

## **Stephen Watson**

Sr Stakeholder Engagement Advisor Capital Project Communications P.O. Box 1500 400 Madsen Road Nanaimo, BC, V9R 5M3

Office: 250-755-4795 iPhone: 250-616-9888

Email: steve.watson@bchydro.com

November 20, 2024

Dear Resident,

Re: Victoria to Esquimalt Cable Replacement Project – Update #2
Notice of field studies in and around the Gorge Waterway

In this letter I would like to update you on the project's activities in and around the Gorge Waterway. We continue to work on the transmission cable's design and routing, with our land and marine surveys helping to inform that work.

We successfully competed the geophysical survey and the sediment trench test this fall that was referenced in letter 'Update #1'. We are now proceeding with the geotechnical drilling that was also outlined in our first letter.

## November 25 to December 13: Geotechnical drilling within the Gorge Waterway

A barge and drilling equipment will be drilling six holes up to 45 metres deep into the sediment and rock. The drilling work area is shown on the map on the next page.

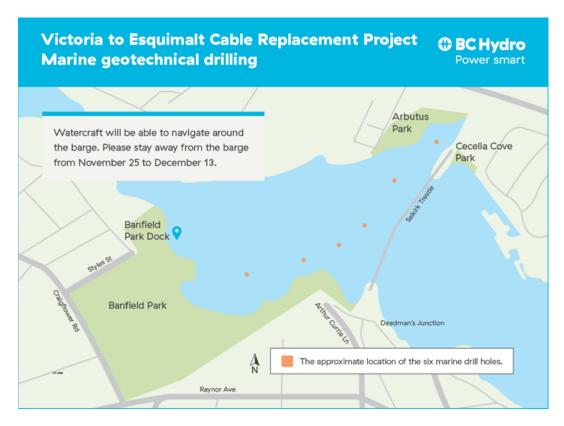
We will be working six days a week and 24 hours per day, except Sundays. It may take a few days to drill each hole and the barge will be stationary when the drilling is taking place. The barge will only move when it shifts to the next drill location.

The drilling equipment will be contained within a vertical steel pipe from the water surface to the seafloor. For added containment protection from any water turbidity, the steel pipe will be surrounded by a silt curtain.

We have put measures in place to limit the noise from the drilling work, particularly at night.

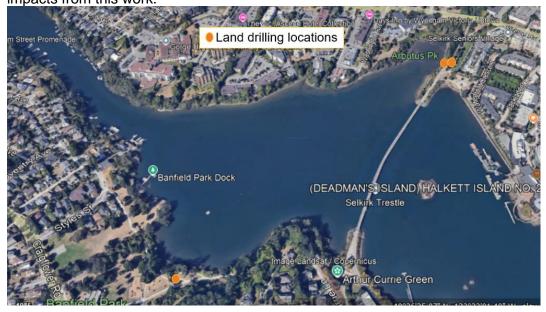
For Gorge Waterway water recreation users, such paddle boarders, rowers and kayakers, we ask that you please stay away from the floating booms to be placed around the drilling work area. Water users will be able to navigate around the barge.

Signage will be placed at public access areas around the Gorge Waterway work area, and staff will be available to engage with the public.



## Geotechnical Drilling on the land

Our land geotechnical drilling activites originally planned for the fall will now take place in January 2025 within Banfield Park and by Cecelia Cove Park. The map below has been updated from letter update #1 as we have reduced the number of drill locations from five to three with more refinement on the possible cable routing. Crews may take one day for each drill hole. There will be no tree impacts from this work.



**Keeping up to date on the project**To keep up to date on the project's activities, please visit <a href="www.bchydro.com/victoriatoesquimalt">www.bchydro.com/victoriatoesquimalt</a>.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions about the project.

Sincerely,

Stephen Watson