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InfoSheet

For more information about the 2005 IEP contact:

e-mail: iep.2005@bchydro.com
phone: 1 888 224-9376
fax: 604 623-4335
web: www.bchydro.com/iep
2005 IEP Team
333 Dunsmuir Street, 10th Floor
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 5R3

BC Hydro's 2005 Integrated Electricity Plan

Every two years, BC Hydro, which produces and buys power and distributes it to customers, is required to file a long-term resource plan with the B.C. Utilities Commission. The long-term resource plan is based on BC Hydro's Integrated Electricity Plan.

What is an Integrated Electricity Plan (IEP)?

An IEP lays out how we will meet anticipated customer electricity demand over the next 20 years using a combination of existing and new energy resources and energy conservation programs. It ensures that we meet our obligation to supply reliable electricity to customers at a reasonable cost while factoring in key environmental and social considerations.

The 2005 IEP will include a review of the "supply-side" (generation) and "demand-side" (conservation) options now being used to meet customer demand and an analysis of other resource options that could be utilized to ensure reliable, cost-effective service to customers in the future.

In laying out BC Hydro's long-term electricity plan, the IEP will address factors such as reliability, security of supply, cost, and social and environmental impacts. It will take into account the values of First Nations, stakeholders and the general public, and will factor in situations and challenges that could affect the plan, such as a dynamic energy market, provincial energy policy and changing utility regulations.

How will BC Hydro develop the 2005 IEP?

There are six steps involved in developing an IEP:

1. Engage First Nations, stakeholders and the general public to elicit and document their preferences and values around electricity planning
2. Develop clear objectives for the IEP (for example, ensuring reliable electricity supply, or providing customers with low cost electricity)
3. Develop a demand-supply outlook to project how much electricity our customers will need over the next 20 years and how much electricity we can reliably supply during that time. During this phase, we assess how existing resources can be used to meet the projected electricity demand and identify any gaps between the projected supply of available energy and customer demand
4. Identify and describe new sources of electricity (called "resource options") that can be used to fill the gap between projected demand and supply
5. Assess and evaluate various combinations (called "portfolios") of resource options and identify a preferred portfolio that best meets the objectives for the IEP
6. Create an action plan that lays out the short-term steps required to develop projects and programs identified in the preferred portfolio





How will the public be involved?

In developing the 2004 IEP, we sought the input of First Nations and various stakeholders to help us understand and appreciate their perspectives and preferences related to electricity options. Input received has been used to create a more comprehensive and meaningful 2005 IEP First Nations and stakeholder engagement process.

During the 2005 IEP process, we will engage interested parties in a number of ways:

- Information Sessions will be held around the province to elicit broad public input
- A 2005 IEP website will be launched in late December 2004 to provide information and regular progress updates
- Regional Workshops will be held around the province to examine issues such as reliability, costs and social/environmental impacts
- A Technical Resource Options Workshop will be held for those with a special interest in the technical aspects of resource option representation
- A Provincial IEP Committee will be formed to examine in detail a range of interests, preferences and values around electricity options and energy planning
- A series of workshops and information sessions specifically for First Nations involvement will be conducted.

Input received from all engagement activities will be used to frame and guide the IEP process and create a framework for First Nations and stakeholder engagement in future energy planning initiatives.

How will the 2005 IEP be used?

Upon completion in the fall of 2005, the IEP will be submitted for information to the B.C. Utilities Commission. The individual reports that make up the 2005 IEP, as well as meeting notes from the workshops and info sessions, will be posted on the IEP website as they become available. Early in 2006, BC Hydro will file the Resource Expenditure and Acquisition Plan, a long-term resource plan guided by the outcome of the 2005 IEP.

If you have information or opinions about how to best meet B.C.'s future electricity needs, please contact the IEP team at 1-888-224-9376 or iep.2005@bchydro.com.

