

Appendix 1
Public Involvement Plan

Outline of Appendix 1

Section 4 of the Guidelines for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for both the Wuskwatim Generating Station Project and the Wuskwatim Transmission Project asks the proponent to provide information about its Public Involvement Plan (PIP).

The attached PIP document was prepared by Manitoba Hydro and the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) in response to Section 4 of these Guidelines, and provides one integrated PIP for the Wuskwatim Generation and Transmission Projects. The PIP document was submitted to federal and provincial regulators on August 19, 2002.

The PIP describes the early public consultation being carried out by Manitoba Hydro and NCN prior to submission of EIS documents to federal/provincial regulators responsible for environmental assessment, licensing and approvals for the Wuskwatim projects. This PIP activity has been used to assist in the planning of these projects, and has constituted an integral part of the environmental assessment activities by the potential proponents.

*Appendices referenced in the PIP document are not included here to avoid duplication with the materials found in appendices 4 and 5 to this Volume 2.

**Public Involvement Plan
For the
Wuskwatim Generating Station and
Transmission Projects**

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation and Manitoba Hydro

August 2002

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
2.0 BACKGROUND	1
2.1 About the Proposed Projects	2
2.2 Relationship between Manitoba Hydro and the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation	2
2.3 Joint Planning by Manitoba Hydro and Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation	3
2.4 Harmonized Provincial-Federal Regulatory Process	3
3.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT OBJECTIVES	4
4.0 AFFECTED AND OTHER PUBLICS	6
5.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN APPROACH	7
5.1 Stages and Milestones	8
5.2 Involvement of Federal and Provincial Regulators	11
5.3 Methods	12
5.4 Documentation	14
APPENDICES	15

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1 – Map of Communities Highlighted in Round 1 of Public Involvement Plan

Figure 2 – Public Consultation Stages for the Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Section 4 of the Guidelines for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for both the Wuskwatim Generating Station Project and the Wuskwatim Transmission Project asks the proponent to provide information about its Public Involvement Plan (PIP). The EIS Guidelines were prepared by a federal/provincial Project Administration Team. This document responds to that request, and describes the integrated PIP for the Wuskwatim Generation and Transmission Projects.

This PIP document describes the early public consultation being carried out by Manitoba Hydro and Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) prior to submission of EIS documents to federal/provincial regulators responsible for environmental assessment, licensing and approvals for the Wuskwatim projects. This PIP activity is being used to assist in planning of these projects, and constitutes an integral part of the environmental assessment activities by the potential proponents to prepare EIS documents.

This PIP document reflects results of the Manitoba Hydro and NCN consultation activities to date, including extensive consultation with the residents of Nelson House and the members of NCN as well as Round One and Round Two of a broader public involvement process for these projects. Round One, for example, included 12 meetings involving 19 communities, while Round Two included 16 meetings and four open houses involving 16 communities.

Round Three of the broader public involvement is due to begin in the fall of 2002. Further rounds of broad public involvement are planned thereafter prior to Clean Environment Commission hearings on the application for an Environmental License.

This document includes the following sections:

- Background
- Public Involvement Objectives
- Affected and Other Publics
- Public Involvement Plan Approach

2.0 BACKGROUND

This section provides summary background information about the proposed projects, the relationship between the potential proponents (Manitoba Hydro and NCN) and the joint planning being undertaken by them. The section also provides a brief review of the regulatory framework for the environmental review process. Additional information is provided in the Round One Newsletter (see Appendix A) and Round

Two Newsletter (Appendix B), as well as in other documents already on the public registry and Manitoba Hydro's web page (www.hydro.mb.ca/issues/new generation and transmission projects).

2.1 About the Proposed Projects

The Wuskwatim Generating Project involves the construction and operation of a new hydro-electric generating station at Taskinigup Falls on the Burntwood River at the outlet of Wuskwatim Lake, about 35 km southeast of Nelson House and about 45 km southwest of Thompson, in an area that is traditionally used by members of NCN. The Project includes related dams, dikes, channels, control structures and infrastructure, including an access road. It would add approximately 200 MW of electrical generating capacity to Manitoba Hydro's existing system.

The Wuskwatim Transmission Project involves the construction and operation of new 230 kV transmission facilities to take electricity from a new transformer/switching station at the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station site to the existing Manitoba Hydro transmission system. New transmission facilities would be required at the Wuskwatim Generating Station site to transform the voltage of the electricity produced by the generators up to the higher voltage necessary for transmission, to provide switching facilities for connection of the station to the new transmission lines that will carry the electricity to the existing transmission system, and to connect the generating station to the switching station. The new 230 kV transmission lines would connect the switching station to a proposed new station south of Thompson (to be called the Birchtree Station) and to the existing Herblet Lake Station at Snow Lake. Further, a new 230 kV transmission line would connect the Herblet Lake Station to the existing Rall's Island Station at The Pas.

If developed, the earliest that the Wuskwatim Generating Station would bring new electricity to market would be in late 2009. Since Manitoba customers would not need this power until after 2018, energy from the Wuskwatim generating station would be initially sold to export markets outside Manitoba.

2.2 Relationship between Manitoba Hydro and the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

Article 8 of the 1996 NFA Implementation Agreement signed by NCN, Manitoba Hydro, Manitoba and Canada, sets out a process for NCN and Manitoba Hydro to discuss potential future developments that could affect water bodies within the Nelson House Resource Management Area (RMA). In 1997, NCN and Manitoba Hydro established a working group to facilitate ongoing consultation regarding the proposed Wuskwatim developments.

Following several years of discussions, Manitoba Hydro and NCN in 2001 ratified an Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) regarding possible future development of the Wuskwatim Project (as well as potential future development, anticipated to be no sooner than 2014, of a generating station near the Notigi control structure). The Agreement-in-Principle addresses an array of topics that stem from the 1996 NFA Implementation Agreement, as well as provides for potential partnership arrangements for the development of the Wuskwatim Generating Station should it proceed. The agreement is not legally binding, but sets out a series of topics to be discussed between the parties.

Manitoba Hydro and NCN have now moved to the next stage of discussion and joint studies regarding the potential generating station. Discussions aim to develop a binding Project Development Agreement (PDA) between the parties; this document will also be taken to another ratification vote of NCN members, and will require approval by the Board of Directors of Manitoba Hydro and the Cabinet of Manitoba.

2.3 Joint Planning by Manitoba Hydro and Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

Planning to date for the proposed Wuskwatim project has involved both Manitoba Hydro and NCN. Both parties have participated in key assessments, such as the preference for a low-head design for the facility (with more limited environmental impacts than other design options), joint selection of an Environmental Study Team, design and implementation of a Joint Study Program, and design and implementation of a joint public involvement process.

Significant community-based planning activities have been undertaken at Nelson House during 1999 and each subsequent year as NCN considers whether to participate in the development. This activity to date has included extensive NCN consultation with NCN members through various means, including open houses, community meetings, and future development newsletters. Several Community Consultants were hired by NCN to assist in carrying out this activity. Consultations have occurred on all aspects of the potential developments to be located within the Nelson House RMA, including assessment of alternative road, construction camp and those portions of transmission line locations principally within the Nelson House RMA. Major opinion surveys regarding possible future development have been undertaken in 2000 and 2001 by NCN of their members living at Nelson House, South Indian Lake, Thompson and Winnipeg. Extensive information was provided to NCN members prior to the ratification vote regarding the proposed Agreement-in-Principle.

2.4 Harmonized Provincial-Federal Regulatory Process

Provincial and federal regulatory requirements would need to be met and licensing approvals obtained before the Wuskwatim Generating Station could proceed. Similarly, approvals and licensing would be required before the associated Wuskwatim Transmission Project facilities could be built.

In addition to *The Environment Act (Manitoba)* review requirements for each project, the Wuskwatim Generating Station Project will be the subject of a comprehensive study level of federal environmental assessment under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* as well as review requirements associated with licensing under *The Water Power Act (Manitoba)*. The Wuskwatim Generating Station Project is a Class 3 development, and the Wuskwatim Transmission Project is a Class 2 development, as is defined in the *Classes of Development Regulations* under *The Environment Act*. A harmonized Provincial-Federal regulatory process will apply to these projects in accordance with the provisions of the *Canada-Manitoba Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation*.

In order to commence the harmonized regulatory review of these projects, Manitoba Hydro on December 7, 2001 filed with Manitoba Conservation an Environment Act Proposal Form for the Wuskwatim Generating Station Project and a separate Environment Act Proposal Form for the Wuskwatim Transmission Project. These documents were received by Manitoba Conservation and subsequently

placed on their public registry, along with Draft Scoping documents for each project provided by Manitoba Hydro and NCN.

A federal/provincial Project Administration Team (PAT) has subsequently developed Final EIS Guidelines for the preparation of EIS's for both the Wuskwatim Generating Station Project and the Wuskwatim Transmission Project, in accordance with the provisions of the *Canada-Manitoba Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation*. In mid-December 2001, Draft EIS Guidelines were made available by Manitoba Conservation for public comment. During February 2002, the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission (CEC) held four public meetings concerning the Draft EIS Guidelines, and in March issued a report with recommendations. Final EIS Guidelines were issued by PAT in early April.

In addition to the public involvement activities by Manitoba Hydro and NCN set out in this Plan, provincial and federal regulators will undertake their own public involvement activities that are integral to the environmental review and other licensing processes. Public notices, provision of documents on a public registry, and Clean Environment Commission meetings on the Draft Guidelines are aspects of this public involvement already underway before the proponent files EIS's for these projects. The Clean Environment Commission will hold public hearings on the proposals after the EIS's have been filed and reviewed by government regulators for adequacy, and Manitoba Conservation in May 2002 issued a notice of a Participant Assistance Program to provide funding to persons or groups of persons to participate in the CEC Public Hearing for the proposed Projects, with provision to receive applications for such assistance on or before July 2, 2002. In addition to the CEC hearing and other processes noted, Canada and Manitoba will engage in special consultations with First Nation and other Aboriginal communities before final decisions are made to allow the project to proceed (e.g., under *The Water Power Act (Manitoba)*).

The Manitoba Government announced on January 29, 2001 that it will establish, by special Order in Council, a separate public review process to be conducted by members of the Public Utilities Board (PUB) that will provide for a public examination of the need for and alternatives to new hydroelectric projects. This would include reviews for all hydro and associated transmission projects that may be in service prior to 2015. A PUB review would be triggered for a major new generation project once Manitoba Hydro is satisfied that its development is warranted. The PUB review will provide recommendations to government to ensure that all reasonable alternatives have been considered and that the preferred hydro development is economically and financially viable as an export market-driven project. Any proceedings by the Public Utility Board to review Manitoba Hydro's plans will include provision for the public to participate in the process, with qualified intervenors being eligible for funding of reasonable costs by Manitoba Hydro.

3.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT OBJECTIVES

Manitoba Hydro and NCN have set out a series of objectives to guide early public involvement regarding environmental assessment issues to assist in project planning and in preparation of EIS's for these projects. These objectives address consultation with all communities and interests. The overall integrated Public Involvement Plan for these projects aims to achieve the following objectives:

- **Opportunities for early involvement:** Provide opportunities for early public involvement during the environmental review and planning process, particularly for those who may be directly affected if the projects are developed (including any First Nation or other Aboriginal communities whose Aboriginal rights and interests may potentially be affected). This includes providing early notice and information about the projects and the public involvement program in order that these parties can assess their interests with respect to the projects and provide early comment to the potential proponents, as well as providing opportunities to become involved in the planning and environmental review activities.
- **Opportunities for ongoing involvement:** Provide ongoing opportunities for those potentially affected by the development and/or interested in the development to learn about the proposed project, including key design and planning assessments, and to provide their input with respect to any concerns or opportunities. To the extent possible, seek through the PIP to work with interested parties to resolve issues raised with respect to the proposed developments. Enable participants to have their inputs recorded at each stage, and to learn about what actions or results occur as a result of ongoing studies and planning activities.
- **Opportunities at various stages:** Prior to filing EIS's and the formal CEC Public Hearing, provide opportunities for public input at various stages of the environmental review and planning process – in particular,
 - a. at a stage of initial issue identification,
 - b. at a stage when alternative ways of undertaking the project are considered (including alternative routes for transmission line connections),
 - c. at a stage when initial impact assessment results are reviewed and ways to mitigate identified impacts (and/or to monitor potential impacts) are considered,
 - d. at a stage when Environmental Impact Statements have been filed for initial public review and comment, and
 - e. at a stage when supplemental information may be filed with regulators prior to the CEC Public Hearing.
- **Provide a variety of mechanisms:** Provide a variety of mechanisms to communicate with the public, to receive feedback from the public, and to engage in ongoing dialogue; consider the appropriateness of mechanisms for the audiences (e.g., cultural and seasonal considerations).
- **Proper Consultation with Aboriginal Peoples:** Recognize the unique status of First Nations and other Aboriginal communities who may be affected if the projects are developed, and make proper consultation with Aboriginal peoples an independent goal of the public involvement process. With respect to Aboriginal peoples affected by the projects, become fully informed about their practices and views as these relate to potential impacts from the projects and demonstrably work to integrate their concerns into project plans.
- **Adaptive approach:** Adjust the public involvement program, as required and feasible, throughout the course of the environmental review and planning process, in response to issues, concerns and challenges.

The public will have additional opportunities to be involved in reviewing the projects during the federal and provincial regulatory processes that consider the EIS documents and other requirements for licensing and approvals.

4.0 AFFECTED AND OTHER PUBLICS

The Public Involvement Plan provides for consultation by Manitoba Hydro and NCN with two broad groups:

- **Potentially affected publics in Project Region:** This includes publics potentially affected by the projects.
- **Other interested groups and individuals:** This includes others, outside the federal and provincial governments, who may be interested in the projects.

For purposes of environmental assessment of these projects, "**potentially affected publics**" are defined initially as those who could be significantly affected by project-induced biophysical changes (e.g., by upstream or downstream water-based impacts, by impacts to land or air, or by related biophysical or resource impacts) from any component of project construction or operation. Where relevant, potentially affected communities also include any communities having interests that may be affected pursuant to current agreements with Hydro (e.g., communities that are signatories to the Northern Flood Agreement).

Potentially affected publics are addressed in two distinct community groups (thereby allowing consultation to focus at an early stage on elected officials in First Nations, Northern Affairs communities and incorporated Municipalities in a "**Project Region**"):

- **Potentially-affected Aboriginal Communities:** For this purpose, potentially affected Aboriginal communities related to either project include any First Nation or other Aboriginal community (e.g., Northern Affairs Community with predominantly Aboriginal population) whose traditional resource use area (as evidenced, for example, by registered trapline areas assigned to communities or other information derived from consultation with communities) or whose legitimate rights and interests (as evidenced, for example, by hunting, fishing or other such activities or by any existing agreements with Manitoba Hydro) could potentially be significantly affected by any environmental impacts from either project.
- **Potentially-affected non-Aboriginal Communities:** For this purpose, non-Aboriginal communities as well as individuals resident within their borders who could potentially be significantly affected by any environmental impacts from either project.

NCN members at Nelson House were identified at the outset as an affected Aboriginal community, since the Wuskwatim Generating Station Project (and significant segments of the Wuskwatim Transmission Project) would be built in their traditional use area. Community consultations with NCN members at Nelson House have accordingly been ongoing for several years with respect to the Wuskwatim Projects,

in accordance with procedures set out in the 1996 NFA Implementation Agreement with Manitoba Hydro, Manitoba and Canada. As noted earlier (see section 2.3), public involvement activities with NCN prior to mid 2001 focused on, and resolved, initial planning issues relevant to Manitoba Hydro and NCN.

After mid 2001, public involvement activities were initiated with other Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities identified for the Public Involvement Plan as potentially affected by the proposed projects as shown in [Figure 1](#). To allow for all potential concerns about environmental impacts to be identified and discussed, a broad "Project Region" was identified to include communities that may be potentially affected or have an anticipated interest in reviewing potential impacts from the projects. Inclusion in this region does not necessarily mean that significant environmental impacts are in fact expected on the basis of the current Manitoba Hydro and NCN environmental studies. Table 1 illustrates the initial grouping of these potentially-affected communities according to the generation and transmission projects. The definition of the expected extent of environmental effects from the projects will be estimated through the course of the environmental impact assessment studies currently underway, and will take into consideration the results of public involvement program consultations with the communities located in the "Project Region" as defined for consultation purposes. As noted, the final EIS analysis will clarify which of the communities in this defined "Project Region" may be materially affected by environmental impacts from these projects.

It is recognized that some of the socio-economic impacts from the projects (for example, impacts from jobs, purchasing, and other economic impacts) will extend beyond the defined "Project Region". Nevertheless, for the purpose of the Public Involvement Plan related to the environmental assessment, there is no apparent basis for considering any additional communities as likely to be potentially materially affected by either project.

The Public Involvement Plan provides for consultation by Manitoba Hydro and NCN with others who are interested in the projects. These other individuals or groups include:

- Manitoba Eco-Network Inc. and interested member organizations
- Interested groups in the northern region
- Other interested groups in Winnipeg or the Province
- Other individuals or organizations in the public-at-large that request information about the projects.

5.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN APPROACH

The Public Involvement Plan approach adopted by Manitoba Hydro and NCN reflects the experience of both parties, current practice and principles for consultations in the environmental assessment context, and current Public Participation Guidelines provided by Manitoba Conservation and the CEC to achieve effective and timely decisions and results which respect the knowledge, values and rights of all interested parties (see Manitoba Conservation Information Bulletin No.: 97-02E, April 1997). The PIP approach is described under the following headings:

- Stages and Milestones
- Involvement of Federal and Provincial Regulators
- Methods
- Documentation.

5.1 Stages and Milestones

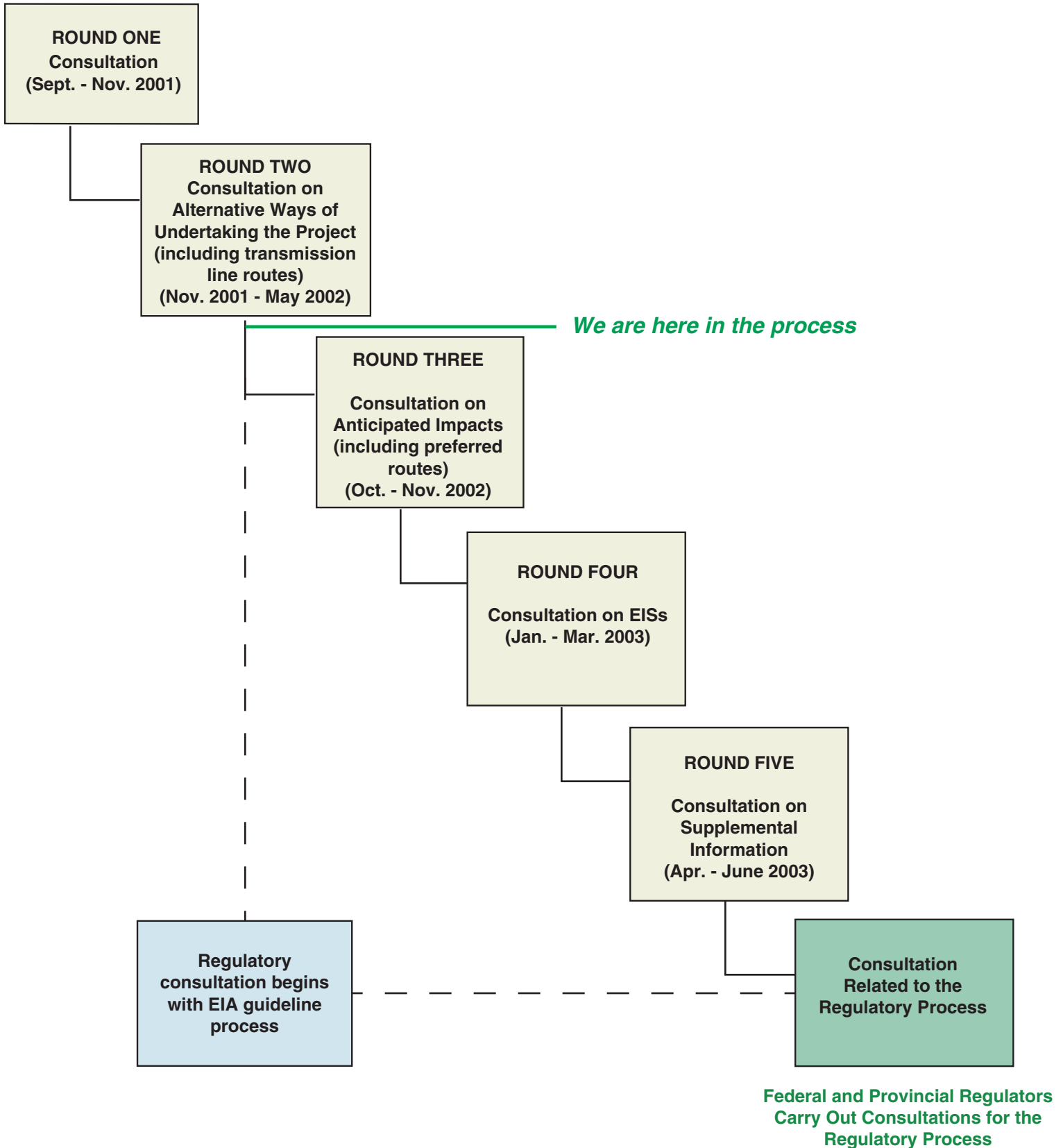
Initial Consultations with NCN: Prior to mid 2001, initial consultation activities were focused on NCN members resident at the communities of Nelson House, South Indian Lake, Thompson and other locations. This stage of consultation, which was carried out over several years, identified and discussed initial planning issues relevant to Manitoba Hydro and NCN. It resulted in development and ratification of an AIP that sets out a series of topics to be discussed between the parties as part of an ongoing collaborative planning process. Specific planning issues addressed and resolved during this initial stage included the preference for a low-head design for the facility (with more limited environmental impacts than other design options), joint selection of an Environmental Study Team, design and implementation of a Joint Study Program, and design and implementation of a joint public involvement process (see section 2.3 above for additional details).

PIP consultations after mid 2001: Starting in mid 2001, public involvement activities were initiated for communities and individuals beyond NCN. These PIP activities have been organized under an integrated program for the Wuskwatim Generation and Transmission projects, with three stages for the period prior to initial filing of the EIS's and two stages following the filing of the EIS documents prior to the CEC Public Hearings. Each stage reflects a different major step in the proponents' integrated environmental review process for these projects. These stages are illustrated in [Figure 2](#) and described below:

1) Round One (September to November 2001) – Introduce Project in the Region: Round One was primarily intended to begin public dialogue about the proposed projects and to identify initial issues of concern to communities in the Project Region through meetings with elected officials in First Nations, Northern Affairs communities and Incorporated Municipalities. The introductory newsletter about the projects was also provided to the Manitoba Eco-Network Inc., an umbrella environmental organization based in Winnipeg, and to their member organizations expressing an interest in the projects. In particular, the main aims of Round One were:

- to provide elected officials in the Project Region with basic information about the projects and the proposed public involvement program.
- to learn from these elected officials about any initial issues or concerns that they may have regarding the projects.
- to obtain feedback regarding the way that the public involvement program was proposed to be carried out in the Project Region by Manitoba Hydro and NCN over the course of the environmental review process.

Figure 2 Public Consultation Stages for the Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities



Draft records of each meeting were provided to participants, who were asked to comment on any errors or omissions. Undertakings in these meetings were recorded and acted upon. The introductory newsletter also provided contact names and phone numbers for each project, and all contacts are tracked for the PIP record. The information received in Round One has been used in planning for future rounds of consultation, and in the design of ongoing environmental and planning studies. What was learned during Round One was summarized and presented to interested parties during Round Two. A summary of Round One activities is found at Appendix A.

2) Round Two (November 2001 to May 2002) – Broader Consultation and Consultation on Alternative Ways of Undertaking the Project:

In addition to expanding the publics involved in consultations, Round Two corresponded to a stage of the EIS and planning work when certain alternative ways of carrying out the projects were examined. For example, alternative routes that could be used to make transmission line connections were identified and discussed, as well as alternative road access routes. During Round Two, Environment Act Proposal Forms for the projects were submitted to Manitoba Conservation, Draft Guidelines for the EIS were issued by the provincial and federal regulators for public comment, Clean Environment Commission (CEC) meetings were held to hear comments on the Draft Guidelines and Final Guidelines were issued. Round Two focused on two EIS-related activities:

- a. Providing information about the projects to broader publics and seeking comments on issues and concerns.** Information was provided on the projects, the regulatory and public involvement processes, and on the results of the Round One consultation. As in Round One, newsletters were used to provide basic information to any interested party; further information was provided through presentations at meetings and in response to specific questions. In the case of communities in the Project Region, the Round Two process was designed, in part, based on the advice of elected officials pertaining to the interest of their community members and the approaches that work best in their communities. Where interest was indicated, public community meetings were held during Round Two. In addition, communication was sought with groups in northern and southern Manitoba thought to have an interest in the projects and a mechanism was designed to allow communication with the public-at-large. Specific mechanisms being used are noted separately below.
- b. Providing information to potentially-affected communities and individuals about alternative ways of undertaking the project and seeking comments on issues and concerns.** As noted, the planning process before and during Round Two identified and assessed alternative routes that could be used to make transmission line connections, alternative siting for the construction camp, and alternative road access routes for the generating station. Extensive joint studies and planning with NCN (through a joint Alternatives Committee, open houses and other meetings and study processes) focused on identifying, assessing and jointly selecting such alternatives that would be located within the Nelson House RMA. Open houses and meetings occurred in potentially-affected communities to provide information (including maps/information about alternatives and potential effects relevant to the selection of preferred options) and to encourage dialogue regarding transmission facility alternatives in these areas. Participants were asked to provide advice and comment regarding the selection of alternatives.

As in Round One, comments and questions were recorded and maintained as part of the PIP record. Undertakings were recorded and acted upon. Draft records of each meeting were provided to participants, who were asked to comment on any errors or omissions. A summary of Round Two activities is found at Appendix B. The information and views received in Round Two are being used in the ongoing EIS and planning work and will be reported on in Round Three as well as in the final EIS documents.

3) Round Three (anticipated to be October to November 2002) – Consultation on Impacts:

Round Three is the final stage of consultation before the initial EIS documents are filed. Federal and provincial regulators have finalized the environmental review process requirements (including the EIS Guidelines) and information to be used and available in Round Three will reflect initial conclusions from the EIS analysis being prepared in response to the Guidelines. Round Three is intended to provide the proponents' preliminary conclusions about the key alternatives reviewed in Round Two, about the environmental and socio-economic impacts that could be expected from the projects (including benefit impacts associated with employment, purchasing, training and other opportunities), and about potential mitigation or other measures to address expected impacts. Round Three is also intended to receive input from affected communities and individuals as well as other individuals and groups about the initial EIS conclusions, and to include responses to questions raised by the public in earlier rounds of consultation. Reporting and tracking procedures adopted in earlier rounds will continue in Round Three. Information and views received will be used in finalizing the EIS analysis and documents, and will be reported on in the final EIS documents.

Manitoba Hydro and NCN will be considering during the August to October period, 2002, whether the development is warranted and it is appropriate to submit the EIS and move to the next stage of planning for the projects. If the potential proponents make this commitment, then (after Round Three) Manitoba Hydro and NCN will submit the Environmental Impact Statements to the provincial and federal governments as part of the environmental review process. Based on our current Public Involvement Plan, the earliest that the EIS's could be filed would be during December 2002.

If Manitoba Hydro and NCN choose to submit the EIS documents, two additional stages of PIP consultation are anticipated prior to the CEC Public Hearing.

4) Round Four (anticipated to be January to March 2003) – Consultation on EIS's:

Round Four will focus on communicating the format and content of the EIS documents to potentially affected publics in the Project Region (including NCN), as well as others who show an interest in the projects. It is anticipated that this may include individuals and groups resident both in northern and southern Manitoba, and will focus on specific issues of interest to them identified either in the EIS results and/or in prior consultations. Where useful, workshops may be held on specific issues. As with previous stages, a record will be kept of contact with the public, including questions raised and responses provided. This information will be available to regulators during the regulatory review process.

5) Round Five (anticipated to be April to June 2003) – Consultation on Supplemental Information: Round Five will focus on communicating any supplemental information that is prepared and filed with regulators. Initial review of the EIS documents by regulators and the public may identify the need for additional material to be prepared and filed. This same information will be the subject of communication with those who may be directly interested in these topics. As with previous stages, a record will be kept of contact with the public, including questions raised and responses provided. This information will be available to regulators during the regulatory review process.

In addition to consultation undertaken by Manitoba Hydro and NCN, Canada and Manitoba are anticipated to engage in consultation with affected First Nation and other Aboriginal communities pertaining to potential effects on Aboriginal and treaty rights as a result of granting authorizations for the project under relevant legislation (e.g., *The Water Power Act (Manitoba)*). Further consultation will be undertaken by regulators after the EIS's are filed as part of the formal environmental review process.

Prior to the CEC Public Hearing, Manitoba Hydro and NCN will consider whether to propose further PIP consultations that would be carried out after the hearing as part of ongoing project planning, implementation and monitoring activities.

5.2 Involvement of Federal and Provincial Regulators

Public involvement activities described in this Plan are being undertaken within the context of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) review process set out by provincial and federal regulators according to provincial and federal regulatory requirements (see Section 2.4). As noted, regulators will be undertaking their own consultation activities regarding the proposed projects at various points in the environmental review process.

As part of this Public Involvement Plan, Manitoba Hydro and NCN plan to inform regulators on an ongoing basis about progress in their public involvement activities. Documents filed with the regulators are expected to be placed on the public registry maintained by the regulators; in addition, where material information is provided in such documents, it is intended that the documents will be included on the Wuskwatim website maintained by Manitoba Hydro. In addition, Manitoba Hydro and NCN will continue to consult with regulators through a variety of means, including: a/ input of the Project Administration Team (PAT) b/ input of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) established for the projects, and c/ input of individual specialists, including staff in regional offices.

As specified in the Final EIS Guidelines, the description of the Public Involvement Plan (including the full community consultation program with NCN at Nelson House) will be included in the EIS's and the results of the public input reported on and evaluated. The EIS will include:

- a description of how concerns and issues raised by the public were incorporated into the projects' design and development, impact mitigation and monitoring

- discussion of unresolved issues and the key alternatives which were identified by the potential proponents and the publics who participated in the PIP in the consideration of unresolved issues
- description of any plans for ongoing consultation with the public following completion of the EIA review.

5.3 Methods

The Public Involvement Plan includes a variety of methods to communicate with potentially-affected publics and interested publics. The selection of methods has been guided by the effectiveness of communication for various individuals and groups and has considered advice from elected leaders in potentially-affected communities. There will be flexibility in the design of each round of consultation in response to changing circumstances (e.g., seasonality), scope of subject matter and the interests of potentially-affected publics.

Consultations with NCN members have been ongoing for several years (see Section 2.3 and 5.1 above). Community consultants have been retained to assist in carrying out these activities, which have included newsletters, community and other meetings, open houses, television broadcasts, school presentations, opinion surveys, and key person interviews and meetings with elders, resource harvesters, and others in the community. These activities continue in coordination with the other Public Involvement Plan activities.

In general, the methods considered for the five rounds involving non-NCN members prior to the EIS public hearing are as follows (as noted in the earlier review of stages, several of these methods are often used at the same time and/or in consultations with the same publics):

- **Newsletters:** “Newsletters” are used to provide all interested parties with basic information applicable to each stage of the PIP process. A newsletter was prepared for Round One to introduce the projects, the environmental review process and the proposed public involvement program. This newsletter was provided either directly to elected leaders at Round One meetings or was mailed along with an invitation to respond with issues, concerns or an expression of interest in meeting. A Round Two newsletter summarized the highlights of Round One and status of the process. It was used, along with the first newsletter, in meetings and open houses and was sent, along with a cover letter, to communities that did not express an interest in meeting. Both newsletters have been made available on the Wuskwatim website, and copies of newsletters have also been made available to the PAT and TAC. In some cases, newsletters were provided by specific groups to the general public (e.g., City of Thompson made copies available at City Hall). A Round Three newsletter is anticipated, and will be circulated in the same general manner as the Round Two newsletter.
- **Meetings with elected officials in Project Region:** During Round One, elected officials in potentially-affected communities in the Project Region were invited to participate in meetings with representatives of Manitoba Hydro, NCN and the study team undertaking the environmental assessment study. Presentations were made and feedback was sought with respect to the nature of the projects, the environmental review process, and the proposed Public Involvement Program. Meetings with elected officials also occurred in some

communities at the time of community meetings during Round Two, and are anticipated to occur during Round Three in order to provide a status update about the projects. Draft meeting notes and presentation materials are provided to meeting participants and finalized after review by participants; aside from being retained by participants, this information will be available in the final EIS. In cases where these meetings have taken place outside the local community (i.e., in Thompson or in Winnipeg), community participants are reimbursed by Manitoba Hydro for reasonable out-of-pocket expenses in connection with their participation.

- **Meetings in Project Region Aboriginal Communities:** In some potentially-affected Aboriginal communities, elected officials invited representatives of Manitoba Hydro, NCN and the environmental study team to participate in a community meeting pertaining to the projects during Round Two. Further community meetings are anticipated to be preferred in some of these communities during Round Three. Elected leaders have asked that a presentation be made in such community meetings followed by discussion with respect to the projects. In addition, newsletters have been provided to participants in such meetings. Draft meeting notes and presentation materials are provided to meeting participants (through local officials) and finalized after review by participants; aside from being retained by participants, this information will be available in the final EIS.
- **Open houses in the Project Region:** The open house format is currently considered to be best suited to display alternative transmission line routes to potentially affected communities in the Project Region and to provide an opportunity to discuss the perspectives of individuals one-on-one. It was used for this purpose during Round Two and is anticipated to be used again during Round Three to present information to the public and invite their feedback in communities potentially affected by the transmission routes. In the case of Thompson, which is included in the transmission project impact area, the open house also provided information on the generating station project. Open houses are advertised to the public in the community and, in the case of the Thompson open house, in other communities in the area, such as Wabowden, Thicket Portage and Pikwitonei. In addition, letters of invitation to open houses were sent to elected leaders and others thought to be interested in the projects. Comments of individuals are recorded. Newsletters are provided. The information received will be reported on in the final EIS and is reflected in the planning and EIS work.
- **Meetings with other interested organizations:** Meetings to discuss the projects may be held with other interested organizations or groups of organizations. For example an initial offer to meet was provided to Manitoba Eco-Network during Round One and will be explicitly sent to member organizations again during Round Three.. Scheduling of such meetings will depend on the responses received. If held, draft meeting notes will be returned to participants and will be finalized after their review; aside from being retained by participants, this information will be available in the final EIS.
- **Website:** A Wuskwatim website has been developed to link from the Manitoba Hydro website (www.hydro.mb.ca under "Issues/New Generation and Transmission Projects"). The site includes key documents prepared to date (e.g. each of the newsletters and the Agreement-in-Principle) and links to the Clean Environment Commission site and the Manitoba Conservation site where Final EIS Guidelines can be found. Additional information is

added from time-to-time to reflect ongoing presentations and open house materials. A mechanism is available for input from the public.

- **Contacts for Follow-Up:** Four contacts have been identified in newsletters and presentations as available for follow-up questions or comments about the Wuskwatim projects. These include a Manitoba Hydro representative from the generation group, a Manitoba Hydro representative from the transmission group and the co-managers of the future development process from NCN. Questions and comments received from the public and replies by these contact persons are being recorded.
- **Special additional meetings or studies with potentially affected communities:** Manitoba Hydro and NCN will review issues and concerns arising from consultations. Where relevant, special additional meetings may be held with potentially affected communities in the Project Region (including, in particular, potentially-affected First Nation and other Aboriginal communities) to examine together ways to address specific concerns, including additional studies, mitigation or monitoring as well as additional consultations with community members. Manitoba Hydro will carry out any agreed-upon studies or other activities. In special circumstances where joint review of a technical issue is concluded to be useful in resolving a concern, and there is a reasonable basis for such a requirement, Manitoba Hydro will consider providing support to allow communities with a common concern to retain specialist assistance to review the studies carried out by Manitoba Hydro. Any relevant information from such meetings or studies will be integrated into the final EIS documentation. (It is noted that these activities are separate from any funding assistance that may be approved under the Manitoba Conservation Participant Assistance Program.)

5.4 Documentation

The public involvement program and results, including the community consultation program at Nelson House, will be documented in the Environmental Impact Statements as required by Section 4 of the Final EIS Guidelines and as set out more fully in Section 5.2 of this Public Involvement Plan.