

Site C Project Update

Round 2 Consultation Complete: Environmental, Engineering, Technical and Financial Work Continues

Multi-Stage Evaluation and Consultation Process

BC Hydro is taking a stage-by-stage approach to the evaluation of Site C as a potential resource option for meeting B.C.'s future electricity needs, and is currently in Stage 2, Project Definition and Consultation. Stage 2 involves extensive environmental, engineering, technical and financial work and included Pre-Consultation and two further rounds of Project Definition Consultation with the public and local, regional and provincial stakeholders. Stage 2 also involves consultation with landowners in the region, First Nations, the province of Alberta and Northwest Territories. The deadline for Round 2 consultation submissions was December 3, 2008*, while engineering, environmental, and financial and commercial work continues to the end of Stage 2.

Project Definition Consultation, Round 2 Completed

Round 2 Consultation took place from October 1 to December 3, 2008. There were many ways to participate, including 26 stakeholder meetings, seven open houses, an online feedback form, written submissions, the Site C project information phone line and in-person by visiting the BC Hydro Community Consultation offices in Fort St. John or Hudson's Hope.

The Round 2 Consultation Summary Report will be completed and posted on-line by the end of January/early February 2009. As with the Round 1 and Pre-Consultation summary reports, the Round 2 report will summarize input received from feedback forms, written submissions and stakeholder meetings and open house question and answer sessions.

Next Steps

Stage 2 engineering, technical, and financial work, along with environmental studies, continues through to the fall of 2009 to further define the project, and update decades-old studies.

Environment

BC Hydro has been conducting baseline inventory studies to help identify the current fish, wildlife, vegetation, water quality and socio-economic aspects that may be affected by the potential Site C project, should it proceed. Key environmental baseline work includes:

- Reviewing and understanding historic information, approaches and results
- Collecting baseline information and undertaking research related to potential project effects

Working with scientists and other experts, information collected in Stage 2 will help develop an understanding of the current baseline environmental and socio-economic characteristics of the project area and the region. If the project proceeds to Stage 3, this information will contribute to assessing the effects, and to developing plans for mitigating and managing potential project impacts.

*extended from November 30, 2008 due to a brief technical issue with the Site C website.

Site C Project Update

Stage 2 Report – Fall 2009

Engineering/Technical

Key engineering and technical work in Stage 2 includes an update of realignment options for Highway 29, field investigations on slope stability and foundation conditions, updating of flood and earthquake design criteria and studies to evaluate reservoir impact lines and to investigate options for location of construction materials.

Financial

Work is underway to update the interim project capital cost estimate. A revised interim project cost estimate for the Site C will be provided at the end of Stage 2.

Energy Planning

The 2008 BC Hydro Long-Term Acquisition Plan (LTAP) was recently filed with the B.C. Utilities Commission. This involved the evaluation of Site C in relation to a portfolio of other energy options such as small hydro, wind, solar, geothermal, and biomass.

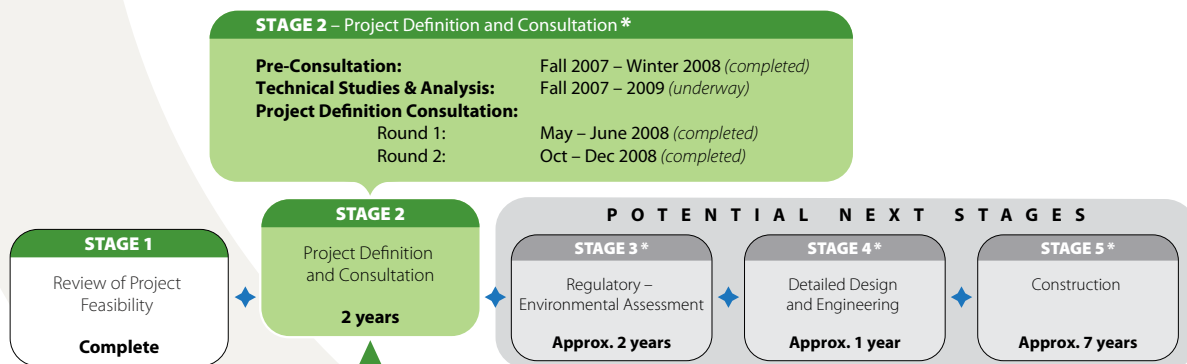
Community Consultation Offices

The Community Consultation Office in Fort St. John is open Monday to Friday 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. to provide information and answer questions on the potential Site C

project. Beginning January 10, the office will also be open on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The consultation office in Hudson's Hope will continue to be open four days a week for the public to view project information and a member of the Site C team will be in the office on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Meetings with potentially impacted landowners continue and discussions with First Nations are ongoing.

Stage 2 Reporting

As part of Stage 2, BC Hydro is reviewing and considering input from public and stakeholder consultations, as well as environmental, engineering, technical and financial studies. At the end of Stage 2, BC Hydro will produce a project definition and consultation report. The report will be completed in the fall of 2009. As part of Stage 2 reporting, BC Hydro will also be making a recommendation to government on whether to proceed to the next stage of project planning and development. A decision on whether to proceed to Stage 3, the Regulatory-Environmental Assessment stage, will be made by the provincial government.



* Consultation will occur in each stage of the project
◆ Provincial government decision on whether to proceed to next stage



FOR GENERATIONS

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