

March 2017

Dear Neighbour:

## **Re: Peace Region Electricity Supply Project**

Electricity demand in the South Peace region is increasing as a result of natural gas exploration and development in the area. The Peace Region Electricity Supply (PRES) Project will help to ensure that we can reliably provide electricity to our industrial customers who want to power their facilities with clean energy. The PRES Project will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging industries and businesses to use clean electricity rather than fossil fuels to power their equipment and operations.

We're currently in the planning stages of this project and will continue to monitor electricity demand in the area to confirm project need and timing. We currently expect to start construction in 2018 and be finished in the 2020-2022 timeframe.

### **What are we building?**

After exploring a number of options, we've identified a preferred alternative. It includes building a new double-circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line (approximately 57 kilometres in length). The line would run between the future Site C Substation near Fort St John and the new Groundbirch Substation, located about 30 km east of Chetwynd.

We're now doing further studies, design and consultation to develop this alternative in more detail.

### **Why we are pursuing this alternative**

We compared alternatives against a number of criteria, including how easily and quickly it could be built; consultation feedback; estimated cost; and potential environmental and archaeological impacts.

This alternative has the shortest length, lowest cost, and would be the easiest to build. It avoids some important First Nations sites, requires the least amount of clearing and access road construction, minimizes visual impacts from communities and highways, and can be built in the shortest period of time in the safest manner.

### **Upcoming activities**

The majority of our planned work is investigative in nature and is being done to help us finalize the route and design for the transmission line. Starting in the next few months, we will be in the area as we work on:

- refining the preliminary transmission line route,
- developing access plans to the proposed transmission line,
- developing clearing plans for the proposed transmission line,
- completing archeological and environmental surveys,
- investigating geotechnical conditions along the proposed route, and
- completing a centerline survey of the proposed transmission line route.

For the centerline survey, work crews will walk the entire proposed transmission line route and clear a small path (up to 2 metres wide) so that we can complete detailed design work. Crews will also stake preliminary tower locations along the proposed route.

Please note that some helicopter work will be required to transport our crews in and out of the area.

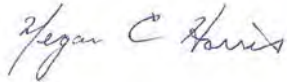
**Where is this happening?**

We'll be working near the proposed transmission line route, which is shown on the enclosed map. We're in the process of determining the best route for the transmission line. The route shown is not yet final and could change based on further studies and consultation.

If you have any comments about our upcoming work please let us know as soon as possible. We would also like to meet with you in person or over the phone to discuss the project in more detail. Please let us know when would be a convenient time.

We'll continue to keep you informed as this project moves forward. You can also visit [bchydro.com/pres](http://bchydro.com/pres) for more information, or contact us at [stakeholderengagement@bchydro.com](mailto:stakeholderengagement@bchydro.com) or 1 866 647 3334.

Sincerely,



Megan Harris  
Stakeholder Engagement, BC Hydro

Encl.: PRES Project Overview Map

# Peace Region Electricity Supply (PRES) Project Overview

