

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S HERITAGE ASSETS AND BENEFITS

British Columbians have been blessed for generations by the investments in hydro infrastructure made in the 1950s, 60s and 70s. Those benefits continue to be seen today with electricity rates that are among the lowest in all of North America – an advantage that benefits consumers and our provincial economy.

BC Hydro is embarking on a major re-investment and expansion of its infrastructure to ensure these benefits are in place for future generations of British Columbians. Site C, new turbines at Mica and Revelstoke, and the purchase of one-third of the Waneta Dam will ensure a source of clean, reliable, competitively priced power for decades to come. They will also continue to provide B.C. with the long-term economic advantage of affordable electricity prices.

The *Clean Energy Act* and B.C.'s Heritage Assets

By law, the low-rate benefits that come from B.C.'s existing and future heritage assets will flow exclusively to British Columbians and will not be used to subsidize foreign power sales.

The *Clean Energy Act* ensures existing prohibitions to sell or dispose of heritage assets is strengthened by adding a number of new heritage assets to existing BC Hydro-owned generation, transmission and distribution facilities.

The following new and proposed projects will be added to the list of protected heritage assets:

- the Waneta dam and generating facility
- Site C
- Mica Dam expansion
- Revelstoke Dam expansion
- Northwest Transmission Line

Residential Electricity Rates

(¢/kwh):

Quebec	6.87
Manitoba	6.94
B.C.	7.13
Washington	8.34
Oregon	11.01
Ontario	11.46
Alberta	12.13
California	24.54

Source: *Hydro-Quebec Annual Electricity Rate Study; as of April 2009*

Protecting Low Electricity Rates for British Columbians

The *Clean Energy Act* ensures that power from BC Hydro's heritage assets and B.C.'s affordable rates are protected for British Columbians. The Act clearly separates exports and ensures that ratepayers are not subject to the risk of long-term export sales and also ensures benefits from export revenues flow to ratepayers and taxpayers. The B.C. Utilities Commission is required to ensure that any expenditure associated with long-term exports are not included in domestic rates.

British Columbia's new export policy will reduce risks for BC Hydro ratepayers by ensuring that long-term export power agreements are secured before issuing new calls for power. Leveraging the expertise of BC Hydro and renewable power producers, and the firming and shaping capabilities of the hydro system, BC Hydro can seek to earn the greatest value from its resources for the benefit of ratepayers.