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**BC Hydro and BCTC update flood and emergency response plans in
preparation for freshet**

Higher than average snow pack increases flood risk across BC

PROVINCE-WIDE – BC Hydro and the BC Transmission Corporation have updated flood and emergency response plans and implemented pre-flood measures to protect facilities in preparation for the upcoming spring freshet. Flood maps, recovery processes and staffing contingencies have been revised in concert with the Provincial Emergency Program, local municipalities, and First Nations to reflect the current snow pack and weather conditions.

“Our primary objective in updating these plans is to be ready if flooding becomes a reality,” said BC Hydro’s Chief Safety, Health and Environment Officer, Ray Stewart. “As flooding presents risks to our employees, customers and first responders we want to be prepared to de-energize flood impacted areas when required to minimize electrical hazards and to restore the system in a timely and safe way once waters recede.”

“Ensuring a safe and reliable supply of electricity for British Columbians is our priority,” said BCTC’s Vice President of System Planning and Asset Management Julius Pataky. “Measures to protect our electrical substations from damage caused by flooding and a recovery plan to deal with adverse effects to the transmission system are now in place.”

BC Hydro has posted flood preparedness information on its web site at www.bchydro.com/floodprep in order to help customers prepare for a potential flood. Additional personal flood planning information is available on the Provincial Emergency Planning web site at www.pep.bc.ca

“Water and electricity do not mix so there are precautions customers living in flood plain areas should take to protect themselves and their homes in the event of a flood,” added Stewart. “Plan ahead, locate your electrical main power switch, label it, and know how to shut it off safely. If you have to evacuate and the building is still dry, turn off the electrical main power switch. If the building is already flooded, leave the building immediately and do not attempt to turn off the main power switch.”

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Customers are cautioned to not return to evacuated buildings unless local authorities have advised it is safe to do so. There is significant risk associated with entering flooded basements or buildings which may contain energized electrical wiring or appliances.

BC Hydro and BCTC will advise customers in affected areas if electrical service will be cut for safety reasons during the extent of the potential flooding period.

Visit BC Hydro's web site at www.bchydro.com