that will be directly affected by the proposed project within the broader Peace Region.

The field work will be conducted by two Registered Professional Biologists. Routes searched, time spent searching, snake species, locations of snakes and shed skins observed will be recorded. Any hibernacula sites found will be photographed. Field data will be used to revise the habitat ratings and generate a final map depicting known and potential hibernacula sites.

Properties will be accessed by road and foot. BC Hydro will obtain the necessary permissions before land is accessed.

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:  
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#### GARTER SNAKE HIBERNACULA STUDY May – September 2012

- BC Hydro is studying the winter hibernacula of garter snakes in the Peace River region
- BC Hydro will obtain the necessary permissions before land is accessed
- All work will be conducted under a Wildlife Act permit
- Keystone Wildlife Research is leading the work
- Work will be conducted by two Registered Professional Biologists