

Pocaterra Penstock Replacement.



Pocaterra Hydro Facility



The Pocaterra Hydro Facility penstock

Background

The Pocaterra Hydro Facility (Pocaterra), located in Peter Lougheed Provincial Park, is one of TransAlta's three hydro plants on the Kananaskis River. Pocaterra generates power by diverting water from the Lower Kananaskis Lake to turn a turbine. The water is all returned to the Kananaskis River downstream of the facility. The pipe that diverts the water, also known as a penstock, requires upgrading. Constructed in 1955, the penstock is leaking at numerous locations along its 1.37 km stretch. While the leaks don't significantly impact the generation output, leaving the penstock in its current state could lead to further damage or even collapse.

After a detailed analysis, TransAlta has arrived at a preferred option:

- Replacement of the wood stave penstock with either steel or glass reinforced plastic pipe
- Burying the new penstock (the existing penstock is above-ground) reducing the visual impacts of the facility and long-term maintenance costs
- Construction of the new penstock would occur adjacent to existing infrastructure, reducing impacts to the downstream environment and water users, as well as reducing the duration the facility would be unavailable to generate electricity

Our commitment.

A comprehensive public consultation program has been developed to provide opportunities for area residents, businesses and First Nations to learn more about the proposed Pocaterra penstock replacement and provide feedback to TransAlta. Once more detailed design and construction details have been developed (February 2011), TransAlta will circulate information packages and renderings to stakeholders, as well as host community open houses.



TransAlta is committed to being a good neighbour and building long-term relationships with the community.

TransAlta's hydroelectric facilities primarily provide electricity during periods of peak electrical demand and ensure system stability. Their operating flexibility means they can start quickly to introduce hydro power within minutes, balancing out shortages due to unexpected outages, or providing power at times of high demand.

Environment

TransAlta is committed to the minimizing environmental impacts of our maintenance activities at the Pocaterra Hydro Facility. We are engaging and consulting with a number of regulatory agencies and our maintenance plan will be designed to meet or exceed all provincial and federal environmental requirements.

Contact Us.

Do you have any questions about the proposed maintenance at the Pocaterra Hydro Facility?

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Or visit us online transalta.com/Pocaterra for project updates.