

Media Backgrounder and Fact Sheet

Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources
Government of British Columbia

WHERE ATHLETICS AND ENERGY PRODUCTION MEET

British Columbia is supporting the spirit and vision of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games as the most sustainable Games in history by leading the way in clean, renewable energy solutions. The Rutherford Creek hydroelectric project goes one step beyond by supporting a recreational facility where athletes can play, train and compete in one of the Summer Olympic Games most exciting sports – whitewater kayaking.

- The Rutherford Creek hydroelectric power plant, nestled in the beautiful Pemberton Valley just 10 km south of Pemberton, is a 49.9 megawatt facility that provides clean, renewable energy to BC Hydro while supporting a 650 metre long recreational whitewater kayaking park.
- The park is located just downstream from the powerhouse and is one of the longest and most extreme artificial whitewater kayaking parks in the world. This summer, for the second year in a row, the Provincial Slalom Championships were held at Rutherford Creek Whitewater Park.
- The Rutherford Creek facility is owned and operated by Innergex Power Income Fund. Designed to fit into its natural habitat, its construction was completed in June 2004 with the help of the Lil'wat First Nation, who received on-the-job training and at the height of construction made up about one third of the workforce. The First Nation also receives royalty benefits from the project.
- During the development phase there was extensive consultation with the local community, stakeholders and First Nations groups that helped to shape the final configuration of the project. This resulted in the inclusion of the whitewater kayaking park as well as improved access and parking for snowmobilers that use the Pemberton Icefields.
- The Rutherford Creek facility's average total estimated power production is 180 GWh/year, enough electricity annually to provide power for approximately 16,000 households and offset 140,000 tons of annual carbon dioxide emissions.
- Clean, renewable electricity, like the Rutherford Creek facility, accounts for over 90 per cent of total generation in British Columbia, and combined with aggressive conservation targets, places our province among the top jurisdictions in the world. The increased use of clean, green energy is part of a broader clean energy strategy that will help British Columbia reach its goal of curbing greenhouse gas emissions by 33 per cent by 2020.
- Clean and renewable energy continues to be a cornerstone of British Columbia's climate action plan that will help to create jobs, support families and generate new economic activity in communities throughout British Columbia.

CONTACTS

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VISUAL RESOURCES

- For photographs – contact Jake Jacobs, details below.



(Provincial Slalom Championships, 2009)

WEB RESOURCES

- www.innergex.com Innergex Renewable Energy Inc. is one of the most active in the Canadian renewable power industry with a focus on hydroelectric and wind power projects.
- <http://www.canoekayakbc.ca> CanoeKayak BC administers and delivers a variety of programs designed to encourage participation and develop excellence in Canoe and Kayak in British Columbia.

- <http://www.ippbc.com/EN/home> IPPBC members develop a viable independent power industry in British Columbia that serves the public interest by providing cost-effective electricity through the efficient and environmentally responsible development of the Province's energy resources.
- <http://www.greenenergybc.ca/river.html> BC Citizens for Green Energy are encouraging a legacy of clean, renewable electricity for future generations.
- http://www.bchydro.com/planning_regulatory/acquiring_power/green_ipps.html BC Hydro green IPP projects in B.C. (updated May 2009)
- In April 2009, the Government of B.C. released an Energy Plan Report on Progress detailing the work that has been done to date in achieving the goals and targets set out in the BC Energy Plan: A Vision for Clean Energy Leadership - <http://www.energyplan.gov.bc.ca>.

- 30 -

For assistance or more information:

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