

HERITAGE RESOURCES

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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

Palaeontological, archaeological, and historical sites, objects, and features are the key indicators that comprise the Heritage Resources valued component for the project. These indicators contain physical evidence of ancient flora and fauna or cultural materials including, but not limited to, remains of ancient campsites, subsistence procurement sites, historic structures, and locations containing burials. The assessment considers:

- Disturbance to heritage sites and features from project-induced disturbance of palaeontological, archaeological and historical sites and features
- Disturbance to elements essential to the heritage character of features from project-induced changes to context of palaeontological, archaeological and historical sites and features
- Disturbance to artifacts, features, human remains, and fossils from project-induced disturbance of fossils and trace fossils, archaeological features and artifacts, and burials
- Hindrance or increase in access to sites and destroying contextual information from changes in level of accessibility to palaeontological, archaeological and historical sites
- Other relevant issues raised by Aboriginal groups in relation to changes to palaeontological, archaeological and historical sites, as well as preservation of heritage resources for cultural uses by Aboriginal peoples

ASSESSMENT AREA

The local and regional assessment areas for the heritage resources assessment are defined as the project activity zone. Given the site-specific and stationary nature of heritage resources, this is the maximum area where potential direct and indirect project effects on heritage resources are reasonably expected to occur.

SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

POTENTIAL EFFECTS	KEY MITIGATION MEASURES
Changes to resource integrity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface disturbance • Disturbance of structures • Subsurface disturbance • Compaction • Erosion 	Construction Phase: Depending on the nature and importance of identified heritage resources, various mitigation measures will be used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid sites and reduce resource damage where possible • Conduct additional reconnaissance and field surveys as warranted • Document historical sites and relocate important structures, if found • Recover heritage resources: staged scientific excavations, stratified sample excavations, systematic surface collection

POTENTIAL EFFECTS	KEY MITIGATION MEASURES
Changes to resource accessibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased access • Unauthorized collection • Lack of access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commemorate heritage resources as appropriate • Provide funds to local museums to support heritage programming • Implement a Heritage Resources Management Plan, Chance Find Procedure, and Construction Monitoring
	Operations Phase: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct reconnaissance and systematic surface collection of exposed resources or installation of protective measures • Implement a Heritage Resources Management Plan, Chance Find Procedure and reservoir erosion monitoring

MONITORING

Shoreline erosion of heritage resources within the reservoir would be monitored for a period of no less than the first five years of operation, consistent with BC Hydro's existing heritage reservoir monitoring program. Predicted rates of sedimentation and erosion affecting shoreline heritage resources would be confirmed through shoreline monitoring. In the event that low reservoir levels occur in the future and exposed heritage site locations can be safely accessed, emergency salvage and systematic data collection of exposed resources would help to mitigate the potential effects of erosion and unauthorized collection of heritage materials.

KEY FINDINGS

A Heritage Resources Management Plan would be implemented to address heritage site stewardship and protection relative to project construction activities. The plan would include procedures for monitoring at known heritage site locations within the project activity zone, as well as chance find procedures to be implemented in the event that heritage resources are encountered during construction. The Heritage Resources Management Plan would be developed with guidance, where applicable, from the B.C. Archaeology Branch, the Fossil Management Framework, the Fossil Management Review Technical Working Group, existing BC Hydro policies and procedures, and in consultation with Aboriginal groups. Permits, which would include heritage management plans, will be required under the *Heritage Conservation Act* prior to construction activities.

Mitigation measures for heritage resources are expected to reduce potential effects, however, project-related residual adverse effects may occur due to project-induced disturbance.

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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