



The Major Projects Office

A COORDINATED APPROACH TO NATURAL RESOURCE SECTOR PROJECTS

QUICK FACTS:

- ▶ Existing Natural Resource major projects represent more than 60,000 direct jobs.
- ▶ Currently more than 200 major projects in the provincial application process in B.C.:
 - 62 Mining
 - 101 Clean Energy
 - 20 Pipelines and Facilities
 - 7 Major Resorts
 - 8 Utilities (transmission lines, generating stations)
- ▶ Since 2011 the Province has approved at least 18 major projects, including:
 - *Cape Scott Wind Farm* – Port Hardy
 - *Huckleberry Mine Life Extension* – Houston
 - *Quinsam Mine Expansion* – Campbell River
 - *Mt Polley Mine Expansion* – Polley Lake
 - *Dasque Creek/Middle Creek Water Power Project* – Terrace
 - *Bonanza Ledge Mine* – Barkerville
 - *Quality Wind* – Peace Region
 - *Highland Valley Copper* – Logan Lake
 - *Kwoiek Creek Hydroelectric Project* – Lytton
 - *Northwest Transmission Line* – Northwest BC
 - *Jamie Creek Water Power Project* – Downton Lake
 - *7 Resort Developments across B.C.* including Kicking Horse

BACKGROUND

A major project is characterized by significant capital investment with multiple and complex government authorizations. Major projects can represent a range of investment – from \$50,000 to several billion dollars.

The 'One Project, One Process' integrates numerous regulatory processes for issuing authorizations into one process to eliminate duplication and reduces review timeframes while maintaining or enhancing environmental standards.

The provincial and regional major project offices were created in 2011 to implement the commitment for the Natural Resource Sector to collaborate as "One Land Manager".

The Major Projects Office teams in all 8 regions provide project management services for Natural Resource Sector major projects to streamline the authorization process and integrate environmental considerations for durable decisions.

Major Projects Office (Victoria) is a service-oriented team that supports Natural Resource Sector projects through the development of project management guideline solutions, tools, regional training and a one-window public interface for major projects.

In September 2011, the ministry launched the Major Projects BC website (http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/major_projects/) which provides:



- ▶ Up-to-date tracking on all major projects;
- ▶ Guidance for proponents throughout project cycle;
- ▶ Coordination of the regulatory requirements for major projects.

EXAMPLES OF 'ONE PROCESS' SUCCESS

▶ *Cape Scott Wind Farm*

– Cape Scott was the first project to receive a multi-tenure agreement through the new 'One Project, One Process' model. The wind farm will consist of 55 Vestas turbines and will produce a maximum of 110 megawatts of clean energy (enough to power 30,000 homes). The wind farm will create an estimated 200 worker-years of employment and generate an estimated \$80 million for the local economy. It is also the first wind project in B.C. to receive an Environmental Assessment Certificate

▶ *Kokish River Hydroelectric*

– the run of river hydroelectric project will produce 45 megawatts of clean energy. The project was under review for both provincial environmental assessment and federal environmental assessment as well as provincial permitting. The project followed a concurrent review process. The project will require a labour force of approximately 75 people over the 28 month construction period.

▶ *Nahwitti Windfarm* – the Nahwitti Windfarm Project will produce 100 mw of clean energy. The project has plans to connect to the Cape Scott Wind Farm Project transmission line. By connecting to the Cape Scott

Wind Farm transmission line, impacts to the environment will be reduced. The Project will consist of 50 wind turbines. The Project was reviewed under Concurrent Permitting process with Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) and Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR) has offered the authorizations required to develop the project..

▶ *Port Hardy Bulldozing project*

– this sizeable gravel quarry project (24 ha) exemplifies not only the One Process approach, but also FLNR's One Land Manager initiative, as it was undertaken through leadership from the North Island Central Coast district office. The project involved coordinated authorizations and First Nation consultations to obtain the necessary permits and licences under the *Mines Act*, *Land Act* and *Forest Act*.

▶ *Huckleberry Mine Expansion*

– On December 30, 2011, a mines expansion permit was issued to Huckleberry Mines Ltd. The open pit copper/molybdenum mine expansion will ensure stable jobs for the current 230 employees for another nine years and provide approximately 70 additional jobs. Over the mine life, Huckleberry Mines Ltd. will spend about \$254.4 million on wages and benefits, (excluding contractors), \$119 million on new acquisitions and \$82 million on dam construction.

▶ *Baldy Ridge Coal Mine*

– Received a *Mines Act* permit amendment in November 2011 for Phase 2 and is now starting production on the new permitted area. Phase 2 is expected to support about 200 permanent jobs over a

16 year life, mining out approximately 25 million clean tonnes of coal. This project is included in the recent Economic Development Agreement signed with the Ktunaxa Nation. Using 'One Process' allowed for a 66 per cent reduction in referral letters and a reduction of the consultation timeframe from 320 to 60 days.

▶ *Mt Milligan Copper Gold Mine*

– The authorizations for the Mount Milligan Mine north of Prince George were processed as a pilot using the coordinated major projects model. By bundling authorizations, ministry staff reduced the consultation timeframe from 320 days to 120 days.

▶ *Kitsault Molybdenum Mine*

– Reopening of a mine near Stewart. Major permit applications are being coordinated with the Environmental Assessment Office. Its capital cost is estimated at \$850 million.

▶ *Red Chris Copper Gold Mine*

– Imperial is working towards development of a 30,000 ton per day open pit mine near Dease Lake to commence operations upon completion of the Northwest Transmission Line. Its capital value is \$450 million. All 40+ permits are being coordinated through the 'One Process' approach. The company was issued a *Mines Act* permit on May 4th, 2012.

▶ *Treasure Mountain Silver Mine*

– Huldra Silver Inc., a Vancouver-based firm, was issued a *Mines Act* permit on May 18, 2012 for its Treasure Mountain silver mine about 15 kilometres east of the Coquihalla Highway near Hope. It is expected to yield 60,000 tonnes per year.



The capital cost of the project is estimated at \$12 million and will provide 25 full-time jobs in the area.

► **Northwest Transmission Line**

– Coordination between the Environmental Assessment Office and the ministry has led to efficiencies in the overall assessment and authorization process. The Major Projects Office continues to coordinate the construction permitting.

► **Upper Lillooet Hydroelectric**

– this run of river hydroelectric project consists of 3 facilities and 72 km of transmission line being developed by Innergex that collectively will generate 121 MW of power. The project has recently received its Environmental Assessment certificate and the primary land and water authorizations will be completed under concurrent permitting. Construction is expected to begin this year.

► **Tretheway, Shovel and Big Silver Creeks Hydroelectric** – this run of river hydroelectric project consists of three facilities being developed by Innergex that, when fully developed, will produce 98.5 MW of power. The project received its Environmental Assessment certificate in August 2012, and is nearing issuance of required authorizations. Construction is expected to begin this year on two of the facilities.

► **Tumbler Ridge Wind Farm**

– The Finavera Tumbler Ridge Wind Farm is a 50 Megawatt wind project, consisting of 33 wind turbine generators, powering a potential 30,000 homes. The Project was

reviewed under concurrent permitting regulations with the Environmental Assessment Office and Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) and met the 60 day timeline for that process. The project required 3 separate authorizations from FLNRO which were brought together in a single decision package. The single decision package was viewed favourably by Decision Makers.

► **Tulsequah Chief Mine** – Chieftain Metals Inc is working towards the development of a 2,000 tpd polymetallic underground mine located 140 km sw of Atlin. This project has a projected workforce of 260 and \$440 million in capital investment. The proponent submitted applications for both an EAC amendment and SUP amendment in April 2012. FLNRO conducted a coordinated authorizations process concurrently with the EA review. All road authorizations (SUP, OLTCs and PUP) were approved January 25, 2013. Approval of the SUP amendment provides for an improved access route to the mine that fully meets the objectives of the joint Atlin Taku Land Use Plan signed in 2011. The realigned road offers significant reductions in potential environmental and cultural impacts compared to the previously approved route. The Parks Use Permit authorized within this project represents the first provincial SUP to be permitted within an established Conservancy.

► **Kemano Back up Tunnel Project**

– Following a CEAA screening in 2011, FLNRO led a coordinated authorizations process for an

amendment to the water license held by RioTinto Alcan which supplies power to the Alcan smelters in Kitimat. The amendment to the water license was to allow for the construction of an additional tunnel to twin with the current aged tunnel (60 years) thereby mitigating the risk of future tunnel collapse and ensuring a long-term, uninterrupted power supply for the modernized smelter. The approval of the water license amendment on July 19, 2012 provides energy security and investment stability for the \$3.3 billion investment in smelter modernization by RioTinto and sustains a workforce of approximately a 1,000.

► **Clean Energy – NW Cluster**

– is a cluster of three hydroelectric projects being developed by AltaGas Renewable Energy Inc (AltaGas) located within the Iskut River valley approximately 100 km south of Iskut BC. The projects include Forest Kerr (195MW), McLymont (66MW), and Volcano Creek (18MW) with a total power production of approximately 279 MW. Once in operation, Forest Kerr will be the largest, single intake run-of-river project in BC. Collectively these projects represent a \$1billion capital investment. The three projects are considered to be the anchor tenants for the new Northwest Transmission Line.

► **McLymont Creek** has been under construction since June 2012. The project was reviewed through a harmonized EA/CEA process. An EA certificate was issued in May 2012. Following the EA, FLNRO led a coordinated authorization process for all primary project authorizations.





The General Area License of Occupation was issued in Sept 2012 and the water license was issued Oct 2012.

- ▶ McLymont & Volcano projects are the first clean energy projects to use the new DPIR – Development Plan Information Requirements and follow the 1P process start to finish. Both projects are also the first clean energy projects in BC to have a coordinated compliance and enforcement monitoring plan.
- ▶ Interior to Lower Mainland Hydro Transmission Line is a \$600 million dollar project expanding the current transmission line from Merritt to Coquitlam by doubling up on the line to provide safe and clean energy to the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island. The project has an EA certificate and is currently benefiting from the FLNRO One Process by providing coordinated authorization and FN consultation for the construction and operational requirements of the project. The project is projected to be in service by January 2015.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION OR WHO SHOULD I CONTACT?

For more information please contact:

Cariboo:

Ken Vanderburgh
250 398-4225 (Williams Lake)

Kootenay-Boundary

Jeremy Zandbergen
250 426-1778 (Cranbrook)

Northeast

Todd Bondaroff
250 784-1245 (Dawson Creek)

Omineca

Wayne Martin
250 565-6103 (Prince George)

Skeena

James Cuell
250 847-7572 (Smithers)

South Coast

Kevin Haberl
604 898-2145 (Surrey/Squamish)

Thompson-Okanagan

Peter Lishman
250 828-4239 (Kamloops)

West Coast

Rudi Mayser
250 751-7234 (Nanaimo)

MPO (Victoria)/Provincial Operations

Brenda Hartley
250 828-4443 (Victoria/Kamloops)

KEY WEBSITES:

Major Projects Office

http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/Major_Projects/

Front Counter BC

<http://www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca/>

Environmental Assessment Office

<http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca/>

Major Investments Office (JTST)

<http://www.britishcolumbia.ca/Invest/Our-Services/Major-Investments-Office.aspx>.

FLNRO Resort Development Branch

http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/mountain_resorts/

BC Hydro <http://www.bchydro.com/>

NRS Ministries:

Ministry of Agriculture

<http://www.gov.bc.ca/agri/index.html>

Ministry of Energy and Mines

(also contains link to oil and gas)

<http://www.gov.bc.ca/ener/>

Ministry of Environment:

<http://www.gov.bc.ca/env/index.html>

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO)

<http://www.gov.bc.ca/for/index.html>

Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

<http://www.gov.bc.ca/arr/index.html>



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