

Nov.12, 2013

John Hart project update email notice: preferred contractor announced

Hello everyone,

BC Hydro would like to announce that SNC-Lavalin Inc has been selected as the preferred contractor to design and construct the billion dollar John Hart Generating Station Replacement Project. The replacement facility will improve power reliability and seismic safety, and make it easier for BC Hydro to protect fish habitat in an area of the world renowned for its salmon.

After a rigorous competitive procurement process that began in March 2012, BC Hydro and SNC-Lavalin, who was informed of their selection last week, will now begin final discussions toward a contract signing that will likely take place in early 2014.

BC Hydro was pleased with the calibre and depth of experience that the competing teams brought to the table.

Construction mobilisation is anticipated to get underway when the contract is signed. The project, scheduled to be complete by the end of 2018, will create an average of about 400 jobs per year over the five years of construction. BC Hydro will be working with the contractor on their construction plan and the forecasted job projections.

At this time, and to be shown within the John Hart Project Interpretive Centre, BC Hydro is sharing the facility design site plan, with further details to be made available upon contract signing. BC Hydro is very pleased with the design and technical innovation.

BC Hydro's project interpretive centre opened on Tuesday, November 12. It will be open each week on Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30 am to 4:00 pm. The days and hours of operation will depend on public interest, the season, and the various stages of the project. The centre features wall panels and an interpretive touch screen that covers John Hart's history, present operation, construction activities and future look. The centre is located off Brewster Lake Road.

BC Hydro, on behalf of SNC-Lavalin, is providing general contact information for people or companies looking for subcontracting opportunities, jobs, supplies and accommodation support. The contact information is as follows:

Email: JohnHartProject@snclavalin.com

Fax: 604-331-4644

In addition, BC Hydro and SNC-Lavalin, as well as local and regional business leaders, will be working on a business open house event in Campbell River that may be held in early 2014.

SNC-Lavalin was very pleased and excited to be selected as BC Hydro's John Hart contractor and they will be able to comment about the project once the contract is signed.

Background

- The British Columbia Utilities Commission approved the John Hart project as the most cost-effective alternative to address the significant seismic, reliability and fisheries issues associated with the 66-year-old generating facility:
 - Safety. The generating station and pipelines may not withstand a low to moderate earthquake;
 - Reliability. The six generating units are in poor condition and their capacity is declining; and
 - Environment. The environmental risk of a generating station shutdown and river flow reduction, with subsequent impacts to fish habitat.
- The project will construct a replacement water intake at the John Hart Spillway Dam, replace the three 1.8-kilometre long penstocks with a 2.1-kilometre long tunnel, construct a replacement generating station beside the existing station, and a new water bypass facility. The existing station may continue to operate during the construction phase, and then transfer operations during the commissioning period to the new facility.
- The project has strong community support and BC Hydro has agreements with First Nations.
- BC Hydro provided design and construction performance specifications that meet the John Hart operating needs. SNC-Lavalin completed the final design to meet the specified requirements and, upon contract signing, will build the project.

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