

BACKGROUND

Site C construction status

Construction on Site C began in July 2015. Construction is over 50% complete.

Construction activities are underway in all project areas including at the dam site, reservoir, transmission line corridor and segments of Highway 29.

Impacts of COVID-19

Prior to COVID-19, Site C remained on schedule to go into service in 2024.

Due to the scale-back in work activities from the COVID-19 pandemic, the project missed about 60% of the 2020 important summer construction season for the dam and core buttress, earthfill dam, and generating station and spillways.

As a result of COVID-19, the project's expected in-service date has been delayed to 2025.

River diversion

In October 2020, BC Hydro successfully diverted the Peace River through two diversion tunnels. This allows the earthfill dam to be built on dry land.

This milestone was one of the most important in the construction of Site C and involved building two 750-metre-long tunnels into the north bank of the river, through which the entire Peace River is now flowing.

Earthfill dam construction

Two cofferdams are required to seal off the main channel of the river. The upstream cofferdam is complete, with the downstream cofferdam almost complete. The main earthfill dam will be constructed between the two cofferdams.

The main earthfill dam will be 60 metres tall, about 500 metres wide at its base and span more than one kilometre across the river.

Generating station and spillways work

Generating station and spillways work on the right bank of the Peace River includes the Site C powerhouse, penstocks, spillways, turbines and generators.

In the powerhouse, 75% of the concrete and 80% of the steel have been placed.

The six penstocks, which will channel the water from the reservoir into the turbines and generators, are more than 50% complete. Penstocks are large steel pipes, which are 10 metres in diameter and 80 metres long.

Two of the six turbine runners have been transported to site from Brazil. The next two runners will be transported to site this summer, and the last two transported in 2022.

The runner is the rotating part of a turbine (like a fan or a windmill) that converts the gravitational energy of falling water into mechanical energy. It then spins a generator to produce clean hydroelectric power.

Substation and transmission lines

The Site C substation was completed in October 2020 and is now energized.

The first of two new 500 kilovolt, 75-kilometre transmission lines was completed and energized in fall 2020. The second transmission line is more than half finished.

Highway 29 construction

BC Hydro is partnering with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to realign six segments of Highway 29, which connects Hudson's Hope to Fort St. John.

Construction is underway for all 30 kilometres of the highway that need to be realigned to accommodate the future reservoir.

Reservoir clearing

BC Hydro is removing trees and vegetation from the future Site C reservoir area.

Clearing of this 87-kilometre-long reservoir area is about 75 per cent complete.

Construction activities for 2021

In the coming year, the following major construction activities will take place:

- Continuing construction on the main earthfill dam, approach channel, and remaining roller-compacted concrete buttresses (foundations).
- Completing the downstream cofferdam before spring freshet.
- Continuing construction of the powerhouse, intakes, penstocks and spillways.
- Manufacturing and transporting the turbines and generator components to site.
- Finishing the second transmission line between Peace Canyon generating station and the Site C substation.
- Continuing construction of Highway 29 and a shoreline protection berm at Hudson's Hope.
- Completing the design and beginning construction on the foundation enhancements for the right bank.

Site C employment

In December 2020, there were 4,428 people working on the project:

- 3,173 people were from British Columbia (72%)
- 880 workers were from the Peace River Regional District (24%)

Peak employment was reached on the project in October 2020, with a total project workforce of 5,181 people.

Indigenous relations

BC Hydro has reached benefit agreements with the majority of the Treaty 8 First Nations impacted by the project.

About \$530 million in Site C procurement opportunities has been awarded to Indigenous-designated businesses, including pre-construction contracts.

There are about 400 Indigenous people currently working on the project, and several hundred more have received training on the project.

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