

INFORMATION SHEET

PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Public and stakeholder consultation is a key component of planning for the Site C Clean Energy Project. As part of Stage 2, the consultation and technical review stage, BC Hydro held more than 120 public and stakeholder meetings across the province between 2007 and 2009.

As part of Stage 3, the environmental and regulatory review stage, Site C is undergoing a harmonized environmental assessment process by federal and provincial regulatory agencies, which includes a joint review panel.

The environmental assessment process for Site C will be thorough and independent. It will include multiple opportunities for timely and meaningful participation by the public, Aboriginal groups, governments, and other interested stakeholders.

Over and above the consultation opportunities led by the regulatory agencies as part of the environmental assessment of Site C, BC Hydro is leading several streams of public and stakeholder consultation. In addition, BC Hydro and Aboriginal groups are engaged in a thorough consultation process that will continue through all stages of the project.

The streams of BC Hydro-led consultation are outlined below.

Regional and Local Government Liaison

BC Hydro is engaging key municipal, regional and provincial government stakeholders to ensure they are kept up to date on the status of the project, and are consulted on key issues, particularly those that are directly related to local governments.

There are two components of Regional and Local Government Liaison: the Regional and Local Government Liaison committee brings together regional Mayors and Directors of the Peace River Regional District with the Site C project team, while Local Government Technical Engagement allows key municipal staff to meet with Site C project staff on a community-by-community basis.

Property Owner Liaison

Following up on property owner consultation held in Stage 2, ongoing meetings and two-way information sharing with property owners is continuing throughout Stage 3.

Local Area Consultation

BC Hydro will conduct area-specific consultations where local issues arise. For example, consultation with the community of Hudson's Hope was held to gather local input about proposed berm options.

Project Definition Consultation

Project Definition Consultation will focus on gathering stakeholder and public input on a range of topics important to project planning and the ongoing environmental assessment. Topics may include Highway 29 realignment, worker accommodation, construction materials and socio-economic topics.

How Input Will Be Used

To maximize participation, a range of consultation methods will be used during Stage 3, including community consultation offices in Fort St. John and Hudson's Hope, stakeholder meetings, open houses, print and online feedback forms and written submissions.

Feedback gathered through BC Hydro-led consultation will be used, along with technical and financial input, to refine elements of project design and to inform draft environmental assessment and mitigation plans.

A Consultation Summary Report will be prepared and released on the project website following each consultation period and Consideration Memos will be prepared, indicating how input has been considered for use in project designs or plans, including mitigation plans.

Environmental Assessment – Public Comment Periods

Multiple public comment periods will be conducted by the federal and provincial environmental assessment agencies to gather input from the public, Aboriginal groups, communities, property owners and stakeholders. Opportunities for consultation and input include:

- A 30-day public comment period on the draft agreement for a harmonized environment assessment (Fall 2011)
- A 45-day public comment period, as well as open houses, on the draft Environment Impact Statement Guidelines (Spring 2012)
- A public comment period on the Environment Impact Statement (duration and timing to be determined)
- Public hearings as part of the Joint Review Panel process (duration and timing to be determined)

More information is available on the environmental assessment agencies' websites:

- Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency: www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca
- British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office: www.eao.gov.bc.ca

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. 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.