

# Bridge River Newsletter

## Projects update—Spring 2021

We're renewing the Bridge River electricity system which is about 300 kilometres 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 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.

### Update on Bridge River regulatory filings

In fall 2020, the BC Utilities Commission directed BC Hydro to file a joint Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) for the Bridge River 1 Units 1–4 Generator Replacement Project and the Bridge River Transmission Project ([bchydro.com/btrtp](http://bchydro.com/btrtp)). We're preparing to submit this combined application in June 2021. More information on the CPCN process is available at [bcuc.com/get-involved](http://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. Targeted completion is 2030. The transmission project will ensure that the regional transmission system continues to move electricity from these generating facilities to our customers during peak periods. Targeted completion is 2025.



The powerhouses at Bridge River

## Update on the Transformer Replacement Project



Crews install steel components in late March as part of the Transformer 3 Replacement Project at Bridge River 1. The project is expected to be completed this summer.

## Bridge River 2 Generating Station – Units 7&8 commissioning

We've been upgrading units 7 & 8 at the Bridge River 2 (BR2) Generating Station. This spring, unit 8 will undergo commissioning and is expected to be in service in late May while work on Unit 7 continues. Targeted completion is late 2021/early 2022. BR2 is a four-unit, 278-megawatt powerhouse built in the late 1950s. The station produces enough electricity to power 126,500 homes.

## Workforce forecast

The workforce needed to complete capital project work in the region can vary depending on project status. This summer, about 80 workers will be working at our Bridge River facilities in Tsal'álh/Seton Portage. Most of the construction is expected between April and July. Workers will stay at existing facilities in Tsal'álh/Seton Portage. No additional accommodation is required this year by BC Hydro in the Bridge region.

## Focus on skills: Winders

There are a variety of skilled workers needed to maintain our system and deliver our capital projects. Winders are equipment specialists who test, rewind, rebuild, and replace electric motors, generators, alternators, transformers, control equipment and mobile machines.

It's a rare trade where its uniqueness and often the age of equipment require special skillsets. BC Hydro has its own Winder apprentices and often partners with others in this niche environment for training opportunities. For more information about BC Hydro employment, visit [bchydro.com/careers](https://bchydro.com/careers).



Winders brazing copper coil connections. Oxygen/acetylene torches were used with extreme caution.



## Post-secondary scholarships

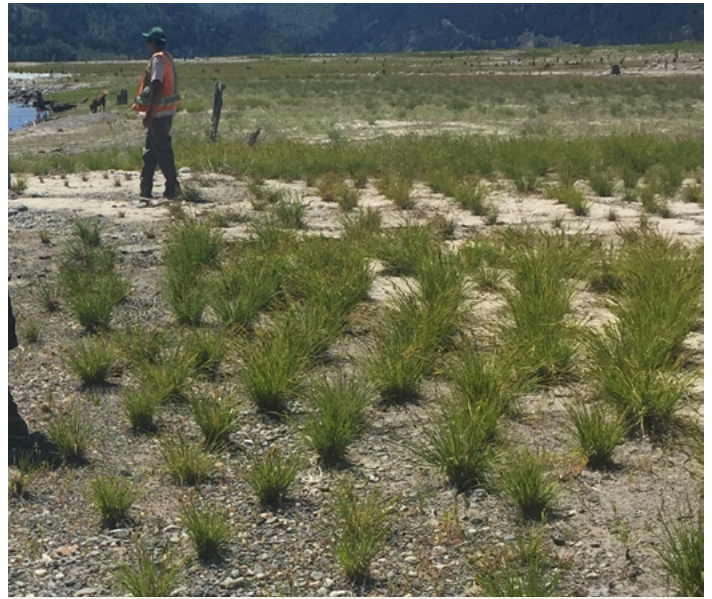
We offer two, \$500 scholarships to students pursuing post-secondary studies in Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) or trades training. All students graduating from Lillooet Secondary School are welcome to apply. Applications will be accepted April 5 to May 17, 2021. For more information, students are encouraged to reach out to their local counselor. You can also contact [communityinvestment@bchydro.com](mailto:communityinvestment@bchydro.com).

## Something is growing in Carpenter Reservoir – Help us protect this area

We're working to increase riparian habitat and reduce dust in the draw down zone of Carpenter Lake Reservoir. This transitional area is an important connection between the reservoir and the upland forest. Cuttings from local native species of willow and cottonwood along with Kellogg's Sedge have been planted to help vegetation grow in the area. Small landforms have also been created to protect planted vegetation and encourage natural re-vegetation.

This multi-year project is part of BC Hydro's commitments identified in the Bridge River Water Use Plan and is being delivered with the help of St'át'imc businesses. You'll see similar sites around the reservoir. We're testing out a few methods to see what works the best and monitoring the results.

Please avoid the planted sites and leave the area as you found it.



Planted Kellogg's Sedge in Carpenter Lake Reservoir.

## COVID-19 response

In March 2020, we 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. Current measures include:

- Workers work with established pods to minimize contacts
- More frequent cleaning
- Mandatory training for all workers on COVID-19 Protocols
- Ongoing monitoring of symptoms
- Mandatory masks in common areas
- Enforcing social distancing
- Vaccine Deployment


In March 2021, BC Hydro's Bridge River Camp was selected for AstraZeneca vaccine deployment. On Wednesday, March 24th approximately 50 workers received vaccines at Lillooet Hospital and Health Centre.


For questions about our Covid-19 response, please contact [projects@bchydro.com](mailto:projects@bchydro.com)

For more information on Bridge River projects, visit [bchydro.com/bridgeriver](https://www.bchydro.com/bridgeriver).

If you have questions, please contact us at [projects@bchydro.com](mailto:projects@bchydro.com) or 604 623 4472 or toll free at 1 866 647 3334.

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