

La Joie Dam Improvement Project

Virtual open house
July 8, 2025

Agenda

- First Nations consultation
- Project overview
- Project timeline
- Feasibility studies
 - Work camp (accommodation)
 - Access routes
- How to connect



Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the La Joie Dam, part of the Bridge River system, is located on the unceded and traditional territory of St'át'imc Nation.

We acknowledge the impacts that BC Hydro's system has had on the Nation and the land they have made use of since time immemorial. We share in the responsibility to act as stewards of the land and care for its resources.



Honouring our Agreements with First Nations

La Joie is part of the Bridge River system, located entirely in St'át'imc Nation Territory.

- St'át'imc and BC Hydro have agreements that define how we work together and provide a framework for a relationship based on mutual respect and understanding.
- We're collaborating at various levels to deepen our understanding of St'át'imc values and integrate St'át'imc perspectives into project design and planning.
- We're also working together to identify meaningful economic and employment opportunities.



Bridge River System



Why the project is needed



Aerial view of the La Joie Dam and Downtown Reservoir.

Purpose: address safety risks related to the La Joie dam's age and seismic vulnerabilities

In 2015, we adjusted dam operations to mitigate seismic risks by reducing Downton Reservoir's maximum elevation from 750m to 734m. This lowered the reservoir's storage capacity by approximately one-half, reducing our ability to buffer large inflows into the La Joie basin, which affects flows throughout the Bridge system.

Recommended leading alternative: improve dam to restore full reservoir level

- The leading alternative received conditional endorsement from St'át'imc Authority.
- The Project is subject to British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) review.



Why the project is needed



Addressing existing deterioration and seismic deficiencies requires extensive upgrades.

- This could include:
 - The intake tower,
 - The dam face, and
 - Water passage components.

In the current phase, we are evaluating options to improve the dam, intake tower, penstocks, and powerhouse to meet dam safety requirements.

La Joie Dam and the intake tower standing in Downton Reservoir



Project timeline

Dates	Key project milestones
Spring 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identified recommended leading alternative
Spring 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Confirmed leading alternative
Spring 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Confirm preferred alternativeWork camp and project access route: Identify preferred option
2026-2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Undertake preliminary design
~2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Submit application for BC Utilities Commission reviewAnticipated construction of work campAnticipated start of construction on project access upgrades
~2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Earliest start of main works construction activitiesAnticipated completion of project access upgrades
~Winter 2030/2031	<ul style="list-style-type: none">First drawdown anticipated
~Fall/Winter 2034	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Earliest in-service date

Timeline is subject to change based on the project's progression.

Feasibility studies: Work camp locations



Crews at the Hurley work camp site option (May 2025)

Feasibility studies are underway for the work camp location

Key updates:

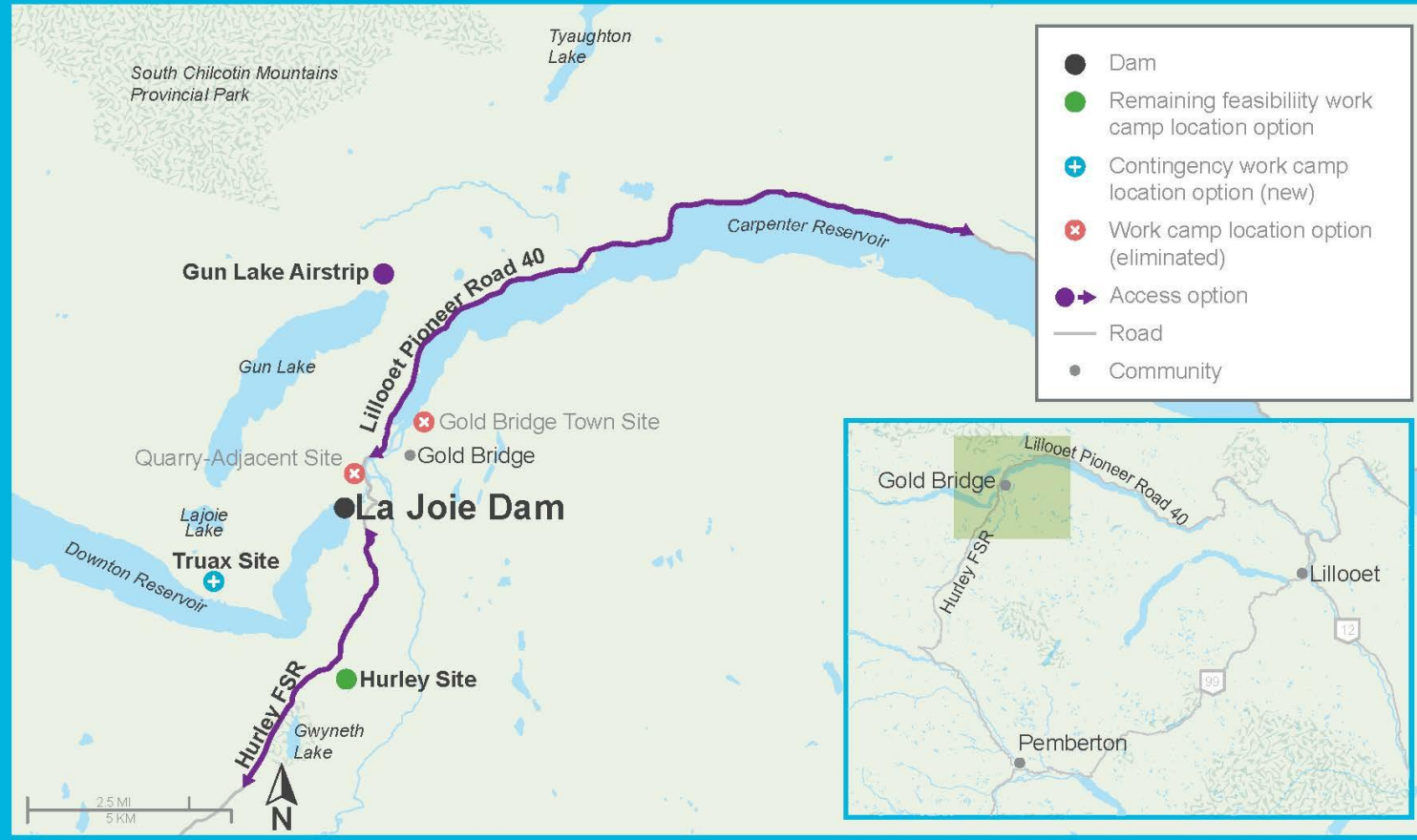
- Significant constraints identified at the **Gold Bridge Town Site** and **Quarry-Adjacent Site**
 - No further site investigations planned
- **Hurley Site** remains under consideration
 - Site investigations continue with physical investigations (i.e. test well drilling) anticipated for fall
- **Truax Site** added as a contingency option
 - Desktop and preliminary site assessments to begin
 - Physical investigations if needed

Note: As part of our procurement process when selecting a work camp operator, the intent is to remain open to bidders proposing alternative sites, provided they meet or exceed the standards of the preferred location.



La Joie Dam Improvement Project: Access and accommodation feasibility studies

Original: May 2025
Updated: June 2025



Feasibility studies: Access routes

Further design and limited field investigations are planned or underway for potential project access routes:

- Lillooet Pioneer Road 40 (Road 40) improvements
- Hurley Forest Service Road (FSR) improvements, potential for all season access
- Gun Lake Airstrip to support plane access



Lillooet Pioneer Road 40



Feasibility studies: Access routes

Examples of work anticipated or underway:

- Environmental and archeological assessments
- Coordinating with Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MOTT) regarding potential Road 40 improvements
- Assessing the Hurley FSR bridges, drainage conditions, and winter maintenance required for all-season use
- Confirming airstrip operability through wind and ceiling height studies
- Geotechnical assessments at the airstrip
- Investigating point of origin(s) for workers, equipment, and materials



How to connect



BC Hydro open house, Gold Bridge Community Club (September 2024)

For project information and questions

- Email: projects@bchydro.com
- Phone: 1-866-647-3334
- www.bchydro.com/lajoie
 - Subscribe for project updates
 - Complete our survey

In-person open house planned for fall 2025



