

Cultural Resources Mitigation Plan 2018-2019 Annual Report

Site C Clean Energy Project

Reporting period: April 2018 through March 2019

March 29, 2019

This page is intentionally left blank.

Table of Contents

1	Background	1
1.1	The Site C Clean Energy Project	1
1.2	Description of Site Preparation and Construction Activities During the Reporting Period	1
2	Objective and Scope	2
2.1	Objective and Scope of the Cultural Resources Mitigation Plan	2
2.2	Reporting Period.....	2
3	Implementation of the Plan – April 2018 through March 2019.....	2
3.1	Establish the Committee	3
3.2	Frequency, Duration and Location of Meetings	4
3.3	Develop Cultural Resources Mitigation Initiatives in collaboration with the Committee	4
3.4	Information Sharing.....	5
3.5	Other Cultural Resources Mitigation Initiatives	8
3.5.1	Invitations and Participation in Ground Truthing Activities	8
4	Schedule	9

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 BC. 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 and cost-effective 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 kilometres; and
- construction of a berm at Hudson's Hope.

The Project will also include 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 reporting period for this annual report coincides generally with the fourth year of project construction.

Below is a high-level summary of construction activities that took place during this period:

- the main civil works contractor continued excavation on the north and south banks, work on the powerhouse roller-compacted concrete buttress and preparation for river diversion;
- clearing continued in the transmission line right-of-way and access roads continued to be upgraded;
- work continued to upgrade the Peace Canyon substation;
- work continued on the construction of the Site C substation;
- began work on construction of the highway realignment at Cache Creek West;
- geotechnical investigations of the western segments of Highway 29 (Farrell Creek, Lynx Creek and Dry Creek);

- construction of access roads and clearing continued for the reservoir area and dam site; waste wood has been removed or disposed;
- focused work on the advancement of earthworks at the dam site and the excavation of the two diversion tunnels;
- construction of the temporary conveyor belt system began; and,
- assembly and erection of 500 kV steel lattice towers along the transmission line began

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 and Scope of the Cultural Resources Mitigation Plan

The objective of the June 5, 2015 Cultural Resources Mitigation Plan (CRMP) is to fulfill the requirements of Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) condition 63. The CRMP outlines the approach to cultural resources mitigation initiatives for the Project, including forming a Cultural and Heritage Resources Committee (Committee) that will consider elements such as identification and naming of key cultural sites, documenting historical use of the area, commemoration of sites lost to inundation, cultural awareness and orientation of workforce training, and support for cultural camps through financial in-kind support. Other activities or initiatives may be considered as recommended by the Committee.

The Plan covers the Project Activity Zone (PAZ) as described in the EIS and as defined in the federal Decision Statement section 1.15.

2.2 Reporting Period

This annual report describes BC Hydro's engagement activities with Indigenous groups through implementation of the CRMP from April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019. In some cases, consultation and engagement with Indigenous groups on measures described in the Plan that took place prior to this period are also summarized here for context.

This is the fourth annual report of the CRMP.

3 Implementation of the Plan – April 2018 through March 2019

This report summarizes the implementation of the mitigation initiatives described in section 5.0 of the CRMP.

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>

3.1 Establish the Committee

In accordance with EAC condition 63, BC Hydro is engaging Indigenous groups on the development and implementation of mitigation measures respecting the potential effects of the Project on Indigenous culture and heritage through the Committee.

On September 24, 2014, BC Hydro invited all Indigenous groups named in the EAC and federal Decision Statement² to participate in the Committee. The Committee considers mitigation measures, which could include identification, naming and commemoration of key cultural sites; documenting historical use of the area, including trails, sites and stories; cultural awareness and orientation of the workforce; and, support for cultural camps through financial in-kind support. BC Hydro offered to provide an honorarium and to cover costs associated with travel to attend Committee meetings.

On October 17, 2014, BC Hydro provided Indigenous groups with the draft CRMP, which included the proposed Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Committee, for review and comment. Comments received on the draft CRMP were considered in preparing the final CRMP. Additionally, the ToR has been reviewed by Committee members, including the proposed cultural resources mitigation initiatives detailed in the CRMP.

To date there have been two revisions to the CRMP:

- Revision 2 (Summer 2017) to include an additional process for (a) discussing, identifying and developing mitigation measures for cultural resources outside of the Committee and (b) incorporating mitigation measures for cultural resources into construction planning. Revision 2 of the Plan was shared with Indigenous groups on July 25, 2017. The revised plan was presented and discussed at the Committee meeting on July 26, 2017.
- Revision 3 (October 2018) to include the following changes: Providing a definition of “cultural resources” (Section 2.2); Setting out roles and responsibilities for implementation of the plan (Section 2.3); Establishing a process for review and revision of the plan (Section 2.5); Clarification of the role and structure of the Cultural and Heritage Resources Committee (Section 5.1); Describing the process for developing mitigations measures for cultural resources in collaboration with individual Indigenous groups, including ground-truthing activities and the preparation of site specific mitigation plans (Section 5.3); and, Identifying potential management options for cultural resources, including avoidance, mitigation, and compliance verification as applicable (Sections 6.0). The revisions were shared with the Environmental Assessment Office and Indigenous groups for review and input on October 10, 2018.

BC Hydro will continue to work with the Committee on the implementation of the plan and to respond to issues and concerns raised by Indigenous groups on the plan.

² Unless otherwise specified, the term Indigenous groups applies to the following “Aboriginal groups” as defined in the Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) and federal Decision Statement (FDS): Saulteau 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.

3.1.1 Frequency, Duration and Location of Meetings

In the CRMP and Terms of Reference for the Committee, it was proposed the Committee meet on a quarterly basis for the first and second years of Project construction. The frequency thereafter would be determined by the Committee members. Starting in the third year of Project Construction the Committee adopted a structure that incorporates a sub-regional approach within the broader Committee meetings.

The Committee held its first meeting on July 30, 2015. To date, representatives from twelve of the thirteen Indigenous groups named in the EAC and federal Decision Statement have attended at least one or more of the Committee meeting during the reporting period. Attendees include representatives from Doig River First Nation, Blueberry River First Nations, Halfway River First Nation, Prophet River First Nation, West Moberly First Nations, Sauleteu First Nations, Dene Tha' First Nation, Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation, McLeod Lake Indian Band, Métis Nation BC, and Kelly Lake Métis Settlement Society.

During this reporting period, the Committee has held 4 meetings, with three meetings held in Fort St. John, one meeting in Moberly Lake.

3.1.2 Develop Cultural Resources Mitigation Initiatives in collaboration with the Committee

The Committee continues to work collaboratively on cultural resources mitigation initiatives. This includes identifying measures to commemorate sites that will be lost to inundation, identification and naming of key cultural sites, documenting historical use of the area, including trails, sites, and stories, and discussing and developing an approach to Indigenous cultural awareness and orientation of the workforce. The Committee is supported in its work by a third party facilitator, through Four Directions Management Services.

Below is a summary of the meetings held by the Committee within the reporting period of this annual report:

- On **April 23, 2018**, (meeting #13) the Committee reviewed the Draft ToR, the Process Flow Chart and further discussed the North Bank Viewpoint Interpretive Sign. Participants also broke into regional sub-groups to discuss ideas for potential projects. The Committee meeting was attended by BC Hydro and representatives from Blueberry River First Nations, Dene Tha' First Nation, Doig River First Nation, Duncan's First Nation, Halfway River First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation, Kelly Lake Métis Settlement Society, McLeod Lake Indian Band and Sauleteu First Nations. With respect to the next scheduled Committee meeting, Sauleteu First Nations invited the group to meet at Sauleteu First Nations in Moberly Lake.
- On **June 28, 2018**, (meeting #14) the Committee met and discussed the Draft ToR, with an agreement that it would be a living document that could be updated. The Committee was also provided a budget for working on small to medium-sized projects in their regional sub-groups; and, potential projects of interest were discussed. The Committee meeting was attended by BC Hydro and representatives from Blueberry River First

Nations, Dene Tha' First Nation, Doig River First Nation, Duncan's First Nation, Halfway River First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation, Kelly Lake Métis Settlement Society, Métis Nation British Columbia and Sauteau First Nations.

- On **September 12, 2018**, (meeting #15) the Committee met and reviewed changes to the ToR that were suggested at the June 28, 2018 meeting. Discussion focussed on the role of the Committee, the alignment of the TOR to the objectives of EAC Condition # 63. The following groups fully expressed support for the ToR: Sauteau First Nations, McLeod Lake Indian Band, Duncan's First Nation, Métis Nation British Columbia, and Kelly Lake Métis Settlement Society. Presentations were given by Northern British Columbia Tourism (NBCT), Indigenous Tourism British Columbia (ITBC), to raise awareness on tourism opportunities that help support First Nation events and goals for tourism infrastructure development. The Committee also separated into the subgroups to discuss potential projects at a sub-regional level. The Committee meeting was attended by BC Hydro and representatives from Blueberry River First Nations, Dene Tha' First Nation, Doig River First Nation, Duncan's First Nation, Halfway River First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation, Kelly Lake Métis Settlement Society, Métis Nation British Columbia and Sauteau First Nations.
- On **December 5, 2018**, (meeting #16) discussions continued on the ToR and the role and value of the Committee. BC Hydro provided a Project Management Fundamentals presentation. The Committee broke out into their regional sub-groups and discussed potential projects informed by Project Management presentation. The Committee meeting was attended by BC Hydro and representatives from Blueberry River First Nations, Dene Tha' First Nation, Doig River First Nation, Duncan's First Nation, Halfway River First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation, Kelly Lake Métis Settlement Society, Métis Nation British Columbia and Sauteau First Nations.

3.1.3 Information Sharing

Committee meeting minutes are shared with participants and leadership of their represented Indigenous communities for review and comment prior to being finalized. Meeting minutes are posted to the Site C Information for Indigenous Groups SharePoint. Additional information exchanged during meetings, such as presentations, photos and follow-up responses, are also made available on the Site C Information for Indigenous Groups SharePoint site, and can be accessed with a login and password.

This annual report will be shared with Indigenous groups at the same time as it is submitted to regulators.

3.2 Development of mitigation measures as part of collaboration with individual communities

3.2.1 Invitations and Participation in Ground Truthing Activities

The Project continued to consult with individual Indigenous groups regarding construction plans, and supported Indigenous groups in ground truthing³ of traditional land use areas within the Project activity zone prior to construction. BC Hydro remains open to ground truthing additional areas of interest related to cultural resources⁴ with Indigenous groups where ground truthing has not already occurred.

As follow up to the letter of invitation of April 6, 2017, BC Hydro sent an email on June 8, 2018 and further letters on August 9th and 10th, 2018, to Indigenous groups that included an update on upcoming construction activities and a renewed request to review and identify any areas of interest or concern for ground truthing.

During this reporting period, BC Hydro followed up with interested Indigenous groups to either coordinate ground truthing activities with BC Hydro field support, or to facilitate independent ground truthing activities. Ground truthing activities undertaken in the reporting period are summarized in Table 1, organized by Indigenous group. For the purposes of this report, the ground truthing activities relate to cultural resources.

Table 1: Ground Truthing Activities Undertaken

Indigenous Group	Project Component	Results
Blueberry River First Nations (BRFN)	Highway 29	Ground truthing activities took place on May 25-27, 30, 2018 and July 27, 29, 2018 within the Cache Creek highway realignment options and Cache Creek West.
Doig River First Nations (DRFN)	Highway 29	Ground truthing activities took place June 13-14, 2018 within the Cache Creek highway realignment options.
Halfway River First Nation (HRFN)	Highway 29	Ground truthing activities took place May 25-27, 2018 within the Cache Creek highway realignment options.
	Reservoir	Ground truthing activities took place July 10-13, 2018 at various locations along the Peace River within the future reservoir.

³ “Ground truthing” activities with Indigenous groups, including Indigenous registered trapline holders, is intended to provide BC Hydro with the information needed to verify and accurately site Indigenous land use sites or areas, and to identify concerns related to specific features, or sites that may be affected by the Project. In particular, BC Hydro is seeking to verify features such as plant harvesting areas (specifically medicinal and food plants), the location of burial sites, and the location of structures including when and how they are accessed by Indigenous groups.

⁴ Cultural resources are defined in Section 2.2 of the CRMP to be a site, location or feature of cultural importance to an Aboriginal Group and identified as such by an Aboriginal Group. Cultural resources may include, but are not limited to: prayer flags, trails, camps (including sites for cultural gatherings), habitation sites, and spiritual sites, including sweat lodges, and reported but unconfirmed burials.

Indigenous Group	Project Component	Results
Horse Lake First Nation (HLFN)	Transmission Line	Ground truthing activities took place July 21-22, 2018 within the western portion of the transmission line.
McLeod Lake Indian Band (MLIB)	Highway 29	Ground truthing activities took place June 20, 2018 within the Cache Creek highway realignment option 1.
Saulteau First Nations (SFN)	Highway 29	Ground truthing activities took place on June 14 and 15, 2018 within the Cache Creek high realignment options 1, 2 and 3.
	Transmission Line	Ground truthing activities took place November 3 and 7-8, 2018 within the western portion of the transmission line.

Some Indigenous groups identified areas of interest for ground truthing but were unable to schedule or conduct ground truthing during the reporting period. BC Hydro will continue to work with these groups, and remains open to scheduling ground truthing in these areas of interest that have not been cleared.

Ground truthing activities that BC Hydro was working to coordinate and schedule but were not conducted during the reporting period are described in Table 2.

Table 2: Ground Truthing Activities Coordinated but Not Undertaken

Indigenous Group	Project Component	Results
Duncan's First Nation (DFN)	Highway 29	Ground truthing activities were scheduled for July 3-5 2018 within the Cache Creek highway realignment option 1; the site visit did not take place due to cancellation by DFN, per direction from Chief and Council.
Kelly Lake Métis Settlement Society (KLMSS)	Transmission Line	BC Hydro and KLMSS made efforts to coordinate ground truthing in the transmission line on October 13, 2018. Ground truthing was cancelled due to poor weather and safety concerns. BC Hydro and KLMSS discussed ground truthing in spring of 2019, with the understanding that the transmission line is likely to be mostly cleared at that time.

For an update on ground truthing activities that occurred in relation to plant harvesting areas (specifically medicinal and food plants), please refer to the Aboriginal Plant Use Mitigation Plan 2018-2019 Annual Report⁵.

⁵ Annual reports of activities conducted under mitigation and monitoring plans are available under the heading Site C Project Reports in the [Environmental Management document library](#).

3.2.2 Addendum to Chance Find Procedures

A draft addendum to the Chance Find Procedure was developed outlining a revised procedure to be followed in the event of a chance find of human remains. The purpose of the addendum is to ensure that the procedures in place for responding to chance finds of human remains are culturally appropriate and sensitive, include appropriate communication protocols respecting communities' interests, and provide for effective protection and management measures to be implemented given the associated cultural and spiritual implications. In February 2018, the draft addendum was sent to Indigenous groups seeking their input.

3.3 Cultural Management Initiatives

3.3.1 Highway 29 Realignment at Cache Creek/Bear Flat

In response to concerns about potential impacts to two sites of cultural importance within the proposed Highway 29 realignment at Cache Creek/Bear Flat, the Province of B.C., in December 2017, requested BC Hydro and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to work with Indigenous groups and others to redesign the Highway 29 realignment at Cache Creek/Bear Flat to reduce the effects on these sites of cultural importance.

In January 2018, BC Hydro began engaging with Indigenous groups and property owners to share information and seek feedback on two potential realignment options. The two realignment options were developed in response to the concerns of Indigenous groups, taking into account the existing Provincial and Federal environmental assessment authorizations and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure design criteria. One option was developed within the Environmental Assessment Certificate corridor and one option was developed further north. In late February/early March, a third option was developed through the consultation process and included in the assessment process.

BC Hydro evaluated the three options using a structured decision making process and undertook a number of investigations and sought input from Indigenous groups and landowners.

As part of the consultation process, BC Hydro shared the structured decision making process with Indigenous groups, including the draft evaluation criteria and information on each of the options. Indigenous groups were invited to comment on the criteria, to review mapping and spatial data, and to conduct ground-truthing of each of the realignment options. Indigenous groups were also invited to participate as cultural monitors and archaeological field assistants during the geotechnical and archaeological investigations.

Based on the above evaluation process, including Indigenous and property owners' input, the third option was selected as the new realignment and was shared with Indigenous groups in September 2018. This option moves the highway realignment further north of the sites of cultural importance.

BC Hydro continues to consult with Indigenous groups on the new realignment as detailed design progresses.

3.4 Cultural Monitoring

As per section 6.2 of the CRMP, BC Hydro is employing mitigation measures to mitigate or reduce adverse effects on cultural resources. This includes cultural monitoring of construction activities by members of affected Indigenous groups to ensure culturally appropriate management and protection of cultural resources.

During this reporting period, cultural monitors have been on-site monitoring various pre-construction and construction activities at the dam site, Highway 29 realignment segment areas, along the transmission line, and within the reservoir areas.

BC Hydro is working with Indigenous groups on the on-going development of a cultural monitoring program. The cultural monitoring program is intended to provide additional opportunities for Indigenous communities to engage in conservation, and site protection measures as well as building community capacity through communications, education, and the intergenerational transfer of culture.

4 Schedule

BC Hydro will continue to work with the Committee and individual communities to plan and carry out activities described in the CRMP, as appropriate, on an ongoing basis through the construction phase of the Project.