



Run-of-river gets power purchase agreement

by KORIE MARSHALL

A run-of-river project at Clemina is one step closer to completion with the recent signing of a power purchase agreement with BC Hydro.

Sorgent.e Hydro Canada announced the agreement last week, the first of its kind in Canada for the Italian-based company. A news release from the company says its subsidiary Clemina Hydro Power has signed an agreement with BC Hydro under the provincial power authority's Standing Offer Program. Sorgent.e says it's a 40-year deal to sell electricity from the 10.5 megawatt project to BC Hydro's grid.

Clemina Creek is about 35 km south of Valemout in the North Thompson Valley. The project is one of a few partially completed run-of-river projects in the North Thompson recently purchased by Sorgent.e. A former proponent, TransAlta, completed a 19 megawatt facility at Bone Creek, just north of Blue River in 2010 before selling other partially completed projects to Sorgent.e.

The existing powerhouse is about five kilometers up the trail from the parking lot of a popular sledding area, managed by the Valemout Area Recreation and Development Association. Sledding is a major driver of winter tourism for Valemout and the corridor. VARDA and Sorgent.e signed a memorandum of understand last fall to ensure public access for recreation.

Lucas de Haro, managing director for Sorgent.e, says the electricity purchase agreement includes a System Impact Study, which looks at the physical and technical requirements to connect the generation station with BC Hydro's grid. De Haro says they estimate construction on the power plant will be completed by the end of 2018.

The news release says Sorgent.e has been engaged in a partnership with the Simpcw First Nation since 2013, and has worked with other local communities and governments to maximize the social, environmental and economic benefits of this renewable energy development.

Sorgent.e has been operating clean energy projects in Europe and South America since 1995.