

Williston Communication and Safety Project

Improved boater safety through vhf radio and signage

The Peace Water Use Plan Committee recommended that a radio repeater system be provided to enhance the safety net for boaters in the Williston Reservoir and Peace River. In 2013 BC Hydro installed a network of repeaters to provide unmonitored marine radio coverage on channels 83 and 84 for Williston Reservoir, Dinosaur Reservoir and a portion of the Peace River. Installation of the last repeater for Peace River is pending the outcome of further feasibility. Signage has been posted at each boat launch, to provide information on access points and warn users of potential hazards.



Project Objectives

1. Development and implementation of a marine communication network throughout the Peace system.
2. Design and installation of signage at boat launch facilities.



Project Update

- Installation of 5 VHF repeaters connecting channels 83 and 84 through Williston Reservoir, Dinosaur Reservoir and a portion of the Peace River was completed.
- Feasibility study noted this system would likely provide radio access to the majority of the reservoir but signal strength has not been verified.
- Signage has been posted at each boat launch, to provide information on access points and warn users of potential hazards.

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Lessons Learned

- Maintaining the system of remote repeaters can be costly, as some require helicopter access.
- It can be difficult to get the message out to users regarding the radio communication system.

NOTICE



**Use Marine Radios
for your Boating Safety**

Use channel 16 (marine VHF 156.8MHz)
in case of an emergency

Unmonitored marine VHF channels
available free of charge:
Channel 83 (Tx/Rx: 157.175/167.775 Mhz)
Channel 84 (Tx/Rx: 157.225/167.8255 Mhz)

 **BC Hydro**

Key Findings and Next Steps

- Use of the marine channels remains low.
- Other systems are also available for communication, including increasing availability of cellular and satellite technology.
- BC Hydro will be adding simplified signage to help increase awareness at Williston and Dinosaur Reservoirs.