

STAGE 2 OVERVIEW:

PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Between December 2007 and December 2008, BC Hydro conducted three rounds of public and stakeholder consultation. The consultation included Pre-Consultation, which asked stakeholders how they wanted to be consulted and about what topics, followed by two rounds of consultation



The community consultation office in Fort St. John

with the public and local, regional and provincial stakeholders.

Many hundreds of people participated in 121 meetings over the three rounds of consultation, including 103 stakeholder meetings and 18 open houses. In addition, hundreds of participants provided input online, by mail, fax, email, via a Site C toll-free telephone line, and in person at the Fort St. John or Hudson's Hope community consultation offices.

WHAT WE HEARD

- Consultation participants expressed a strong interest in avoiding or mitigating local impacts from the potential Site C project. Environmental concerns were also raised, including potential effects to air quality, water and agricultural land.
- Participants indicated they want BC Hydro to consider alternatives to Site C, including reinvesting in existing assets, conservation, and other renewable electricity sources (e.g., wind, solar, biomass and geothermal).
- Participants also indicated an interest in potential local community benefits associated with the Site C project, particularly upgrades to infrastructure such as roads and bridges.
- Overall, 57 per cent of consultation participants “strongly” or “somewhat” agreed with pursuing Site C if conservation, upgrading existing equipment, and investing in new sources were insufficient to meet the electricity needs of B.C.

WHAT'S NEXT

Should the project proceed to Stage 3, an environmental and regulatory review of Site C would include opportunities for consultation and input by the public, First Nations, stakeholders, communities and customers.