

PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Project Definition Consultation, Round 1

Report: 7. BC Hydro Peace River Site C Hydro Project: Project Definition Consultation, Round 1 Summary Report, September 2008

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Summary: Project Definition Consultation, Round 1, held from December 2007–February 2008, was designed to consult the public and local, regional and provincial stakeholders on key impacts, benefits and features of the potential Site C project.

Participation included:

- 936 total participants
- 284 people attended 29 stakeholder meetings
- 380 people attended 10 open houses
- 22 submissions (fax, email, phone and mail)
- 250 people visited the Fort St. John Community Consultation Office between May 1, 2008 and June 30, 2008
- 224 feedback forms were returned at stakeholder meetings, open houses, through the Fort St. John Community Consultation Office, and by web, email, fax and mail

Results from Project Definition Consultation, Round 1 — including feedback forms, stakeholder meetings and open houses — showed that participants had a strong interest in socio-economic and environmental issues associated with the potential Site C project. In addition, participants commented on the process being used by BC Hydro to evaluate the project.

Some specific findings included.

- Participants expressed a strong interest in avoiding or mitigating local effects, particularly potential socio-economic effects associated with an influx of construction workers.
- When asked to rate the importance of community and provincial benefits, participants gave the highest importance to low-emission energy, dependable energy and potential local community benefits such as upgrades to infrastructure such as roads, bridges, parks and health facilities.
- Environmental concerns such as effects on air quality, water and land were raised, and were generally deemed more important than factors such as dependable and low-cost electricity.