

POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

VOLUME 4, SECTION 28

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) details the environmental assessment undertaken for the Site C Clean Energy project. The EIS includes the project rationale, identifies potential effects and proposes measures to avoid or mitigate these effects. The EIS also describes the benefits Site C would provide for customers, Aboriginal groups, northern communities and the province as a whole.

ABOUT THE ASSESSMENT

An in-migration of workers would result in a change to local population and demographics, as the project demand for skilled labour during construction would exceed the local labour supply. This population change would have the potential to affect the demand for housing, community infrastructure and services.

The assessment of project effects on population and demographics considers the project demand for labour, workforce accommodation plans, current and forecasted population, demographics, and household size and characteristics.

ASSESSMENT AREA

The potential project related effects on population and demographics are directly related to the potential effects of the project on the labour market. Therefore, the local assessment area is the Peace River Regional District. The majority of existing residents in the Peace River Regional District are within commuting distance of the project. Most workers who choose to relocate to the area would likely live in close proximity to the project work site. As a result, the assessment specifically focuses on potential population changes in Fort St. John.

The regional assessment area is the same as the local assessment area, as it includes the area where other projects may result in changes to the labour market and associated regional population levels.

SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL EFFECTS	KEY MITIGATION MEASURES
Changes to PRRD population, with specific reference to City of Fort St. John	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement mitigation measures proposed for the Labour Market and Housing valued components, including the provision of camp accommodation, to minimize effects on local population. Implement mitigation measures proposed for the Community Infrastructure and Services valued component to mitigate the effects of an increased local population.
Changes to Aboriginal community populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Aboriginal persons in maintaining permanent residence in home communities by providing camp housing and commuter support where demand warrants. Implement workforce management policies to require contractors to offer cross-cultural awareness training to their workers, and to adopt and monitor codes of conduct. BC Hydro will work with local area First Nations to develop and deliver the cross-cultural awareness training.

KEY FINDINGS

- The regional population forecast is for substantial growth over the next 20 years, even without the project. The effect of the project would be to advance this expected population growth during construction by about two years. Following construction the population is expected to return to near base case conditions.
- The region's economy is characterized by major development cycles and construction projects, which have resulted in high in- and out-migration levels over the last decade. The changes to population expected from the project are not outside the recent fluctuations experienced in the region. Following the implementation of mitigation measures, the effect is not anticipated to be significant.



ABOUT THE SITE C CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT

Site C is a proposed third dam and hydroelectric generating station on the Peace River in northeast B.C. Site C would provide 1,100 megawatts (MW) of capacity, and produce about 5,100 gigawatt hours (GWh) of electricity each year – enough energy to power the equivalent of about 450,000 homes per year in B.C.

Site C is undergoing a cooperative environmental assessment by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEA Agency) and the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office (EAO). The environmental assessment process commenced in August 2011 and is anticipated to take approximately three years to complete.

FOR MORE INFORMATION visit bchydro.com/sitec

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