

BC HYDRO ISSUES NOTE

Issue: SITE C ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CERTIFICATE
AMENDMENT - GENERATING STATION AND SPILLWAYS

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ISSUE SUMMARY

BC Hydro is seeking an amendment to the Site C project's Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) related to the design of the generating station and spillways. This is the first time the BC Hydro has pursued an amendment to the project's EAC.

BACKGROUND

- BC Hydro received the Environmental Assessment Certificate for the Site C project in October 2014.
- Since then, BC Hydro has made improvements to the design of the generating station and spillways in order to optimize capacity, minimize environmental risks, improve safety and facilitate the ease of long-term maintenance during operations.
- In order to proceed with these improvements, BC Hydro is pursuing an amendment to the EAC (specifically, Schedule A, the "Project Description").
- Here is a summary of the changes:
 1. Each generator will now be connected to a transformer located upstream of the units, on the transformer deck.
 2. The spillways originally had seven gates, but will now be constructed with three radial gates and six low level outlets.
 3. The discharge capacity of the spillways has been increased.
- As part of the design change process, BC Hydro looked at whether the changes would result in any changes to the finding of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) with respect to the following the valued components: vegetation and ecological communities, navigation, heritage resources, fish and fish habitat, harvest of fish and wildlife resources, and current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes.
 - The assessment confirmed that the design changes will not increase the effects of the project on those valued components, as described in the EIS.
- BC Hydro submitted a draft request to amend the EAC to the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) on December 18, 2017 and will submit a final request in early March 2018.
- BC Hydro has notified Indigenous groups about the amendment request and will work with the EAO to ensure all information and notification requirements are satisfied.

KEY MESSAGES

- BC Hydro is committed to building Site C in accordance with the project's environmental approvals.
- We've made improvements to the design of Site C's generating station and spillways to optimize capacity, minimize environmental risks, improve safety and facilitate the ease of long-term maintenance during operations.
- These changes require us amend project's Environmental Assessment Certificate in order to update the design of the generating station and spillways.
- We will be submitting an amendment application to the Environmental Assessment Office in early March.

TOP QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Why is BC Hydro making this design change to the generating station and spillways?

- We've made improvements to the design of the generating station and spillways in order to optimize capacity, minimize environmental risks, improve safety and facilitate the ease of long-term maintenance during operations.

2. What changes are being made?

- There are three changes:
 - Each generator will now be connected to a transformer located upstream of the units, on the transformer deck.
 - The spillways originally had seven gates, but will now be constructed with three radial gates and six low level outlets.
 - The discharge capacity of the spillways has been increased.

3. Will this have additional impacts to the environment or Indigenous groups?

- As part of the design change process for the generating station and spillways, we looked at whether the changes would result in any changes to the finding of the EIS with respect a number of value components. Value components included: vegetation and ecological communities, navigation, heritage resources, fish and fish habitat, harvest of fish and wildlife resources, and current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes.
- The assessment confirmed that the design changes will not increase the effects of the project on these valued components, as described in the EIS.

4. Is BC Hydro confident that this amendment will be approved?

- These are important design changes to the generating station and spillways that optimize capacity, minimize environmental risks, improve safety, and facilitate the ease of long-term maintenance during operations.
- We will be submitting an amendment application in early March and will work with the EAO to ensure all information and notification requirements are satisfied.