Water Use Planning Program in British Columbia

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Abstract

Since its early years as electricity provider for a developing province and through recent years as a key pillar of BC’s economy, BC Hydro has gone from a utility governed solely by the Hydro and Power Authority Act to one that is accountable to several provincial and federal laws.  This workshop reviews the approach taken to address regulatory uncertainty for its existing facilities and identifies opportunities for applications to new projects.  The workshop will be divided into three parts:

         Life before Water Use Planning – describes the regulatory environment and opportunity for collaboration and operation improvements that led to the development of Water Use Plan (WUP) Guidelines (Hugh Smith, BC Hydro)

         Life during WUPs – goes through a typical WUP process on Campbell River employing Structured Decision Making to gain consensus on an operating regime (Dan Ohlson, Compass Resource Management)

         Life after WUPs – reviews the wrap up of WUPs, and the efforts taken to resolve fish passage and fish entrainment issues towards Fisheries Act Authorizations for all facilities (Alf Leake, BC Hydro)

There will be a 20min Q&A session open to attendees after the talks.  Themes highlighted in the workshop include:

         What is the role of collaboration in developing a Water Use Plan?

         What is the role of science?

         How does a Water Use Plan address regulatory requirements (e.g. Fisheries Act)?