

MICA UNITS 5 AND 6 PROJECTS

PROJECT UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2009

BC HYDRO IS PROPOSING TO INSTALL ADDITIONAL UNITS AT MICA GENERATING STATION (UNIT 5 AND UNIT 6).

BC HYDRO SUBMITTED PROJECT APPLICATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CERTIFICATES WITH BC'S ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OFFICE IN JULY 2009.

THIS UPDATE PROVIDES AN OVERVIEW OF THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS AND THE PROJECTS AND INCLUDES INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED.

THE PROJECTS

To ensure the province of BC continues to have the electricity it needs during peak demand, BC Hydro is proposing to install two additional approximately 500 Megawatt turbines into existing turbine bays at Mica Generating Station. Originally designed to hold six generating units, only four were installed at the time of construction.



The Mica 5 Project will also involve construction of a new capacitor station on the existing Mica to Nicola 500 kV transmission lines. The capacitors are needed to reliably deliver the additional generation from Mica.

The planned in-service date for the first unit (Mica 5) is October 2013. BC Hydro is working towards an in-service date of October 2014 for the second unit (Mica 6).



BC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OFFICE (EAO) REVIEW

The Environmental Assessment Certificate applications filed with the provincial Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) for the Mica Unit 5 and Mica Unit 6 Projects assess the potential effects of the proposed projects and suggest ways to minimize or avoid adverse effects.

EAO ASSESSMENT TIMELINE

September 9 to October 24, 2009

45 day period for public review and comment

EAO OPEN HOUSES

The EAO has confirmed that the following Open Houses will be held as part of the 45-day public review and comment period on the Mica Unit 5 and Mica Unit 6 Project applications.

Seymour Arm

September 14, 2009, 4 to 7 pm

Revelstoke

September 15, 2009, 4 pm to 8 pm
Revelstoke Community Centre

Golden

September 16, 2009, 4 to 8 pm
Senior's Hall, 1401 - 9th Street South

Valemount

September 17, 2009, 4 to 8 pm
Best Western, Highway 5

FOR INFORMATION ON THE EAO REVIEW

BC's Environmental Assessment Office
1st Floor 836 Yates Street
PO Box 9426 Stn Provincial Government
Victoria BC V8W 9V1
250 356 7441
www.eao.gov.bc.ca
eaoinfo@gov.bc.ca

BC hydro 

FOR GENERATIONS



CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

In support of the environmental assessment process, BC Hydro is undertaking a consultative process that included the involvement of representatives from federal, provincial and local government, First Nations, interested groups and individual stakeholders.

Mica Units 5 and 6 Core Committee worked from January 2008 until June 2009 to:

- Reach consensus on a list of the incremental impacts of the Mica Unit 5 and Mica Unit 6 Projects
- Recommend mitigation and compensation strategies to avoid or minimize project impacts
- Recommend revisions to the Columbia River Water Use Plan to address the operation of additional units at Mica Generating Station.

The Committee also provided input on studies being completed to provide information for the environmental assessment of the project. The Committee's work and final recommendations are summarized in its final report: Core Committee Report June 2009: Mica Units 5 and 6 Project Engagement Process.

Transmission Committee worked from April 2008 until March 2009 to reach consensus on a preferred location for the new capacitor station along the existing Mica to Nicola 500 kV transmission line corridor. The Committee reviewed seven potential sites.

Copies of the final Mica Units 5 and 6 Core Committee and Transmission Committee reports are included in Appendix 2-1 of the Environmental Assessment Certificate applications. These are available for download at www.eao.gov.bc.ca. BC Hydro continues to consult on the projects.

FIRST NATIONS

BC Hydro continues to work with First Nations that have interests in the area, including the Ktunaxa, Shuswap, and Okanagan Nations and their respective bands and/or Tribal Councils to further identify means to mitigate, minimize and otherwise accommodate any concerns or issues relating to the Project.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

- Attend the Environmental Assessment Office Open Houses
- Contact BC's Environmental Assessment Office to participate in their review of the projects.
- Sign up for the Mica Units 5 and 6 Projects mailing list to receive regular updates.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please visit our website at www.bchydro.com for more information about the project

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT:

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