

Bridge River newsletter

Projects update—Fall 2021

The upper Bridge River system from the summit of Mount Sloan. Downton Reservoir, Gun and Lajoie Lakes, and Carpenter Reservoir. Photo credit: Tom Appleby

We're renewing the Bridge River electricity system which is about 300 kilometers north of Vancouver in the Traditional Territory of the St'át'imc Nation.

The system consists of the La Joie Dam and Powerhouse (Downton Reservoir), Bridge 1 and 2 Powerhouses (Terzaghi Dam and Carpenter Reservoir), and Seton Dam and Powerhouse (Seton Lake).

We're making a significant investment in these 55 to 70-year-old facilities, whose proximity to the Lower Mainland helps us operate the electrical system more efficiently. This includes several projects in the region.

Seton unit replacement project

This fall, we're in the early planning stages of a unit replacement project at the Seton Generating Station in Lillooet.

In service since 1956, the station's turbine was replaced once before in 1977. Now, we're planning to replace the generator and turbine to ensure the facility continues to operate safely for decades to come.

Seton plays an important role in the Bridge River System that spans from Goldbridge to Lillooet. For decades it has operated at the downstream end of the system in Lillooet generating electricity and serving as a main source of water conveyance for the Bridge River system moving water from Seton Lake and into the Fraser River.

As part of the project, we're planning to install a hydraulic bypass to allow us to continue to move water from Seton Lake and into the Fraser river while work is underway in the station. The bypass will help us to maintain flow commitments in the Water Use Plan and helps us mitigate the risk of impacts to fish.

Engagement for the Seton Unit Replacement project will be ongoing. In the coming months, we'll host a virtual open house with the project team to provide more information on the planned work.



Seton Generating Station

Bridge River regulatory filings

In July, BC Hydro applied for a joint Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) for both the Bridge River 1 Unit 1–4 Generator Replacement Project and the Bridge River Transmission Project (bchydro.com/brtp) with the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC).

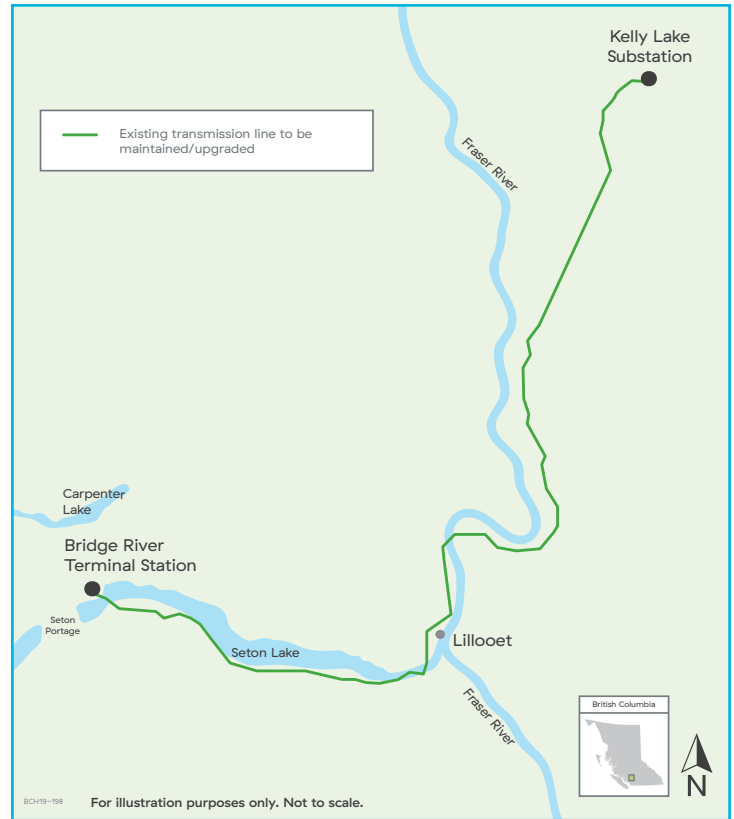
As the next step in the process, we'll spend the next few months responding to questions about our application from intervenors and the BCUC. We anticipate a decision on the application by mid-2022. More information on the CPCN process is available at bcuc.com/get-involved.

The project at Bridge River 1 will replace aging generating equipment in the station to improve reliability, restore capacity and increase operating flexibility. The targeted completion is 2030. The transmission project will improve the reliability and safety of the Bridge River transmission system by eliminating system constraints and increasing its capacity for future generations. The targeted completion is 2025.

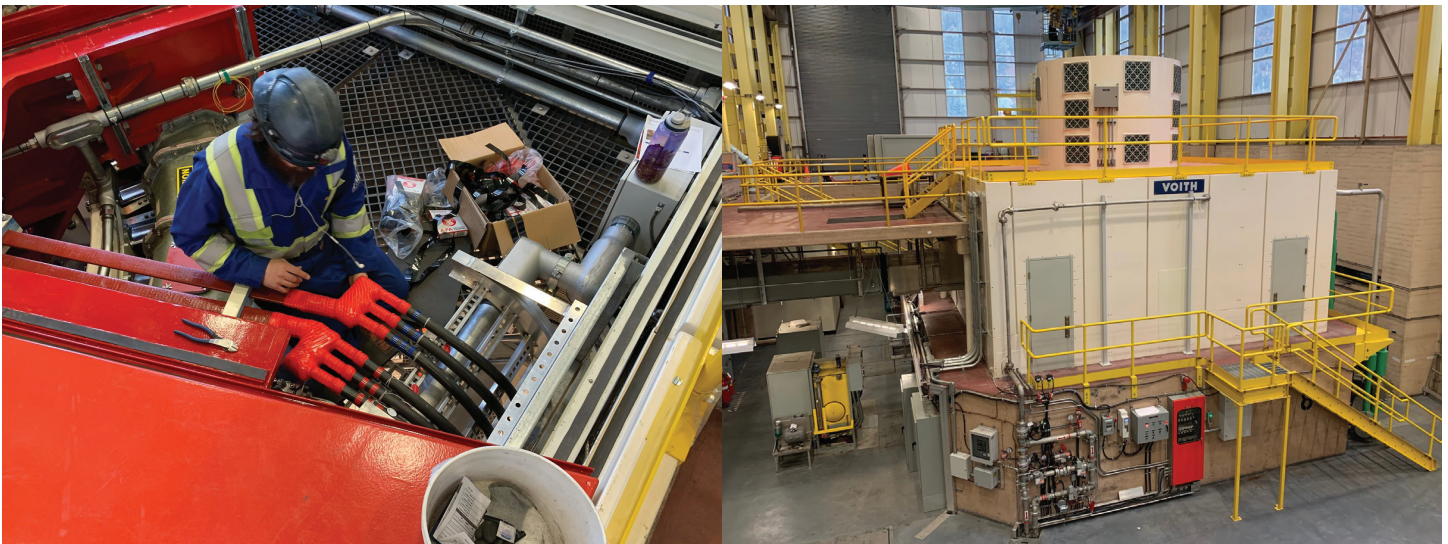
Bridge River 2 generating station —units 7 & 8 commissioning

Last summer, unit 7 at Bridge River generating station started its operations and is now in service. Unit 8 went into service last spring. With both units now in operation, the project team is completing documentation, closing contracts, and preparing for final inspections in 2022. Units 5 and 6 generators were replaced in 2019 and are operating well.

Targeted completion is late 2022/early 2023. Bridge River 2 generating station is a four-unit, 278-megawatt powerhouse built in the late 1950s. The station produces enough electricity to power 126,500 homes.



Map of the leading alternative for the Bridge River Transmission Project.



Above left: Crew install insulation tape on exciter lead connections inside the unit. Above right: unit is commissioned and in operation. Photo credit: Sandra Wilson.

Update on COVID-19 response and vaccination:

Since March 2020, we've introduced measures to reduce the risk of exposure to our workers and the public in the Bridge River area. We continue to focus on ensuring safe practices are in place. Our COVID-19 Safety Measures align with guidance from the Provincial Health Authority (PHA). Current measures include:

- more frequent cleaning,
- mandatory daily self check-ins,
- mandatory masks in common areas,
- social distancing.

All workers in Bridge River were offered COVID-19 vaccines through a deployment clinic at Lillooet Hospital and Health Centre available to industrial camp workers last March. It's estimated about 90 per cent of our staff is fully vaccinated. In addition, this October BC Hydro announced that it will require proof of COVID-19 vaccination from all employees and contractors working at a BC Hydro work site or facility across the province by January 10, 2022.

For questions about our COVID-19 response, please contact projects@bchydro.com

Update on workforce forecast

BC Hydro's workforce in the Bridge River region can vary depending on project status. Most construction activities were completed between April and August. Activities at our facilities are now slowing down, resulting in fewer workers in the area. This summer, 85 workers were on-site. This will be reduced to approximately 10 workers or less from December 2021 to February 2022. No additional accommodation is required this year.

Focus on skills: Communication Protection and Control (CPC) Technologists

Skilled workers are vital to maintaining our system and delivering our capital projects. Communication Protection and Control (CPC) Technologists are responsible for the maintenance of protection, communication, and control systems at BC Hydro. The work involves the installation, maintenance, and repair of critical electronic equipment for detecting and responding to power system faults, controlling system devices, and data and voice transfer throughout the Province. CPC Technologists lead testing and commissioning of electrical systems and perform quality control on construction projects.

The CPC Technologist Trainee program is open for applications once a year, between November–January. A trainee's CPC career begins with 48 months of on-the-job technical training while earning 75% of the full trade rate as an apprentice.

For more information, visit bchydro.com/careers.



Kyle Douglas performs a load test at the Bridge River 2 Generating station. Photo credit: Sean Baylis.

Summer wildfire impacts

This summer, BC Hydro worked with Emergency Management BC, BC Wildfire Services, and other agencies to monitor and respond to wildfire risks across the province. In Bridge River, our townsite and generating facilities were under evacuation alert, along with local communities, due to the McKay Creek fire. We also have extensive transmission lines that ran through the fire area which we regularly monitored by helicopter. By following our emergency response plan, we were able to operate the Bridge River system and continue our capital project work without interruption throughout the fire season.



BC Hydro crews work along Highway 12 to restore infrastructure impacted by a wildfire. Photo credit: Ryan Micholuk.

Wildfire Customer Support: Residential and commercial customers who are affected by an evacuation order are eligible to receive a credit for the electricity consumed for the duration of the time they're out of their home if the order is for five days or longer. We also offer flexible bill payment plans for when you're able to return home.

To know more visit bchydro.com/evacueehelp.

For more information on Bridge River projects visit bchydro.com/bridgeriver

If you have questions, please contact us at projects@bchydro.com or 604 623 4472 or toll-free at 1 866 647 3334.

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