

Aboriginal Group Communication Plan 2021-2022 Annual Report

*Site C Clean Energy Project
Reporting period: April 2021 to March 2022*

March 31, 2022

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Table of Acronyms

BRFN	Blueberry River First Nations
DFN	Duncan's First Nation
DRFN	Doig River First Nation
DTFN	Dene Tha' First Nation
FNFN	Fort Nelson First Nation
HLFN	Horse Lake First Nation
HRFN	Halfway River First Nation
KLMSS	Kelly Lake Métis Settlement Society
MLIB	McLeod Lake Indian Band
MNBC	Métis Nation British Columbia
PRFN	Prophet River First Nation
SFN	Saulteau First Nations
WMFN	West Moberly First Nations

1 Background

1.1 The Site C Clean Energy Project

The Site C Clean Energy Project (the Project) will be the third dam and generating station on the Peace River in northeast B.C. The Project will provide 1,100 megawatts of capacity and about 5,100 gigawatt hours of energy each year to the province's integrated electricity system. The Project will be a source of clean, reliable electricity for BC Hydro's customers for more than 100 years.

The key components of the Project are:

- an earthfill dam, approximately 1,050 metres long and 60 metres high above the riverbed;
- an 83 kilometre long reservoir that will be, on average, two to three times the width of the current river;
- a generating station with six 183 MW generating units;
- two new 500 kilovolt AC transmission lines that will connect the Project facilities to the Peace Canyon Substation, along an existing right-of-way;
- realignment of six segments of Highway 29 over a total distance of approximately 30 kilometers; and,
- construction of a berm at Hudson's Hope

The Project also includes the construction of temporary access roads, a temporary bridge across the Peace River, and worker accommodation at the dam site.

1.2 Description of Site Preparation and Construction Activities during the Reporting Period

The Project completed construction of the upstream cofferdam in February 2021 and the downstream cofferdam in March 2021. With these important components of the earthfill dam complete, the area between the two cofferdams was dewatered in Spring of 2021 to allow for the excavation of the centre section of the dam core trench.

With that milestone complete, crews excavated and then began placing material in the earthfill dam. To December 31, 2021, approximately 30 per cent of the total required volume of material had been placed in the dam.

Concurrent to dam construction, work advanced on roller-compacted concrete placements in the dam and core buttress. Together with the powerhouse and spillways buttresses, the dam and core buttress forms a key safety component in the Project's design.

In October 2021, BC Hydro completed the dam and core buttress, marking the completion of the Project's overall roller-compacted-concrete program. Since the program began in 2017, crews placed a total of 1.7 million cubic metres of roller-compacted concrete in the three large buttresses.

In the generating station, work on the concrete foundation and enclosure of the powerhouse structure were completed in 2021. Placement of the concrete that embeds the turbines and forms the floors in the powerhouse is advancing at a pace to match the turbines and generators contractor's schedule.

As of December 31, 2021, 81 penstock sections (out of a total of 90 sections) had been installed, and in the spillways, more than 50 per cent of the spillways concrete had been placed.

Away from the dam site, work progressed on all six segments of the Highway 29 realignment sub-project, including the substantial completion of the Halfway River bridge in August 2021 and the opening of the Farrell Creek East segment to traffic in October 2021.

Construction of the second 500 kV transmission line connecting Site C to the Peace Canyon Generating Station continued in 2021. All foundations were completed, and all towers were assembled and installed on the foundations by March 2021. In July 2021, conductor stringing began; by the end of the year, the line was approximately two-thirds complete.

More detailed descriptions of construction activities that took place during the reporting period can be found in the quarterly Notices of Construction Activities¹.

2 Objective and Scope

2.1 Objective of the Aboriginal Group Communication Plan

The objective of the June 5, 2015 Aboriginal Group Communication Plan (AGCP) is to fulfill the requirements of Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) conditions 27 and 72, and federal Decision Statement (FDS) condition 14.2.

The AGCP establishes a communications program for informing Indigenous Nations and harvesters about construction activities related to the Project that may affect their harvesting opportunities for plants, fish and game, as well as access to those opportunities.

¹ Also referred to as Construction Notification Letters, or Construction Notices. These are available on the project website along with the bi-weekly Construction Bulletins: <https://www.sitecproject.com/construction-activities/construction-bulletins>

2.2 Scope and Reporting Period

This annual report describes BC Hydro's communications and engagement activities with Indigenous Nations through the implementation of the AGCP from April 2021 through March 2022. This is the sixth annual report of the AGCP.

2.3 COVID-19

BC Hydro's top priority is the health and safety of our employees, contractors, members of the public, and Indigenous Nations. BC Hydro has been monitoring COVID-19 closely since January 2020 and has been taking appropriate action as the situation evolves. To minimize the risk of transmission, and continue to fulfil the requirements of Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) conditions 27 and 72, and federal Decision Statement (FDS) condition 14.2., BC Hydro has been required to adapt its engagement with Indigenous communities to mitigate the risk of a COVID-19 event occurring.

These include:

- Strictly following Ministry of Health guidelines and implemented a range of protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19
- Scaled back, or transition to virtual platforms, for certain activities to reduce or eliminate the number of in-person meetings, site visits, training sessions, and community gatherings;
- Restrictions on non-essential travel for BC Hydro employees and consulting service providers; and
- Implemented the requirement for proof of COVID-19 vaccination from all employees and contractors working for the Site C project.

3 Implementation of the Plan – April 2021 through March 2022

This report summarizes the implementation of the communication and consultation initiatives specific to Indigenous Nations that are described in [section 5.0 of the AGCP](#).

The bulleted list of communication activities shown at the beginning of section 5.0 is not specific to Indigenous Nations, but these materials are publicly available and it is expected that they are utilized by members of Indigenous communities. These activities are described in [section 3.2 of the Construction Communication Plan](#) (CCP) with more information available in the annual reports for the CCP, found on the Project website in the Site C Project Reports section of the [Environmental Management document library](#).

Communications specific to Indigenous Nations that were undertaken in the reporting period are described below.

Unless otherwise indicated, the communications summarized below were sent out to all Indigenous Nations named in the EAC and FDS: Saulneau First Nations, West Moberly First Nations, Prophet River First Nation, Blueberry River First Nations, Doig River First Nation, McLeod Lake Indian Band, Halfway River First Nation, Fort Nelson First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation, Métis Nation British Columbia, Kelly Lake Métis Settlement Society, Duncan's First Nation, and Dene Tha' First Nation. For purposes of brevity, acronyms for the above Indigenous Nations are used in this annual report. A list of acronyms is provided at the beginning of this report.

3.1 Notices of Construction Activities

These quarterly notices to Indigenous Nations address EAC condition 27 and FDS condition 14.2 requiring BC Hydro to provide information to Indigenous harvesters about construction activities that may affect their harvesting opportunities; they serve as the "Indigenous Harvesters Information Sheet" described in the AGCP.

The notices are in the form of a letter describing construction-related activities that are expected to commence, continue or be completed in the three-month period covered by the letter and are accompanied by a map (or maps) showing the location of the activities described in the letter. The notices also include information about other ways to find out more information about Project construction.

The current schedule seeks to send out the construction notices roughly 15-30 days prior to the start of the notification period. As required, updates to the notices are sent out to provide more information on construction works that are of particular interest to Indigenous communities or within closer proximity to Indigenous communities.

- On **March 25, 2021**, BC Hydro sent out the Notice of Construction Activities for the period of April through June, 2021.
- On **June 3, 2021**, BC Hydro sent out the Notice of Construction Activities for the period of July through September, 2021.
- On **September 1, 2021**, BC Hydro sent out the Notice of Construction Activities for the period of October through December, 2021.
- On **December 1, 2021**, BC Hydro sent out the Notice of Construction Activities for the period of January through March, 2022.

The Notices of Construction Activities are sent to Indigenous Nations by email and are also posted for Indigenous Nations on the *Site C Information for Indigenous Nations* SharePoint site (see section 3.6). A public version of the notice with confidential information removed (such as SharePoint log-in information or other sensitive material) is posted along with construction bulletins on the Project's public website at the following address: <https://www.sitecproject.com/construction-activities/construction-bulletins>

3.2 Biweekly Information Updates to Indigenous Nations

Biweekly information updates are distributed by email to provide regular updates on construction activities and field work.

The updates provide information on the following topics as they become available:

- news updates;
- regulatory and permitting updates;
- environmental management information;
- safety advisories;
- reminders of upcoming consultation and engagement activities;
- employment and training information; and
- procurement updates.

The emails also provide notice of new documents uploaded to the *Site C Information for Indigenous Nations* SharePoint site such as Environmental Protection Plans and Environmental Completion Reports, monthly monitoring summary reports, interim and annual reports from the Project's Heritage Program, and other Project mitigation and monitoring programs.

The emails are sent directly to members of each Indigenous Nation's distribution list which often includes Chief and Council as well as other contacts requested by the Indigenous Nation. A copy of each biweekly information update is saved on the *Site C Information for Indigenous Nations* SharePoint site.

A summary of the notifications or information shared in these updates is listed below. Recurring updates such as new Construction Bulletins, reminders of upcoming meetings, Indigenous employment statistics, new documents added to SharePoint, etc. are not described below to avoid repetition.

Summary of Notifications and Information Shared	
April 7, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• COVID-19: shared an update on BC Hydro's response to COVID-19 at Site C;• Construction update: Notified about work being carried out Cache Creek in relation to grading, drainage and bridge foundations;• Sending out of Quarterly construction notification letter to Indigenous Nations, describing work planned for April 1 to June 30, 2021; and• Reminded readers of upcoming virtual Environmental Forum – Information Session on April 14, 2021. To further discuss bank enhancements and dam site construction activities.

Summary of Notifications and Information Shared

<p>April 19, 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared information relating to The BC Hydro GO Fund application that was open and was to allocate \$100,000 annually for non-profit organisations in the Peace Region; • Announced the 2021 BC Hydro Indigenous Scholarships and Bursaries Program was now accepting applicants with break down of scholarships and bursaries available; • Provided February 2021 employment statistics as well as the latest Construction Bulletin; • COVID-19: shared an update on BC Hydro's response to COVID-19 at Site C; and • Provided Site C Indigenous Employment recruitment posting relating to the Environmental Technician post for Site C.
<p>May 3, 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announced that there was a COVID-19 outbreak declared at Site C and that contract tracing was in place as well as other containment measures; • Shared the Public advisory relating to public comment period for EAC amendment to haul material. The application to the B.C. Environmental Assessment Office focuses on using public roads to haul material from 85th Avenue Industrial Lands to the dam site on a contingency basis. Hauling would only take place when the conveyor is not operating due to events beyond BC Hydro's control; • Notified of commencement of blasting at Portage Mountain Quarry. Seasonal blasting at Portage Mountain Quarry will start on May 16, 2021 and continue through to September 15, 2021. The sanctioning of this work falls under both the Provincial Licence of Occupation number 815708 and 815707 dated February 18, 2016, and the Mines Act permit Q-9-050 issued August 8, 2019. Noise and Vibration could be expected; and • Provided a list of recent provincial permits and authorisations as well as providing a link to the documents in the document library.
<p>May 17, 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A public advisory was shared in relation Halfway River section being reopened. This section of the river was closed to boaters from September 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021, while BC Hydro cleared vegetation to prepare for the Site C reservoir. During this time, several temporary crossings, including causeways, were constructed across the Halfway River and its backchannels to provide access to and from the work site. Boaters are urged to observe and obey all signage and to use extreme caution while on the Halfway River, especially when water levels are low; • Shared March 2021 employment statistics released for Site C;

Summary of Notifications and Information Shared

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information shared on Seasonal blasting at Portage Mountain River. Seasonal blasting at Portage Mountain Quarry started on May 16, 2021 and continue through to September 15, 2021. The sanctioning of this work falls under both the Provincial Licence of Occupation number 815708 and 815707 dated February 18, 2016, and the Mines Act permit Q-9-050 issued August 8, 2019; and • Invitation to Indigenous Nations to virtually attend and Heritage Resource Committee Meeting (CHRC) #32 held on July 7, 2021.
May 31,2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared upcoming meetings including that the next Environmental Forum #19 will be held on July 13, 2021. This meeting will be held virtually by video conference; • The next Culture and Heritage Resources Committee Meeting (CHRC) #32 will be held on July 14, 2021. This meeting will be held virtually by video conference; • The Acid Rock Drainage/Metal Leachate Management Plan was shared with Indigenous Nations on May 6, 2021 and BC Hydro requests your comments on the proposed changes by June 7, 2021; and • The latest construction bulletin was also shared and included information on construction activities planned for May 29 – June 11, 2021.
June 14, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information shared regarding the next Culture and Heritage Resources Committee Meeting (CHRC) #32 That was held on July 14, 2021. This meeting was held virtually by video conference; • The Draft Methylmercury Monitoring Plan was shared with Indigenous Nations on May 28, 2021. BC Hydro is seeking your feedback on this draft by July 30, 2021; • BC Hydro’s request to amend EAC #E14-02 Condition #40, regarding the relocation of the Cache Creek boat launch to a location east of the Halfway River was submitted to the EAO on Monday June 14, 2021. The EAO will be reaching out to Indigenous Nations in the coming weeks; and • BC Hydro’s final application for an amendment to BC Hydro’s existing authorization (15-HPAC-01160) for the Temporary In-River Fill was submitted to DFO on June 20, 2021. DFO will be reaching out to Indigenous Nations in the coming weeks.
July 5, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information shared regarding halfway river section reopening. An eight-kilometre section of the Halfway River has reopened to boat traffic. This section of the river was closed to boaters from

Summary of Notifications and Information Shared

	<p>September 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021, while BC Hydro cleared vegetation to prepare for the Site C reservoir;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared an update regarding the cultural monitoring program. The program was on a several weeks pause in response to COVID-19 management but resumed on June 28th. This week the monitors will be at the Farrell Creek East worksite along Highway 29; • Notified of upcoming meetings. The next Culture and Heritage Resources Committee Meeting (CHRC) #32 will be held on July 14, 2021. This meeting will be held virtually by video conference; and • The next Environment Forum will be held on July 13, 2021. This meeting will be held virtually by video conference.
<p>July 19, 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared upcoming BC Hydro training program. This two-week cultural, curation and archeological training program will expand participants' knowledge about the preservation of artifacts and telling the stories connected to them. Participants will select artifacts for community display cases being developed through the Site C Culture and Heritage Resources Committee, which will be displayed within their communities. The program is running from July 13—23, 2021, look for the display in your community in coming weeks; and • Shared recently issues provincial permits and authorisations.
<p>August 3, 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared the upcoming meetings: The next Environment Forum is planned for September 14-15, 2021. This Forum will be held in person in Fort St. John and will be a mix of field tours and conference. The first Cultural Centre Working Group & Visioning Workshop will be held on September 16th, 2021. This workshop will be held in person in Fort St John, BC; • SharePoint Site Updates; and • The final federal permit application for CNWA Approval Shoreline Enhancement KM26 -application (sent June 03, 2021; an update email sent on July 23, 2021).
<p>August 17, 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material Source Update was provided to Indigenous Nations. During the Environmental Forum #19 on 13 July 2021, we discussed the Project's need for additional material sources for dam construction and we committed to following up with you with an invitation to ground truth potentially impacted areas. We would like to invite members of your community to participate in ground truthing specific areas associated with Area E (Project Team's preferred option) where activities would potentially occur; • Shared the latest construction bulletin;

Summary of Notifications and Information Shared	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared a detailed list of recently issued provincial permits and authorisations; and • Notified of upcoming Environment forums and the cultural working group and visioning workshop.
September 29, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared brief description of the cultural centre vision workshop as well as the Environment Forum. On September 16th the first Cultural Centre Working Group Visioning Workshop was held in person at the Peace Island Park Pavilion. Thank you to all those who attended and contributed and will be participating in the upcoming October 18th Visioning Workshop. The workshops are meant to jump start us in this journey to incorporate ideas, stories and content that represent each Nation's cultures in the Cultural Centre. This work supports the implementation of UNDRIP as it's a space for the participating Nations to have their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions inform the vision and development of the project; • Invited non-profits recreation groups, local governments and Indigenous Nations to submit applications beginning September 1 to October 31, 2021, to develop a rustic recreation site along the Peace River or outside the Site C dam site and reservoir area; • Notified group of completion of Blasting at Portage Mountain Quarry. This notification is to inform you of the completion of blasting activities at Portage Mountain Quarry for the 2021 season. Seasonal blasting at Portage Mountain Quarry commenced on May 16, 2021 and ended on August 17, 2021. The processing and hauling of material will continue at the quarry this Fall, with final dates for operations determined by weather and site conditions. This work falls under both the Provincial Licence of Occupation number 815708 dated February 18, 2016, and the Mines Act permit Q-9-050 issued August 8, 2019; and • Shared CEMP Revision 8 with an updated Appendix A Smoke Management Plan.
October 27, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided the COVID-19 Proof of vaccination update. BC Hydro will require proof of COVID-19 vaccination from all employees and contractors working at a BC Hydro work site or facility across the province, including the construction site for the Site C project. More than 6,000 BC Hydro employees throughout B.C. will be required to be fully vaccinated by November 22, 2021; • Invited to apply for Site C Rustic Rec Site Fund; • Shared Monthly reports summarizing the operation of the temporary upstream fish passage facility for April, May, June and July 2021; and

Summary of Notifications and Information Shared	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notified that relationship Leads will be reaching out to each Cultural Centre Working Group representative to schedule 1:1 sessions in November to early December to further discuss the proposed list of spaces in further detail.
November 10, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informed of wood debris burning that is to be resumed. BC Hydro will resume its burning program in Site C project areas pending suitable venting and ground conditions. Crews are clearing vegetation, where safe and practical, from the future reservoir area to help ensure boater safety and reduce impacts to dam operations. Clearing work will continue along the Highway 29 realignment right-of-way; Reminder that the next Environment Forum planned for November 16, 2021. This Forum will be held virtually between 1:00-3:30 PM MST. In addition, The Cultural Centre Working Group Visioning Workshop (River's Edge) is scheduled for Wednesday, January 19, 2022; and The latest construction bulletin was also provided.
November 24, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information shared on Helicopter transporting timber between Cache Creek and Peace Canyon as part of Site C reservoir clearing work being conducted from now until late March 2022; Notified of controlled burning planned for later November; Notified of recently issued Provincial Permits and Authorizations; and Upcoming meeting for Cultural Centre Working Group Visioning Workshop (River's Edge) is scheduled for Wednesday, January 19, 2022 and the next Environmental Forum is scheduled for Tuesday, January 18, 2022. The meeting is planned to be virtual from 9:00 to 12:00 Fort St. John time.
January 10, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> November 2021 employment statistics released and share with Indigenous Nations; COVID-19: shared an update on BC Hydro's response to COVID-19 at Site C; Shared new methylmercury and fish consumption information for the Peace River System provided with links; Informed of Public comment period for EAC amendment to relocate boat launch. A public comment period will take place from December 10, 2021, to January 14, 2022, regarding BC Hydro's application to amend its Environmental Assessment Certificate for the Site C project; and

Summary of Notifications and Information Shared	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly reports summarizing the operation of the temporary upstream fish passage facility for September and October 2021.
January 24, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notified of controlled burning taking place at Site C project areas; COVID-19: shared an update on BC Hydro's response to COVID-19 at Site C; and Notified The next Cultural Centre Working Group Visioning Workshop #3 will be held on February 8, 2022, The next Environmental Forum #23 will be held on March 15, 2022, Cultural Centre Elders and Chiefs Committee Meeting #1 will be held on March 16, 2022, The next Culture and Heritage Resources Committee Meeting (CHRC) #32 will be held on July 14, 2022. This meeting will be held virtually by video conference.
February 7, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 2021 employment statistics released; COVID-19: shared an update on BC Hydro's response to COVID-19 at Site C; and Reminded the group that The next Cultural Centre Working Group Visioning Workshop #3 will be held on February 8, 2022, The next Environmental Forum #23 will be held on March 15, 2022, Cultural Centre Elders and Chiefs Committee Meeting #1 will be held on March 16, 2022, The next Culture and Heritage Resources Committee Meeting (CHRC) #32 will be held on July 14, 2022. This meeting will be held virtually by video conference.
February 21, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID-19: shared an update on BC Hydro's response to COVID-19 at Site C; and Reminded the group The next Environmental Forum #23 will be held on March 15, 2022, The next Culture and Heritage Resources Committee Meeting (CHRC) #33 will be held on March 15, 2022, The next Cultural Centre Working Group Meeting #4 will be held on March 16, 2022 and The Elders & Chiefs Committee meeting will be scheduled for a date to be determined in April 2022. Informed of submission of provincial permit application 'Water Sustainability Act S10 Approval for Area A Dewatering' to MLFNRO. Recently issued permits and authorizations also provided.
March 7, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 2022 employment statistics released; Quarterly construction notification letter was sent to Nation on March 1, 2022; Reminded the group The next Environmental Forum #23 will be held on March 15, 2022, The next Culture and Heritage

Summary of Notifications and Information Shared	
	<p>Resources Committee Meeting (CHRC) #33 will be held on March 15, 2022, The next Cultural Centre Working Group Meeting #4 will be held on March 16, 2022 and The Elders & Chiefs Committee meeting will be scheduled for a date to be determined in April 2022;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notified of recent MFLNRORD permit referral for downstream contouring; and • Recently issued permits and authorizations also provided
March 21, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An updated Construction Safety Management Plan for the Site C Project (Revision 2) was shared with Indigenous Nations on March 14, 2022; • Public advisory issued regarding Site C conveyor operations; • Notification shared that BC Hydro had completed a major milestone in relation to transmission line work; • Shared recently issued Provincial permits and Authorization included Transmission Lines Access Road (L816293) and Ground Watering Monitoring Wells (L816270); and • Closure at Farrell Creek from March 18 to 24, 2022 due to bridge construction as part of the highway realignment work.

3.3 Consultation Meetings

3.3.1 Permitting Forums

These meetings allow for sharing and reviewing upcoming permit applications with Treaty 8 First Nations. Representatives from First Nations, the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development (MFLNRORD), federal agencies (Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Transport Canada) and BC Hydro meet to discuss draft permit applications and to address potential questions and requests for clarification before permit applications are finalized and referred to First Nations by permitting agencies for consultation and review.

BC Hydro initiated this process in 2016 in response to requests from First Nations for additional opportunities to consult on Project permits. BC Hydro held seven Permitting Forums between July 2016 and January 2018. In late January 2018, the Province and BC Hydro implemented an updated coordinated consultation process in an effort to enhance Project permit consultation opportunities, find efficiencies, reduce the overall workload for First Nations, and better manage the consultation schedule.

Permitting Forums were incorporated into the coordinated consultation process and are a central component of the “pre-application” consultation on draft permit applications before they are finalized and submitted to MFLNRORD. The First Nations invited to attend the Permitting Forum are the same First Nations that the MFLNRORD consults with on provincial permit applications.

An overall reduction in the number of new permits requiring consultation, and looking for efficiencies, BC Hydro has incorporated the Permitting Forum into the Environment Forum when required. As a standing agenda item at each Environment Forum, the Permitting Discussion continues to provide a venue to meet and discuss permitting and regulatory items.

Summary of Permitting Forums, and Permitting Discussions at Environment Forums, held during the reporting period are described below.

- Permitting discussion at Environmental Forum #18 was held on May 11, 2021 and was attended by representatives from BRFN, DRFN, DFN, HRFN, HLFN, SFN, MNBC, MLIB and BC Hydro. BC Hydro discussed Proposed temporary In – River Fill Area.
- Permitting discussion at Environment Forum #19 was held on July 13, 2021 and was attended by representatives from BRFN, DRFN, DFN, HRFN, HLFN, SFN, MLIB, MNBC and BC Hydro introduced and discussed the need for additional source materials referred to as ‘Zone 3’ to construct the dam.
- Permitting discussion at Environmental Forum #20 was held on September 14, 2021 and was attended by representatives from BRFN, DRFN, DFN, HRFN, HLFN, SFN, MNBC, MLIB and BC Hydro. BC Hydro sought input on draft permit applications for the development of Area E and Ice Bridge Road as an aggregate source and shared with the attendees information regarding Reservoir Shoreline Enhancement.
- Permitting discussion at Environmental Forum #21 was held on November 16, 2021 and was attended by representatives from BRFN, DFN, HRFN, HLFN, SFN, MNBC, MLIB, FDMS and BC Hydro. BC Hydro provided update on Area E and associated environmental and heritage mitigation and additional information.
- Permitting discussion at Environmental Forum #22 was held on January 18, 2022 and was attended by representatives from BRFN, DFN, DRFN, HRFN, MLIB, MNBC, SFN and BC Hydro. BC Hydro provided an update on the search for aggregate sources for earth-fill dam construction, including Area E, Area A, Howe Pit, and in-river sources. Additionally, fish habitat enhancement downstream of dam and the required permits were presented on.
- No new permits were discussed at Environment Forum #23 held on March 15, 2022 that was attended by representatives from BRFN, DFN, DRFN, HRFN, HLFN, MLIB, MNBC, SFN and BC Hydro. However, BC Hydro provided an update on aggregate

sources for earth-fill dam construction, including Area E, Area A, Howe Pit, and in-river sources.

BC Hydro uses the *Site C Information for Indigenous Nations* SharePoint site described in section 3.6 to share meeting presentations, permit applications and spatial data, and summaries of discussion and requests for follow-up from the meetings.

3.3.2 Environmental Forums

The Environmental Forum enables BC Hydro and Indigenous Nations to collaborate, share information, and seek input and participation opportunities related to key interests identified by Indigenous Nations related to the Project's environmental mitigation plans and monitoring programs. Topics addressed by the Environmental Forum relate to fish and fish habitat, wildlife, vegetation and heritage, and may be linked to conditions of the EAC, FDS, and permits or authorizations. A key initiative for the Environmental Forum membership is the rollout of the Indigenous Traditional Use Fund (ITUF), an \$8M fund to mitigate the impacts of the Project on the current use of land and resources for traditional purposes by Indigenous Nations.

Environmental Forums held during the reporting period are described below.

- Environmental Forum #17 was held on **April 14, 2021**. During the virtual meeting the following topics were discussed: temporary fish passage facility, including the contingency fish sampling by boat program to support upstream fish passage; dam site right bank enhancements; and proposed temporary in-river fill area.
- Environmental Forum #18 was held on **May 11, 2021**. During the virtual meeting the following topics were discussed: fish passage update regarding higher water levels at the fishway entrance and as a result, contingency fish sampling was implemented to support; draft Methylmercury Monitoring Plan, including development of a methylmercury information video and associated brochure; Pilot of the Indigenous Community Sampling Program in the Halfway River Watershed; reclamation sub-committee Terms of Reference; overview of Wetland Compensation program; Indigenous Traditional Use Fund (ITUF) multi-Nation project priorities; update on the proposed temporary in-river fill area; and a brief overview of the various GIS environmental data available.
- Environmental Forum #19 was held on **July 13, 2021**. During the virtual meeting the following topics were discussed: additional source materials referred to as 'Zone 3' to construct the dam; update on reclamation sub-committee Terms of Reference; Indigenous traditional Use Fund (ITUF) candidate wetland project; Peace River operations, including information provided on Peace River spilling at GMS and PCN dams and associated monitoring; fish passage facility update; and methylmercury video and brochure update, including progress made by the methylmercury sub-committee on the design.

- Environmental Forum #20 was held on **September 14, 2021**. During the virtual meeting the following topics were discussed: Area E selected as the preferred material source location based on additional research; updated future reservoir shoreline enhancement designs for fish; refinements to the temporary fish passage facility based on lessons learned; and a 6-minute final draft methylmercury video and associated fish consumption information brochure.).
- Environmental Forum #21 was held on **November 16, 2021**. During the virtual meeting the following topics were discussed: beaver study results, including poll and discussion on mitigation options; showing of the Site C construction progress video; round table Indigenous Traditional Use Fund (ITUF) project updates, including successes, challenges and a discussion of collaborative opportunities; Area E and other material source locations; and round table feedback on Forum.
- Environmental Forum #22 was held on **January 18, 2022**. During the virtual meeting the following topics were discussed: overview of 2020 and 2021 Environmental Training Programs; update on the search for aggregate sources for earth-fill dam construction, including Area E, Area A, Howe Pit, and in-river sources; fish habitat enhancement downstream of dam; Indigenous Traditional Use Fund (ITUF) progress through years 1 and 2 and poll regarding the allocation of the fund (\$8M); overview of the Community Sampling Program Pilot; learnings transferred from the temporary fish passage facility to permanent facility; and a 5-minute video showing the construction progress on the dam site.
- Environmental Forum #23 was held on **March 15, 2022**. During the virtual meeting the following topics were discussed: ITUF Ungulate Enhancement & Corridors – Multi-Nation Project was presented on by HRFN; An introduction on the Site C Reservoir Filling Plan was provided; Highway 29 update with proposed options for decommissioning discussed; Project updates on aggregate sources, fish habitat structures, Methylmercury Indigenous Community Sampling Training, and Reclamation Sub-Committee shared information.

3.3.3 Environmental Forum Sub-Committees

To support key initiatives of the Environmental Forum three sub-committees / working groups have been formed. This includes the Indigenous Traditional Use Fund (ITUF) Working Group, the Methylmercury Sub-committee and the Reclamation Sub-committee. The ITUF Working Group met once over the reporting period, while the Methylmercury Sub-Committee met six times over the same period. In the spring of 2021, the Reclamation Sub-committee was formed with the Terms of Reference finalized and two meetings and one field tour held over the reporting period.

3.3.4 Culture and Heritage Resources Committee

The Culture and Heritage Resources Committee (Committee) has been established with Indigenous Nations to advise BC Hydro on the management of Project effects on cultural

resources. The Committee initially met on July 30, 2015 and meets as determined by the Committee members. The Committee provides opportunities for discussion and information exchange, as well as the development of mitigation measures related to cultural and heritage resources.

In 2021, the Committee commenced discussions on the potential development of a cultural centre. The Cultural Centre is a proposed facility to commemorate, educate and celebrate the culture and heritage of the Indigenous Nations impacted by the Project. The facility will be located at or near Site C and it is intended to support truth and reconciliation with Indigenous Nations impacted by Site C and to provide a respectful space to store and display artifacts recovered during Site C construction. Central to this effort is the sharing of stories and history of the original inhabitants of the region and to meet recommendations for preserving cultural heritage provided by the Committee.

More information on the Committee can be found in the [Cultural Resources Mitigation Plan \(CRMP\)](#), available on the Project website in the [Environmental Management document library](#). The CRMP 2021-2022 Annual Report detailing activities undertaken during this reporting period is available in the *Site C Project Reports* section of this document library.

3.4 Saulneau First Nations Registered Trapline Holders

BC Hydro remains engaged with SFN registered trapline holders whose tenure areas are affected by project construction and operations. BC Hydro contacts registered trapline holders in advance of any project investigations or construction activities planned to take place within their respective trapline areas.

3.5 Ground Truthing and other Field Activities

BC Hydro maintains a standing invitation to Indigenous Nations to meet and discuss issues or concerns regarding the Project as construction proceeds. This may include other field activities like site visits in the project activity zone with interested groups and boat tours of the Peace River. BC Hydro has hosted ground truthing and other field activities in the dam site area, Highway 29 realignment segments, along the transmission line, at and through access to Area E, and within the future reservoir.

The [Aboriginal Plant Use Mitigation Plan \(APUMP\)](#) and the [CRMP](#) describe ground truthing as it pertains to plants of traditional Indigenous value and cultural resources, respectively. Ground truthing and other field activities conducted by or with Indigenous Nations are described in annual reports for these plans that are available on the Project website in the Site C Project Reports section of the [Document Library](#) and the Site C Information for Indigenous Nations SharePoint Site.

3.6 Site C Information for Indigenous Nations SharePoint Site

The *Site C Information for Indigenous Nations* SharePoint site is a central repository for documents and information shared with Indigenous Nations. It is password protected and not accessible to the public.

On February 22, 2019 BC Hydro launched a new and improved SharePoint site based on Indigenous Nations' feedback. The new and improved layout is designed to make it easier to find information on the Project. Project page categories include:

- *Project Construction* information such as Biweekly Updates and the quarterly Notices of Construction Activities;
- *Spatial files* related to project designs, archaeological sites, cadastral data, maps and environmental features;
- *Environment* documents such as Environmental Protection Plans, Environmental Completion Reports, and Monthly Environmental Monitoring Summary Reports, Geotechnical Investigations and Fish, aquatics, vegetation and wildlife;
- *Heritage Reports such as* interim and annual reports from the heritage program;
- *Regulatory and Compliance* information such as draft mitigation and monitoring plans and select annual reports, federal approval applications, Water Licence Leaves to Commence Construction, and environmental assessment documents; and,
- *Meeting materials* from forums and other meetings.

Information about the SharePoint site along with sign-in information is provided to Indigenous Nations in communications described above in sections 3.1 through 3.3 of this report.

3.7 External Project Website

The Site C Clean Energy Project website (sitecproject.com) provides additional information including:

- Mitigation and Monitoring Plans and Annual Reports
- Employment and business opportunities
- Federal authorizations and provincial permits
- Construction activities
- Indigenous relations

- Environmental Management Plans and Reports
- Permits and Authorizations
- Environmental Assessment Reports
- Project Planning and Evaluation Reports
- Consultation and Engagement Reports
- Environment and Socio-Economic Reports
- Engineering and Technical Reports
- Historical Site C Reports
- Quarterly Progress Reports to the BCUC
- Employment Statistics
- Construction Contracts

3.8 Environment Programs

BC Hydro's goal is to protect the environment and reduce the environmental impacts of Site C. The programs focus on monitoring to see what effects (if any) the project has on wildlife, fish, vegetation, air, water, the aquatic environment, as well as heritage and archaeology and how well our mitigation is working to protect these features. For each program results are shared through the Site C Project website in the [Document Library](#). Annual reports are made available on the project website as they are finalized. A brief overview of the programs can be found on recently updated project website, [Site C Environmental Programs](#).