



Southern Communities Grid Connection Project

BC Hydro conducted right of way clearing in support of their Southern Communities Grid Connection (SCGC) Project, which connects four remote communities of the In-SHUCK-ch Nation to the hydro power grid via a single phase 14.4 kV transmission line. Prior to the connection project, the communities of Baptiste-Smith, Skookumchuck, Port Douglas and Tipella were powered by diesel generators, but 2009 saw the completion of a number of run-of-river hydro power projects in the Upper Harrison/Lillooet River system, making the grid connection project possible.

Approximately 30 km of transmission line was erected as part of the SCGC project, of which an approximately 9.5 km portion of the northern transmission lines connecting the Skookumchuck and Sachtien communities runs through spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis*) Special Resource Management Zone (SRMZ) 15, parallel to the In-SHUCK-ch Forest Service Road. A Spotted Owl Mitigation Agreement was developed and agreed upon by the Ministry of Environment (MOE) and BC Hydro prior to commencement of vegetation removal in the SRMZ for the SCGC project.

OUR ROLE

Cascade Environmental Resource Group Ltd. (CERG) was retained by BC Hydro to conduct raptor surveys along the 30 km right of way prior to clearing for transmission line installation. In addition, CERG conducted spotted owl surveys prior to tree removal through the 9.5 km portion of the transmission line right of way that runs through the spotted owl SRMZ.

CERG also acted as BC Hydro's Environmental Monitor for the project, providing guidance for sediment and erosion control, songbird nesting protection, and amphibian management. CERG also worked with BC Hydro and Fisheries and Oceans Canada to provide practical solutions for streambank erosion protection and riparian management and protection during the course of the project.

Cascade Environmental Resource Group Ltd.

Project Personnel

Dave Williamson, Q.E.P., Principal

Betty Rebellato, R.P.Bio., Biologist

Ken McNamara, B.Sc., Environmental Technician



Transmission line right of way clearing for Southern Communities Grid Connection Project.

Project Type: Raptor and spotted owl surveys, environmental monitoring

Location: Upper Harrison/Lillooet River

Client: BC Hydro

Contract Period: 2010



Raptor Surveys



Spotted Owl Surveys



Environmental Monitoring



Amphibian Salvages



Agency Liaison