VISUAL RESOURCES

VOLUME 3, SECTION 27

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

The assessment on visual resources considers changes to scenic values due to visibility of project components from selected sites and viewpoints, including provincial visual landscape inventory sites, and sites identified during field reconnaissance, that offer views of the reservoir and dam site.

ASSESSMENT AREA

The local assessment area is the area within an eight kilometre buffer around the largest visible project features (reservoir, dam site, and transmission line) and within a one kilometre buffer around smaller visible project components (quarried and excavated materials, worker accommodation). The regional assessment area is identical to the local assessment area.

SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL EFFECTS	KEY MITIGATION MEASURES
Changes to visual resources during the construction phase	• Restore and re-vegetate disturbed surfaces in construction areas after disturbance activities cease in accordance with the project Soil Management, Site Restoration, and Revegetation Plan • Landscape the shoreline protection in Hudson's Hope • Paint permanent buildings and other above ground structures to blend in with the character of the surrounding environment where possible • Select previously disturbed areas or areas generally hidden from view for the potential off-site workforce accommodation camps, where feasible

The photos below are artist's renderings of a cleared area during the construction phase.

Key Findings

- The change in the visible landscape from a river valley to a reservoir could be considered either a positive or negative change by stakeholders, depending on the personal values placed on the existing river valley landscape.
- The effects of the project on visual resources are not predicted to exceed the existing level of visible anthropogenic disturbances, including industrial and human developments.
- Effects on visual resources are not considered to be significant because the environment has been previously disturbed.

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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