Community Update.

It has been an exciting few months at the Bone Creek Hydro Project. Construction kicked off in April and after eight months, the team had completed the installation of the intake, powerhouse and the penstock. Despite some challenges caused by heavy rainfall in September, the project is on schedule to start operations in 2011. The project team diligently worked to complete final installations of key equipment and start project site reclamation before winter construction concluded for the season in December. In the spring we will complete our final reclamation.

We have appreciated the hospitality and support the local communities have provided to us over the last few months!

Commitment to community relationships.

The 18 megawatt Bone Creek Hydro Project is located near Blue River, B.C. The facility is expected to produce enough power for approximately 4,500 average homes – which will be sold to BC Hydro in a long-term power purchase agreement.

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An open dialogue with stakeholders and First Nations is always important to us. If you have any questions or comments about construction activities at the Bone Creek Hydro Project, we encourage you to call us at 1.877.5.GREEN.5 (1.877.547.3365) extension 1.
TransAlta celebrates first anniversary of the Canadian Hydro acquisition.

In November TransAlta celebrated the first anniversary of the acquisition of Canadian Hydro Developers including the Bone Creek Hydro Project.

The acquisition was part of TransAlta’s plan to dedicate the majority of our planned growth capacity to renewable power and maintain a singular focus on generation to satisfy the growing demand for clean, reliable and competitively priced electricity. Through this acquisition TransAlta has increased its renewable portfolio from 15 to 22 per cent of total power produced, including a unique set of quality renewable assets and a pipeline for growth opportunities.

TransAlta celebrates 1,000 MW of installed wind capacity in Canada.

In 2010, TransAlta Corporation became the first company to own and operate more than 1,000 megawatts (MW) of installed wind capacity in Canada – one third of the country’s total.

“In less than 10 years, TransAlta has gone from zero to 1,000 MW to be Canada’s largest producer of wind power,” said Steve Snyder, TransAlta President and CEO. “I would like to thank the communities that support our sustainability efforts plus our employees for their hard work and commitment. With their support and dedication, TransAlta now has 16 commercial wind facilities across Canada in Alberta, Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick.”

According to the Canadian Wind Energy Association (CanWEA), Canada currently has 3,549 MW of installed wind energy capacity with production in every province.

“Currently, wind powers more than one million homes in Canada, but we are still only scratching the surface of Canada’s enormous wind energy potential,” said Robert Hornung, president of CanWEA.

“TransAlta is committed to wind technology, to growing and diversifying our generation portfolio, and to increasing our clean and renewable generation sources,” said Mr. Snyder.

A century developing renewable power.

Starting with our Horseshoe Hydro Facility in Alberta, TransAlta has been developing and operating renewable power for almost a century. We plan to continue along this path dedicating the majority of planned growth capacity to renewable power and maintaining a singular focus on generation to satisfy the growing demand for clean, reliable and competitively priced electricity.
How will the Bone Creek Hydro Facility generate electricity?

Once operational the Bone Creek Hydro Facility will divert a portion of Bone Creek to a pressurized pipeline (penstock) that delivers it to a turbine. The moving water rotates the turbine, which spins a shaft. The motion of the shaft is used to power a generator to produce electricity. All diverted water is returned to the creek.

Committed to safety.

Public and employee safety are our first priority at TransAlta. Our construction teams are properly trained and equipped for hazard avoidance, but it’s always a good idea to keep the following tips in mind when approaching a construction site.

Safety tips

- Be aware of increased traffic and the movement of large pieces of equipment
- Maintain a safe distance, at least 500 metres from the construction sites
- Follow all posted signage

Run-of-river hydro uses the natural river flow; thus, minimizing changes in the flow upstream or downstream of the facility.
TransAlta harnesses renewable electricity thousands of feet below the earth’s surface in southern California.

TransAlta's Imperial Valley operations in southern California use naturally occurring geothermal steam to power turbines. Consisting of 10 individual facilities, Imperial Valley carries a capacity of 326 megawatts.

In geothermal generation wells tap into super-heated water reservoirs thousands of feet beneath the earth’s surface to release tremendous pressure caused by the hot water rushing to the surface. Geothermal technology captures this heat energy and transforms it into electricity.

TransAlta partnered with Mid American Energy Holdings Company in 2001; each holds a 50 per cent interest in the Imperial Valley operations.

Learn more about TransAlta's other generation facilities at transalta.com.

Fifth straight year on sustainability index

TransAlta has been named to the prestigious Dow Jones Sustainability North America Index for the fifth consecutive year. We are one of 24 Canadian companies named to the index, and the only Canadian company representing the utilities sector.

“Despite the difficult economic conditions our industry is facing, TransAlta maintained its commitment to sustainable development,” said President and CEO Steve Snyder. “We continue to grow our renewable generation capacity and invest in technologies to reduce our emissions. We are proud to see these efforts recognized by the Dow Jones Sustainability Index for North America.”

“As the largest publicly-traded provider of renewable energy in Canada and an early contributor to sustainability, receiving this prestigious designation further validates our dedication to generating safe, reliable, affordable and clean power,” said Don Wharton, VP, Sustainable Development.