

The La Joie Dam Improvement Project

**SLRD Delegation
October 23, 2025**

Agenda

- First Nations consultation
- Project overview
- Access and Accommodation: feasibility studies
- Communications



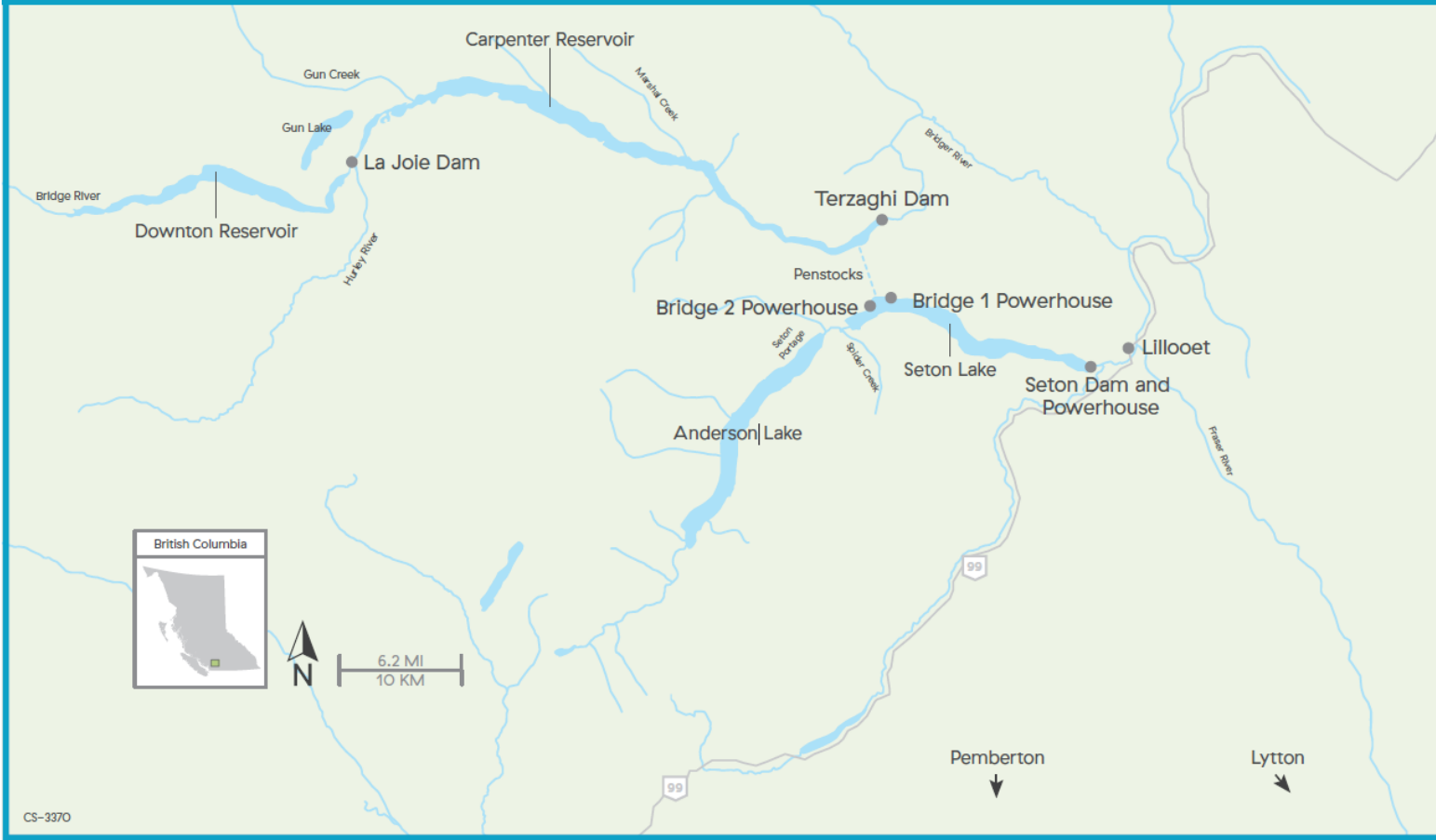
Honouring our Agreements with First Nations

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'at'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



Project overview: why the project is needed



Crews investigating at the toe of the La Joie Dam during a drawdown (April 2022)

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 manage 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.



Investigating improvements



Addressing existing deterioration and seismic deficiencies requires extensive upgrades.

We're evaluating how to improve the facility to meet dam safety requirements.

La Joie Dam and intake tower standing in Downton Reservoir



Temporary reservoir drawdowns



Crews investigating at the toe of the La Joie Dam during a drawdown (April 2022)

Deep temporary drawdowns (lowering the water level) of the reservoir are required to provide access to the lower parts of the dam and intake tower.

- To achieve a drawdown, water is released through the turbine and outlets year-round until the target water level is reached.
- The water then moves through the Carpenter reservoir and the Bridge powerhouses.
- Due to environmental risks, we're working to limit drawdowns below 710 meters, which may require approvals from environmental agencies.
- Options for the number and duration of drawdowns are being studied. This is key to construction planning and schedule.
- Safety and environmental plans will be developed closer to construction.



La Joie Dam Improvement Project: Access and accommodation feasibility studies

Original: May 2025
Updated: October 2025



Access routes: feasibility studies

Further design and 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



Accommodation: work camp locations



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

Feasibility studies are underway for the work camp location

Key findings:

- 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 October
- **Contingency Site** option added
 - Desktop and preliminary site assessments underway
 - 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.



Project timeline

Dates	Key project milestones
Spring 2021	Identified recommended leading alternative
Spring 2022	Confirmed leading alternative
Spring 2026	- Confirm preferred alternative - Work camp and project access route: Identify preferred option
2026-2027	Undertake preliminary design
~2028	- Submit application for BC Utilities Commission review - Anticipated construction of work camp - Anticipated start of construction on project access upgrades
~2030	- Earliest start of main works construction activities - Anticipated completion of project access upgrades
~Winter 2030/2031	First drawdown anticipated
~Fall/Winter 2034	Earliest in-service date

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

Communications

How we inform you about our work:

- In-person and virtual open houses
- Bi-annual newsletter
- Delegations to local governments
- Mail-outs
- Social media posts
- www.bchydro.com/lajoie
-  : projects@bchydro.com
-  : 1-866-647-3334



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



