
INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release
2014ENV0002-000049
Jan. 20, 2014

Ministry of Environment
Environmental Assessment Office
Ministry of Energy and Mines

Narrows Inlet Hydro Project given conditional environmental assessment approval

VICTORIA – Environment Minister Mary Polak and Energy and Mines Minister Bill Bennett have issued a conditional Environmental Assessment Certificate to Narrows Inlet Hydro Holding Corp. for the Narrows Inlet Hydro Project, approximately 50 km north of Sechelt.

The decision was made after considering a review led by British Columbia's Environmental Assessment Office. The Environmental Assessment Office concluded that the project is not expected to result in any significant adverse effects, based on the mitigation measures and conditions of the Environmental Assessment Certificate. A record of the factors that the ministers considered in making their decision can be found in the Reasons for Ministers' Decision at: <http://tinyurl.com/ny4c9wr>

The Environmental Assessment Certificate includes 26 conditions, which together with the design aspects specified in the Certified Project Description will mitigate potential impacts of the project. Each of the conditions is a legally-binding requirement that Narrows Inlet Hydro Holding Corp. must meet to be in compliance with the certificate. It is also a legal requirement that the project be built and operated in accordance with the Certified Project Description.

The certificate conditions were developed following consultation and input from the public, First Nations, communities and government agencies. Key conditions for the project include that Narrows Inlet Hydro Holding Corp. must:

- Conduct a study to determine the levels of methyl mercury in sediment/soils at Ramona Lake and potential effects on the release of methyl mercury into Ramona Lake.
- Only draw down Ramona Lake in accordance with conservative conditions specified in the certificate.
- Develop and implement a water quality and lake level monitoring program at Ramona Lake that includes monitoring water temperature, total solid sediments and nutrients.
- During operations, maintain the in-stream flow rates and diversion rates specified in the certificate.
- Communicate with the public on the status of the project and communicate with the Narrows Inlet Users Group on the timing of construction activities related to the powerhouse, transmission line and other infrastructure in the Lower Ramona Creek area.
- Develop and implement a fish habitat compensation plan for Chickwat Creek.

- Develop and implement plans for erosion control, drainage management and surface water quality protection during construction to protect water quality in Ramona Creek.

Consistent with its enhanced compliance and enforcement program, the Environmental Assessment Office will co-ordinate compliance management efforts with other government agencies to ensure that the office is satisfied that certificate conditions are met.

British Columbia's environmental assessment process involves a rigorous, thorough review that provides for significant opportunities for First Nations, government agencies and the public to provide input on the potential for environmental, economic, social, heritage and health effects from a proposed project.

Media Communications
Contact: Ministry of Environment
 250 953-3834

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: www.gov.bc.ca/connect