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March 2024 Newsletter





New Office Space in N'quatqua

One of St'át'imc Government Services' goals was to create stronger ties, better visibility, and more accessibility to the southern St'át'imc communities. We have recently rented office space in N'quatqua's new band office at 762 Nquatqua Main Street. We have started to move our supplies into the office spaces and our staff will be on a rotating schedule for when each of us will be in the new SGS office.





N'quatqua Stśétśqwaoź (fish hatchery).

As we visited the new office in N'quatqua our SGS team wanted to check out N'quatqua Stśétśqwaoź (fish hatchery). It was some of our teams' first time getting to witness and learn what goes on in a fish hatchery. Chris Fletcher guided us through the different stages of development of the chinook salmon. We learned that chinooks are allergic to soy so their food must not have any soy in the ingredients. We also learned that chinook are often joked about being "princesses" because they are so delicate. It was so amazing to witness these fish at different stages of growth, I am so grateful for Chris and all of his knowledge.









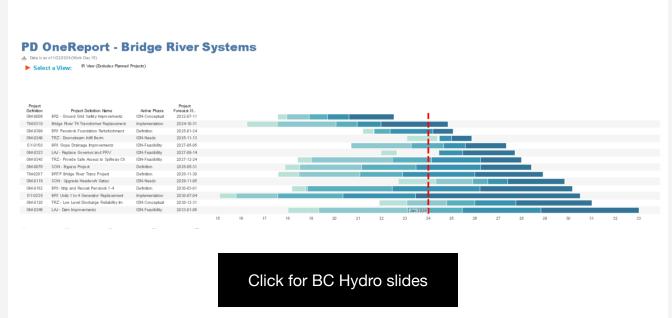




Photo above: BC Hydro team members

Quarter Capital Planning Meeting

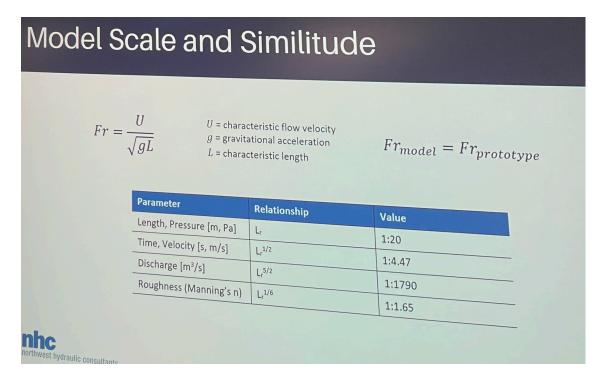
On February 21, 2021, we held our Quarter Capital Planning Meeting in Xwisten. We had members from BC Hydro drive up from Vancouver and other locations in BC to be with us.



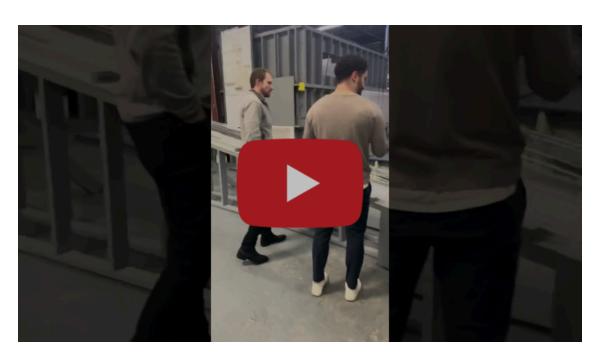
Seton Bypass Project: scale model demo







On February 13, 2024, our team drove down to North Vancouver to <u>Northwest Hydraulic Consultants</u> office to view a live model of the Seton Bypass project. The model is 1:20 in size, a lot bigger than I had imagined. It was built in this massive warehouse with running water to simulate what it would be like once built to size.



Annual Operations Update (AOU)







Meeting Description:

The Annual Operations Update on BC Hydro's Operations in St'át'imc Territory includes an overview of transmission, distribution, water management, environment, education and small capital projects activity in the past year and planned for the year ahead.

Meeting is open to all St'át'imc members to register please contact Sherry Kane at relationsmgr@statimcgs.org or (250) 256-0425 ext.260

Capital Planning

The first in-person QCPM since COVID was held on February 21 in Xwisten's Multipurpose room. The presentation materials are available on SharePoint at the <u>St'át'imc</u> <u>Information Portal</u>.

Considerable discussion focused on the upcoming work on the Bridge River Transmission Project and the collaborative procurement approach. BC Hydro is working directly with St'át'imc businesses to optimize project procurement and delivery. The intention is to go through the HFSA (High Flow Settlement Agreement) notification process to award this work to a St'át'imc Designated Business. The objective of this project is to increase the rating of an existing 230kVcircuit 2L90 running from Seton Portage to BC Hydro's Kelly Lake substation near Clinton (77 km). Construction is expected to occur between 2026 and 2028.

The LaJoie project investigative work begins this fall, including quarry sampling – expected to be several truckloads of small and larger size samples taken for lab analysis. Core drilling will also be completed at several dam site locations to assess the geotechnical aspects of the existing materials. The objective of this project is to rebuild the dam to its original height with major dam construction currently scheduled to begin in 2027. Between now and then, only 3 years, a significant amount of preparatory work will be done, and significant economic opportunities are expected.

A project of note that will be completed this year is the Canal dewatering and repair. This work will be done by Antares during March to May 2024. If you are in Lillooet

during this time, take a walk along the canal to see the work in progress.

The SetonBypass project is in the early stages of design and investigation with a target to begin construction in 2026 to 2027.

Work at the Bridge River facilities located in Tsal'alh continues as crews mobilize for this year's construction season. Projects include the Bridge 1 penstock foundation refurbishment, the Slope Drainage Improvement project (spoil pile removal) and the soon to be awarded Bridge 1 Units 1 to 4 replacement project. All projects require worker accommodation in Seton Portage. The Tsal'alh Development Corporation is working with BC Hydro and contractors to ensure accommodations are available for these and future projects.

St'át'imc businesses are also responding to urgent work like clearing the Terzaghi spillway (large rock fall debris is now in the spillway) and placing lock blocks and anchors along the LaJoie dam crest for worker safety.

BC Hydro is expected to release an Invitation to Qualify (ITQ) for First Aid services. St'át'imc businesses are encouraged to respond to get qualified to perform this type of work for BC Hydro, these types of services will be a part of every project.









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