

INFORMATION SHEET

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The Site C Clean Energy Project (Site C) is in the early stages of an independent environmental assessment by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEA Agency) and the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office (BCEAO). On September 30, 2011, BCEAO and the CEA Agency released a draft agreement for a harmonized environmental assessment of Site C, including a review by a joint panel.

Based on the draft agreement, the environmental assessment process will include several public comment periods, as well as a comprehensive public hearing process. These consultations will provide opportunities for timely and meaningful participation by the public, Aboriginal groups, all levels of government, and other interested groups.

As part of an environmental assessment of Site C, BC Hydro will identify and assess potential project effects — environmental, economic, social, heritage and health — and opportunities to provide lasting benefits for the region and First Nations. Where effects cannot be avoided, BC Hydro will identify and evaluate options for mitigation.

The Site C project requires environmental certification and other regulatory permits and approvals — including provincial permits and federal authorizations — before it can proceed to construction. In addition, the Crown has a duty to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate Aboriginal groups.



| Pre-Panel Review (24 months) | Joint Review Panel & Report (8 months) | Review of Panel Report and Decision (5 months) |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada-BC Agreement • Advisory Working Group • Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Guidelines (Application Information Requirements) • EIS (Application) • Working Group review of EIS Guidelines and EIS • Public comment periods | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointed panel ensures it has needed information • Submissions (including from Aboriginal groups) • Public Hearings • Panel Report | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Referral Package Preparation (EAO) • Steering Committee Review (EAO, CEAA, RAs) • Decision |

Aboriginal Consultation and Accommodation Discussions →

* The table above is based on a draft agreement and is subject to change by regulatory agencies.

Further information about the environmental assessment process is available online:

- [B.C. Environmental Assessment Office](#)
- [Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency](#)

-2-

ABOUT BC HYDRO

Fifty years ago, British Columbians turned to BC Hydro to build the clean electricity system they count on to power B.C.'s economy, create jobs in every region, and keep the lights on. Now, BC Hydro is building again for the next 50 years.

B.C. continues to grow and so has the need for more electricity. That's why BC Hydro is building, renewing, and encouraging conservation to meet today's needs and those of future generations. In 2011, BC Hydro is celebrating 50 years of providing power for British Columbians, and inviting them to help prepare for the next 50 years.

More information on Site C can be found at: www.bchydro.com/sitec.