

Mica Units 5 and 6 Projects

Project Update October 2008

BC Hydro has started the regulatory approvals phase for additional units at Mica Generating Station (Unit 5 and Unit 6).

BC Hydro filed updated project descriptions with BC's Environmental Assessment Office in October 2008.

This update provides an overview of the Environmental Assessment process and includes information on how you can get involved.

The projects

To ensure the province of BC continues to have the electricity it needs, BC Hydro is proposing to install two additional approximately 500 Megawatt turbines into existing turbine bays at Mica Generating Station.

The Mica 5 Project will also involve construction of a new capacitor station on the existing Mica to Nicola 500 kV transmission line needed to reliably deliver the additional electrical generation at Mica.

The planned in-service date for the first unit (Mica 5) is October 2013. BC Hydro is working towards a target operational date of October 2014 for the second unit (Mica 6) although this date could change depending on load growth and our generating system capacity needs.

BC Environmental Assessment Office review

Although the installation of Mica Unit 5 and Unit 6 were previously licensed, BC Hydro has opted into the provincial environmental assessment process. In March 2008 BC Hydro filed a Project Description for Mica Unit 5 and a separate Project Description for Mica Unit 6 with BC's Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) to initiate an assessment.

Open Houses

The EAO held a Working Group meeting in Revelstoke BC in July 2008 to discuss the draft Terms of Reference for the Environmental Assessments of both projects.

Terms of Reference identify information requirements for an environmental assessment and are developed by the proponent in consultation with First Nations, government agencies, and the public and approved by the EAO.

The EAO has confirmed that the following Open Houses will be held as part of the 30-day public comment period on the draft Terms of Reference for each project.

Revelstoke

October 29, 2008, 5 to 8 pm
Revelstoke Community Centre

Chase

October 30, 2008, 5 to 8 pm
Chase Creekside Hall

Golden

November 5, 2008, 5 to 8 pm
Ramada Inn, Trans Canada Highway

Valemount

November 6, 2008, 5 to 8 pm
Best Western, Highway 5



Earthfill dam at Mica Generating Station

Next Steps

Once the Terms of Reference are finalized by the EAO, BC Hydro will prepare applications for Environmental Assessment Certificates.

The applications will assess potential effects of the proposed projects and suggest ways to minimize or avoid adverse effects.

The public will also have the opportunity to be involved in the review of the applications for Environmental Assessment Certificates once they have been submitted and accepted by the EAO.

After a thorough review, assessment reports are prepared by the EAO and referred to ministers who will decide whether to issue Environmental Assessment Certificates for the projects.

For information on the EAO review

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



Mica Units 5 and 6 Projects Consultation and Engagement

In support of the environmental assessment process, BC Hydro began a consultative process in 2008 that includes representatives from federal, provincial and local government, First Nations, interested groups and individual stakeholders.

Mica Units 5 and 6 Core Committee works to reach consensus on:

- A list of the incremental impacts of the Mica Unit 5 and Mica Unit 6 Projects
- Recommended mitigation and compensation strategies to avoid or minimize project impacts
- Recommend revisions to the Columbia River Water Use Plan, if needed, to address the operation of additional units at Mica Generating Station.

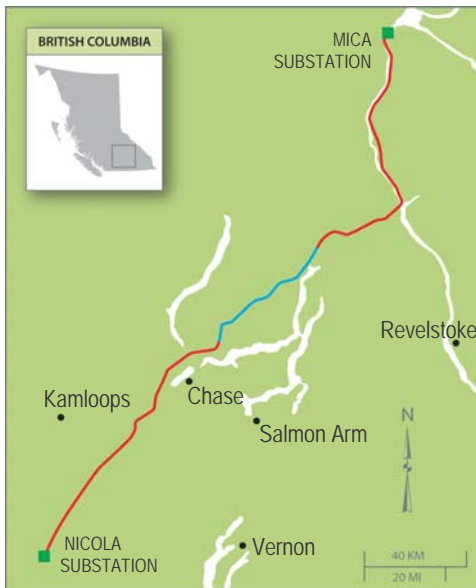
The Committee has also provided input on studies being completed to provide information for the environmental assessment of the project.

Mica Unit 5 Transmission Committee works to reach consensus on:

- A preferred location for the new capacitor station along the existing Mica to Nicola 500 kV transmission line

First Nations

BC Hydro is working 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 define project related impacts, opportunities for mitigation, and potential accommodation.



Transmission line segment (blue) that includes sites under consideration for new capacitor station.

Additional information

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

How Can I Get Involved?

- Give us your input. Provide us your comments directly by phone, letter or email.
- 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.

We want to hear from you

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