

May 14, 2025

Field studies: La Joie Dam Improvement Project

Dear Neighbour,

Starting this spring, crews will be in the field conducting various studies in the Bridge River Valley to support planning for the La Joie Dam Improvement Project. This project is needed to address dam safety risks related to ageing and potential seismic activity, allowing us to continue to generate clean power for British Columbians while working to mitigate our operational impacts on the environment. *This project is being done in consultation with St'át'imc Nation.*

La Joie access and accommodation feasibility studies

As noted in the '[La Joie Access and Accommodation Study](#)' report, the analysis of potential temporary work camp locations didn't point to one single option that is clearly outperforming the others. Instead, three sites were carried forward for further study (**see Figure 1**).

- The 'Hurley site'.
- The 'Gold Bridge town site'.
- The 'Quarry-Adjacent' site.

Site investigations on the three sites will start in mid-May and will include the following:

- Assessing site constraints.
- Geotechnical investigations:
 - Assessing the physical properties of soil and rock around a site.
- Geophysical studies:
 - Using non-invasive methods crews can explore the subsurface properties at the site.
 - Techniques such as seismic surveys, magnetic measurements, and electrical resistivity help detect and map geological formations, mineral deposits, and groundwater resources.
- Hydrogeological investigations:
 - These investigations focus on the distribution and movement of groundwater.
 - Some drilling and the use of an excavator will be required for test wells but is expected to be minimal.
- Environmental studies:
 - Overview assessments to include wildlife, habitat, and vegetation.
- Archaeological studies.

These activities will support site selection for the work camp and their preliminary design.

Field investigations are also planned for potential project access routes which include Lillooet Pioneer Road 40 (Road 40), the Hurley Forest Service Road, and the Gun Lake Airstrip as well as potential haul roads connecting the existing BC Hydro quarry to the La Joie Dam (**see Figure 2**).

We anticipate a work camp site and project access route(s) will be identified in early 2026. Residents and key stakeholders will be updated at key milestones before moving into implementation.

Environmental field studies underway

This year, small crews are out in the field taking part in environmental studies in and around Downton and Carpenter Reservoir.

Anticipated studies include:

- Water quality testing.
- Terrestrial studies: The study of land-based ecosystems, their interactions with climate, and the impacts of environmental changes on plants and animals.
 - This involves drone surveys, remote camera monitoring and field verification of vegetation.
- Fish and fish habitat.
- Archeology.

These are expected to adapt as information from the field is gathered and incorporated.

This information will inform our ongoing assessment of potential project effects (ex. temporary reservoir drawdowns).

No traffic impacts are anticipated from this work. Please be mindful of worker safety when passing crews along the road.

For more information on this work or the project, please contact 1-866-647-3334 or projects@bchydro.com.

If you haven't already, you can subscribe for updates at bchydro.com/lajoie or bchydro.com/bridgeriver.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we proceed with this essential work.

Sincerely,



Whitney Deane
Stakeholder Engagement Advisor

Figure 1

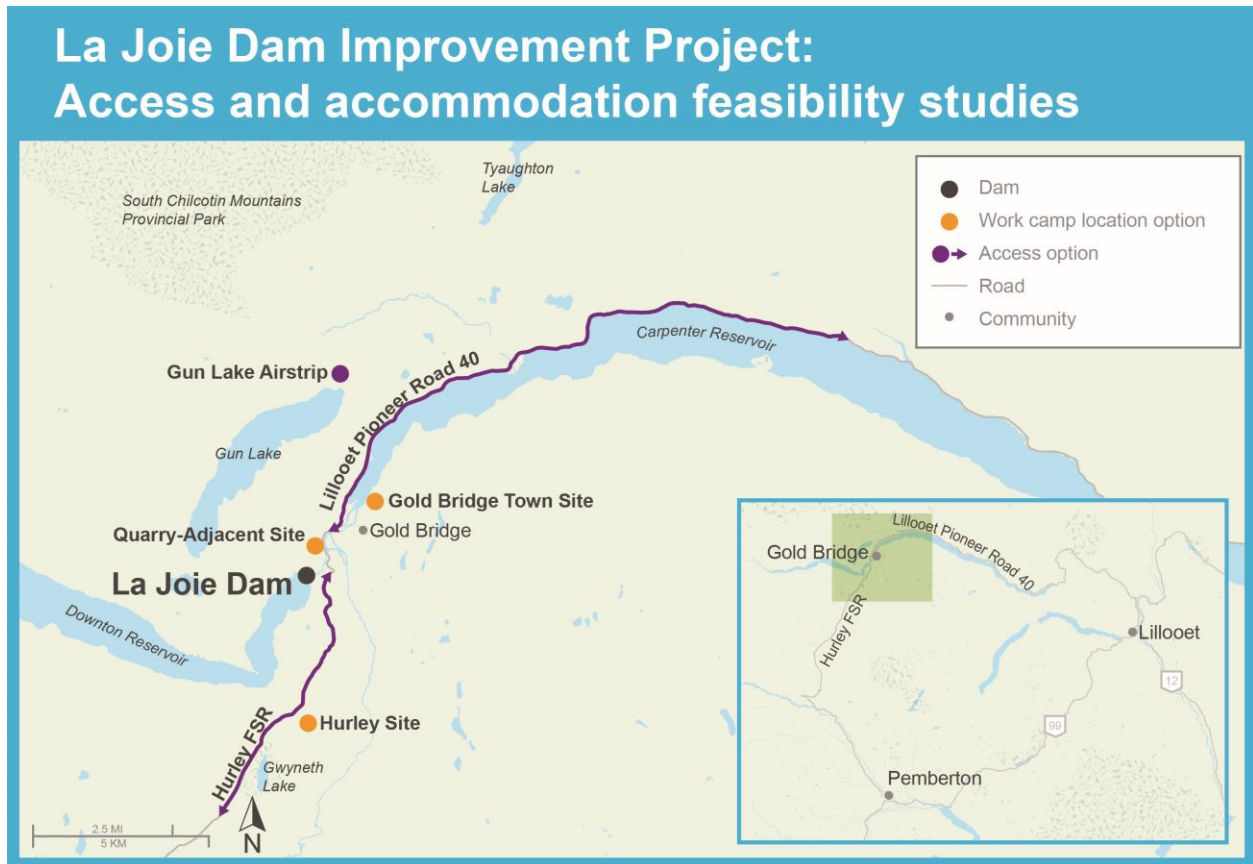


Figure 2

