

FIELD STUDIES INFORMATION SHEET

Beaver Study: September to 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 entered the environmental assessment process in May 2011 with the submission of a Project Description Report to the provincial and federal environmental assessment agencies.

BC Hydro is conducting a beaver study to assess the current population size and reveal trends in the stability of beaver populations in the Peace River and its major tributaries. The study will be conducted between September and November 2011, and will determine the number and spatial locations of beaver lodges, dams and food caches to update the census data collected in previous studies. The study will take place on the Peace River and its tributaries between the Peace Canyon Dam downstream to the Alberta border.

The study area includes the inundation zone between the Moberly River and Hudson's Hope, as well as portions of Cache Creek, Moberly River and Halfway River, and up to five kilometres further upstream on each tributary, depending on habitat suitability. The lower five to 10 km of the Pine, Beaton, and Kiskatinaw Rivers will also be assessed.

Surveys will be completed in the fall when the presence of beavers can be detected through the visual observation of lodges, food caches and dams. Surveys will be primarily conducted by air, due to the large study area, with some boat-based surveys completed to verify assumptions made.

Sites will be classified as inactive if there is no indication of use within the last year. The number of active lodges detected will be used to estimate the population size in the study area and to evaluate use of the Peace River and major tributaries.

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

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BEAVER STUDY September to November 2011

- BC Hydro is conducting a Beaver Study to determine beaver presence and abundance within the Peace region
- The study will estimate the population size of beavers in the study area
- Work will be conducted to Resource Inventory Committee Standards
- Keystone Wildlife Research is leading the work