Project Profile

Project Name:	Collecting Baseline Water Quantity Data (Water Monitoring Small Watersheds)
Project Number:	ER-Water-2019-01
Proponent:	BC Energy Regulator; Doig River First Nation; Prophet River First Nation; Saulteau First Nations, Blueberry River First Nations
Funding Envelope:	Environmental Research—Water
Timeframe:	March 28, 2019, to December 31, 2024

Project objectives

The objective of this project is to gather streamflow data in areas where data is currently limited or nonexistent (e.g., smaller, tributary rivers without active hydrometric systems for collecting streamflow data). A second objective is to strengthen a collaborative relationship between industry, First Nation communities and the BC Energy Regulator (formerly the BC Oil and Gas Commission) to share knowledge and better understand how water is managed and used.

Project scope

The project will monitor and collect streamflow data at watersheds in the following First Nation communities:

- Prophet River First Nation—1 monitoring station;
- Doig River First Nation—2 monitoring stations;
- Blueberry River First Nations—2 monitoring stations; and
- Saulteau First Nations—1 monitoring station.

Project description

The main components of the project include the following:

- (2019)—Establish relationships with representatives from First Nation communities to inform the site selection and discuss overall water management objectives. Each First Nation community will provide input into the location of sites to install equipment to collect streamflow data. Consideration for site selection will be given to proximity to industry activity, watershed scale, FN importance and the opportunity to extend historic Water Survey of Canada data records. Sites will represent specific geographic regions (e.g., plains, foothills, mountain).
- (2019-2024)—Collecting streamflow data – installing hydrometric stations on an annual basis. Staff gauges will be installed at each location and daily streamflow data will be collected and preserved in accordance with the Manual of BC Hydrometric Standards (RISC standards). Approximately 6 – 8 field visits per site will be required each year during the open water season. The data will be made publically available through the BC Energy Regulator's water portal and the provincial Aquarius database.

- (2019-2024)—Training—representatives from First Nation communities will be trained on how to collect data from the hydrometric stations and incoporate the findings in their day to day activities.

Project deliverables

The deliverables from this project include the following:

1. Annual Report summarizing data collected. Reports can be found on the BC OGRIS website.