

MICA UNITS 5 AND 6 PROJECTS

PROJECT UPDATE JULY 2010

BC HYDRO IS PLANNING TO INSTALL ADDITIONAL UNITS AT MICA GENERATING STATION (UNIT 5 AND UNIT 6).

BC HYDRO IS WORKING TOWARDS AN IN-SERVICE DATE OF 2014 FOR MICA UNIT 5 AND 2015 FOR MICA UNIT 6 AND PLANS TO START CONSTRUCTION IN EARLY SPRING 2011.

BC HYDRO RECEIVED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CERTIFICATES FOR THE PROJECTS FOLLOWING A TWO-YEAR ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW BY BC'S ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OFFICE IN APRIL 2010.

THE PROJECTS

To ensure the province of BC continues to have the electricity it needs during peak demand, BC Hydro plans to install two additional approximately 500 Megawatt turbines into existing turbine bays at Mica Generating Station. Originally designed to hold six generating units, only four were installed at the time of construction.

The Mica 5 Project will also involve construction of a new capacitor station near Seymour Arm. The capacitors are needed to reliably deliver the additional generation from Mica.



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OFFICE REVIEW

The Environmental Assessment Certificate applications filed with the provincial Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) for the Mica Unit 5 and Mica Unit 6 Projects assess the potential effects of the proposed projects and suggest ways to minimize or avoid adverse effects.

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MICA UNITS 5 AND 6 PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

BC Hydro expects to start construction of Mica Unit 5 Project at the Mica Generating Station in early spring 2011. The work will be completed by two main contractors. BC Hydro has contracted Andritz Hydro to supply and install the turbine and generating unit. BC Hydro will tender a civil contract for the concrete work required to house the new turbine and generating unit.

BC Hydro will be working towards a target in-service date of October 2014 for Mica Unit 5 and 2015 for Mica Unit 6. On-site work at Mica will start with the set up of the construction camp and work areas. Construction work for each unit will be staggered and involve the following main steps:

1. Install draft tube and embed in concrete.
2. Install spiral case that houses the turbine, and embed it in concrete.
3. Deliver the turbine.
4. Install the new turbine.
5. Install the generator.
6. Supply and install the switchgear and other electrical equipment.
7. Commission and test the generating unit.

REGULATORY APPROVALS

BC Hydro received Environmental Assessment Certificates for the projects in April 2010 following a two-year environmental review by BC's Environmental Assessment Office. A BC Utilities Commission review process is not required as legislated by BC's Clean Energy Act.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

All labour for the project will be hired through Columbia Hydro Constructors under a collective agreement with the Allied Hydro Council. Workers will be housed at BC Hydro's Mica Creek camp.

BC Hydro and its contractors are committed to local hiring. If you are a motivated and a skilled tradesperson in the area who wants to find out about employment opportunities, please contact Leigh-Ann Van Horne, Columbia Hydro Constructors, at 250 805 6148.

MITIGATION PROGRAMS UNDERWAY

BC Hydro has started work on a number of mitigation measures and studies recommended by the Mica Units 5 and 6 Core Committee and further refined during the BC EAO's environmental review. The Mica Units 5 and 6 Core Committee worked from January 2008 until June 2009 to identify and address potential project impacts. The Committee included representatives from federal, provincial and local government, First Nations, interested groups and individual stakeholders.

HELPING BUILD TRADES CAPACITY IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

In 2009, BC Hydro allocated a total of \$60,000 to help fund trades training programs in the communities of Revelstoke, Golden, Valemount and Nakusp. The intent is to build trades capacity in local communities. Trades training programs are currently underway in Revelstoke and Nakusp and scheduled for 2011 in Golden and Valemount.

Okanagan College received funding for its **Residential Construction Program** in Revelstoke. The nine students in the program completed their ten weeks of classroom training. Now they will receive hands on training for 14 weeks as they assist the Revelstoke Housing Society build their first affordable rental housing in the community.



Selkirk College also received funding for its **Carpentry Program** in Nakusp. A total of 13 students have completed classroom instruction and are now working to help build two community projects: a new garage for the Nakusp Secondary School and a new Emergency Medical Services building in Nakusp.



BC Hydro will continue to build trades capacity in the region through the Mica Units 5 and 6 Projects and will allocate another \$60,000 towards trades training programs in 2011.

NO IMPACTS TO MOUNTAIN WHITEFISH SPAWNING

BC Hydro completed a field survey in 2010 that confirmed the operation of additional units at Mica would not impact potential mountain whitefish spawning in the tailrace. This work involved placing egg mats at three cross sections of the Columbia River and at shoreline areas where potential spawning and egg stranding could occur. Egg mats are made of horsehair fabric that traps fish eggs, allowing them to be identified and counted.

Egg mats were set and checked throughout the mountain whitefish spawning season from early November 2009 to the end of February 2010. Results indicated that spawning occurs in the deeper areas of the river channel. The study did not document any egg stranding in the shallow habitat that could be affected by the increased flow from the units.



UNDERSTANDING MICA WESTERN TOAD MOVEMENTS

Western toads live in forested areas and come to ponds close to Mica Generating Station to lay their eggs. After the eggs hatch and the tadpoles develop, the young toads move back to the forested areas. Several locations along the road to Mica have been found where adult and young toads tend to cross. The intent of the Western Toad Study is to determine the level of risk posed to the Western Toads by project traffic.



Study methodologies will include interviews with Mica employees; wetland habitat surveys, and two road surveys. The first survey was conducted during the adult breeding migration in May and the second is scheduled for July 2010 during the toadlet migration. These surveys will assess peak breeding and toadlet migration periods and identify any key 'hotspots' or locations along the road where large numbers of toads cross. Mitigation options, such as culverts and directive fencing will be investigated if a risk is identified.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For details on the EAO review and Mica Units 5 and 6 Projects mitigation and compensation commitments and the Mica Units 5 and 6 Core Committee Report, please visit eao.gov.bc.ca. For more information about the project, please visit our website at bchydro.com.

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT:

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