PART 3 EIS GUIDELINES PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY TABLE

This part summarizes the issues, comments, and interests submitted by the public and by local and regional governments during the public comment period for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Guidelines.

During the pre-Panel review stage, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEA Agency) and the B.C. Environmental Assessment Office (BCEAO) held a 45-day public comment period on the draft EIS Guidelines (April 17 – June 1, 2012). The Guidelines provided direction to BC Hydro and identified information required in this EIS. Specifically, the EIS Guidelines *"set out the scope of the factors to be taken into consideration in the environmental assessment of the Project."* (Source: EIS Guidelines, September 5, 2012)

During the public comment period, the CEA Agency and the BCEAO accepted written comments on the EIS Guidelines, which were posted on the CEA Agency public registry and the BCEAO website.

On June 26, 2012, BC Hydro provided responses to 1,388 comments from 912 individual submissions received during the public comment period on the draft EIS Guidelines. Based on the comments received, BC Hydro also provided more detailed information on recurring themes. These were presented in the form of written **Topic Summaries**, which included:

- Agriculture
- Acid Rock Drainage and Metal Leaching
- Alternatives to the Project and Planning
- Caribou
- Cumulative Effects Assessment
- Current Use of Lands & Resources
- Dam Safety
- Decommissioning
- Downstream Technical Study Area Boundaries
- Hydroelectric Storage and Dispatchable Capacity
- Impact Lines
- Mercury
- Project Need and Purpose
- Public Information Distribution and Consultation
- Seismic Considerations
- Valued Component Selection and Boundaries

Table 1 below contains a summary of the issues, comments, and interests submitted by the **public** during the public comment period for the EIS Guidelines. Table 2 below contains a summary of the issues, comments, and interests submitted by **local and regional governments** in British Columbia and Alberta during the public comment period for the EIS Guidelines. The local and regional governments that provided comments were:

- District of Chetwynd
- District of Hudson's Hope
- Peace River Regional District
- County of Northern Lights, Alberta
- Town of Peace River, Alberta

PART 3 EIS GUIDELINES PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY TABLE

For a listing of all the comments received and BC Hydro's responses during the public comment period for the EIS Guidelines, including Topic Summaries, please see the CEA Agency or BCEAO websites at www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca and www.eao.gov.bc.ca.

Table 1: This table summarizes the issues, comments, and interests submitted by the **public** during the public comment period for the EIS Guidelines (EIS-G).

Summary of Issues, Comments, Interests Submitted by the Public (Alphabetized by Topic)	BC Hydro Consideration/Response
Agriculture • Concern about loss of agricultural land and other potential effects to agricultural production • Concern about amount of high value agricultural land lost • Impacts on ability to grow food locally	See: • Topic Summary: Agriculture • EIS-G: Section 16 Agriculture • EIS: Volume 3 Section 20 Agriculture
Alternatives To/Need for the Project • Questions about the alternatives to Site C, and whether they have been adequately explored by BC Hydro • Improve the efficiency of existing generation facilities instead of developing Site C • Consider alternative technologies/other energy sources such as solar and wind • Pursue energy efficiency and conservation • Questions about the need for the Project and whether B.C. needs the energy that would be produced by the Project	See: • Topic Summary: Alternatives to the Project and Planning • Topic Summary: Project Need and Purpose • EIS-G: Section 4 Need for, Alternatives to, and Alternatives Means of Carrying out the Project • EIS: Volume 1 Section 5 Need for, Purpose of, and Alternatives to the Project

PART 3 EIS GUIDELINES PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY TABLE

Summary of Issues, Comments, Interests Submitted by the Public (Alphabetized by Topic)	BC Hydro Consideration/Response

Cumulative Effects
• Interest in whether BC Hydro would study cumulative effects during the Environmental Assessment
	See:
	• Topic Summary: Cumulative Effects Assessment
	• EIS-G: Section 8.5.3 Cumulative Effects Assessment
	• EIS:
	  ○ Volume 2 Section 10 Effects Assessment Methodology
	  ○ Section 37.3 Cumulative Environmental Effects in Volume 5 Section 37 Federal Information Requirements

Dam Safety • Questions about what would happen in the event of an earthquake	See: • Topic Summary: Dam Safety • Topic Summary: Seismic Considerations • EIS: Volume 5 Section 37 Federal Information Requirements
Decommissioning • Questions related to plans for dam decommissioning	See: • Topic Summary: Decommissioning • EIS-G: Section 3.3.11 Decommissioning Activities • EIS: Section 4.3 Project Description in Volume 1 Section 4 Project Description
Education, Employment, and Training • Questions about employment opportunities for local residents • Concern that only short-term jobs will be created	See: • EIS-G: Section 5 Project Benefits • EIS: Volume 1 Section 7 Project Benefits

PART 3 EIS GUIDELINES PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY TABLE

Summary of Issues, Comments, Interests Submitted by the Public (Alphabetized by Topic)	BC Hydro Consideration/Response

Environmental Assessment Content
• Requests to add specific information or studies about black bears, caribou, river otters
• Request for addition of Guiding Principles
• Requests that BC Hydro provide rationale as to why other hydroelectric projects (like Murphy Creek, Low Site E) are prohibited, but Site C is not
• Questions about what is within federal jurisdiction with respect to renewable resources affected by the Project
• Requests that all spatial boundaries be available in Geographic Information System spatial databases for public and intervenor use
• Requests to amend or add to mitigation and compensation plans, for example, plans for fish habitat
• Request that information used to describe baseline conditions and predictive analyses should also include land use studies and local knowledge of non-Aboriginal people
• Request for changes to study boundaries
	See:
	• Topic Summary: Public Information Distribution and Consultation
	• Topic Summary: Valued Component Selection and Boundaries
	• Topic Summary: Downstream Technical Study Area Boundaries
	• EIS-G:
	  ○ Section 1 Introduction
	  ○ Section 8 Effect Assessment Methodology
	• EIS:
	  ○ Volume 1 Section 4 Project Description
	  ○ Volume 2 Section 10 Effects Assessment Methodology
	  ○ Volume 2 Sections 11–15
	  ○ Volume 3 Sections 16–27
	  ○ Volume 4 Sections 28–33
	  ○ Volume 5 Section 37 Federal Information Requirements

Environmental Assessment Process
• Questions about the experience/expertise of the joint review panel members
• Need for additional oversight, such as the British Columbia Utilities Commission
• Comments and suggestions regarding the consultation and public comment process for EIS-G, such as:
  ○ Adding open houses throughout the province
  ○ Lengthening comment periods
	See:
	• EIS-G: Section 6 Assessment Process
	• EIS: Volume 1 Section 8 Assessment Process

PART 3 EIS GUIDELINES PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY TABLE

Summary of Issues, Comments, Interests Submitted by the Public (Alphabetized by Topic)	BC Hydro Consideration/Response

Expressions of Opposition to the Project
• Expressions of opposition to the Project included:
• Changes to water flows, potential for icing
• Cumulative effects of three hydroelectric projects on one river and need for cumulative effects assessment
• Lack of regional economic benefits from the Project
• Potential climate change associated with the dam/reservoir
• Project cost
• Increase in methylmercury
• Need to protect environment for future generations
• Scope and adequacy of environmental assessment
• Seismic and dam safety considerations
• Visual effects
• Potential Project effects on:
  ○ Current land use
  ○ Fish and fish habitat
  ○ Local climate
  ○ Local ecosystems
  ○ River-based recreation
  ○ Agricultural land due to flooding
  ○ Traditional land and resource use
  ○ Aboriginal rights
  ○ Surface water regime
  ○ Vegetation
  ○ Water quality (sediment in water)
  ○ Wildlife/wildlife habitat
  ○ Slope stability and concerns about erosion
	See:
	• Topic Summary: Agriculture
	• Topic Summary: Alternatives to the Project and Planning
	• Topic Summary: Public Information Distribution and Consultation
	• Topic Summary: Hydroelectric Storage and Dispatchable capacity
	• Topic Summary: Acid Rock Drainage and Metal Leaching
	• Topic Summary: Cumulative Effects Assessment
	• Topic Summary: Dam Safety
	• Topic Summary: Current Use of Lands and Resources
	• Topic Summary: Impact Lines
	• Topic Summary: Downstream Technical Study Area Boundaries
	• Topic Summary: Project Need and Purpose
	• Topic Summary: Mercury
	• Topic Summary: Valued Component Selection and Boundaries
	• Topic Summary: Seismic Considerations
	• EIS-G:
	  ○ Section 4 Need for, Alternatives to, and Alternatives Means of Carrying out the Project
	• EIS:
	  ○ Volume 1 Section 4 Project Description
	  ○ Volume 1 Section 5 Need for, Purpose of, and Alternatives to the Project

PART 3 EIS GUIDELINES PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY TABLE

Summary of Issues, Comments, Interests Submitted by the Public (Alphabetized by Topic)	BC Hydro Consideration/Response
	○ Volume 1 Section 7 Project Benefits ○ Volume 2 Section 10 Effects Assessment Methodology ○ Volume 2 Section 11 Environmental Background: • Section 11.2 Geology, Terrain, and Soils • Section 11.3 Land Status, Tenure, and Project Requirements • Section 11.4 Surface Water Regime • Section 11.5 Water Quality • Section 11.9 Methylmercury • Section 11.10 Microclimate ○ Volume 2 Section 12 Fish and Fish Habitat ○ Volume 2 Section 13 Vegetation and Ecological Communities ○ Volume 2 Section 14 Wildlife Resources ○ Volume 2 Section 15 Greenhouse Gases ○ Volume 3 Section 18 Regional Economic Development ○ Volume 3 Section 19 Current Use of Lands and Reservoir for Traditional Purposes ○ Volume 3 Section 20 Agriculture ○ Volume 3 Section 25 Outdoor Recreation and Tourism ○ Volume 3 Section 27 Visual Resources ○ Volume 4 Section 33 Human Health ○ Volume 5 Section 34 Asserted or Established Aboriginal Rights and Treaty Rights, Aboriginal Interests and Information Requirements

PART 3 EIS GUIDELINES PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY TABLE

Summary of Issues, Comments, Interests Submitted by the Public (Alphabetized by Topic)	BC Hydro Consideration/Response

Expressions of Support for the Project
• Interest in employment opportunities as a result of Project
• Interest in new business opportunities
• Support to build Project based on need
	See:
	• Topic Summary: Alternatives to the Project and Planning
	• Topic Summary: Project Need and Purpose
	• EIS-G: Section 4 Need for, Alternatives to, and Alternatives Means of Carrying out the Project
	• EIS:
	  ○ Volume 1 Section 5 Need for, Purpose of, and Alternatives to the Project
	  ○ Volume 1 Section 7 Project Benefits

Fish and Fish Habitat • Concern that fish habitat will not be replicated in the reservoir • Concern that previous dams have disturbed fish populations and that the Project will as well	See: • EIS-G: Section 10 Fish and Fish Habitat • EIS: Volume 2 Section 12 Fish and Fish Habitat
Harvest of Fish and Wildlife Resources • Concern that an increase in workers will increase the amount of fishing and hunting as well as the demand for fish, wildlife, and recreational resources	See: • EIS-G: Section 16.6 Harvest of Fish and Wildlife Resources • EIS: Volume 3 Section 24 Harvest of Fish and Wildlife Resources
Heritage Resources • Concern over loss of archaeological and heritage sites due to the proposed reservoir	See: • Topic Summary: Valued Component Selection and Boundaries • Topic Summary: Current Use of Lands and Resources • EIS-G: Section 18 Heritage Resources • EIS: Volume 4 Section 32 Heritage Resources

PART 3 EIS GUIDELINES PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY TABLE

Summary of Issues, Comments, Interests Submitted by the Public (Alphabetized by Topic)	BC Hydro Consideration/Response
Outdoor Recreation and Tourism • Concern about effects on outdoor recreation from the Project	See: • EIS-G: Section 16.7 Outdoor Recreation and Tourism • EIS: Volume 3 Section 25 Outdoor Recreation and Tourism
Slope Stability/Landslides/Erosion/Shoreline Protection • Concern about slope stability in and around the proposed reservoir • Concern about the effect of potential sloughing on migrating wildlife • Concern that water flow levels could affect slope stability	See: • Topic Summary: Impact Lines • EIS-G: Section 9.2.1 Geology, Terrain and Soils • EIS: Section 11.2 Geology, Terrain, and Soils in Volume 2 Section 11 Environmental Background
Surface Water Regime • Interest in expanding the study area for downstream effects • Interest in downstream effects due to changes in water flow	See: • EIS-G: Section 9.3.1 Surface Water • EIS: Section 11.4 Surface Water Regime in Volume 2 Section 11 Environmental Background
Traditional Land and Resource Use • Interest in incorporating additional traditional and community knowledge in the draft EIS Guidelines	See: • Topic Summary: Valued Component Selection and Boundaries • Topic Summary: Current Use of Lands and Resources • EIS-G: Section 15 Current Use of Land and Resources for Traditional Use • EIS: Volume 3 Section 19 Current Use of Land and Resources for Traditional Purposes

PART 3 EIS GUIDELINES PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY TABLE

Summary of Issues, Comments, Interests Submitted by the Public (Alphabetized by Topic)	BC Hydro Consideration/Response
Wildlife • Questions around why certain bears, carnivores, fur-bearers, and ungulates are not being studied and request for them to be studied • Interest in how intrusive wildlife should be handled, such as wildlife that enters worker housing camps • Suggestion that scope of the analysis on wildlife habitat needs to be broadened and more comprehensive	See: • Topic Summary: Valued Component Selection and Boundaries • Topic Summary: Caribou • EIS-G: Section 12 Wildlife • EIS: Volume 2 Section 14 Wildlife Resources

PART 3 EIS GUIDELINES PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY TABLE

Table 2: This table summarizes the issues, comments, and interests submitted by **the local and regional governments** during the public comment period for the EIS Guidelines.

Summary of Issues, Comments, Interests Submitted by the Local and Regional Governments (Alphabetized by Community)	BC Hydro Consideration/Response
District of Chetwynd, B.C. The District of Chetwynd submitted comments related to the following topics during the review of the EIS Guidelines • Project benefits: socio-economic • Mitigation and compensation; outdoor recreation and tourism; transportation; community and regional socio-economic mitigation	See: • EIS-G: Section 5 Project Benefits • EIS-G: Volume 2 Assessment Methodology and Environmental Effects Assessment • EIS: Volume 1 Section 7 Project Benefits • EIS: Volume 2 Sections 10–15 • EIS: Volume 5 Section 39 Complete Lists of Mitigation and Follow-Up Measures

District of Hudson's Hope, B.C.
The District of Hudson's Hope submitted comments related to the following topics of concern during the review of the EIS Guidelines
• Potential changes or effects to: land status, tenure, and Project requirements; labour market; minerals and aggregates; heritage resources; community services and infrastructure
• Cumulative effects
	See:
	• Topic Summary: Cumulative Effects Assessment
	• EIS-G: Section 8 Effects Assessment Methodology
	• EIS:
	  ○ Volume 2 Section 10 Effects Assessment Methodology
	  ○ Volume 2 Section 11 Environmental Background
	  ○ Volume 3 Section 17 Labour Market
	  ○ Volume 3 Section 23 Minerals and Aggregates
	  ○ Volume 4 Section 32 Heritage Resources

PART 3 EIS GUIDELINES PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY TABLE

Summary of Issues, Comments, Interests Submitted by the Local and Regional Governments (Alphabetized by Community)	BC Hydro Consideration/Response

Peace River Regional District, B.C.
The Peace River Regional District submitted comments related to the following topics during the review of the EIS Guidelines
• EA process: consultation and engagement
• Project need and purpose
• Alternatives to the Project
• Temporal boundaries: pre-development baseline for effects assessment
• Baseline data collection and field survey programs: agriculture; geology, terrain, and soils
• Potential changes or effects: seismic considerations and effects of the environment on the Project; agriculture; geology, terrain, and soils
• Cumulative effects: pre-development baseline; induced seismic activity from hydraulic fracking
	See:
	• Topic Summary: Alternatives to the Project and Planning
	• Topic Summary: Project Need and Purpose
	• Topic Summary: Public Information Distribution and Consultation
	• Topic Summary: Valued Component Selection and Boundaries
	• Topic Summary: Agriculture
	• Topic Summary: Cumulative Effects Assessment
	• EIS-G:
	  ○ Section 4 Need for, Alternatives to, and Alternatives Means of Carrying out the Project
	  ○ Section 6 Assessment Process
	  ○ Section 8 Effects Assessment Methodology
	  ○ Section 16 Agriculture
	• EIS:
	  ○ Volume 1 Section 5 Need for, Purpose of, and Alternatives to the Project
	  ○ Volume 1 Section 8 Assessment Process
	  ○ Volume 2 Section 10 Effects Assessment Methodology
	  ○ Volume 2 Section 11 Environmental Background:
	  • Section 11.2 Geology, Terrain, and Soils
	  ○ Volume 2 Section 12 Fish and Fish Habitat
	  ○ Volume 2 Section 13 Vegetation and Ecological Communities
	  ○ Volume 2 Section 14 Wildlife Resources
	  ○ Volume 3 Section 20 Agriculture

PART 3 EIS GUIDELINES PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY TABLE

Summary of Issues, Comments, Interests Submitted by the Local and Regional Governments (Alphabetized by Community)	BC Hydro Consideration/Response
County of Northern Lights, Alberta The County of Northern Lights submitted comments related to the following topics during review of the EIS Guidelines • Potential changes or effects to: surface water regime; sediment transport; effects of climate change; thermal and ice regime	See: • EIS-G: Section 8 Effects Assessment Methodology • EIS: Volume 2 Section 10 Effects Assessment Methodology • EIS: Volume 2 Section 11 Environmental Background

Town of Peace River, Alberta
The Town of Peace River submitted comments related to the following topics during review of the EIS Guidelines
• EA process: consultation and engagement
• Project components: reservoir operations water management
• Valued component selection: study component on Town of Peace River's issues
• Potential changes or effects: sediment transport, surface water regime, and community infrastructure and services; thermal and ice regime; transportation
	See:
	• Topic Summary: Valued Component Selection and Boundaries
	• EIS-G:
	  ○ Section 6 Assessment Process
	• EIS:
	  ○ Volume 1 Section 4 Project Description
	  ○ Volume 1 Section 8 Assessment Process
	  ○ Volume 2 Section 10 EA Methodology
	  ○ Volume 2 Section 11 Environmental Background
	  • Section 11.4 Surface Water Regime
	  • Section 11.5 Water Quality
	  • Section 11.6 Groundwater Regime
	  • Section 11.7 Thermal and Ice Regime
	  ○ Volume 4 Section 30 Community Infrastructure and Services
	  ○ Volume 4 Section 31 Transportation