

FIELD STUDIES INFORMATION SHEET

Peace River Aquatic Productivity and Modelling Study: May – November 2011

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. BC Hydro anticipates formally entering the environmental assessment process in spring 2011 with the submission of a Project Description Report to the provincial and federal environmental assessment agencies.

Initiated in 2010, the Peace River Aquatic Productivity and Modelling Study assesses current levels of aquatic productivity to predict productivity changes resulting from reservoir creation. In 2011, the study will collect seasonal baseline data to gain an understanding of the current levels of invertebrate, primary production and nutrient dynamics in the system; and assess, determine and run the appropriate predictive modelling for assessing productivity in the current and post reservoir aquatic environment.

The 2011 field sampling plan will include the same sampling sites used during the 2010 study: Williston and Dinosaur Reservoirs and the Peace, Halfway, Moberly, Pine and Beaton Rivers.

The study is divided into four main tasks:

1. Water Quality and Nutrient Dynamics Assessment – Collect and analyze baseline water quality parameters to assess change in productivity and as a baseline for future monitoring.
2. Lower Trophic Level Assessment – Characterize the species composition, density, biomass, and dominance structure of lower trophic level communities (i.e. periphyton, phytoplankton, and zooplankton) and characterize the variability in these communities.
3. Benthic and Terrestrial Invertebrates – Characterize the variability of the invertebrate community and assess habitat variables that affect the natural variability of benthic invertebrate communities.
4. Aquatic Systems Modeling – The development of a model(s) to assess the existing productive capacity in the Peace River and the productive capacity (possibly fish biomass) in the proposed Site C reservoir.

For further information, please contact:
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PEACE RIVER AQUATIC PRODUCTIVITY AND MODELLING STUDY May – November 2011

- BC Hydro is conducting an aquatic productivity and modelling study in the Peace River
- Golder Associates is leading the work