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## WATER USE PLANNING

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**Status of Water Use Planning** Water Use Planning (WUP) was initiated in 1998 in response to increasing demands on the province's water resources.

Distinguished by its scope, structured approach and degree of inter-agency partnership, our water use planning program is at the forefront of hydroelectric management in North America.

The overall goal is to find a better balance between competing uses of water such as domestic water supply, fish and wildlife, recreation, heritage and electrical power needs that are socially, environmentally and economically acceptable to British Columbians.

By 2004, 23 water use plans were developed on a consultative basis with government agencies, First Nations, local citizens and other interest groups.

Since 2005 BC Hydro has been implementing the recommendations of the Water Use Plans. Twenty-one of the plans have been approved and ordered by the Comptroller of Water Rights and are being implemented by BC Hydro, including:

- Aberfeldie
- Alouette
- Ash
- Cheakamus
- Clayton Falls
- Clowhom
- Columbia
- Coquitlam/Buntzen
- Duncan
- Elko
- Falls River
- Jordan River
- Peace River
- Puntledge
- Seven Mile
- Shuswap Falls
- Spillimacheen
- Stave/Ruskin
- Wahleach
- Walter Hardman
- Whatshan

Changes to our operations are implemented within 60 days of receiving an Order. Well over 225 of the expected total of 300 ordered studies and physical works projects (e.g., constructing fish water by-pass facilities, boat ramps, debris removal, dust management) are in progress or completed.

**Why did BCH undertake Water Use Planning?**

The Water Use Planning enabled BC Hydro to better reflect the environmental and social expectations of the people of British Columbia in how we generate electricity. It also improved regulatory and operational certainty for the duration of the plan.

It has helped engage us with other agencies and the public in a dialogue about the options, impacts, tradeoffs and priorities involved in operating our facilities.

The development of the water use plans assessed competing alternatives and addressed these interests to create recommendations for water management at BC Hydro facilities. Each Water Use Plan, once authorized under British Columbia's Water Act, defines the operating boundaries of each licensed facility. The plans will also be reviewed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) who will provide necessary authorizations, as appropriate.



FOR GENERATIONS

## ***INFO SHEET***

**Relevant Link** [http://www.bchydro.com/planning\\_regulatory/water\\_use\\_planning.html](http://www.bchydro.com/planning_regulatory/water_use_planning.html)