INFORMATION SHEET

ACCESS TO GENERATING STATION AND CONSTRUCTION SITE

The 30-year-old historic design for Site C included a proposal to construct an operations and maintenance bridge across the Peace River, about four kilometres downstream of the dam site. The proposed bridge was to be built for transporting construction materials and equipment across the river during construction, and for maintenance access to the generating station after construction. The historic design did not include a plan for public access over the bridge.

Stage 2 Consultations

In response to stakeholder feedback, BC Hydro included the topic of potential public access to the bridge as part of its Stage 2 consultation program. Some consultation participants in Fort St. John and Chetwynd saw public access to the bridge as a key benefit, but other participants in Hudson’s Hope and Dawson Creek expressed concerns about the bridge due to the potential effect it might have on reducing traffic and visitors to their communities. Aboriginal groups also expressed a concern that public access over the bridge would enlarge the project footprint and increase activity on the south bank of the river where they currently exercise Treaty rights.

Project Design Upgrades

Updating the 30-year-old historic design has been a priority of BC Hydro’s early Stage 3 work. Key design upgrades have resulted in improved foundation stability, enhanced spillway safety, greater seismic protection, and additional generating capacity.

As part of these upgrades, the spillway and generating station are in different positions than in the historic design and access to the generating station after construction is now best provided across the dam from the north bank, rather than by a downstream bridge to the south bank. As a result, an operations and maintenance bridge to access the generating station is no longer required.

Construction Access

For access to the dam during construction, the upgraded project design proposes a temporary access bridge close to the dam site, which would be removed prior to the end of construction. A temporary access bridge was identified as the best option based on cost, environmental and safety considerations, and construction schedule.

There are specific advantages to providing access to the generating station across the dam rather than a maintenance bridge downstream. The project footprint is smaller without the permanent maintenance bridge, and there will be no effect on the large island downstream that is used by moose, elk and deer. In addition, a temporary access bridge is more cost-effective.
PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION ACCESS FOR SITE C

For access to the dam during construction, the upgraded project design proposes a temporary access bridge close to the dam site, which would be removed prior to the end of construction. A temporary access bridge was identified as the best option based on cost, environmental and safety considerations, and construction schedule.

ABOUT BC HYDRO

British Columbia is growing, and so is the need for electricity. BC Hydro is dedicated to meeting at least 66 per cent of the province's future electricity needs through conservation by 2020. But in order to meet the remaining demand and continue to ensure a clean, reliable supply of energy, BC Hydro is investing now in the projects that are needed to keep the lights on in B.C. for future generations.

More information on Site C can be found at: www.bchydro.com/sitec.