

# QUICK FACTS



For the year ended March 31, 2008

## Corporate Purpose

**BC Hydro's corporate purpose is to provide reliable power, at low cost, for generations.**

## Business of BC Hydro

BC Hydro is a commercial Crown corporation owned by the Province of British Columbia. BC Hydro is one of North America's leading providers of clean, renewable energy, and the largest electric utility in British Columbia, serving approximately 95 per cent of the province's population and 1.7 million customers. We are responsible for reliably generating between 43,000 and 54,000 gigawatt hours (GWh) of electricity. Electricity is delivered to customers through an interconnected system of 18,531 kilometres of transmission lines and 56,297 kilometres of distribution lines.

## 2008 Facts

- Net income was \$369 million, compared with \$407 million the year before, resulting in a return on equity of 11.33%. BC Hydro's financial results benefited from increased consumption, lower energy costs and lower amortization expense.
- Water inflows were 29 per cent higher than the prior year (and 14 per cent higher than average) resulting in greater hydro generation than in the prior year, reducing the volume of energy purchases acquired to meet domestic requirements, which lowered the overall cost of energy.
- Power Smart conservation programs continued to deliver cost-effective energy, producing new annual energy savings of 326 GWh in fiscal 2008.
- Many of BC Hydro's power-generating facilities were built decades ago, and need refurbishment and expansion to continue providing reliable electricity to British Columbians. BC Hydro is investing significant funds—\$3.4 billion over fiscal 2009 and 2010 alone—to address our aging infrastructure.
- BC Hydro moved to a new, two-step Conservation Rate for BC Hydro's residential customers as of October 1, 2008 that charges a lower price for the first portion of electricity used and a higher price for remaining use. It is designed to encourage conservation and about 70 per cent of residential customers will pay less than under the previous "flat rate" structure.

## Energy Facts

### Definitions

**power** = how much electricity is consumed by customers (or produced by power generators) at any instant in time

**energy** = how much is consumed (or produced) over a period of time

**capacity** = the maximum sustainable amount of energy that can be produced or carried at any instant. Example: a car engine's horsepower rating is its energy capacity.

### Units of power

- 1 kilowatt (kW) = 1,000 watts
- 1 megawatt (MW) = 1,000 kilowatts (or 1 million watts)
- 1 gigawatt (GW) = 1,000 megawatts (or 1 billion watts)

### Units of energy

- 1 kilowatt hour (kWh) = 1,000 watts for 1 hour (1,000 watt hours)
- 1 megawatt hour (MWh) = 1,000 kWh
- 1 gigawatt hour (GWh) = 1,000 MWh

(Note that the abbreviations for prefixes follow metric convention, so kilo is k, while mega and giga are capitalized. The abbreviation for watt is W.)

### Power to Energy ratios – rule of thumb

- Power to energy – for thermal electric: MW x 8 = GWh per year
- Power to energy – for large hydro: MW x 5 = GWh per year

### Comparison statistics

- The average household in BC Hydro's service area uses about 11,000 kWh per year.
- A large industrial customer, such as a pulp mill, might use 400 GWh in a year, equal to the consumption of 40,000 households.
- A typical large office building of 20–25 storeys will consume 5 GWh in a year, equal to the consumption of 500 households.
- A large "big box" retail outlet will consume 3.5 GWh per year, or roughly the equivalent of 350 households.
- A 1 MW micro hydro plant produces about 5 GWh per year of green energy

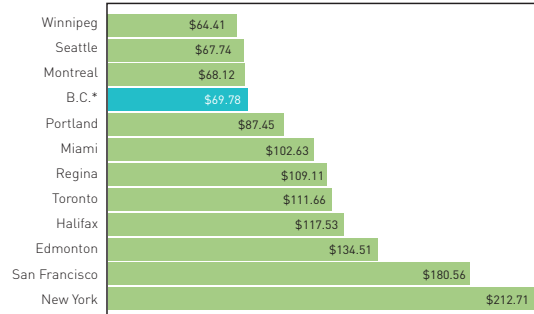
## Financial Information (in millions)

| For the years ended or as at March 31                           | 2008     | 2007     |
|---|----------|----------|
| Revenues  | \$4,855  | \$4,192  |
| Net income  | \$369    | \$407    |
| Property, plant and equipment and intangible assets             | \$11,102 | \$10,422 |
| Property, plant and equipment and intangible asset expenditures | \$1,072  | \$807    |
| Net long-term debt <sup>1</sup>                                 | \$7,519  | \$6,9196 |

<sup>1</sup>Consists of long-term debt, including the current portion, net of sinking funds and cash and cash equivalents.

## Residential Rates

\$ per 1,000 kWh



Note: All bills and average rates are in Canadian currency and exclude taxes. "B.C." refers to BC Hydro service territory. Source for rates: April 2008 Hydro Quebec Survey. The exchange rate used to convert bills in U.S. dollars into Canadian dollars is \$0.9737 (CA\$1 = US\$0.9737), the rate in effect at noon on April 1, 2008.

## Operating Statistics

| For the years ended or as at March 31                            | 2008             | 2007             |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Customers</b>   |                  |                  |
| Residential  | 1,568,508        | 1,540,176        |
| Light industrial and commercial                                  | 194,861          | 193,070          |
| Large industrial   | 160              | 146              |
| Other  | 3,480            | 3,349            |
| Trade  | 257              | 246              |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>1,767,194</b> | <b>1,736,987</b> |
| <b>Electricity sold (gigawatt hours)</b>                         |                  |                  |
| Residential  | 17,553           | 16,651           |
| Light industrial and commercial                                  | 18,406           | 18,268           |
| Large industrial   | 15,380           | 15,989           |
| Other  | 1,961            | 2,003            |
| Trade (electricity & gas)  | 51,815           | 41,336           |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>105,115</b>   | <b>94,247</b>    |
| <b>Revenues (in millions)</b>                                    |                  |                  |
| Residential  | \$ 1,171         | \$ 1,070         |
| Light industrial and commercial                                  | 1,054            | 1,025            |
| Large industrial   | 536              | 556              |
| Other energy sales   | 127              | 99               |
| Miscellaneous  | 56               | 36               |
| Trade  | 1,911            | 1,406            |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$ 4,855</b>  | <b>\$ 4,192</b>  |
| <b>Average revenue (cents per kWh)</b>                           |                  |                  |
| Residential  | 6.7              | 6.4              |
| Light industrial and commercial                                  | 5.7              | 5.6              |
| Large industrial   | 3.5              | 3.5              |
| Other  | 6.5              | 4.9              |
| Trade <sup>1</sup>   | 6.5              | 6.5              |
| <b>Average annual kilowatt hour use per residential customer</b> | <b>11,290</b>    | <b>10,906</b>    |
| <b>Peak one-hour demand integrated system (megawatts)</b>        | <b>9,548</b>     | <b>10,113</b>    |
| <b>Lines in service</b>  |                  |                  |
| Distribution (kilometres)  | 56,297           | 55,705           |
| Transmission (circuit kilometres)                                | 18,531           | 18,336           |
| Number of employees <sup>2</sup>                                 | 5,185            | 4,546            |

<sup>1</sup>The method used to calculate trade revenue per kWh is based on gross trade revenues.

<sup>2</sup>Includes full and part-time employees of BC Hydro and its subsidiaries.

## Generating Capacity in kW

| Hydroelectric*  | Kilowatts (kW)    |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Aberfeldie      | 5,000             |
| Alouette        | 9,000             |
| Ash River       | 28,000            |
| Bridge River    | 478,000           |
| Cheakamus       | 158,000           |
| † Clayton Falls | 2,070             |
| Clowhom         | 33,000            |
| Elk River       | 12,000            |
| Falls River     | 7,000             |
| V GM Shrum      | 2,730,000         |
| John Hart       | 126,000           |
| Jordan          | 170,000           |
| Kootenay Canal  | 583,000           |
| Ladore          | 47,000            |
| La Joie         | 25,000            |
| R Lake Bunzten  | 72,800            |
| Mica            | 1,805,000         |
| V Peace Canyon  | 694,000           |
| R Puntledge     | 24,000            |
| V Revelstoke    | 1,980,000         |
| Ruskin          | 105,000           |
| R Seton         | 48,000            |
| Seven Mile      | 805,000           |
| R Shuswap       | 6,000             |
| Spillimacheen   | 4,000             |
| V R Stave Falls | 91,000            |
| R Strathcona    | 64,000            |
| R Wahleach      | 65,000            |
| Walter Hardman  | 8,000             |
| Whatshan        | 54,000            |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>10,238,870</b> |

\* Maximum sustained generating capacity

R Has recreational area

V Has visitor centre

† Non-integrated area

## Thermal

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| Burrard       | 947,500          |
| Fort Nelson   | 47,000           |
| Prince Rupert | 46,000           |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>1,040,500</b> |

## Diesel Generation

|                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| † Ah-Sin-Heek     | 6,580         |
| † Anahim Lake     | 3,650         |
| † Atlin           | 2,650         |
| † Bella Bella     | 3,900         |
| † Dease Lake      | 3,600         |
| † Eddontenajon    | 2,550         |
| † Masset          | 11,524        |
| † Sandspit        | 10,150        |
| † Telegraph Creek | 1,800         |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>46,404</b> |

**Total Capacity** ..... **11,325,774**

**BC hydro**   
FOR GENERATIONS

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[bchydro.com/quickfacts](http://bchydro.com/quickfacts)