Appendix 3

NCN COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MATERIALS

Open Houses, Presentations, Pamphlets, and Newsletters

Outline of Appendix 3

Appendix 3 provides copies of community consultation and involvement materials for Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation members. This includes a chronological list of consultation activities, diagrams used to facilitate discussions at scoping workshops, open house story boards, an executive summary pertaining to the Notigi and Wuskwatim Generation and Transmission Facilities, a report to NCN members on the Wuskwatim Access Road, information pamphlets, presentations, and newsletters.

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ATTACHMENT 1

NCN COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Chronological Record of Activities

December 1999 to March 2003

NCN: COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The following provides a chronological list of consultation activities that took place between December 1999 and March 2003. The list provided below includes key activities conducted by NCNs Future Development Team (including the Community Consultants), Manitoba Hydro and NCN jointly, Manitoba Hydro separately, and the EMT on behalf of NCN and Manitoba Hydro. In addition to the activities listed below, the NCN leadership and the Future Development Team had numerous discussions with NCN members that included group meetings, one-on-one discussions, and household visits.

It should be noted that a separate set of meetings and discussions, which are not included below, also took place between Manitoba Hydro and NCN regarding items such as the Agreement-In-Principal (AIP), the Project Development Agreement (PDA), and Training and Employment initiatives. Numerous discussions regarding environmental assessment activities between the EMT and NCNs Future Development Team and/or NCN Chief and Council, also occurred on an almost daily basis and are not included below.

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER 1999

- the EMT met with NCN representatives on December 6 to discuss the NCN survey questionnaires and socio-economic studies.

- the EMT met with NCN representatives in Nelson House on December 15 to discuss: the role of the EMT; development of a workplan for the environmental assessment studies; review of work conducted to date; and identification of immediate study needs.

JANUARY 2000

- the EMT met with NCN representatives on January 4 to review and discuss: the development of an NCN Future Development Newsletter; the production of public information documents regarding the 1999 environmental studies; scoping of environmental issues; planning for environmental assessment studies; school presentation; and Traditional Knowledge.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on January 11 to discuss progress on on-going activities and scoping for the development of a workplan for the environmental assessment studies.

FEBRUARY 2000

- the EMT conducted a two-day workshop (Workshop #1) with NCN representatives and NCN Elders on February 1 and 2 to identify issues and provide scoping for the environmental assessment studies. Workshop #1 focused on: project description; identification of Valued Ecosystem Components (VECs); aquatic environment; navigation and access; and resource harvesting.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCNs Future Development Team on February 9 to discuss the content of the upcoming Open House in Nelson House.

- the EMT conducted a two-day workshop (Workshop #2) with NCN representatives and NCN Elders on February 15 and 16. Workshop #2 focused on socio-economics.

- the EMT conducted a two-day workshop (Workshop #3) with NCN representatives and NCN Elders on February 29 and March 1. Workshop #3 focused on the terrestrial environment and heritage resources.

MARCH 2000

- the EMT held a Study Plan Implementation meeting with NCN representatives on March 14 and 15 to review progress being made on the Joint Study Plan and to discuss Valued Ecosystem Components.

- a "March 2000: NCN Future Development Newsletter" was prepared by NCNs Future Development Team and distributed to NCN members.

APRIL 2000

- an Open House was held at Nelson House on April 5 and April 6. The Open House focused on: a description of the proposed developments; the NCN/Hydro process for discussing the Wuskwatim Generation Project (the Project); preliminary site investigations; and environmental, socio-economic, and heritage resource studies.

- Mayor Bella Leonard (Nelson House Community Council) and members of the Community Council were invited to the above stated Open House.

MAY 2000

- the EMT held a workshop with NCN representatives on May 9 and 10 to review and discuss the Joint Study Plan.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives to review Project alternatives and to discuss the creation of a three part process for the evaluation of siting and routing alternatives. The Alternatives Technical Group (consisting of NCN, Manitoba Hydro, and the EMT) was formed to assist in the selection of alternatives.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives to discuss the general format for the next Open House and decide on the types of information to be presented to the Nelson House Community.

JUNE 2000

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on June 1 to further discuss and plan for the Open House.

- the EMT provided an article on June 2 for the NCN Future Development Newsletter entitled "The Notigi and Wuskwatim Environmental Impact Statement". NCNs Future Development Team subsequently distributed the newsletter to NCN members.

- the EMT held a Study Plan Implementation meeting with NCN representatives on June 16 to review the status of the Joint Study Plan and review draft story boards for the upcoming Open House.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives (as well as representatives of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency and Manitoba Conservation) on June 16 to discuss the regulatory process.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on June 30 to discuss progress on the evaluation of alternatives.

- a summary document on the Joint Study Plan was prepared by the EMT and copies were provided to the Community Consultants for distribution at the upcoming Open House in Nelson House.

- the EMT prepared a description of the environmental assessment studies for use use by NCN in a radio announcement.

JULY 2000

- an Open House was held in Nelson House on July 12 and 13. A transcript of questions recorded at the Open House was prepared along with a summary of responses to the questions.

- the EMT held a Study Plan Implementation meeting with NCN representatives on July 14 to discuss: what was learned from NCN members at the Open House; the status of the ongoing Joint Study Program activities; resource use studies; and to review information on the assessment of alternatives.

- the EMT met with NCNs Chief and Council and Future Development Team on July 19 to review progress on all ongoing activities related to the environmental assessment of the Project.

- the Alternatives Technical Group met on July 20 to prepare for an open house in Nelson House (August 2 and 3) that would focus on the assessment of alternatives.

- the EMT provided a background document to NCN representatives on cumulative effects assessment (CEA) practice in preparation for an upcoming CEA workshop.

- a workshop was held with NCN representatives, as well as Dr. P. Duinker (CEA Advisor), on July 25 and 26 to discuss approach to cumulative effects assessment. Topics included: definition of CEA; review of case studies; review of historical and potential future developments; and scoping.

- the EMT and Manitoba Hydro met with NCN representatives on July 27 to discuss: the regulatory process; alternatives assessment process; land use/resource plans; and overall co-ordination.

- the EMT provided a document to NCN members that summarized, in non-technical terms, the proposed Project and the environmental studies conducted under the Joint Study Program (entitled "Executive Summary: Notigi and Wuskwatim Generation and Transmission Facilities: Joint NCN and Manitoba Hydro Study Program, July 2000").

AUGUST 2000

- the EMT met with NCNs Community Consultants on August 1 to prepare for the Open House on the evaluation of alternatives.

- an Open House was held in Nelson House on August 2 and August 3. The Open House provided information to, and gained input from, the community on the evaluation of alternatives (e.g., construction camps and access road routes).

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT held a second workshop on the selection of alternatives with NCN representatives on August 14 and 15.

- the EMT met with NCN representatives on August 16 to discuss articles for the Future Development Newsletter. The Future Development Team subsequently developed the Newsletter and distributed it to NCN members.

- the EMT met with NCN representatives on August 25 to discuss and plan for NCNs Career Day.

- the EMT held a Study Plan Implementation meeting with NCN representatives on August 28 to: review progress on the Joint Study Program; review the process leading up to submission of an EIS; review the status of the evaluation of alternatives; and discuss community consultation activities.

SEPTEMBER 2000

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on September 5 to co-ordinate project activities.

- the EMT met with NCN representatives on September 7 to assist in planning for NCNs Career Days.

- a Study Plan Implementation meeting was held with NCN representatives on September 11 to: provide an update on the Joint Study Program; gain input from NCN on the various studies; and discuss the community consultation program.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on September 12 to discuss: the regulatory process; schedule; AIP status; review of alternatives; and the upcoming Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting.

- the Alternatives Technical Group met on September 20 to discuss the evaluation criteria for the assessment of alternatives.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on September 27 to review a draft of the AIP and determine story board content for upcoming Open Houses.

- the EMT met with NCN representatives on September 28 to assist in planning for NCNs Career Days.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN, Manitoba Heritage Resources Branch, and the Manitoba Museum on September 29 to discuss archaeological studies.

- the EMT met with NCNs Resource Manager to discuss resource use issues and protocols for meeting with key individuals with respect to commercial fishing, commercial trapping, and domestic harvesting.

- the EMT had several discussions with NCN representatives regarding location and conduct of heritage resource studies.

- the EMT met with NCN representatives to discuss the content and approach to upcoming newsletters. Prepared articles describing the Regulatory Process and provided comments on the "You asked..." column for the next newsletter. The newsletter was subsequently prepared by the Future Development Team and distributed to NCN members.

OCTOBER 2000

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on October 2 to co-ordinate project activities.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCNs Future Development Team on October 3 to discuss environmental assessment criteria for reviewing project alternatives.

- the Alternatives Technical Group met on October 17 to review draft assessments of: effects of the alternatives on the environment; effects on NCN; and effects on the Project.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on October 19 to review the Draft Scoping Document and to discuss the upcoming TAC meeting.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on October 20 to review the assessment of alternatives as provided by the Alternatives Technical Group.

- a Study Plan Implementation meeting was held with NCN Chief and Council and the NCNs Future Development Team on October 24 and 25 to provide updates on the Joint Study Program and to discuss: project alternatives; Career Day; the AIP Open Houses; and the Community Consultation Program.

NOVEMBER 2000

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on November 7 to co-ordinate project activities.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on November 9 to review the revised Draft Scoping Document and discuss the regulatory process.

- the EMT prepared information on the types of employment associated with the environmental studies and provided that information to NCN members at the NCN Career Days on November 14 and 15.

- the Alternatives Technical Group met on November 17 to review alternatives for the access road and camp options.

- the EMT met with NCN representatives on November 23 to discuss cultural studies being conducted under the Joint Study Program.

DECEMBER 2000

- the EMT met with NCNs Chief and Council and the Future Development Team on December 19 to review overall schedules for the EIS and to gain input on issues and concerns related to the schedule.

JANUARY 2001

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on January 25 to co-ordinate project activities.

- the EMT assisted the Future Development Team with the production of a newsletter for South Indian Lake. The newsletter was subsequently prepared by the Future Development Team and distributed in South Indian Lake.

- the EMT discussed resource use studies with NCNs Resource Manager and received data from NCNs Country Food Program

- the EMT assisted the Future Development Team with the preparation of materials for the AIP Open Houses.

FEBRUARY 2001

- the EMT met with NCN representatives on February 8 and 9 to prepare for the upcoming AIP Open House which was subsequently held in Nelson House on February 27 and 28.

- the EMT met with NCN representatives on February 15 and 16 to review the socio-economic studies that were conducted under the Joint Study Plan.

MARCH 2001

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on March 1 to co-ordinate project activities.

- an Open House on the AIP was held in Thompson on March 13: NCN members residing in or near Thompson were invited to the Open House.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT held a two-day Study Plan Implementation workshop with NCN representatives on March 14 and 15. Topics included: review of the 2001/2002 Joint Study Program; review of overall schedule; physical, aquatic, terrestrial, and socio-economic study updates; and development of the EIS.

- an Open House on the AIP was held in Winnipeg on March 22: NCN members residing in and around Winnipeg were invited.

- the EMT assisted the Future Development Team with the production of a newsletter for the Nelson House Community. The Future Development Team subsequently produced the newsletter and distributed it to NCN members.

- the EMT provided a document entitled "Proceedings of a Cumulative Effects Assessment Workshop to Discuss General Approach: July 25, 2000" to NCN representatives which summarized discussions between Manitoba Hydro and NCN on Cumulative Effects Assessment..

APRIL 2001

- Open Houses on the AIP were held in Winnipeg on April 10, Brandon on April 12, Thompson on April 17, South Indian Lake on April 24, and Winnipeg in April 30: NCN members residing in and around these areas were invited to the Open Houses.

- a letter and information on the AIP was provided by the Community Consultants to community members in South Indian Lake on April 10.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on April 11 to plan for the next Open House in Nelson House and to discuss other means of communication with the community.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on April 11 to co-ordinate project activities.

- the EMT met with NCNs Traditional Knowledge Committee on April 20 to discuss the collection and utilization of Traditional Knowledge in the EIS.

MAY 2001

- Open Houses on the AIP were held in Nelson House on May 1, 8, and 9 and in Thompson on May 2: NCN members residing in and around these areas were invited to the Open Houses.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on May 15 and May 18 to provide information on the project description and the physical effects of the Project.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on May 16 to discuss: the regulatory process; the development of the scoping document; the AIP ratification vote; assessment of alternatives; and the Public Involvement Plan (PIP).

- the EMT met with NCN representatives on May 29 to discuss articles for the next Future Development Newsletter. The Future Development Team subsequently prepared the newsletter and distributed it NCN members.

- the EMT participated in a meeting with NCNs Traditional Knowledge Committee on May 30.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on May 31 to review regulatory and licensing matters.

- the EMT provided copies of the revised Draft Scoping Document to NCN representatives for further review and discussion.

JUNE 2001

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with the Project Administration Team (PAT) and NCN representatives on June 1 to discuss the regulatory process.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on June 13 to discuss the scoping documents and prepare for the upcoming Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives and members of environmental organizations (who were not attending as official representatives of those organizations) on June 14 to provide an overview of the Project and associated environmental studies and to discuss the regulatory process, Public Involvement Program, and overall schedule.

- the EMT met with NCNs Traditional Knowledge Committee on June 20 to further discuss the collection and utilization of Traditional Knowledge in the EIS.

- the EMT provided copies of the revised Joint Study Program to NCN representatives for further review and discussion.

- the EMT reviewed and provided input into articles for the Future Development Newsletter. The newsletter was subsequently prepared by the Future Development Team and distributed to NCN members.

- the EMT met with NCNs Community Consultants to review the Harvest Calendar and cultural considerations related to the Harvest Calendar Study.

JULY 2001

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on July 12 to discuss the study plans for woodland caribou.

- the EMT met with NCN representatives on July 19 to discuss important terrestrial resources in the Nelson House RMA.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives to discuss the physical environment studies and information requirements.

- the EMT met with NCN representatives to discuss the terrestrial field studies.

AUGUST 2001

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on August 9 to discuss the scoping documents and the upcoming TAC meeting.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT held a Study Plan Implementation meeting with NCN representatives on August 9 to review progress on the biophysical and socio-economic studies being conducted under the Joint Study Program.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on August 22 to discuss future plans for woodland caribou monitoring studies.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with J. Mollard (routing expert) and NCN representatives to discuss the centre-line for a section of the access road.

- the EMT had several discussions with NCN representatives regarding finalization of the Harvest Calendar and approach for its implementation in the community.

- the EMT worked with NCN to prepare maps for use in NCNs Traditional Knowledge interviews.

- the EMT attended a meeting NCNs Traditional Knowledge Committee to discuss collection and utilization of Traditional Knowledge.

- the EMT met with the Community Consultants to review protocols for the harvest calendar and to add syllabics and Cree translations to the calendar.

- the EMT met with NCN representatives to discuss logistics and co-ordinate field studies.

- the EMT and NCN research staff met to discuss methods of conducting oral history interviews to gather Traditional Knowledge.

SEPTEMBER 2001

- the EMT met with NCNs Resource Manager on September 4 to discuss resource use in the Nelson House RMA.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on September 5 to discuss information requirements related to the physical environment studies.

- the Alternatives Technical Group met on September 6 to discuss the process for selection of access road centre lines.

- the EMT discussed ongoing activities in regards to the Joint Study Program with NCN representatives on September 12 (conference call due to the re-scheduling of the Study Plan Implementation meeting re: September 11).

- the Alternatives Technical Group met on September 18 to discuss routing of the access road.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT attended and participated in the AIP Signing Ceremony that was held at Nelson House on September 25. Information on the Project was provided to the community.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on September 28 to review progress on various components of the project description and physical environment.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCNs Resource Manager in regards to the environmental component of the access road alternatives assessment.

OCTOBER 2001

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on October 2 and October 5 to review progress on various components of the project description and physical environment.

- the EMT met with NCN representatives on October 4 regarding the access road routing process.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on October 10 to review information on project related ice processes.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on October 11 to: review the detailed project schedule; review draft public information pamphlets on the biophysical studies; discuss access road routing; and review progress on the Joint Study Program.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on October 11 to discuss: scoping of the environmental and socio-economic studies; submission of Environment Act Proposal Forms; and PIP matters.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on October 16 to co-

ordinate environmental assessment activities.

- the EMT provided assistance to NCN in preparing the Future Development Newsletter (prepared article on the Resource Use studies for inclusion in the newsletter). The Future Development Team subsequently prepared the newsletter and distributed it to NCN members.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on October 31 to discuss the filing of the Wuskwatim Environment Act Proposal Forms.

NOVEMBER 2001

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on November 1 to discuss the Environment Act Proposal Forms and PIP matters.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT held a two-day workshop with NCN representatives on November 6 and 7 to examine road options between Mile 5 and Mile 20 and to rate the options based on: impacts on the environment; impacts on NCN; and impacts on the Project. Helicopter flights were arranged to allow NCN members to view the proposed routes from the air.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with Manitoba Conservation and NCN representatives on November 6 regarding woodland caribou Traditional Knowledge studies and potential use of those studies in the EIS.

- the Alternatives Technical Group met on November 15 to review and finalize a recommendation for Manitoba Hydro and NCN Chief and Council on the preferred road routing option.

- the EMT met with NCN representatives on November 19 to review progress on the Traditional Knowledge studies and determine the next steps in the process.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on November 20 to review schedules, selection of alternatives, and PIP matters.

- the EMT met with NCN representatives on November 22 to provide a presentation on potential impacts related to the Project for their consideration in the PDA.

- the EMT met with NCN Chief and Council on November 26 to review the recommendation from the Alternatives Technical Group.

- the EMT had several discussions with NCNs Resource Manager regarding the Project's woodland caribou studies and Manitoba Conservation's proposed TK study on caribou.

- the EMT assisted in the preparation of an article for NCNs Future Development Newsletter describing activities and progress towards the selection of a preferred route

for the access road.

DECEMBER 2001

- the EMT provided a presentation to NCN members at a Community Meeting in Nelson House on December 3 regarding the results of the access road evaluation and selection process. A newsletter entitled "The Wuskwatim Access Road: Report to NCN Members About Results of Work to Compare Alternate Routes" was provided to NCN members.

- the EMT met with NCNs Chief and Council on December 3 to review progress related to the selection of the access road corridor.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on December 13 to discuss the regulatory process.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on December 13 to review progress being made on the Joint Study Program and to plan for an upcoming Open House at Nelson House.

- the EMT met with the NCNs Traditional Knowledge Committee on December 14 to continue reviewing progress on the collection of Traditional Knowledge.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT provided a presentation to, and gained information from, NCN members on the Wuskwatim access road options.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on December 19 to discuss the progress being made on the physical environment studies.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on December 19 to co-ordinate the environmental assessment activities.

- the EMT prepared articles describing the progress being made on the Joint Study Program and the access road discussions for the Future Development Newsletter. The Future Development Team subsequently prepared the newsletter and distributed it to NCN members.

JANUARY 2002

- the Alternatives Technical Committee met on January 15 to discuss and obtain agreement on the creation of an Access Management Committee (using the same members as the Alternatives Technical Group) which would work towards the development of an approach to managing the effects of new road access into the Nelson House RMA.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on January 15 to discuss the regulatory process.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on January 15 to co-ordinate environmental assessment activities.

- the Access Management Committee met on January 29 to discuss routing alternatives.

- the EMT met with NCN representatives to discuss the content of the upcoming Future Development Newsletter.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives to discuss the progress being made on the physical environment studies and the project description.

- the EMT worked with the Community Consultants on the collection of data from the Harvest Calendar.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN commercial fishers and commercial trappers on January 28 to gain Traditional Knowledge from the individuals utilizing the resources in the Wuskwatim area and to respond to any questions the harvesters had regarding the Project.

FEBRUARY 2002

- an open house was held with South Indian Lake community members on February 12.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on February 13 to discuss regulatory matters.

- on February 21, NCN Elders and other NCN representatives were provided with an aerial view of the area where the principal structures for the generating station would be located.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on February 13 to provide an update on the Joint Study Plan, review the draft Table of Contents for the Wuskwatim EIS, and plan for the upcoming Open House in Nelson House.

- the Access Management Committee met on February 14.

- an Open House was held at Nelson House on February 20 and 21 which focused on providing the results of the Joint Study Program to the community.

- the EMT met with NCNs Chief and Council and NCN Elders to review cultural indicators.

- a newsletter was prepared by the Future Development Team and distributed to NCN members.

MARCH 2002

- the EMT provided NCN workshop participants with a copy of the "Wuskwatim Generation Project: Cumulative Effects assessment - Workshop Backgrounder" on March 6 in preparation for the upcoming CEA workshop.

- Manitoba Hydro provided presentations on the hydraulic, ice, and erosion studies to NCN members in Nelson House on March 7.

- the Access Management Committee met on March 8 to continue work on developing an Access Management Plan.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on March 21 to discuss the project description and physical environment studies.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT held a cumulative effects assessment workshop with NCN representatives on March 13 (Dr. P. Duinker attended as an advisor).

APRIL 2002

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT held a three-day workshop (April 9 to 11) with NCN representatives to present, and gain input on, the Existing Environment Sections of the EIS. Information on preliminary conclusions and impacts was also presented at the workshop.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on April 16 to discuss the preliminary conclusions of the Joint Study Plan.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives to discuss protocols for the use of Traditional Knowledge, resource use, and socio-economic data bases.

- the Access Management Committee met on April 12.

MAY 2002

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT held an Open House in Thompson that provided information on both the Wuskwatim Generation and Transmission components to NCN members resident in Thompson and the surrounding area.

- the Access Management Committee met on May 7 to discuss routing alternatives.

- NCN representatives traveled to South Indian Lake on May 9 to discuss the AIP with NCN members residing in South Indian Lake.

- highlights of the NCN Opinion Survey in South Indian Lake and copies of the May 2002

NCN Future Development newsletter were distributed by the Community Consultants in South Indian Lake on May 13 to 17 and May 20.

- the Community Consultants visited with community Elders to discuss the Project on May 28 and 29.

- the Community Consultants met with Mayor and Council, the Community Association of South Indian Lake, and Headman Chris Baker on May 29 to discuss the Project.

JUNE 2002

- the Community Consultants and South Indian Lake community members participated in a tour of Wuskwatim Lake and viewed the site by helicopter between June 5 and 8.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with PAT and NCN representatives on June 13 to discuss the status of the environmental studies, the regulatory review schedule, Section 35 consultation, and regulatory matters.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on June 13 to discuss regulatory matters.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT provided information to NCN representatives regarding the types of physical disturbances during construction (e.g., blasting) that would be examined as part of the EIS.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives on June 27 to discuss the physical studies.

- the EMT continued liaison with the Community Consultants on the Harvest Calendar Study.

JULY 2002

- Manitoba Hydro provided presentations on “Proposed Power Partnerships: Manitoba Hydro's Approach to Improve Aboriginal Relations on Existing and Future Operations” to the National Cree Gathering in Nelson House on July 8 and 10.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCN representatives to further discuss the use of proprietary information in the EIS.

AUGUST 2002

- no activities conducted.

SEPTEMBER 2002

- the EMT worked with the Community Consultants to prepare presentations related to the assessment of impacts for the Project for NCN members.

OCTOBER 2002

- the EMT provided discussion documents to NCNs Future Development Team that described the preliminary conclusions related to the biophysical and socio-economic effects of the Project.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCNs Future Development Team on October 16 to discuss the presentation of the EIS to NCN community members.

- the EMT provided presentations to NCNs Future Development Team at a workshop on October 24 that summarized the expected biophysical and socio-economic impacts related to the Project.

- the EMT worked with the Community Consultants on community consultation initiatives related to the assessment of impacts for the Project.

NOVEMBER 2002

- the EMT continued to work with the Community Consultants on community consultation initiatives related to the assessment of impacts for the Project.

- the EMT met with the Community Consultants on November 8 in Thompson to provide information on the effects of the Project on the aquatic environment including fish mercury levels.

- the Community Consultants distributed Newsletter #3 to South Indian Lake members on November 13, 14, 19, and 20.

- presentations on the Project were provided by the Community Consultants to S1 and S2 classrooms at the Oscar Blackburn School in South Indian Lake on November 14.

- presentations on the Project were provided by the Community Consultants to students in the Adult Education Program at the Oscar Blackburn School in South Indian Lake on November 18.

- the EMT met with the Community Consultants on November 15 in Thompson to review the preliminary assessment of impacts as provided in the newsletter.

- the Community Consultants met with leadership of South Indian Lake to discuss the Project on November 21.

- the Community Consultants met with the teachers and leadership of South Indian Lake on December 2 to discuss the Project.

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT met with NCNs Future Development Team on December 4th in Thompson to discuss the upcoming presentation to the community.

JANUARY 2003

- the EMT conducted a two-day workshop with the Community Consultants in Thompson on January 21 and 22 to discuss the EIS conclusions related to the aquatic and terrestrial environments.

FEBRUARY 2003

- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT conducted a two-day workshop with the Community Consultants in Thompson on February 20 and 21 to: review and revise the presentation for NCN members on the EIS findings related to the water regime and aquatic environment; answer questions from the Community Consultants on the subjects covered in the presentation; and discuss the content of the questionnaire to be distributed at the community meetings.

MARCH 2003

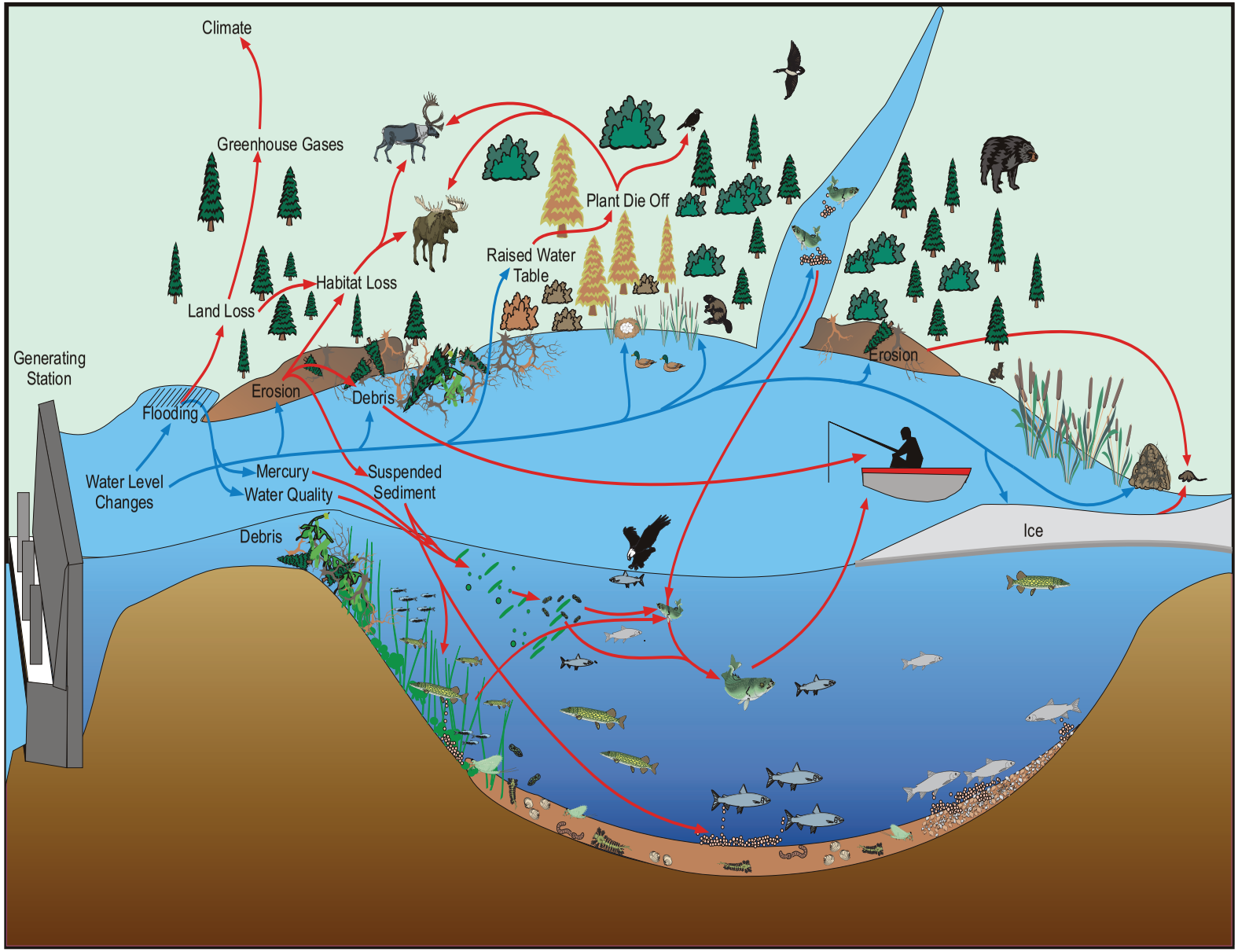
- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT provided Part 1 (water regime and aquatic environment) of the EIS findings to NCN members in Nelson House on March 4.

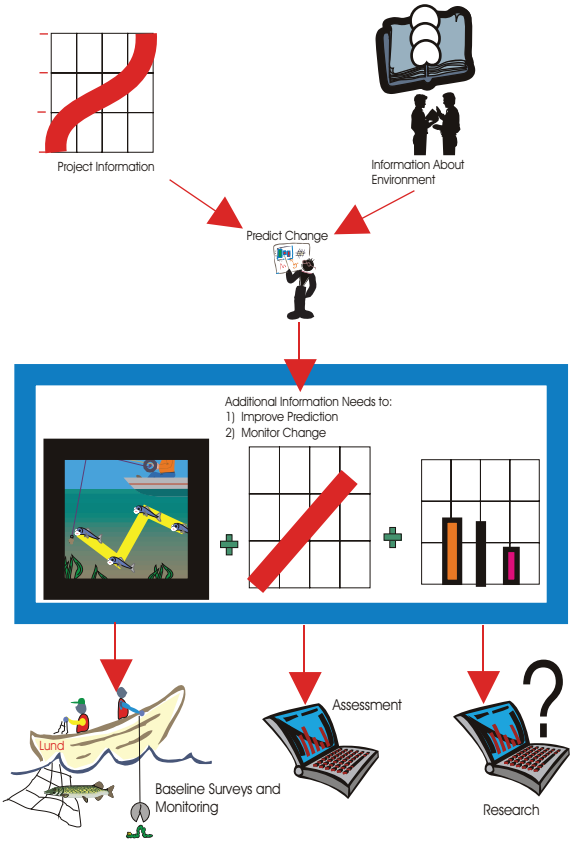
- Manitoba Hydro and the EMT provided Part 2 (terrestrial environment and heritage resources) of the EIS findings to NCN members in Nelson House on March 5.

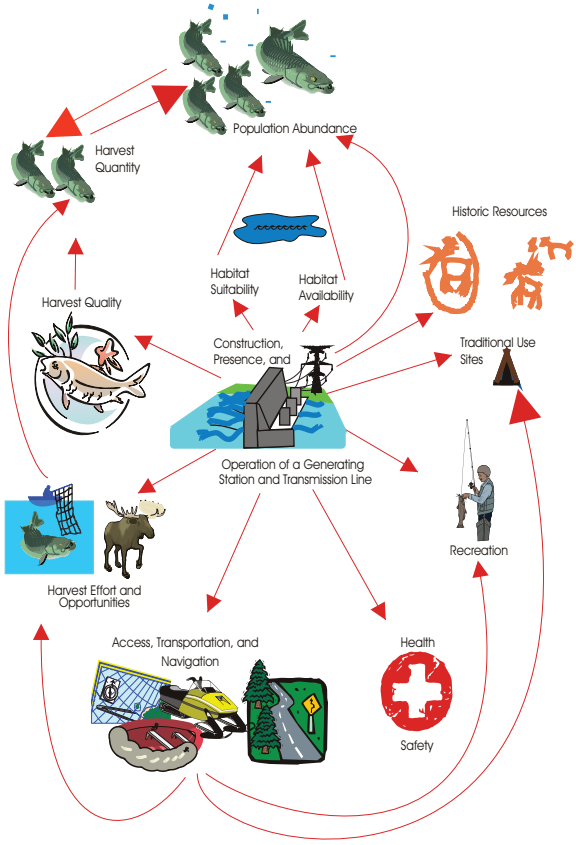
ATTACHMENT 2

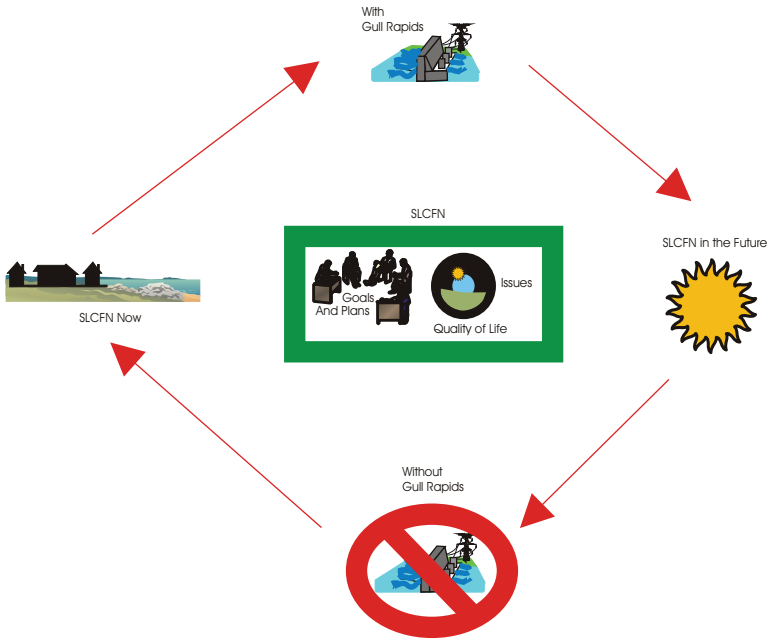
DIAGRAMS USED TO FACILITATE DISCUSSIONS AT SCOPING WORKSHOPS

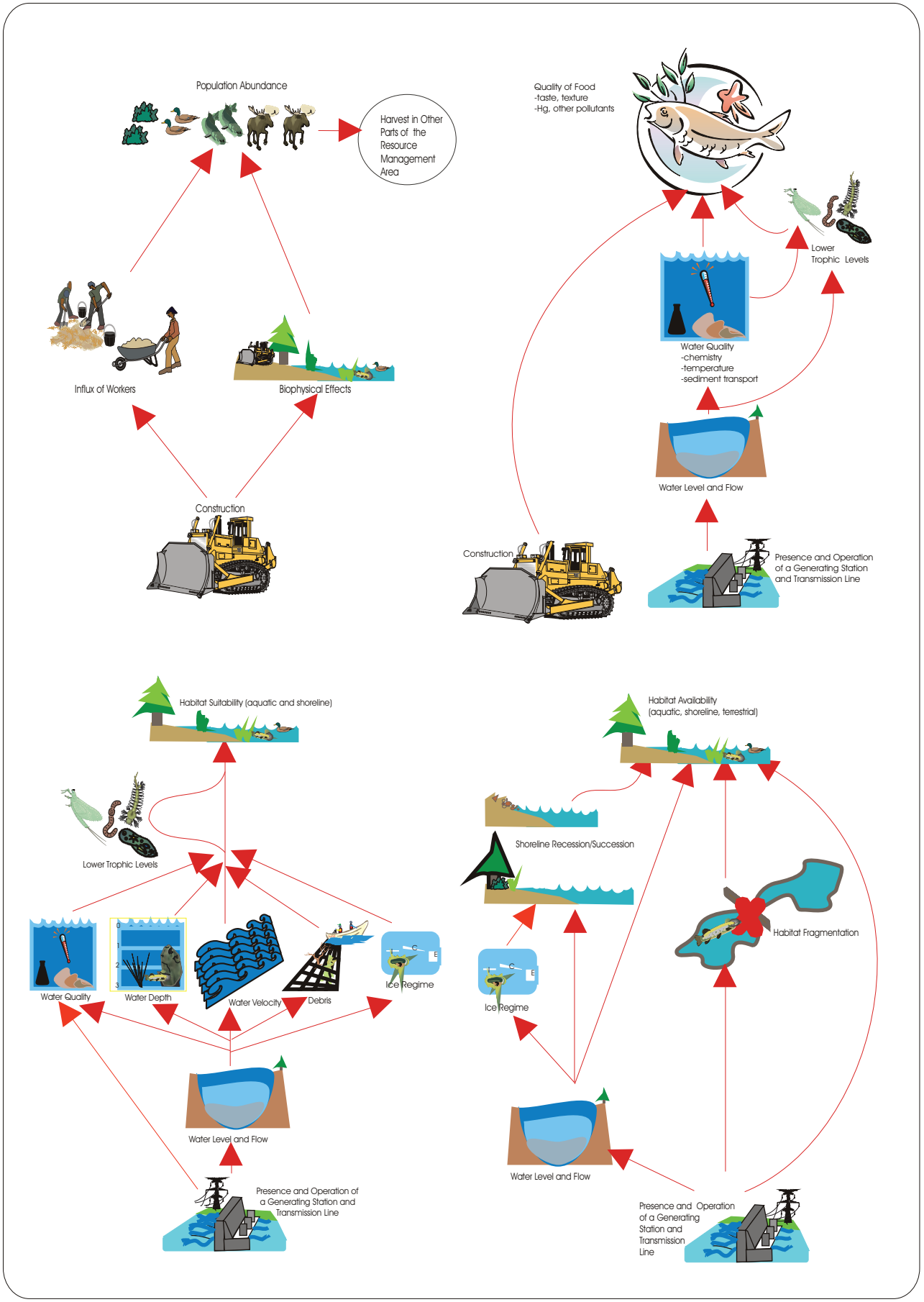
February 1 and 2, 2000
February 15 and 16, 2000
February 29 and March 1, 2000

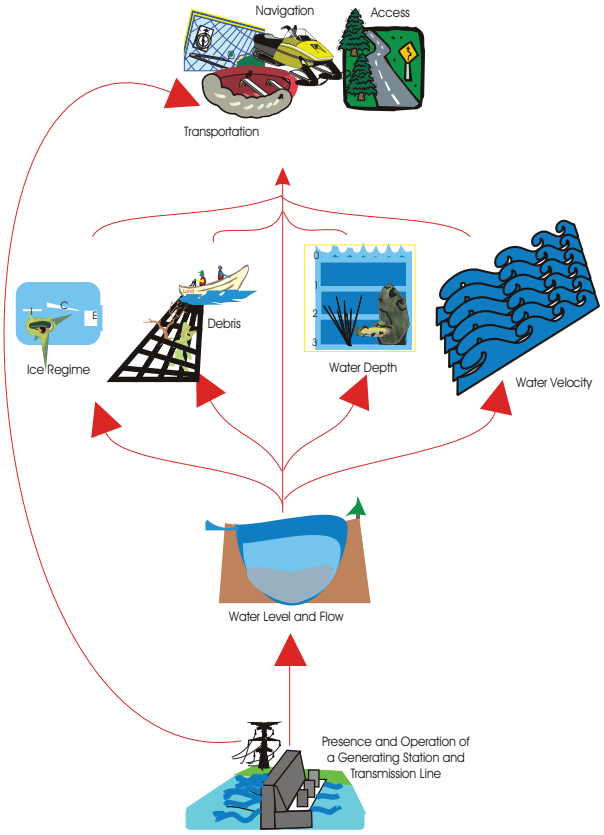

Climate
Greenhouse Gases
Plant Die Off
Raised Water Table
Habitat Loss
Land Loss
Generating Station
Erosion
Debris
Flooding
Water Level Changes
Mercury
Water Quality
Suspended Sediment
Debris
Erosion
Ice

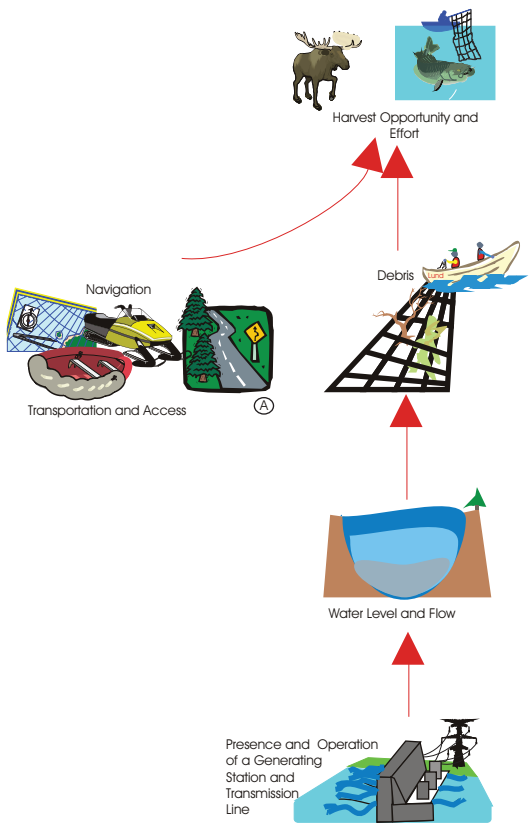

Project Information
Information About Environment
Predict Change
Additional Information Needs to:
1) Improve Prediction
2) Monitor Change
Lund
Baseline Surveys and Monitoring
Assessment
Research

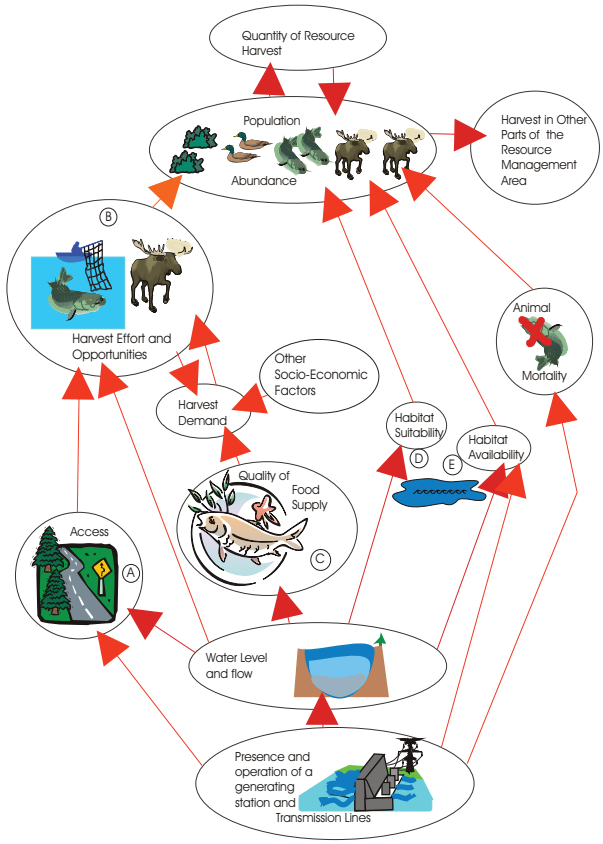

Population Abundance
Harvest Quantity
Historic Resources
Habitat Suitability
Habitat Availability
Harvest Quality
Construction, Presence, and
Traditional Use Sites
Operation of a Generating Station and Transmission Line
Recreation
Harvest Effort and Opportunities
Access, Transportation, and Navigation
Health
Safety

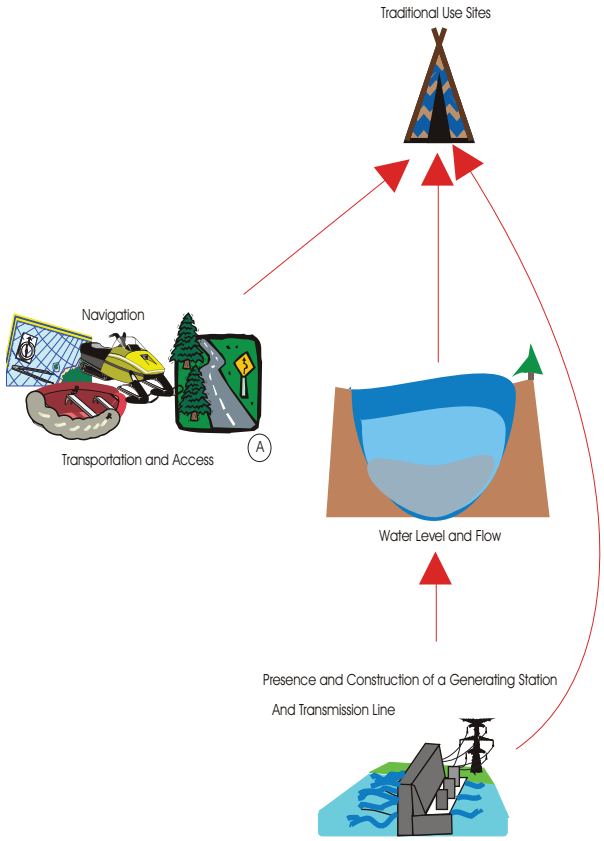

With Gull Rapids
SLCFN
SLCFN in the Future
Goals And Plans
Issues
Quality of Life
SLCFN Now
Without Gull Rapids

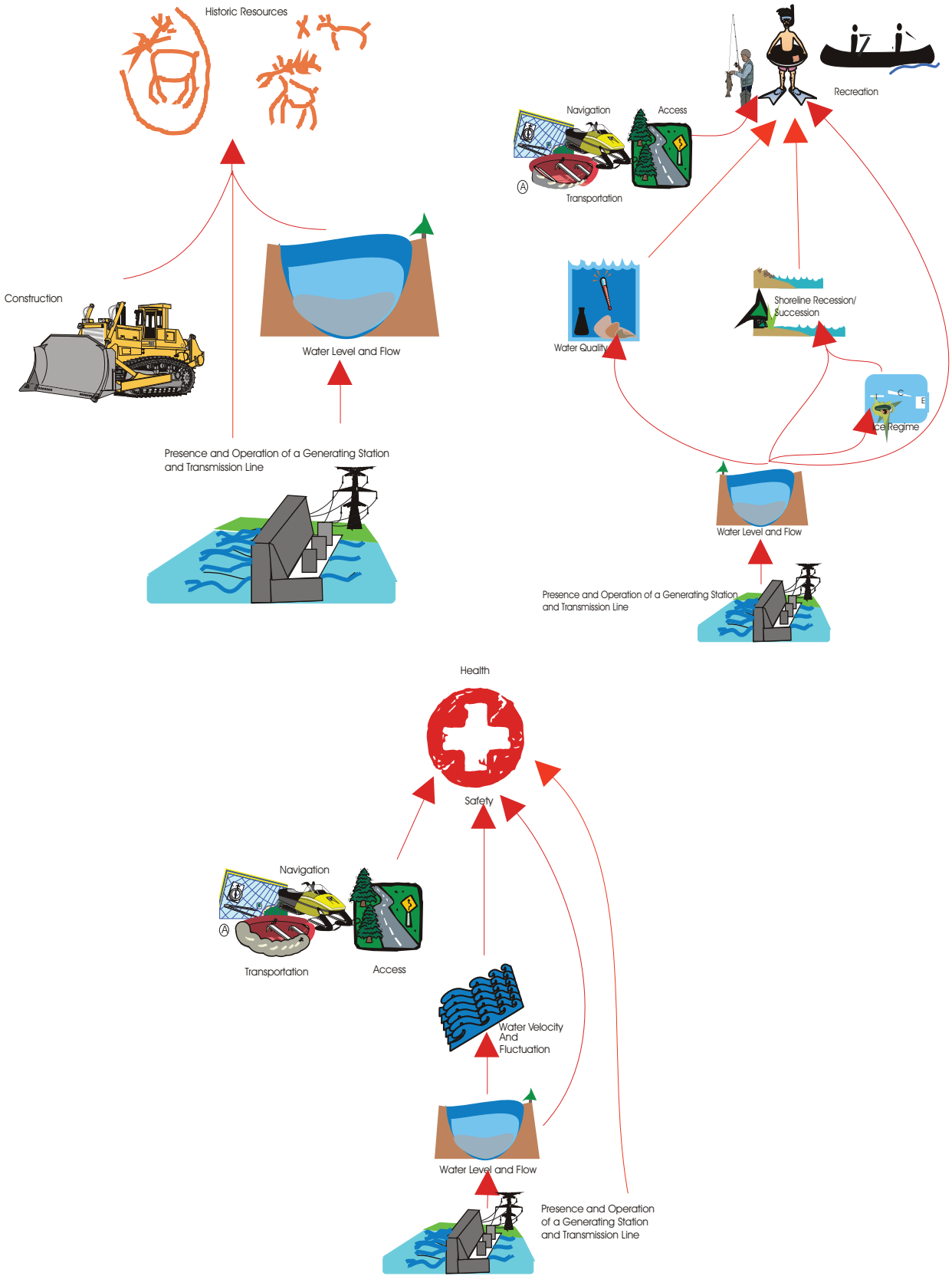

Population Abundance
Harvest in Other Parts of the Resource Management Area
Influx of Workers
Biophysical Effects
Construction
Quality of Food
-taste, texture
-Hg, other pollutants
Lower Trophic Levels
Water Quality
-chemistry
-temperature
-sediment transport
Water Level and Flow
Construction
Presence and Operation of a Generating Station and Transmission Line
Habitat Suitability (aquatic and shoreline)
Lower Trophic Levels
Water Quality
Water Depth
Water Velocity
Debris
Ice Regime
Water Level and Flow
Presence and Operation of a Generating Station and Transmission Line
Habitat Availability (aquatic, shoreline, terrestrial)
Shoreline Recession/Succession
Habitat Fragmentation
Ice Regime
Water Level and Flow
Presence and Operation of a Generating Station and Transmission Line


Navigation
Access
Transportation
Ice Regime
Debris
Water Depth
Water Velocity
Water Level and Flow
Presence and Operation of a Generating Station and Transmission Line


Harvest Opportunity and Effort
Navigation
Debris
Transportation and Access
A
Water Level and Flow
Presence and Operation of a Generating Station and Transmission Line


Quantity of Resource Harvest
Population
Abundance
Harvest in Other Parts of the Resource Management Area
B
Harvest Effort and Opportunities
Other Socio-Economic Factors
Harvest Demand
Animal Mortality
Habitat Suitability
D
E
Habitat Availability
Quality of Food Supply
C
Access
A
Water Level and flow
Presence and operation of a generating station and Transmission Lines


Traditional Use Sites
Navigation
Transportation and Access
A
Water Level and Flow
Presence and Construction of a Generating Station
And Transmission Line


Historic Resources
Construction
Water Level and Flow
Presence and Operation of a Generating Station and Transmission Line
Recreation
Navigation
Access
Transportation
Water Quality
Shoreline Recession/ Succession
Ice Regime
Water Level and Flow
Presence and Operation of a Generating Station and Transmission Line
Health
Safety
Navigation
Transportation
Access
Water Velocity And Fluctuation
Water Level and Flow
Presence and Operation of a Generating Station and Transmission Line

ATTACHMENT 3

OPEN HOUSE AT NELSON HOUSE

April 5 and 6, 2000

WELCOME

Public Open House

Potential Future Development at Wuskwatim and Notigi

April 5 and 6, 2000

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

Manitoba Hydro

This is the First of Several Open Houses about Possible Future Hydroelectric Development

No final decisions have been made by NCN or Manitoba Hydro



Then and Now

How Have Things Changed?

The Past

Early 1970s: Churchill River Diversion (CRD) was discussed with NCN, but the information and consultation did not meet the needs of NCN.

1976: The Churchill River was diverted into the Rat River, increasing water levels and causing flooding at South Indian Lake and Nelson House, and in the NCN resource area.

NCN members continue to experience the water level changes, erosion, and other problems caused by CRD to the present day.

1977: The Northern Flood Agreement (NFA) was signed with five First Nations communities (including NCN), Manitoba Hydro, and the governments of Canada and Manitoba.

1977-1992: NFA claims were dealt with on a claim-by-claim basis. Some sections of the NFA were unclear and difficult to implement.

1992-1996: NCN entered into negotiations to try to resolve outstanding NFA issues. An Agreement was ratified by NCN members in December 1995, and a community feast and signing ceremony were held on March 15, 1996.

Manitoba Hydro recognizes that CRD has significantly affected NCN.

Comprehensive Implementation Agreement

In 1996, the NCN Implementation Agreement was signed by NCN, Manitoba Hydro, Canada, and Manitoba to implement and resolve most outstanding claims and obligations under the NFA.

Under the Agreement, NCN received:

- $67 million (119 million including interest) in cash and bonds administered by the Nisichawayasihk Trust
- $1.99 million in loan forgiveness
- 56,000 acres of new reserve land
- on-going commitments concerning:
  - water levels and flows, including additional compensation if limits are exceeded
  - resource management, safety, and remedial works
  - arena operation, maintenance, and replacement
  - NFA liabilities and claims
  - planning for future Hydro developments

Today

- The 1996 Implementation Agreement provides a process for Hydro to involve NCN in planning future development(s).
- NCN is organized and better prepared to deal with Hydro on developments at Wuskwatim and/or Notigi.
- The 1996 Implementation Agreement requires Hydro to consult with NCN to:
  - undertake studies to understand potential impacts
  - develop plans to reduce negative effects
  - identify how NCN can benefit from training, jobs, and business opportunities associated with future development

Manitoba Hydro is committed to working with NCN on any future hydro development in the NCN resource area.

Today's Environmental Legislation

- Development of a generating station at Wuskwatim and/or Notigi:
  - must have an environmental review by the Government of Manitoba.
  - must receive a Manitoba Environment Act Licence before any project work can proceed.
  - must also be reviewed by the Federal Government under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA).
- The courts have recently said that governments must consult with aboriginal peoples and try to minimize any interference with treaty and aboriginal rights.

At the time of CRD, projects were not required to have the extensive environmental review that is required today.

How is NCN Participating in the Process?

Future Development Working Group

- NCN Chief and Council and Hydro meet every year to discuss future planning.
- An NCN-Hydro Future Development Working Group was appointed in 1997 to provide more frequent exchange of information between NCN and Hydro.
- NCN members of the Working Group participate in joint discussions and studies with Manitoba Hydro on behalf of NCN.

NCN Work Plan

- Last year, NCN prepared a Work Plan to set out how it would get information to help NCN members decide if and how they want future development.
- Manitoba Hydro is funding this work, as agreed under the 1996 Implementation Agreement.
- The Work Plan provides for a Future Development Office and staff, including co-managers, community consultants, a translator, a community liaison officer, and an executive secretary, as well as legal, financial, and engineering advice.

The Community Consultants



Jimmy D. Spence
Manager



Charlie Joe Hart



Donna Linklater/Moore



Mark Linklater



Lisa McDonald



Ryan Spence



Alvin Yetman

Community Liaison



Walter Madonick



At work in the office.

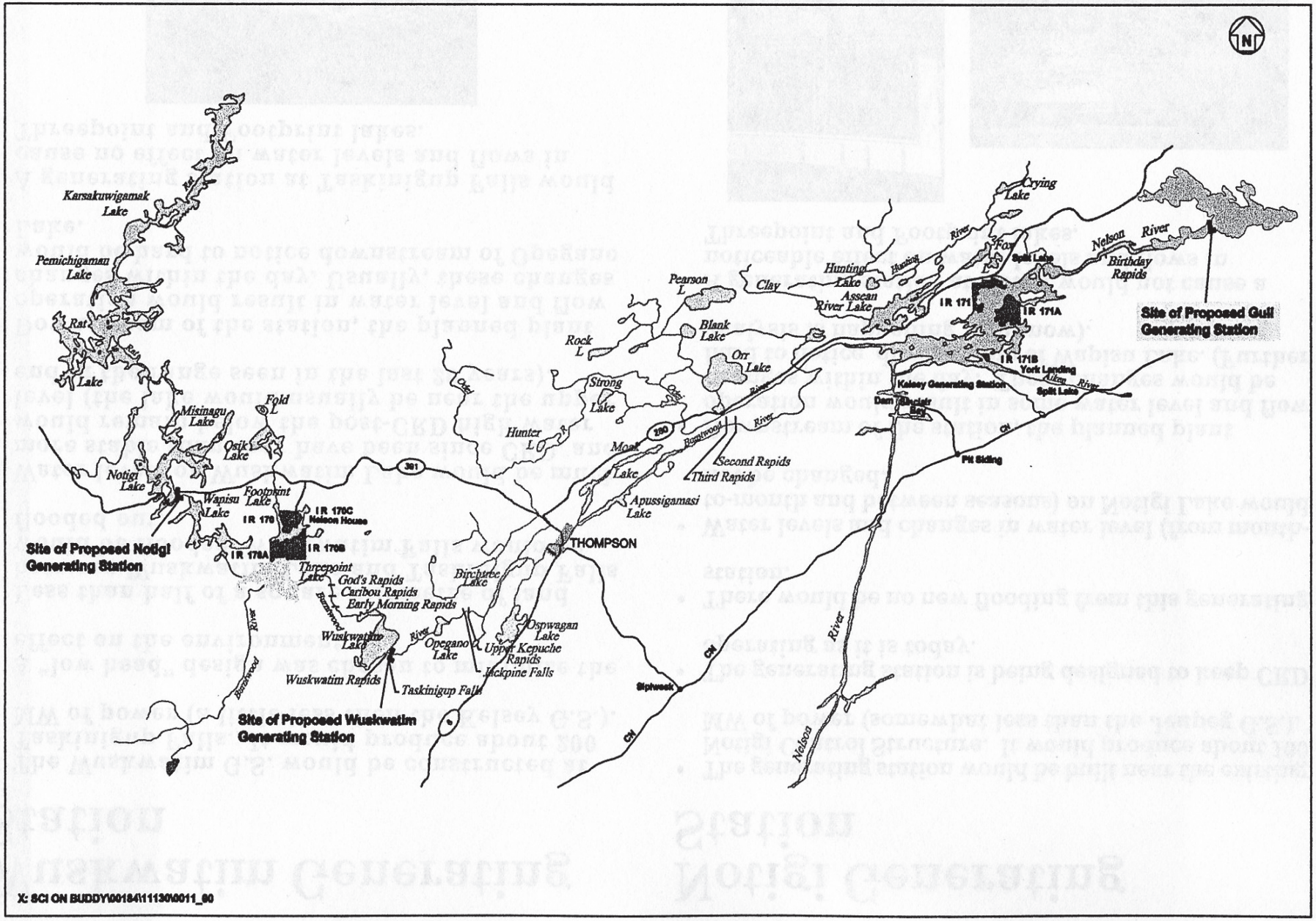
What are the Proposed Developments?

Proposed Generating Stations

- There are currently opportunities to sell electricity to the U.S.
- To take advantage of these opportunities, Manitoba Hydro is considering building one or more of the following generating stations and associated works (access roads, transmission lines, etc.):
  - Notigi (NCN Resource Area)
  - Wuskwatim (NCN Resource Area)
  - Gull Rapids (Split Lake Cree Resource Area)

Possible decisions about future development in the NCN resource management area could be to build:

- no generating stations
- a generating station at Notigi
- a generating station at Wuskwatim
- a generating station at both Wuskwatim and Notigi



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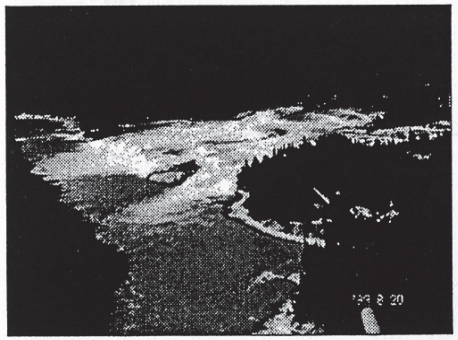
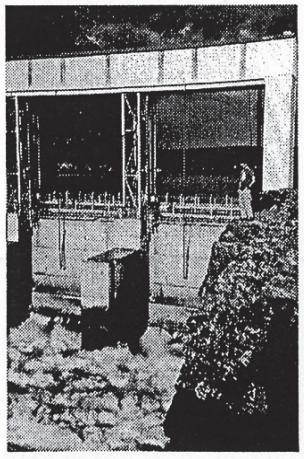
Wuskwatim Generating Station

- The Wuskwatim G.S. would be constructed at Taskinigup Falls. It would produce about 200 MW of power (a little less then the Kelsey G.S.).
- A "low head" design was chosen to minimize the effect on the environment.
- Less than half of a square kilometre of land between Wuskwatim Lake and Taskinigup Falls would be flooded. Wuskwatim Falls would be flooded out.
- Water levels on Wuskwatim Lake would be much more stable than they have been since CRD, and would remain below the post-CRD high water level (the lake would usually be near the upper end of the range seen in the last 20 years).
- Downstream of the station, the planned plant operation would result in water level and flow changes within the day. Usually, these changes would be hard to notice downstream of Opegano Lake.
- A generating station at Taskinigup Falls would cause no effect on water levels and flows in Threepoint and Footprint lakes.

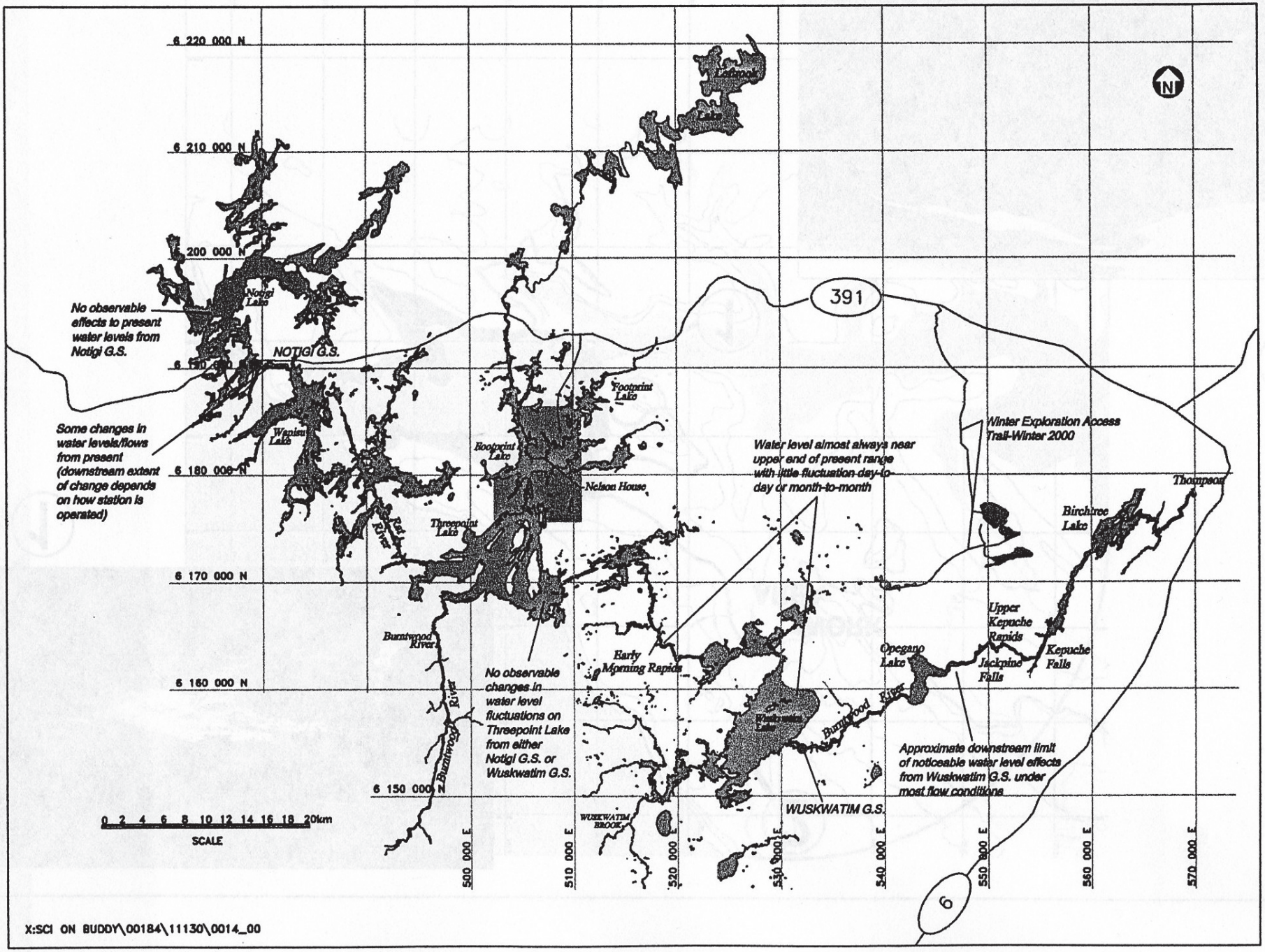


Notigi Generating Station

- The generating station would be built near the existing Notigi Control Structure. It would produce about 100 MW of power (somewhat less than the Jenpeg G.S.).
- The generating station is being designed to keep CRD operating as it is today.
- There would be no new flooding from this generating station.
- Water levels and changes in water level (from month-to-month and between seasons) on Notigi Lake would not be changed.
- Downstream of the station, the planned plant operation would result in some water level and flow changes within the day. These changes would be hard to notice downstream of Wapisu Lake. (Further analysis is happening right now).
- A generating station at Notigi would not cause a noticeable effect on water levels and flows in Threepoint and Footprint lakes.



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6 160 000 N
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391
6
Notigi Lake
NOTIGI G.S.
Wapisu Lake
Footprint Lake
Nelson House
Threepoint Lake
Rat River
Burntwood River
Early Morning Rapids
WUSKWATIM G.S.
WUSKWATIM BROOK
Opegano Lake
Upper Kepuche Rapids
Jackpine Falls
Kepuche Falls
Birchtree Lake
Thompson
Winter Exploration Access Trail-Winter 2000
No observable effects to present water levels from Notigi G.S.
Some changes in water levels/flows from present (downstream extent of change depends on how station is operated)
Water level almost always near upper end of present range with little fluctuation day-to-day or month-to-month
No observable changes in water level fluctuations on Threepoint Lake from either Notigi G.S. or Wuskwatim G.S.
Approximate downstream limit of noticeable water level effects from Wuskwatim G.S. under most flow conditions
0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20km
SCALE
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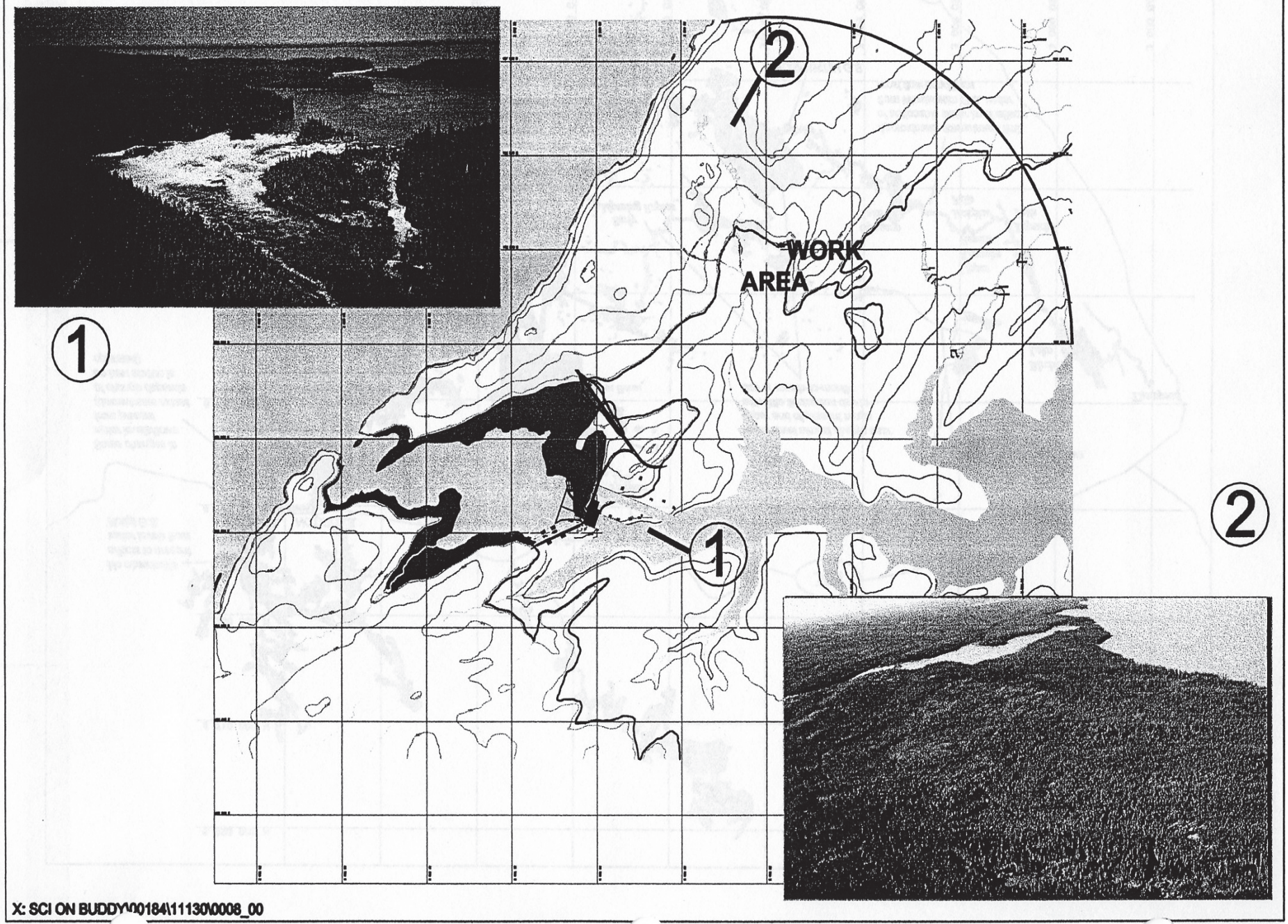
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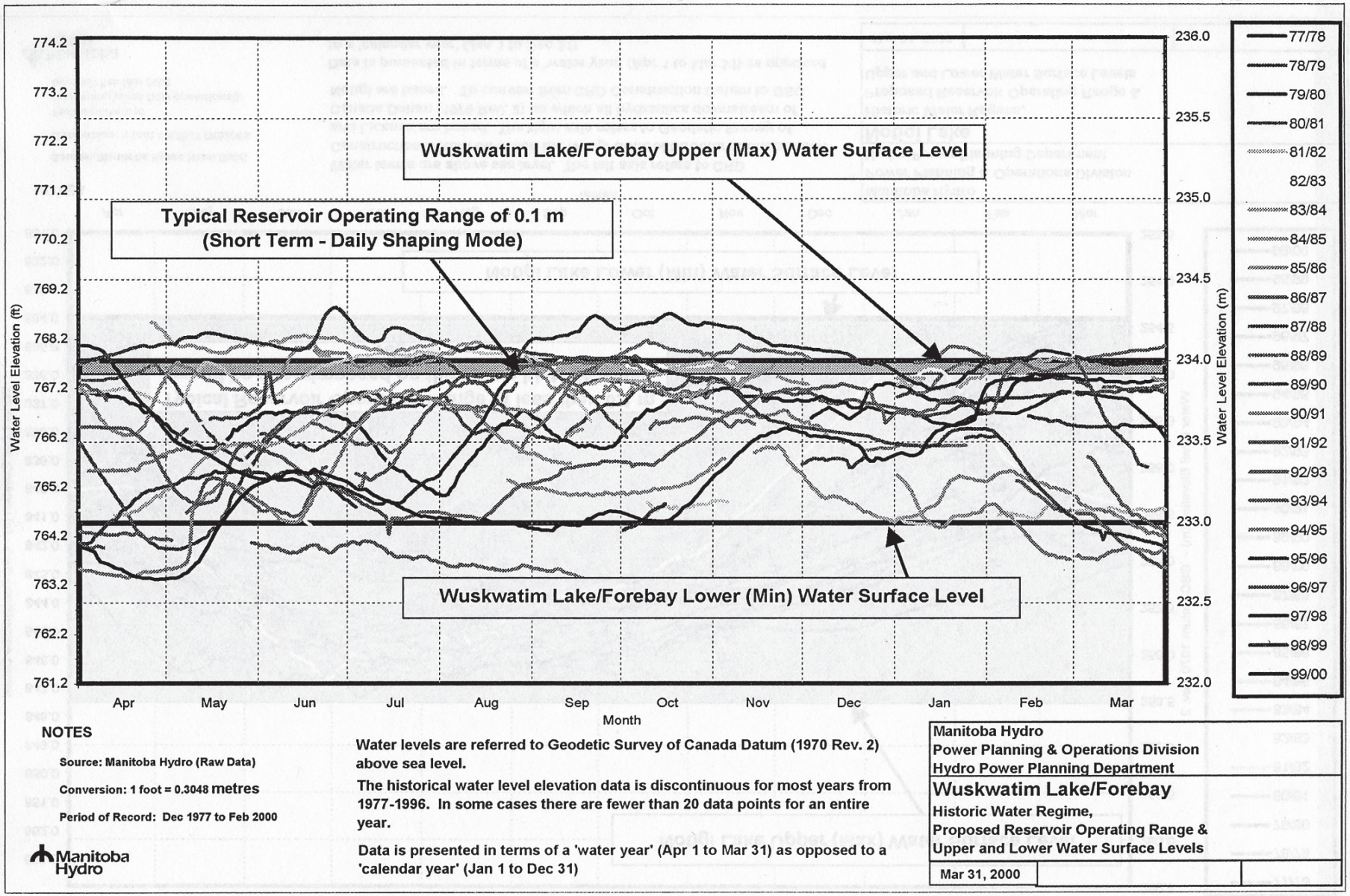


NOTES

Source: Manitoba Hydro (Raw Data)

Conversion: 1 foot = 0.3048 metres

Period of Record: Dec 1977 to Feb 2000

Manitoba Hydro

Water levels are referred to Geodetic Survey of Canada Datum (1970 Rev. 2) above sea level.

The historical water level elevation data is discontinuous for most years from 1977-1996. In some cases there are fewer than 20 data points for an entire year.

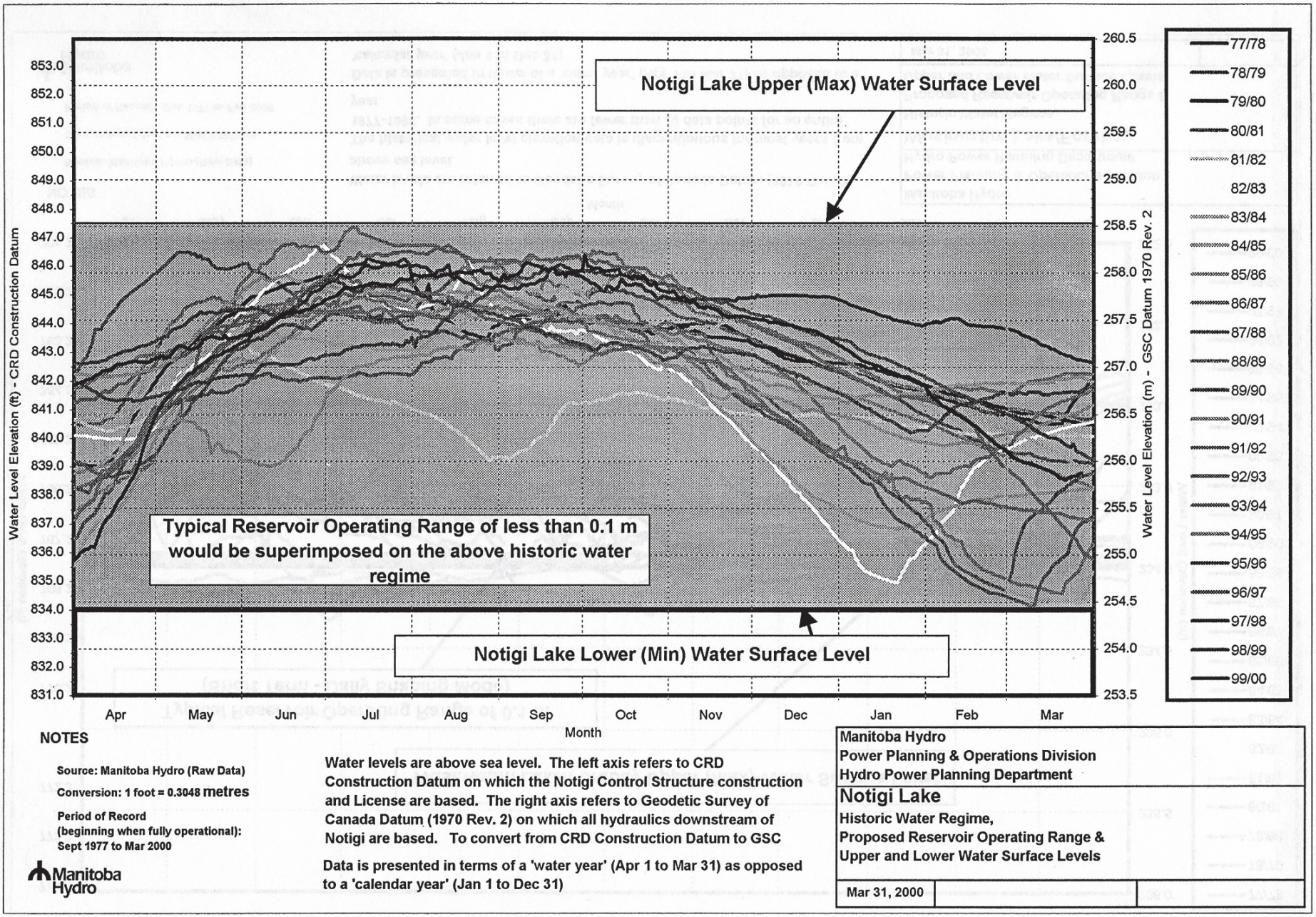
Data is presented in terms of a 'water year' (Apr 1 to Mar 31) as opposed to a 'calendar year' (Jan 1 to Dec 31)

Manitoba Hydro
Power Planning & Operations Division
Hydro Power Planning Department

Wuskwatim Lake/Forebay

Historic Water Regime,
Proposed Reservoir Operating Range &
Upper and Lower Water Surface Levels

Mar 31, 2000



NOTES

Source: Manitoba Hydro (Raw Data)

Conversion: 1 foot = 0.3048 metres

Period of Record
(beginning when fully operational):
Sept 1977 to Mar 2000

Manitoba Hydro

Water levels are above sea level. The left axis refers to CRD Construction Datum on which the Notigi Control Structure construction and License are based. The right axis refers to Geodetic Survey of Canada Datum (1970 Rev. 2) on which all hydraulics downstream of Notigi are based. To convert from CRD Construction Datum to GSC

Data is presented in terms of a 'water year' (Apr 1 to Mar 31) as opposed to a 'calendar year' (Jan 1 to Dec 31)

Manitoba Hydro
Power Planning & Operations Division
Hydro Power Planning Department

Notigi Lake

Historic Water Regime,
Proposed Reservoir Operating Range &
Upper and Lower Water Surface Levels

Mar 31, 2000

Business and Employment Opportunities

- Construction of a generating station at Wuskwatim would create opportunities for employment for NCN members and local business contracts.
- Construction would take 5 years with the main activity occurring in years 2, 3, and 4.
- Peak employment would be approximately 550 people, with smaller average employment over the whole construction phase.
- Work can be divided into contracts in several ways - however, this can affect the schedule and cost of the project. These important issues must be considered before this is worked out.
- Short-term employment, service contracts, and permanent jobs after construction are still being worked out.
- Opportunities from the Notigi G.S. would be smaller than those from Wuskwatim, but have not been worked out yet.

NCN and Manitoba Hydro are working together to identify potential opportunities for community members.

What about the Transmission Lines?

Transmission Lines and Stations

- To carry the power to the people and businesses that would buy and use it, generating stations at either Notigi or Wuskwatim would need new power transmission lines and stations to connect to the existing Hydro system.
- The transmission stations at Notigi and Wuskwatim would need to have transformers so that the power produced by the generating stations can be changed to the voltage suitable for transmission.
- The new transmission stations at Notigi and Wuskwatim and parts of the lines leading to the existing system would be in the NCN Resource Management Area. Other parts of the new transmission system would be outside the NCN area.
- The studies being planned by NCN and Manitoba Hydro will look at:
  - the possible effects of transmission facilities on people and the environment.
  - which routes and locations would be best for the transmission lines and stations based on:
    - consultation with NCN concerning issues important to the community.
    - the practical needs of Manitoba Hydro.
- Similar discussions would be required with other interest groups, communities and First Nations affected by transmission lines outside of the NCN Resource Management Area.

What Type of Transmission Lines Would be Needed?

- The type of line used to carry power depends on how much power the line is carrying (this is measured in volts). Some types of power lines are:
  - 110 or 220 volt lines supply most houses - this is the voltage of most household lighting and appliances.
  - 12,000 volt [12 kV] distribution line - this is the type of line that serves the overall Nelson House community.
  - 138,000 volt [138 kV] transmission line - this is the type of line that runs between Thompson and Laurie River.
- The lower generating capacity at Notigi could be handled by 138 kV lines.
- The higher generating capacity at Wuskwatim would be better handled by 230 kV lines.
- Notigi and Wuskwatim should each have at least two transmission lines connecting to the system. This way, if one line fails, power from the generating station can still be delivered to the system on the second line.
- The lines would have to be connected to the existing transmission system so that the power can be brought to customers outside of Manitoba.
- The new power might sometimes be used to make sure that existing customers have a reliable power supply. This can be important in planning transmission connections to the existing Manitoba Hydro system.

For more information about transmission, see the transmission section.

What is Happening Now?

What is NCN Doing?

Community members need to know:

- **how Future Development may affect the community.**
- **the potential benefits of the development(s).**
- **the potential negative effects of the development(s).**

NCN representatives planning Future Development and the community consultants are meeting the needs of NCN members by:

- **meeting with Manitoba Hydro and the environmental consultants - NCN representatives are presenting the community's concerns and issues and getting information about the proposed developments and their possible effects.**
- **community meetings - the community consultants are meeting with community members to find out their concerns and inform them about the proposed developments.**
- **surveys - the community consultants are surveying community members for information.**

NCN is developing a community plan - this plan includes but is not limited to benefits and inputs associated with the proposed Hydro developments.

Agreement-in-Principle

- NCN and Manitoba Hydro are discussing the issues that need to be considered further to decide whether future development should proceed.
- An Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) would outline these issues.
- The AIP describes the approaches the community and Manitoba Hydro will take if the proposed developments proceed.
- The AIP will cover key issues, but some of the most important may be:
  - training and employment opportunities
  - business opportunities
  - environmental assessment
  - management of adverse effects and compensation
  - financial considerations (for example, a partnership arrangement between NCN and Manitoba Hydro)
- An AIP could lead to a final Project Development Agreement (PDA) with Hydro.

An AIP will be the subject of a future Open House and other community information programs.

Preliminary Site Investigations

Manitoba Hydro has undertaken engineering investigations at the Notigi and Wuskwatim sites, most recently in 1998 and 1999.

- Environmental evaluations were done prior to each investigation by collaboration between NCN and Hydro.
- In 1998 Hydro collected some rock and gravel information near the Notigi Control Structure. NCN members worked on the short-term drilling program and a local business supplied meals and other services.
- In winter 1999, Hydro did a small drilling program in the gravel areas north of Wuskwatim Lake. Four NCN members worked on the drilling program.
- In summer 1999, there was a site investigation at Wuskwatim (Taskinigup Falls). Eleven NCN members worked on this site investigation project, and the Nisichawayasihk Development Corporation provided catering services and many supplies.

Winter 2000 Site Investigation

- This winter Hydro wanted to investigate the gravel areas north-west of Wuskwatim Lake.
- An environmental report was prepared and a community meeting was held before the project began.
- Nelson House Forest Industries obtained the contract for the entire project, including the winter trail, and sub-contracted for specialized services.
- NCN and Hydro agreed on a route for the winter trail. Slush ice on Footprint Lake prevented construction of the winter trail along that route, so NCN and Hydro selected an alternate route.
- At the request of NCN, resource users marked the access trail route so that no important sites, such as bear dens or eagle nests, were disturbed.
- A helicopter survey was done for woodland caribou in the area, but evidence indicated that they were not close to the winter trail and gravel sites.







Environmental Studies 1998-1999

- NCN and Hydro are working together to understand the effects that proposed hydroelectric development.
- In 1998 and 1999, Wuskwatim, Threepoint, Footprint, Wapisu, and Notigi lakes were studied.
- Leftrook Lake, which was not affected by CRD and will not be affected by the proposed development(s), was also studied, to provide comparison to sites along the CRD.
- NCN members were hired to work on the studies. Local boats were also hired.
- Results of the studies are presented in technical reports for review by NCN. The 1998 and 1999 Environmental Studies were also described in a 4 page brochure.

Studies of Fish and Other Aquatic Life

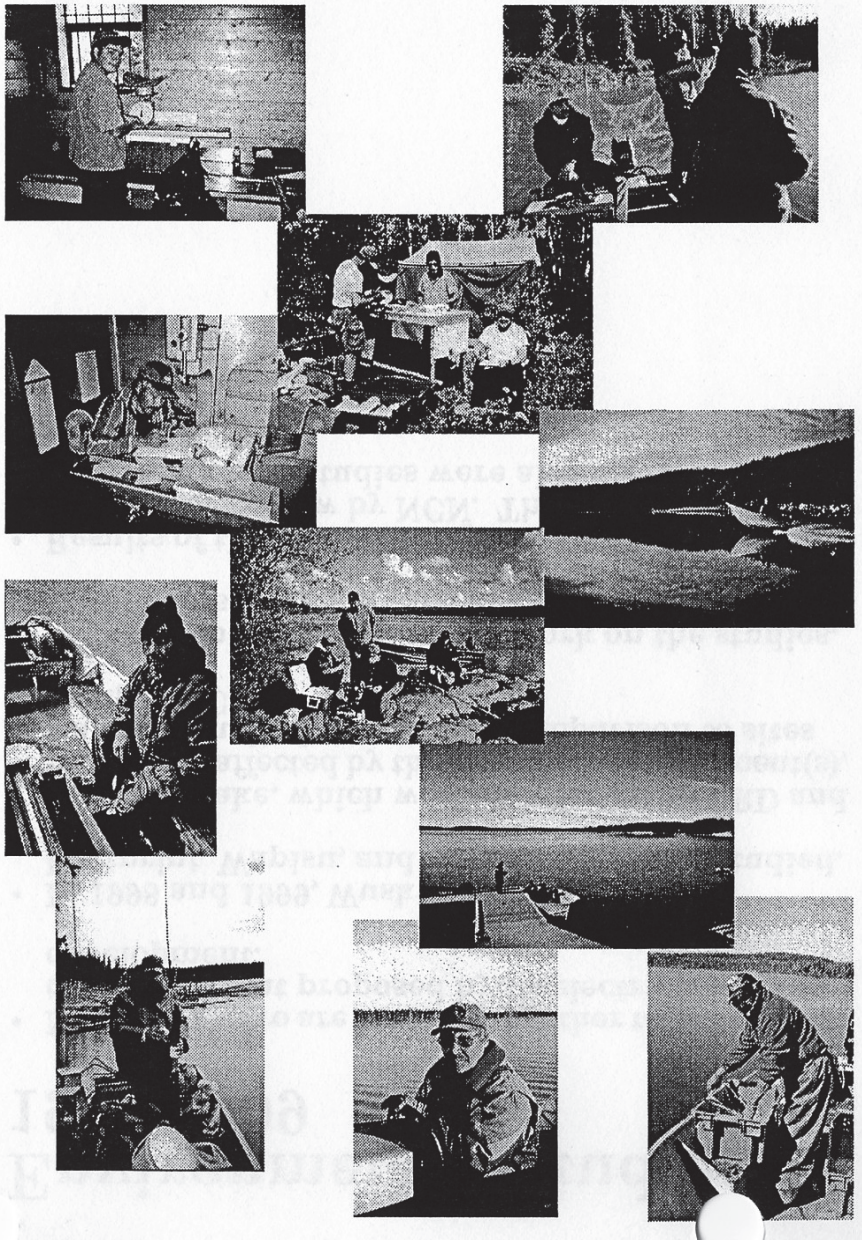


- Fish were caught using gill nets. Information about the fish species, numbers, size, age and diet tells us about the fish populations and if they are changing.
- Muscle samples from jackfish, pickerel, whitefish, and tullibee were tested for mercury. Mercury in fish has been monitored for more than 20 years in northern Manitoba, including Wuskwatim, Threepoint, and Rat lakes.



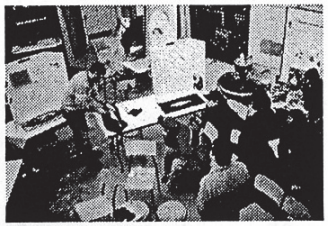
- Small radio tags were attached to pickerel, whitefish and tullibee from Wuskwatim, Footprint and Threepoint lakes. The tagged fish can be tracked over a large area to find out where they spend the winter, where they spawn, and how far they move.
- Over 2,400 pickerel, whitefish, jackfish and tullibee were tagged in the fall of 1999. When the fish are caught by local fishermen, we can see how far they have moved.

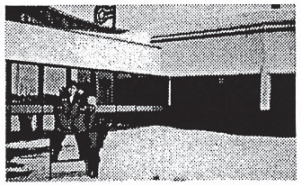
NCN Members are Participating in the Environmental Studies



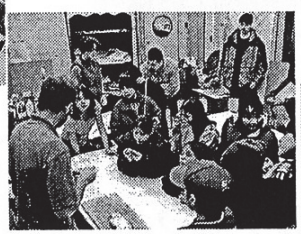
School Programs

The environmental studies were presented to the students (February 29-March 3, 2000).



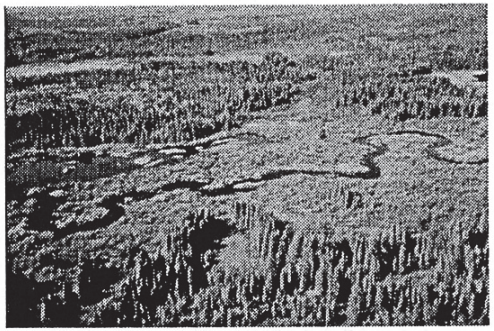






Studies of the Land Environment

- **Studies in 1998 and 1999 looked at shoreline sites on Wuskwatim Lake, Threepoint Lake, and Leftrook Lake. Shoreline conditions, plants, and wildlife were described.**
- **The studies looked at the plants and animals - moose, muskrat, bears, ducks and geese - that live along shore areas and in shallow water.**
- **People from NCN helped the study by identifying cultural sites and important resource areas. NCN members were also hired to assist in the field studies.**



Churchill River Diversion Archaeological Project



- The Manitoba Historic Resources Branch and several First Nations, including NCN, have cooperated on archaeological studies since 1990.
- Archaeological sites on Southern Indian Lake, the Rat/Burntwood rivers downstream of Notigi, and Split Lake were investigated and some were excavated. Vulnerable sites were identified and plans were made for action.
- Community elders provided guidance, wisdom, traditional knowledge, spiritual support, and other cultural perspectives on this process.



- Local residents participated in the studies as guides, surveyors and excavators. Others have received training in artifact identification, cataloguing, and report preparation.
- Educational displays, containing information recovered from this work, were prepared by the Museum of Man and Nature and presented to NCN for classroom use.

What's Next?

Assessing the Effects of the Proposed Developments

- In 1999, NCN and Hydro jointly selected a team of environmental consultants to carry out an environmental assessment of the proposed Wuskwatim and Notigi developments.



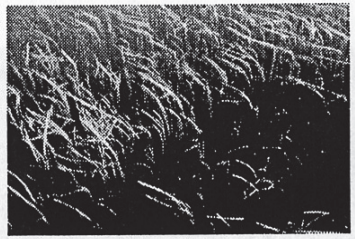
- An environmental assessment is a study, which is done before a project is built, to identify the expected effects of the project on land, water and animals, as well as the community and people.



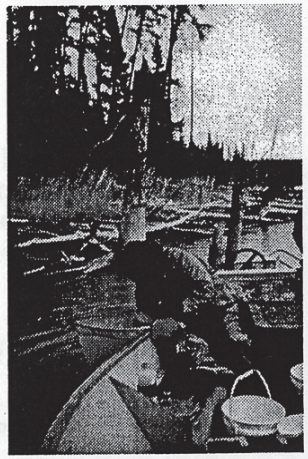
- The environmental consultants and NCN, with assistance from Hydro, are developing a plan to guide the studies over the next year or so.
- The studies will use information from many sources, including field studies, as well as local and traditional knowledge.
- The community consultants will gather information from NCN members and bring information back to the community.

Studies of the Land, Water, Plants, and Animals

- NCN representatives have stressed that all parts of nature are important to NCN and should be considered.



- NCN wants to plan future developments so that as few natural areas as possible are disturbed.
- Some key items that have been identified to include in the studies are:
  - ice
  - erosion and debris
  - water level changes
  - fish - in particular pickerel, whitefish, tullibee, and jackfish
  - mercury levels (in fish and other animals)
  - ducks and geese
  - eagles
  - large animals such as moose and woodland caribou
  - fur-bearing animals such as beaver, muskrat and otter
  - medicinal plants and water plants
  - traditional sites, such as grave sites and ceremonial sites



Studies of the Effects on People

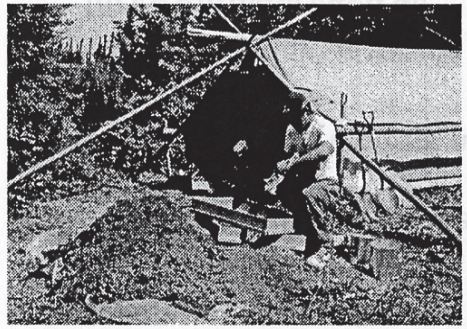
- Studies will look at the effect of Hydro development at Wuskwatim and/or Notigi on quality of life for NCN.
- Some of the topics include:
  - NCN goals and plans
  - jobs and business opportunities
  - education and training
  - transportation and safety
  - health
  - recreation
  - infrastructure, such as roads
  - in-migration of people
  - culture
  - day-to-day way of life





Studies of the Effects on Heritage Resources

- Field studies will be done in both the Notigi and Wuskwatim areas in 2000.
- The environmental consultants and Manitoba Historic Resources Branch will work closely with the community to identify graves and other important sites that may be affected by the proposed projects.





When Will Decisions be Made?

These are the dates as we estimate them now:

2000: Environmental studies started in 1998 and 1999 will be continued and expanded.

2000: An Agreement in Principle could be negotiated this fall.

2001: Decision on whether to apply for environmental approvals would be made early in 2001.

2001: If the decision is "yes", environmental studies will continue for use in the environmental impact assessment

2001: Project Development Agreement - negotiation of compensation agreement before construction starts.

2001: EIA/Public consultations.

2001: Environmental Impact Assessment(s) for the project(s) would be submitted in late 2001 or early 2002.

2002: Public review and hearings.

2003: Decisions by Canada and Manitoba on environmental approvals received.

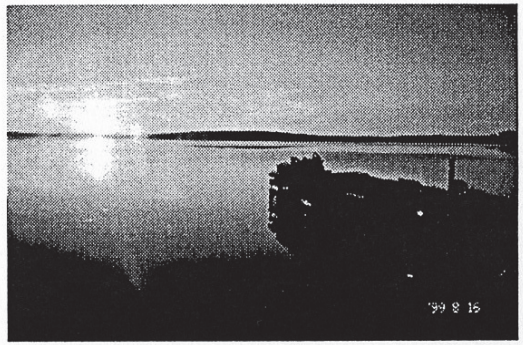
2003: The earliest construction could begin if project(s) receive approval.

2007: The earliest that the Notigi G.S. could be in operation, if approved.

2008: The earliest that the Wuskwatim G.S. could be in operation, if approved.

What are your questions and concerns about Future Development?

- We want to know what questions and concerns you have about the proposed future hydro development(s).
- Please fill out a questionnaire and leave it with us today, if possible.
- If you have further questions or concerns after today, please talk to the community consultants or other NCN members working on Future Development.



Thank you for your input

ATTACHMENT 4

OPEN HOUSE AT NELSON HOUSE

July 12 and 13, 2000

WELCOME

Public Open House

Potential Future Development at Wuskwatim and Notigi

July 12 and 13, 2000

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

Manitoba Hydro

This is the Second of Several Open Houses about Possible Future Hydroelectric Development

No final decisions have been made by NCN or Manitoba Hydro



Then and Now

How Have Things Changed?

The Past

Early 1970s: Churchill River Diversion (CRD) was discussed with NCN, but the information and consultation did not meet the needs of NCN.

1976: The Churchill River was diverted into the Rat River, increasing water levels and causing flooding at South Indian Lake and Nelson House, and in the NCN resource area.

NCN members continue to experience the water level changes, erosion, and other problems caused by CRD to the present day.

1977: The Northern Flood Agreement (NFA) was signed with five First Nations communities (including NCN), Manitoba Hydro, and the governments of Canada and Manitoba.

1977-1992: NFA claims were dealt with on a claim-by-claim basis. Some sections of the NFA were unclear and difficult to implement.

1992-1996: NCN entered into negotiations to try to resolve outstanding NFA issues. An Agreement was ratified by NCN members in December 1995, and a community feast and signing ceremony were held on March 15, 1996.

Manitoba Hydro recognizes that CRD has significantly affected NCN.

Comprehensive Implementation Agreement

In 1996, the NCN Implementation Agreement was signed by NCN, Manitoba Hydro, Canada, and Manitoba to implement and resolve most outstanding claims and obligations under the NFA.

Under the Agreement, NCN received:

- $67 million (119 million including interest) in cash and bonds administered by the Nisichawayasihk Trust
- $1.99 million in loan forgiveness
- 56,000 acres of new reserve land
- on-going commitments concerning:
  - water levels and flows, including additional compensation if limits are exceeded
  - resource management, safety, and remedial works
  - arena operation, maintenance, and replacement
  - NFA liabilities and claims
  - planning for future Hydro developments

Today

- The 1996 Implementation Agreement provides a process for Hydro to involve NCN in planning future development(s).
- NCN is organized and better prepared to deal with Hydro on developments at Wuskwatim and/or Notigi.
- The 1996 Implementation Agreement requires Hydro to consult with NCN to:
  - undertake studies to understand potential impacts
  - develop plans to reduce negative effects
  - identify how NCN can benefit from training, jobs, and business opportunities associated with future development

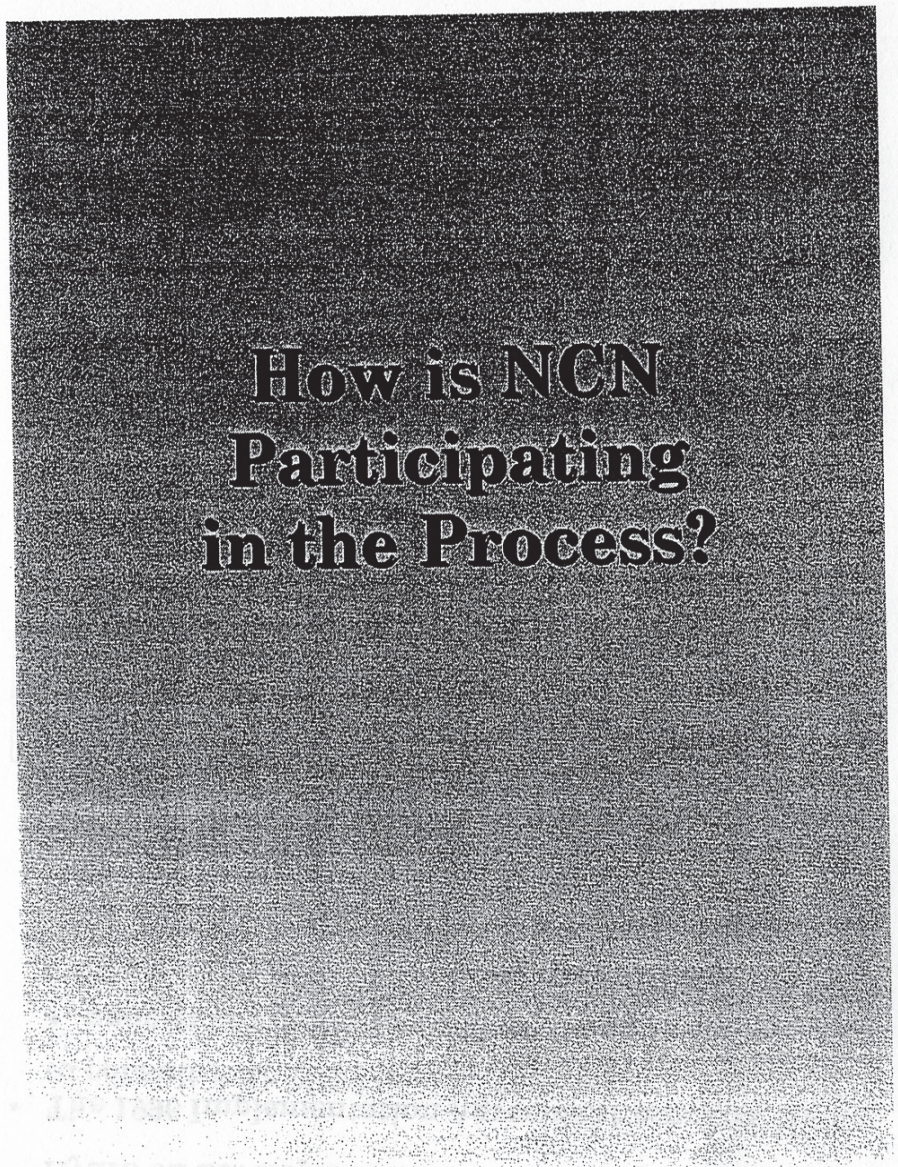
Manitoba Hydro is committed to working with NCN on any future hydro development in the NCN resource area.

Today's Environmental Legislation

- Development of a generating station at Wuskwatim and/or Notigi:
  - must have an environmental review by the Government of Manitoba.
  - must receive a Manitoba Environment Act Licence before any project work can proceed.
  - must also be reviewed by the federal government under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA).

- The courts have recently said that governments must consult with aboriginal peoples and try to minimize any interference with treaty and aboriginal rights.

At the time of CRD, projects were not required to have the extensive environmental review or consultation with aboriginal peoples that is required today.



Future Development Team

- NCN Chief and Council and Hydro meet every year to discuss future planning.
- An NCN-Hydro Future Development Working Group was appointed in 1997 to provide more frequent exchange of information between NCN and Hydro.
- In 1999, the Future Development Team was established. Members include:
  - Chief Jerry Primrose.
  - Councillors Elvis Thomas, Jim Moore, David Spence, and D'Arcy Linklater.
  - Co-Managers: Norman Linklater and Marcel Moody.
    - Advisors:
      - Bruce Hickey - financial
      - Cam MacInnes - engineering
      - Valerie Matthews-Lemieux - legal
      - Ron Spence - resource issues
      - Bill Yetman - resource issues
      - Ed Vystrcil - land issues
      - Rick Linklater

The Future Development Team represents NCN in discussions with Manitoba Hydro.

NCN Work Plan

- Under Article 8 of the 1996 Implementation Agreement, NCN can prepare an Annual Work Plan and Budget to participate in Future Development.
- Last year, NCN prepared its first Work Plan and Budget to set out how it would get information to help NCN members decide if and how they want Future Development.
- Manitoba Hydro is funding this work, as agreed under the 1996 Implementation Agreement.
- The Work Plan and Budget provides for a Future Development Office and staff, including co-managers, Community Consultants, a translator, a community liaison officer, an executive secretary, and a financial clerk, as well as legal, financial, and engineering advice.



Jimmy D. Spence
Manager



Charlie Joe Hart



Donna Linklater/Moore



Mark Linklater



Lisa McDonald



Ryan Spence



Alvin Yetman

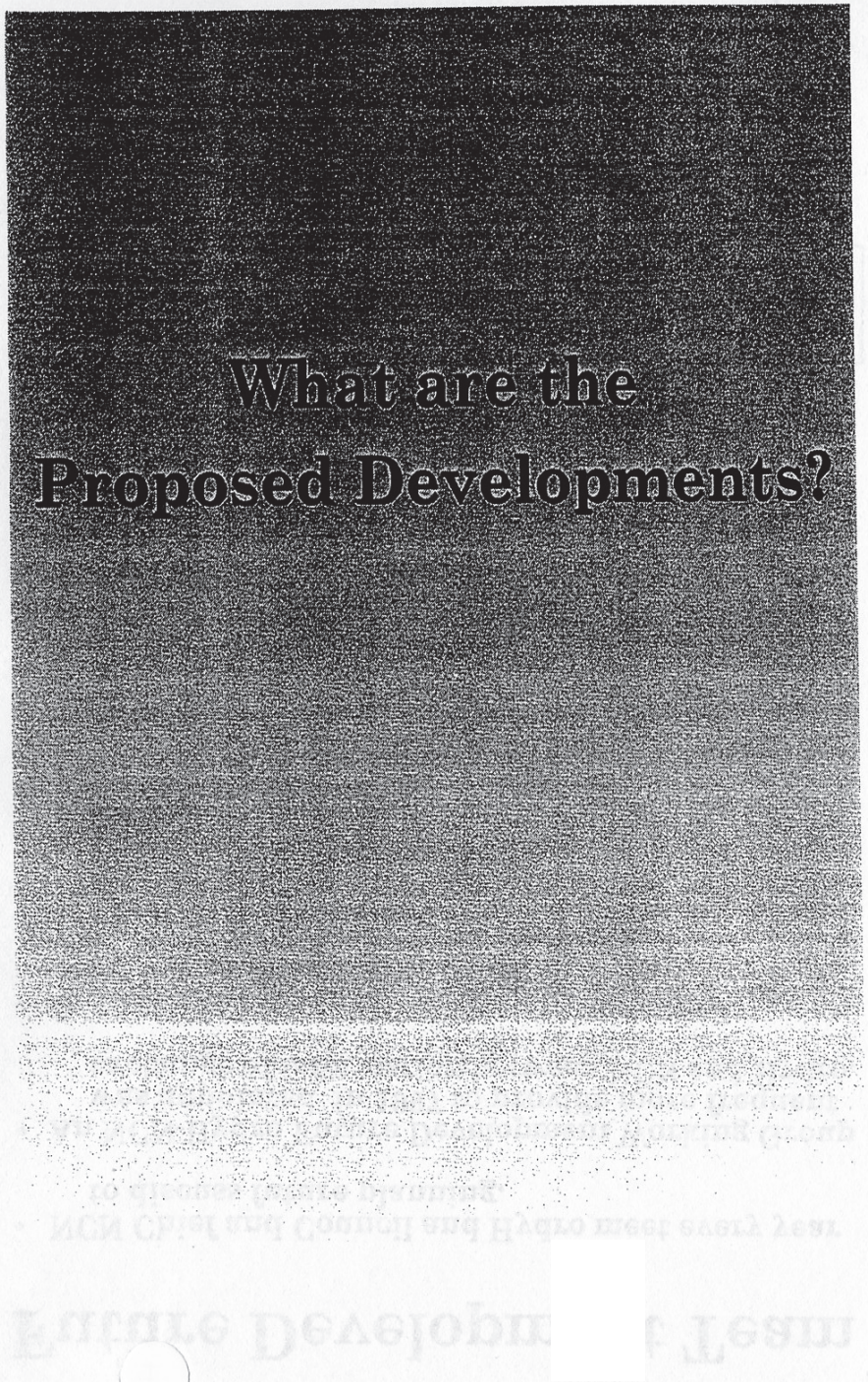
Community Liaison



Walter Madonick



At work in the office.



Proposed Generating Stations

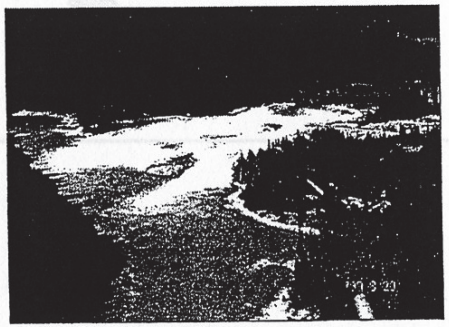
- There are currently opportunities to sell electricity to the U.S.
- To take advantage of these opportunities, Manitoba Hydro is considering building one or more of the following generating stations and associated works (access roads, transmission lines, etc.):
  - Notigi (NCN Resource Area)
  - Wuskwatim (NCN Resource Area)
  - Gull Rapids (Split Lake Cree Resource Area)

Possible decisions about Future Development in the NCN resource management area could be to build:

- no generating stations
- a generating station at Notigi
- a generating station at Wuskwatim
- a generating station at both Wuskwatim and Notigi

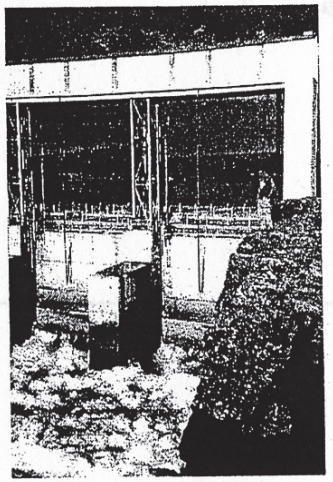
Wuskwatim Generating Station

- The Wuskwatim G.S. would be constructed at Taskinigup Falls. It would produce about 200 MW of power (a little less than the Kelsey G.S.).
- After listening to NCN, a "low head" design was chosen by Hydro to minimize the effect on the environment.
- Less than one square kilometre of land between Wuskwatim Lake and Taskinigup Falls would be flooded. Wuskwatim Falls would be flooded out.
- Water levels on Wuskwatim Lake would be much more stable than they have been since CRD, and would remain below the post-CRD high water level (the lake would usually be near the upper end of the range seen in the last 20 years).
- Downstream of the station, the planned plant operation would result in water level and flow changes within the day. Usually, these changes would be hard to notice downstream of Opegano Lake.
- A generating station at Taskinigup Falls would cause no effect on water levels and flows in Threepoint and Footprint lakes.

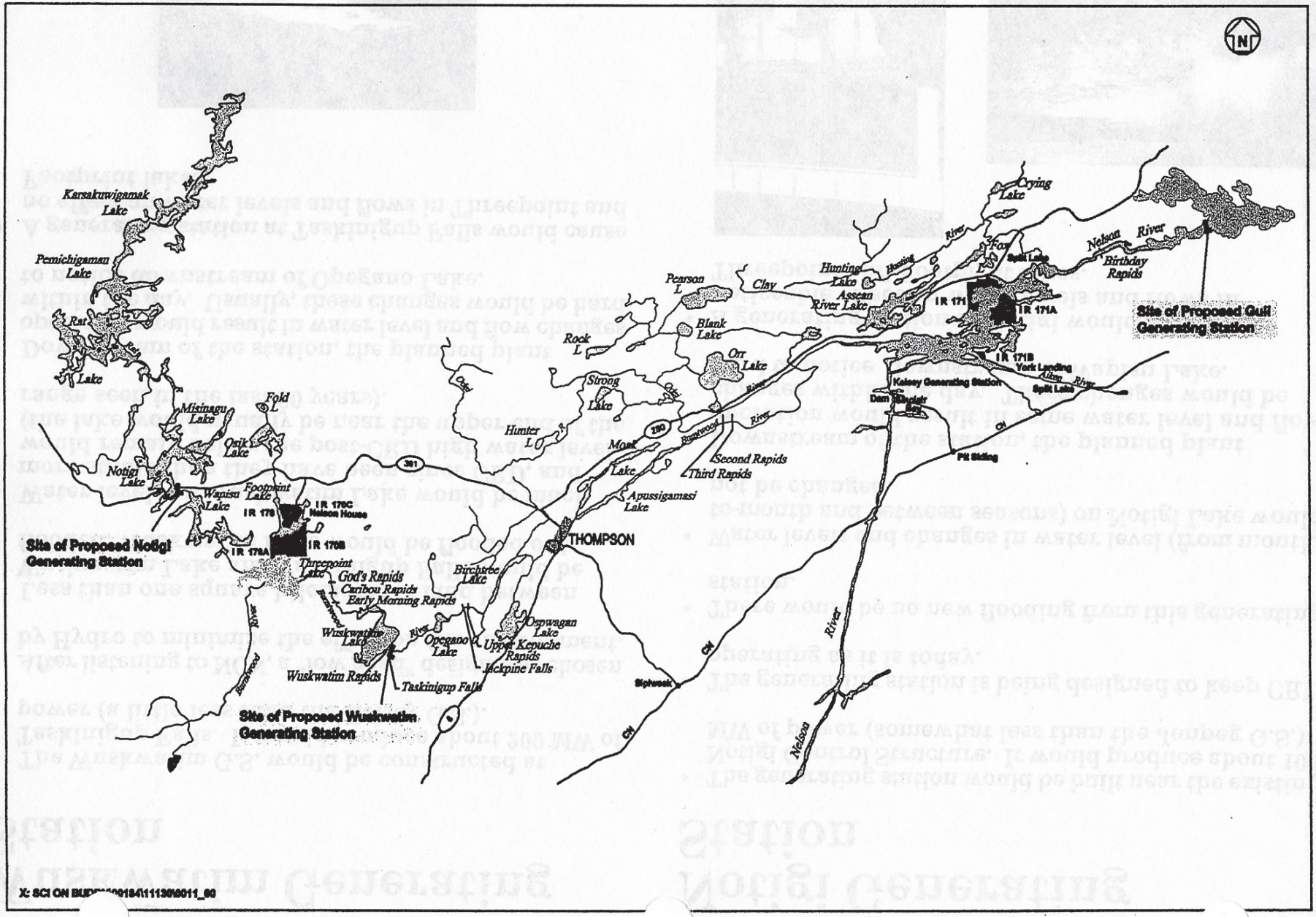


Notigi Generating Station

- The generating station would be built near the existing Notigi Control Structure. It would produce about 100 MW of power (somewhat less than the Jenpeg G.S.).
- The generating station is being designed to keep CRD operating as it is today.
- There would be no new flooding from this generating station.
- Water levels and changes in water level (from month-to-month and between seasons) on Notigi Lake would not be changed.
- Downstream of the station, the planned plant operation would result in some water level and flow changes within the day. These changes would be hard to notice downstream of Wapisu Lake.
- A generating station at Notigi would not cause a noticeable effect on water levels and flows in Threepoint and Footprint lakes.






N
Kwadacha Wilderness Provincial Park
Kwadacha Lake
Pemichigamau Lake
Rat River
Rat Lake
Mistinagu Lake
Fold L
Osik Lake
Notigi Lake
Wapisu Lake
Footprint Lake
IR 170
IR 170C
Nelson House
IR 170B
IR 170A
Site of Proposed Notigi Generating Station
Turcepoint Lake
God's Rapids
Caribou Rapids
Early Morning Rapids
Wuskwatim Lake
Wuskwatim Rapids
Taskinigup Falls
Site of Proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station
Opegano Lake
Ospwagan Lake
Upper Kepuche Rapids
Mckpine Falls
Birchtree Lake
Rock L
Pearson L
Clay
Blank Lake
Strong Lake
Hunter L
Moak Lake
Apussigamasi Lake
Orr Lake
Hunting Lake
Assean River Lake
Crying Lake
Fox L
Split Lake
Birthday Rapids
IR 171
IR 171A
IR 171B
York Landing
Kelsey Generating Station
Dam
Site of Proposed Gull Generating Station
Second Rapids
Third Rapids
Pit Siding
Siphonet
THOMPSON
CN
Nelson River
Burntwood River
Rapids
Lake
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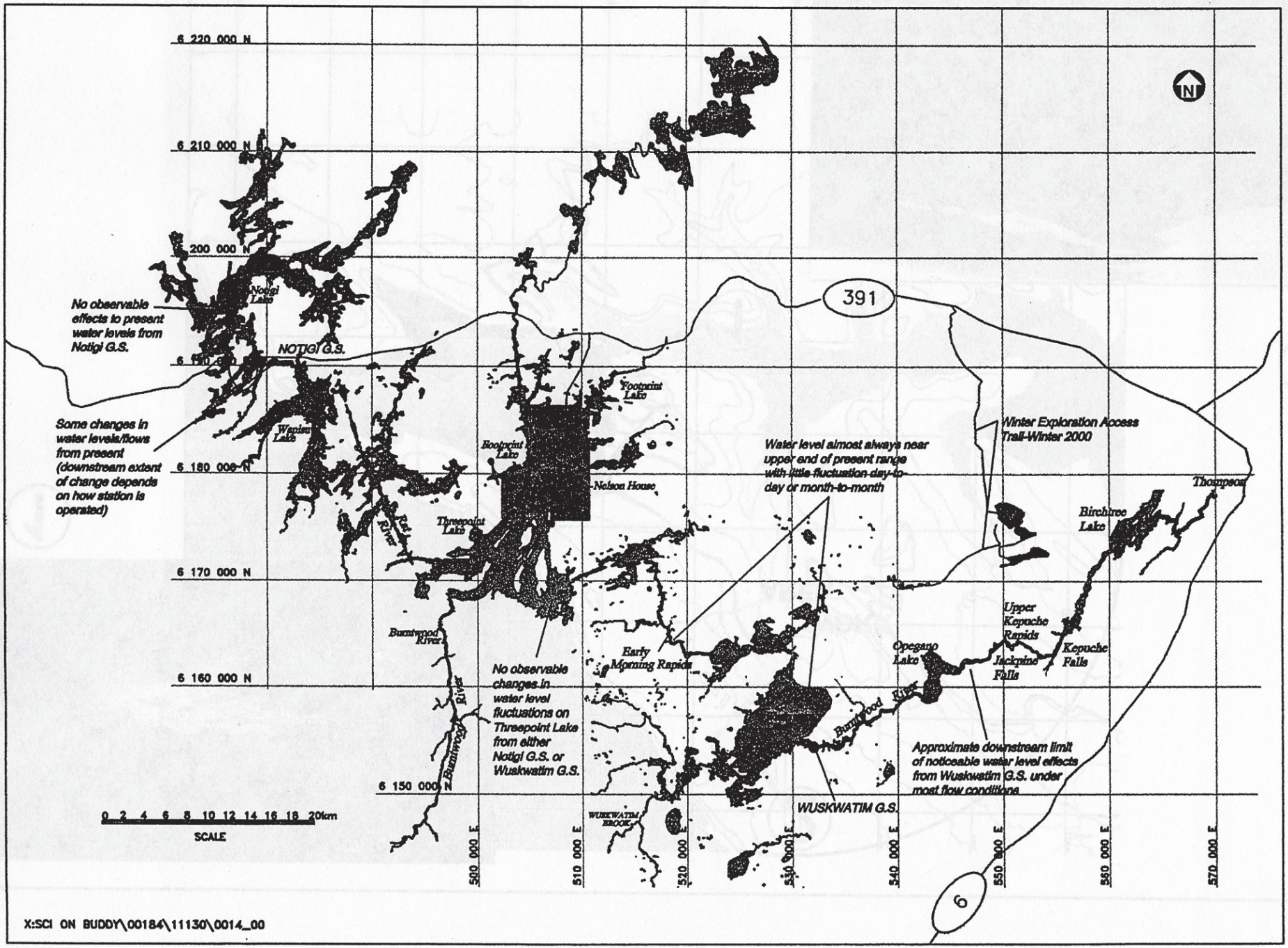
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391
6
Notigi Lake
NOTIGI G.S.
Wapisu Lake
Footprint Lake
Nelson House
Threepoint Lake
Red River
Burntwood River
Early Morning Rapids
Opegano Lake
Upper Kepuche Rapids
Jackpine Falls
Kepuche Falls
Birchtree Lake
Thompson
WUSKWATIM G.S.
WUSKWATIM BROOK
No observable effects to present water levels from Notigi G.S.
Some changes in water levels/flows from present (downstream extent of change depends on how station is operated)
No observable changes in water level fluctuations on Threepoint Lake from either Notigi G.S. or Wuskwatim G.S.
Water level almost always near upper end of present range with little fluctuation day-to-day or month-to-month
Winter Exploration Access Trail-Winter 2000
Approximate downstream limit of noticeable water level effects from Wuskwatim G.S. under most flow conditions
0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20km
SCALE
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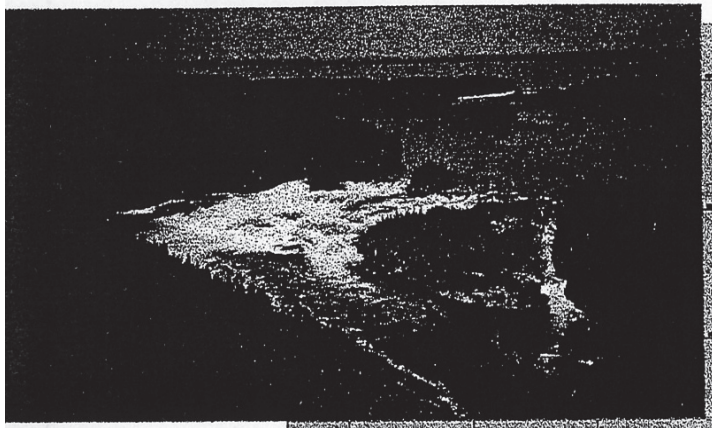

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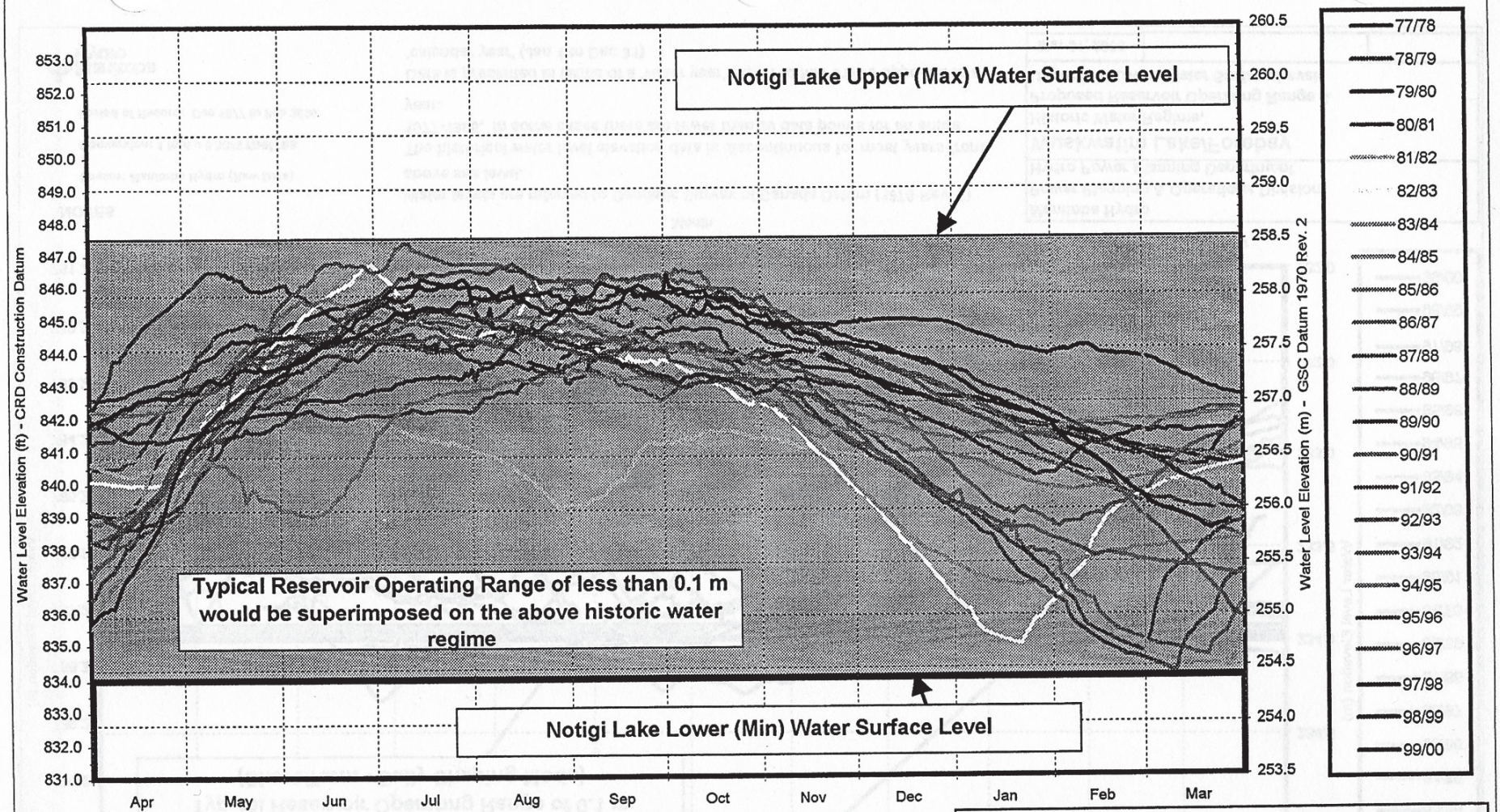


NOTES

Source: Manitoba Hydro (Raw Data)

Conversion: 1 foot = 0.3048 metres

Period of Record
(beginning when fully operational):
Sept 1977 to Mar 2000

Manitoba Hydro

Water levels are above sea level. The left axis refers to CRD Construction Datum on which the Notigi Control Structure construction and License are based. The right axis refers to Geodetic Survey of Canada Datum (1970 Rev. 2) on which all hydraulics downstream of Notigi are based. To convert from CRD Construction Datum to GSC

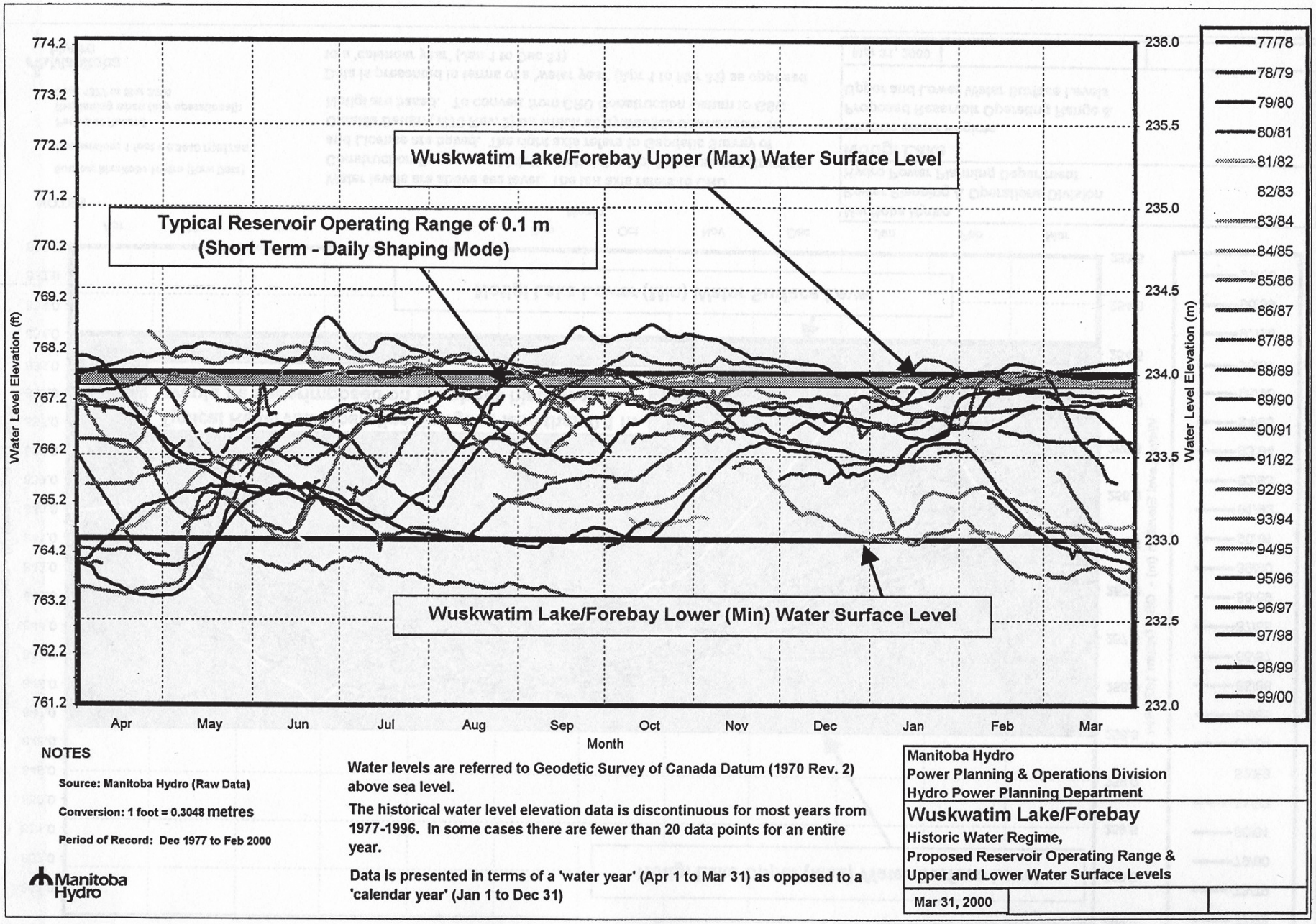
Data is presented in terms of a 'water year' (Apr 1 to Mar 31) as opposed to a 'calendar year' (Jan 1 to Dec 31)

Manitoba Hydro
Power Planning & Operations Division
Hydro Power Planning Department

Notigi Lake

Historic Water Regime,
Proposed Reservoir Operating Range &
Upper and Lower Water Surface Levels

Mar 31, 2000



NOTES

Source: Manitoba Hydro (Raw Data)

Conversion: 1 foot = 0.3048 metres

Period of Record: Dec 1977 to Feb 2000

Water levels are referred to Geodetic Survey of Canada Datum (1970 Rev. 2) above sea level.

The historical water level elevation data is discontinuous for most years from 1977-1996. In some cases there are fewer than 20 data points for an entire year.

Data is presented in terms of a 'water year' (Apr 1 to Mar 31) as opposed to a 'calendar year' (Jan 1 to Dec 31)

Manitoba Hydro
Power Planning & Operations Division
Hydro Power Planning Department

Wuskwatim Lake/Forebay

Historic Water Regime,
Proposed Reservoir Operating Range &
Upper and Lower Water Surface Levels

Mar 31, 2000

Transmission Facilities

- Construction of a generating station at Wuskwatim or Notigi would require new transmission lines and other transmission facilities.
- *for more information on transmission, see the transmission section.*

Access Roads and Construction Facilities

- Construction of a generating station at Wuskwatim would require construction of an access road, camp sites, and work areas.
- No route has been selected for the access road - this is still being worked out in consultation with NCN.
- The location of construction facilities has not been finalized, but they would include:
  - a work area for Manitoba Hydro.
  - a work area for contractors.
  - a construction camp.
  - a substation to supply power for camp services.
  - infrastructure for the camp, work areas, and construction site including:
    - internal roads
    - means to supply drinking water
    - sewage treatment
    - electricity (construction power)

Alternative Routes/Sites - Wuskwatim G.S.

Although the location of the Wuskwatim generating station is fixed, several options are being considered for:

- the route of the access road
- the location of the construction camp.

- NCN, Manitoba Hydro, and their consultants are talking about these important issues - a committee has been formed to look at the alternatives.
- An approach to picking the best alternative has been developed.
- The selection of the best alternative for the access road and construction camp will depend on many things, including:
  - the positive and negative effects on the community, including how the alternative would fit into community plans.
  - technical and operating considerations, such as overall distance to travel, safety, and level of service.
  - the costs of construction and maintenance (including transportation costs).
  - the effects on the environment, including disturbance of heritage sites, sensitive wildlife habitat, etc.
  - effects on the schedule for building the proposed developments.

Alternative Routes/Sites - Public Input

NCN members will have the opportunity to provide input into the selection of alternatives:

- Three public meetings will be held in early August to provide members with information about the alternatives under consideration for:
  - construction camp - meeting scheduled for August 1.
  - access road - meeting scheduled for August 2.
  - transmission lines - meeting scheduled for August 3.
- At the public meetings, NCN members will be asked about:
  - problems/concerns with each alternative.
  - benefits of each alternative.
- The committee looking at the alternatives will take the information from the public meetings and analyze each alternative further.

The results of the committee's analysis will be presented to community members at another community meeting in fall for further discussion.

Business and Employment Opportunities

- Construction of a generating station at Wuskwatim would create opportunities for employment for NCN members and local business contracts.
- Construction would take 5 years with the main activity occurring in years 2, 3 and 4.
- Business opportunities related to road building and camp construction would occur prior to the main construction period.
- Peak employment would be approximately 500 people, with smaller average employment over the whole construction phase.
- Work can be divided into contracts in several ways, however, this can affect the schedule and cost of the project. The important issues must be considered before this is worked out.
- Short-term employment, service contracts and permanent jobs after construction are still being worked out.
- Opportunities from the Notigi G.S. would be considerably smaller than those from Wuskwatim, but have not been worked out yet.

NCN and Manitoba Hydro are working together to identify potential opportunities for community members.

Opportunities for Training

NCN is examining the types of training that will be necessary for NCN members to take advantage of the business and employment opportunities from the proposed Future Developments.

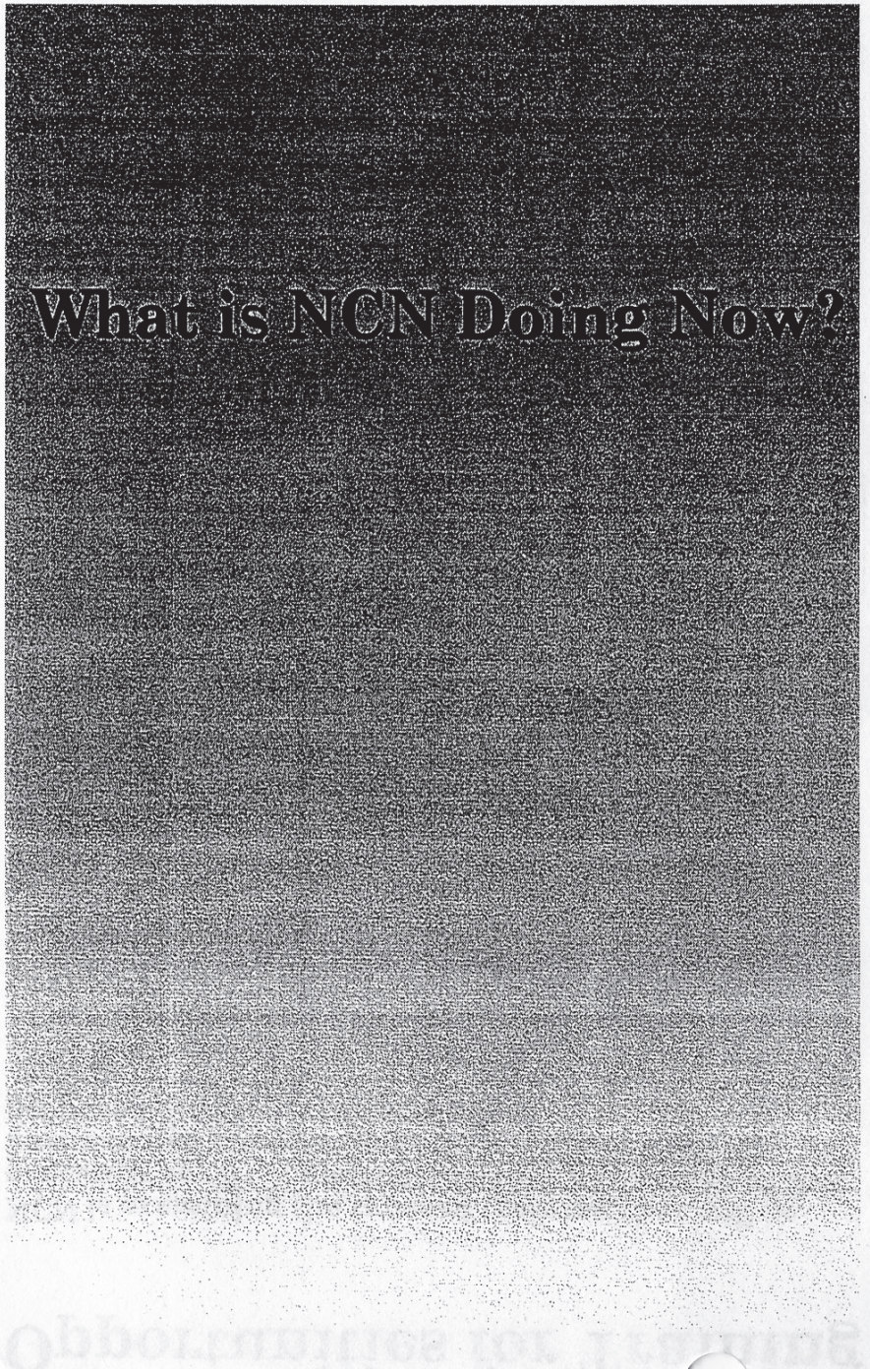
- NCN is developing a training plan, that will describe when, where, and how the training could be done.
- This plan will be discussed with community members to get their input.
- Discussions are also taking place with Anokiiwin Training Institute and Keewatin Community College about the types of training assistance they can provide.
- The final draft plan will be available for public input and consultation.

Training NCN members early is a very important part of the process.

Burntwood/Nelson Agreement

The Burntwood/Nelson Agreement is an agreement between project owners and labour unions that establishes the terms and conditions of employment for persons working on major Hydro projects:

- **The agreement has been in effect for approximately 30 years.**
- **A renewal of the agreement will be negotiated shortly.**
- **NCN's Future Development Team is reviewing the provisions of the current collective agreement to identify any provisions that may prevent NCN members from actively participating in training, employment, and business opportunities.**



Agreement-in-Principle

NCN and Manitoba Hydro are discussing the issues that need to be considered to decide whether Future Development should proceed. These discussions may lead to an Agreement-in-Principle (AIP):

- An AIP is a document signed by two or more parties, but it is not the final document - *it is a framework for future discussions.*
- When an AIP is signed, the parties hope that they will eventually sign a final agreement about the issues that they are discussing.
- The AIP will set out the fundamental principles and understandings between NCN and Manitoba Hydro.
- An AIP is a useful tool for many reasons:
  - it spells out what the parties want to discuss, and helps to organize and focus the discussions.
  - it may set out time frames for the discussions, as well as some of the responsibilities of the parties during the discussions.
  - an AIP can be changed if old issues are no longer relevant and new ones have come up.

An AIP can be the first step to building a good, long-term working relationship, by strengthening goodwill and cooperation between the parties.

Issues to be Included in the AIP

Chief and Council and the NCN Future Development Team are developing the issues that will be included in the AIP:

- Many of the issues that NCN members have brought to the attention of the Community Consultants are being included in the draft AIP.
- Some of the issues that are in the draft AIP so far are:
  - training and employment opportunities.
  - environmental assessment.
  - business opportunities.
  - compensation for any adverse effects of the Future Developments.
  - cultural issues.
  - financial considerations (for example, NCN might make an investment and become part-owner with Hydro in a project).
- The AIP could lead to a final Project Development Agreement (PDA) and other agreements with Hydro.

NCN is considering becoming a part owner of the proposed generating stations at Notigi and Wuskwatim.

Stages in the AIP Process

The AIP is being developed in a series of steps. The timing of some of the most important steps is:

- A draft AIP has been developed and *preliminary* discussions have been held with Hydro.
- Further discussions with the community and Hydro, together with the results of the Opinion Survey, are needed before the draft AIP can be completed.
- The draft AIP will be presented to the community for discussion and comment around September/October.
- The draft AIP will have to be supported by the people.
- Chief and Council will sign the AIP if it is supported by NCN members.
- Chief and Council and Manitoba Hydro sign the final AIP.
- Once the AIP is signed, the NCN Future Development Team and representatives of Hydro would then start negotiations for the final agreements related to the Future Developments.

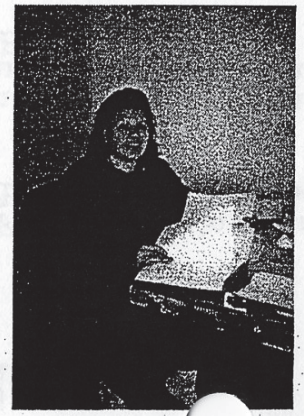
Once it is developed, the draft AIP will be discussed at community meetings and workshops. If the AIP is supported by NCN members, Chief and Council will sign the AIP.

Opinion Survey

A major Opinion Survey of NCN members (16 years old and older) who live in Nelson House is currently being completed:

- NCN members living in Thompson, South Indian Lake, Brandon, and Winnipeg will also be surveyed.
- The results of the survey will be presented to the community.
- The input of NCN members, via this survey, will provide valuable guidance to the Future Development Team and Chief and Council in their discussions with Manitoba Hydro.
- Members are being asked their opinions about:
  - the future of NCN.
  - priorities regarding the proposed developments.
  - thoughts about benefits and drawbacks of the proposed Future Developments.
  - how well the past agreements have worked.
  - social problems, education, and recreation programs in Nelson House.
- The input of everyone who was interviewed is greatly appreciated.





Providing Information About the Future Developments

Open House Presentations

- The first Open House describing the proposed Future Developments was held April 5-6, 2000.
- A copy of the information provided at the last Open House was prepared by the Community Consultants and delivered to every household in Nelson House.
- The Open House is also being translated into Cree by Reverend Hart to be provided to the elders by the Community Consultants.
- Another Open House presentation is planned for fall.

Newsletters

- Newsletters describing what is happening on the proposed Future Developments are being produced every month or so by the Future Development Office.
- Newsletters were distributed to the community in March, May, and June.

Videos

- The Community Consultants have been trained to produce videos so that information from the Open Houses and other events can be presented on TV.





Opinion Survey

- The surveys were done by the seven Community Consultants and twenty additional community members who were hired as temporary Community Consultants and trained to help with the surveys.
- The twenty additional members are:
  - Ryan Tait
  - Jason Linklater
  - Samson Hunter
  - Vanessa Spence
  - Curtis McDonald
  - Leslie J. Spence
  - Dwight Moody
  - Stanley H. Spence
  - Ella Moose
  - Hilda C. Spence
  - Marcel S. Spence
  - Fredericka Prince
  - Muriel Hart
  - Stanley W. Spence
  - Earl Hart
  - Farrell Spence
  - Arron Hart
  - Harold Dumas
  - Ronnie Spence
  - Larson Tait



The Survey Team

Wuskwatim Site Ceremony

- In the past, ceremonies have helped NCN people to live balanced lives.
- Changes in the environment and modern lifestyles have severed the spiritual connection between the people of NCN and the land.
- The Wuskwatim Site Ceremony was held to help restore this connection and to help establish a positive relationship between NCN and the governments and Manitoba Hydro.
- The ceremony took place at the old settlement on Wuskwatim Lake from June 19-23, 2000:
  - both community members and visitors attended the ceremony.
  - there was an Honorary & Memorial Service:
    (Recognition of Families)
    Late Frankie Spence
    Late Tommy Spence
    Late William Moose
  - traditional feasts.
  - Sweat Lodge ceremonies.
  - Ceremony at the Dancing Circle.

The people of NCN continue the healing process. Attendance at the Wuskwatim Site Ceremony signified good faith by all parties as they try to develop a new and positive relationship.



What Else is Happening?

Preliminary Site Investigations

Manitoba Hydro has undertaken engineering investigations at the Notigi and Wuskwatim sites, most recently in 1998, 1999, and 2000:

- Environmental evaluations were done prior to each investigation by collaboration between NCN and Hydro.
- NCN members worked on the 1998 and 1999 investigations, and local businesses supplied meals and other services.
- For the winter 2000 investigations, Nelson House Forest Industries obtained the contract for the entire project, and sub-contracted for specialized services.
- Prior to the winter 2000 work, NCN and Hydro agreed on a route for the winter trail. Slush ice on Footprint Lake prevented construction on the selected route, so NCN and Hydro agreed on an alternate route.
- At the request of NCN, resource users marked the winter trail route so that no bear dens or eagle nests were disturbed. A helicopter survey for woodland caribou found none close to the winter trail and gravel sites.
- A follow-up clean-up of the winter camp site took place in mid-June.



NCN / Manitoba Hydro Joint Study Plan for 2000

NCN and Manitoba Hydro, with the assistance of the environmental consultants, have developed a plan for studies to be done in 2000:

- The study plan will be periodically revised based on community input and the identification of additional issues.
- The studies being done in 2000 are part of a longer period of studies that started in 1998, and will continue until after the projects are built (if the Future Developments proceed).
- The objectives of the study plan are to:
  - address concerns and issues identified by NCN.
  - provide enough information to meet the regulatory requirements of the governments of Manitoba and Canada.
  - assist in planning the proposed Future Developments e.g., looking at alternatives in the way the developments are done.
  - provide information for the AIP negotiations.
- Some key items that have been identified by NCN to include in the studies are:
  - ice.
  - erosion and debris.
  - water level changes.
  - fish - in particular pickerel, whitefish, tullibee, and jackfish.
  - mercury levels (in fish and other animals).
  - ducks and geese.
  - eagles.
  - large animals such as moose and woodland caribou.
  - fur-bearing animals such as beaver, muskrat, and otter.
  - medicinal plants and water plants.
  - traditional sites, such as grave sites and ceremonial sites.
  - business and employment opportunities.
  - how the proposed Future Developments fit into the NCN Community Plan.

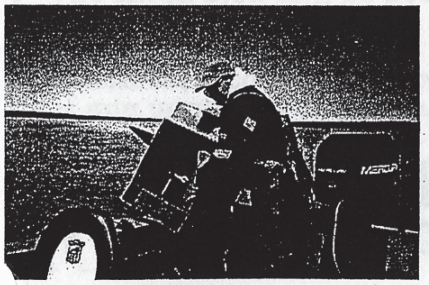
What Studies are Being Done on the Environment?

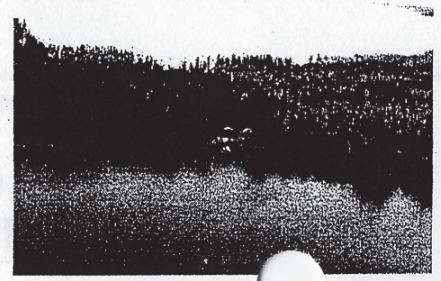
Environmental Studies 2000

NCN and Hydro are continuing to work together to understand the effects that proposed hydroelectric developments may have on the environment:

- **The environmental studies that will be done this year are described in the study plan.**
- **Studies will look at:**
  - **water flow and ice formation.**
  - **erosion and debris.**
  - **water and things that live in it, including fish.**
  - **the land environment and things that live in it.**
  - **use of resources by NCN (e.g., hunting, trapping, fishing).**
  - **socio-economic issues such as business and employment opportunities, transportation, culture, and community and family life.**
  - **heritage resources.**

NCN members will continue to actively participate in the studies by providing information about things being studied, such as wildlife, and by working with the field crews.





Studies of the Water Environment

- NCN has identified the following as being important resources:
  - water for drinking and to support aquatic life.
  - aquatic plants and animals.
  - fish habitat including spawning, rearing, and migration areas.
  - fish that are harvested in domestic, recreational, and commercial fisheries.
- The generating stations may cause small changes in the water flow and may have an effect on aquatic life.
- Studies are looking at:
  - water
  - plants and small animals (like snails, clams, and insects that fish may eat)
  - fish

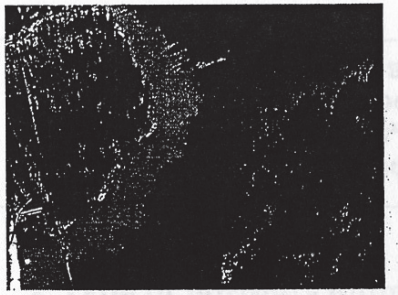




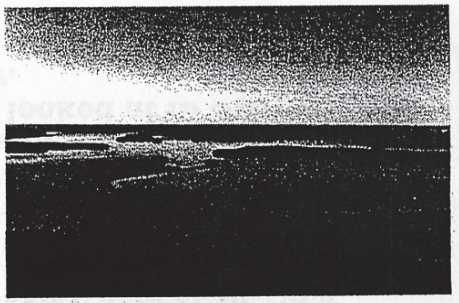
Water

- Water is being collected from Notigi, Wapisu, Threepoint, Footprint, Leftrook, Wuskwatim, Opegano, and Birch Tree lakes, and the Rat and Burntwood rivers.
- Many things will be looked at, such as:
  - suspended solids (how murky the water is).
  - nutrients (important for plant growth).
  - some things important for drinking water, such as bacteria.
- Water samples were collected in early June and will be collected three more times this summer.

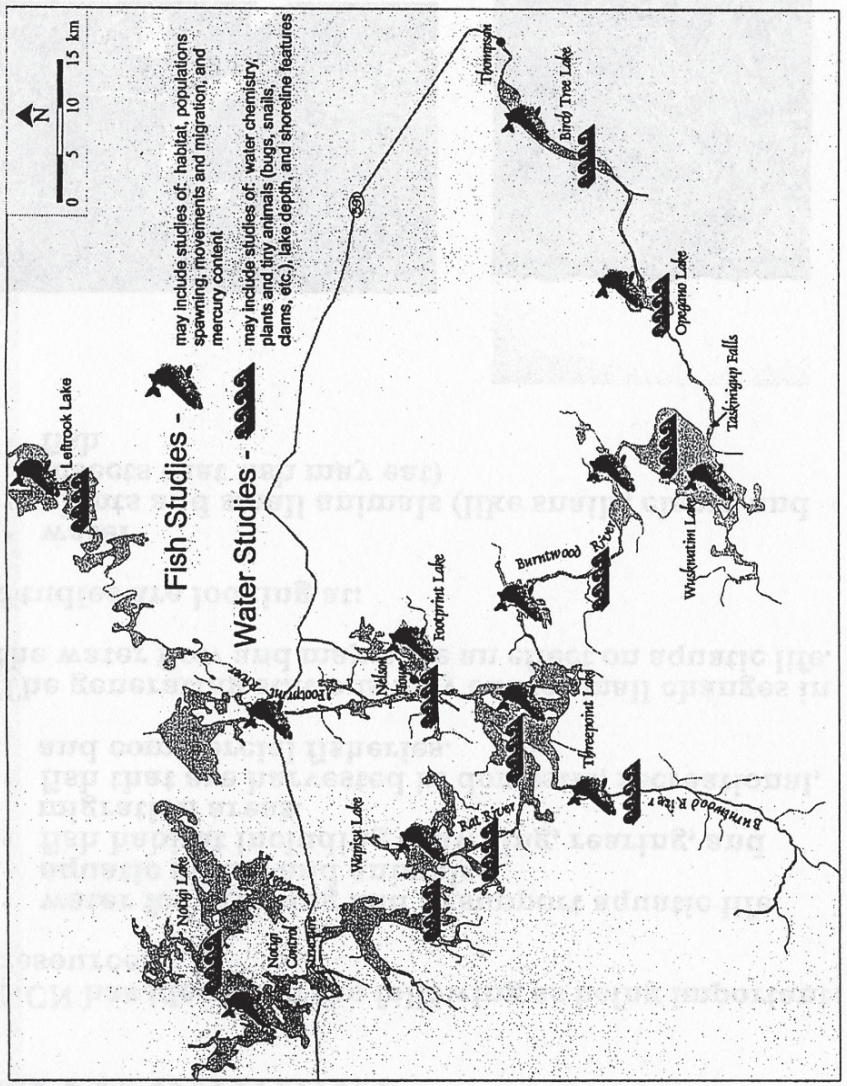
Water in Different Areas is Different



A muddy stream entering into the Burntwood River upstream of Threepoint Lake



Threepoint Lake, showing differences in water from the Burntwood (left) and Rat (right) rivers.



Fish Habitat

- **Habitat describes the area where fish live.**
- **Important parts of fish habitat include:**
  - **depth**
  - **type of bottom - mud, sand, gravel, or rock**
  - **type of plants**

Fish habitat was mapped in Notigi, Wapisu, Threepoint, Wuskwatim, and Footprint lakes in 1998 and 1999. Habitat will be looked at in Opegano and Birch Tree lakes this year.





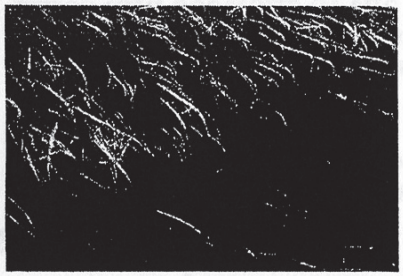
Fish Habitat - Continued

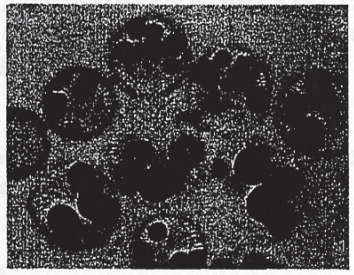
Algae and Small Animals

- Algae are very small (microscopic) plant-like organisms that can make the water look green.
- Small animals include things like insects, snails, and clams.
- Algae and small animals that live in the water are being collected from the same lakes and at the same times as the water.
- Small animals that live in the bottom mud (like snails and clams) will be collected from Threepoint, Wuskwatim, Notigi, Footprint, Opegano, and Birch Tree lakes, the Rat and Burntwood rivers, and Wuskwatim Brook this fall.

Algae and small animals are important as food for larger animals like fish and ducks.

A Type of Algae
- *Volvox sp.*



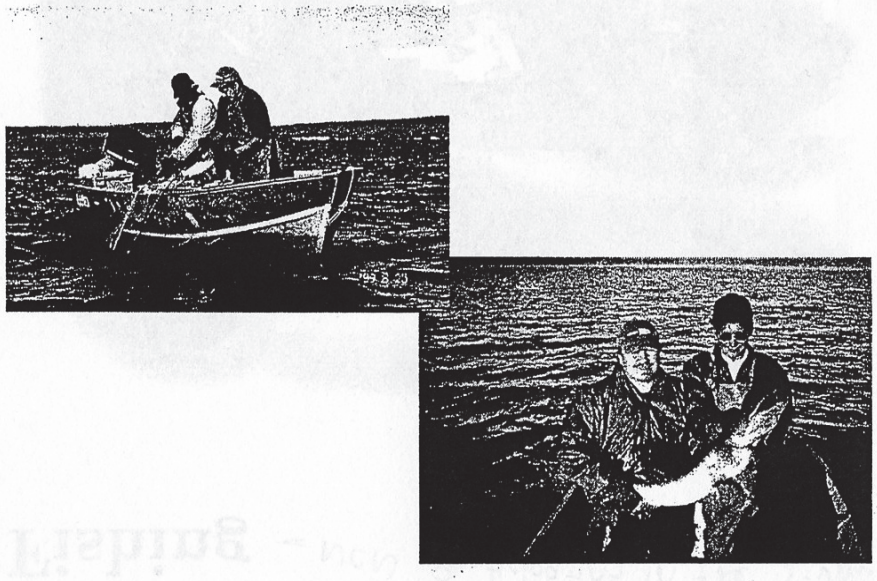


Fish Populations

Studies are looking at the types and numbers of fish:

- Fish were collected using gillnets from Wuskwatim and Threepoint Lakes in 1998 and from Notigi, Wapisu, Footprint, and Leftrook lakes in 1999.
- This year, fish are being collected from Threepoint, Wuskwatim, Opegano, and Birch Tree lakes.
- Next year, fish will be sampled from Notigi, Footprint, Leftrook, Wapisu, Opegano, and Birch Tree lakes.

Between 1998 - 2000, each lake will be sampled twice.



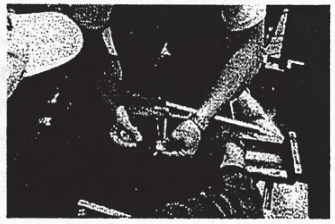
Fish Spawning

Fish Spawning

- Fish spawning will be studied in areas identified through a combination of local knowledge and fish collections.
- Tullibee and whitefish larvae were collected from Notigi, Wapisu, Threepoint, Footprint, and Wuskwatim lakes and sections of the Rat and Burntwood rivers in May, 2000.

Fish Movements and Migration

- Fish movements and migration patterns will be studied by catching fish, attaching small plastic tags to them, and then releasing them.



- Over 2,400 pickerel, whitefish, jackfish and tullibee were tagged in the fall of 1999.
- Individual fish are also being tracked using radio tags.
- A number of radio-tagged whitefish and walleye were re-located in May 2000 in Footprint, Threepoint, and Wuskwatim lakes.



Mercury in Fish

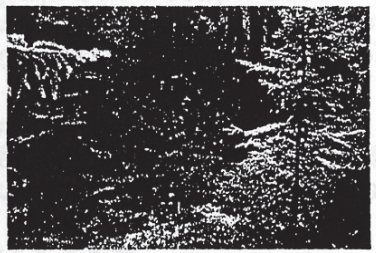
- The proposed developments are not expected to increase mercury levels in fish.
- Fish mercury levels have been monitored in fish from Rat, Threepoint, and Wuskwatim lakes since shortly after CRD. This program has been expanded to include Notigi, Wapisu, Leftrook, Footprint, Opegano, and Birch Tree Lakes.

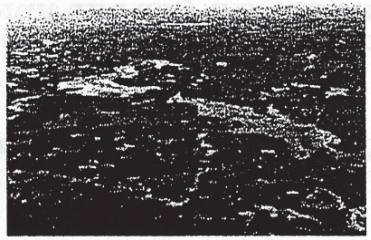
Fishing



Studies of the Land Environment

- NCN has identified the following as being important resources:
  - local plants that are used for food or medicine.
  - forests that provide areas for wildlife and timber.
  - small animals that are trapped for fur.
  - large animals that are hunted for their meat and hides.
- The generating stations may cause small changes in water levels and may have an effect on the plants and animals near the water.
- The construction of access roads, borrow areas, and transmission lines may also affect plants and animals.
- Things to be studied this year include:
  - types of soil (such as peat, clay, rock).
  - plants and plant communities (including forests).
  - wildlife - including birds, frogs, muskrat, beaver, woodland caribou, and moose.
- The first studies at these sites will be done from June to September this year. The sites will be re-visited as part of the long-term monitoring studies.





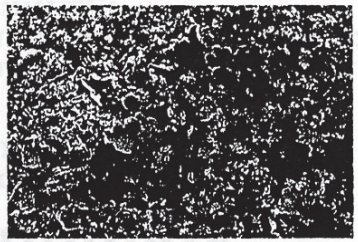
Plants and Plant Communities

Plants provide habitat for birds and animals, and some kinds of plants are an important cultural, food, and economic resource to NCN:

- Construction of the proposed Future Developments will remove some plants and affect others.
- Studies on plants will be done in the following areas:
  - areas around Wuskwatim Lake and up to Early Morning Rapids.
  - areas where the generating station and other facilities will be built.
  - sites identified by NCN as being important for plant resources that might be affected by the project.
  - borrow areas - sources of gravel, etc.
- The forest resource in potentially affected areas will be looked at to see how much timber could be lost as well as how much debris might enter affected lakes.

Plants and trees are important for animals and people – the effects of the projects on them will be studied.

Lichen and Moss



Sweetgrass



Birds

Birds are important to other animals and some birds (e.g., ducks, geese, ptarmigan) are harvested by NCN members:

- **Construction of the proposed Future Developments will remove some bird habitat and may disturb birds living in nearby areas.**
- **All groups of birds are being studied, including:**
  - **waterbirds (e.g., ducks and geese)**
  - **raptors (e.g., eagles)**
  - **upland game birds (e.g., grouse)**
  - **shorebirds**
  - **songbirds**
- **Birds will be sampled by:**
  - **helicopter surveys along the Burntwood River from Opegano Lake to Notigi Lake in spring, mid-summer, and fall (the first survey started in late May).**
  - **a land-based survey of potentially affected areas to find out what kinds and how many birds are breeding in the area in June.**
  - **a boat-based survey, mainly for waterbirds and shorebirds, along Wuskwatim, Notigi, and perhaps Wapisu and Threepoint lakes in spring, mid-summer, and fall.**

Birds are important to other animals and people – the effects of the projects on all kinds of birds will be studied.

Mammals

Mammals are an important part of NCN tradition, culture, and lifestyle:

- **Mammals are valued as a supply of food, income and employment (trapping and guiding), and recreation (hunting).**
- **The generating stations would cause small changes in water levels and may have an effect on mammals that live near the water.**
- **The construction and operation of the generating stations, and increased access to the area, could affect moose and woodland caribou as well as other mammals.**
- **Information on wildlife is being obtained by:**
  - **talking with NCN community members.**
  - **reviewing trapping records.**
  - **surveying for beaver (surveys will be done from the shore and from a helicopter).**
  - **studying moose and woodland caribou.**
  - **surveying for signs of animal activity (droppings, tracks, damaged plants etc.) on lands around Notigi and Wuskwatim lakes.**
  - **surveying proposed transmission line sites (to be done in winter 2000/2001).**

Wildlife is important to the people of NCN for many reasons - many different animals will be studied.

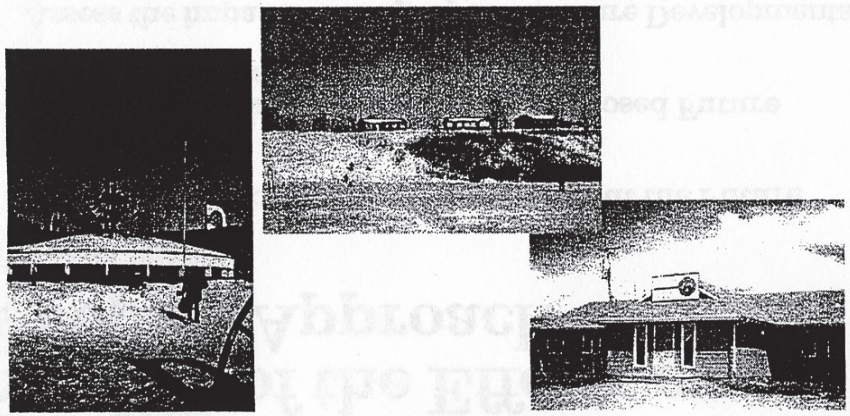




Studies of the Effects on People

Studies have been developed to:

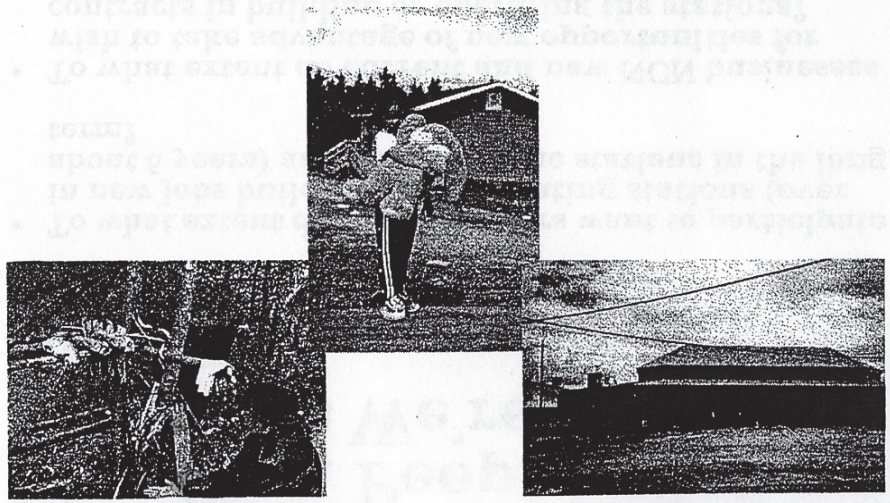
- Look at the effects of the Wuskwatim and/or Notigi developments on quality of life for NCN members.
- Assess how the developments may change life for NCN members, including both negative and positive changes, in order to find ways to reduce negative and improve positive effects.
- Look at topics that are of interest to NCN members, Manitoba Hydro, and government regulators who will be reviewing the projects.
- Help NCN and Manitoba Hydro make decisions at various stages by:
  - planning choices during 2000-2001 (selection of alternatives, decision on whether to proceed with the developments).
  - assessing impacts during 2001-2002.



Effects on People - Continued

Effects on Personal, Family, and Community Life

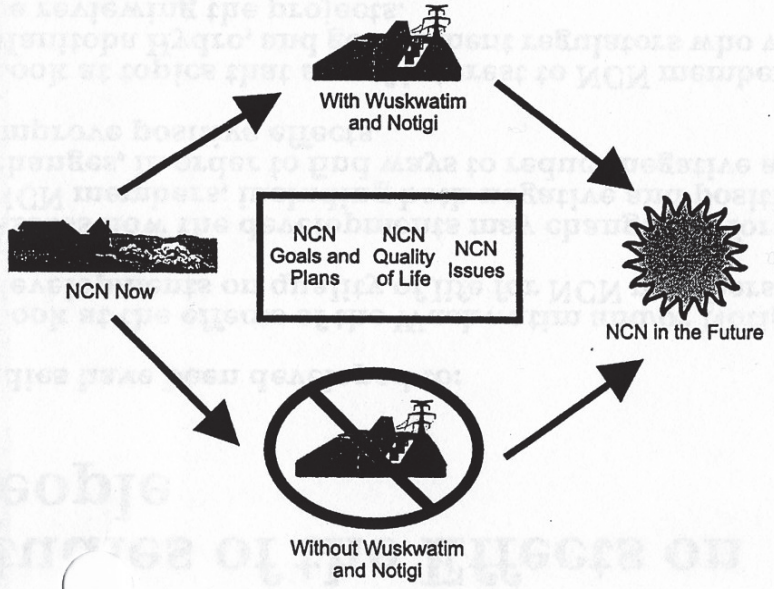
- Would the developments change the way people use and feel about the land? For example, the way the land looks at sites where people go for recreation.
- How would the developments affect travel safety?
- Would the developments affect the physical, mental, or spiritual health of NCN members? For example, would the proposed projects result in increased or decreased stress in your life?
- Would the developments affect today's way of life? In a positive way or a negative way?
- If the changes noted above do occur, how would they affect the culture and spirituality of NCN?
- How do the developments fit with the goals of NCN for the future?



Studies of the Effects on People - Approach

For each issue:

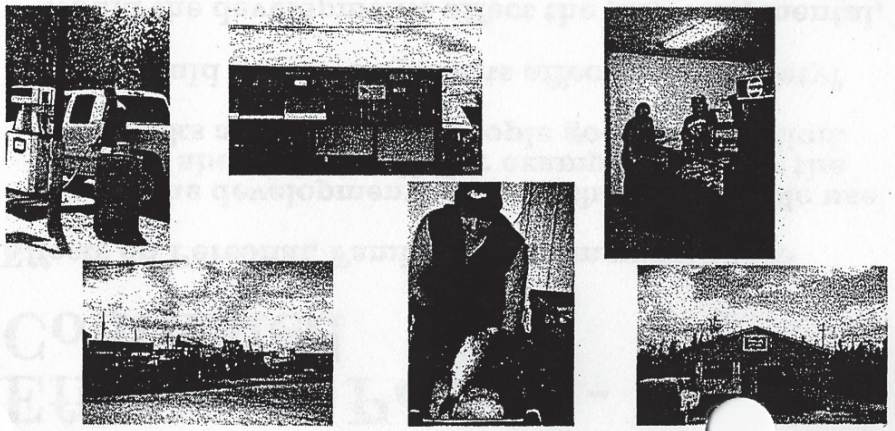
- Describe the existing conditions without the Future Developments.
- Look at the linkages between the proposed Future Developments and the people.
- Assess the impacts of the proposed Future Developments on people - important to understand people's views about change.
- Look at ways to reduce negative effects and make positive effects better.
- Identify any negative effects that can not be completely eliminated.
- Identify what should be monitored.



Effects on People - Questions We're Trying to Answer

Effects on the Way People Make a Living

- To what extent do NCN members want to participate in new jobs building the generating stations (over about 5 years) and operating the stations in the long term?
- To what extent do current and new NCN businesses wish to take advantage of new opportunities for contracts in building or operating the stations?
- How would NCN members get trained for these job and business opportunities?
- How would those who trap, hunt, and fish near the developments be affected? For example, clearing and activity right at the generating stations could disturb animals during construction; access could be improved into the Wuskwatim area.
- How do the developments fit in with NCN's economic plans for the future?



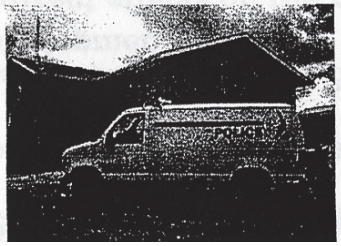
Effects on People (continued)

Effects on Community Infrastructure and Services

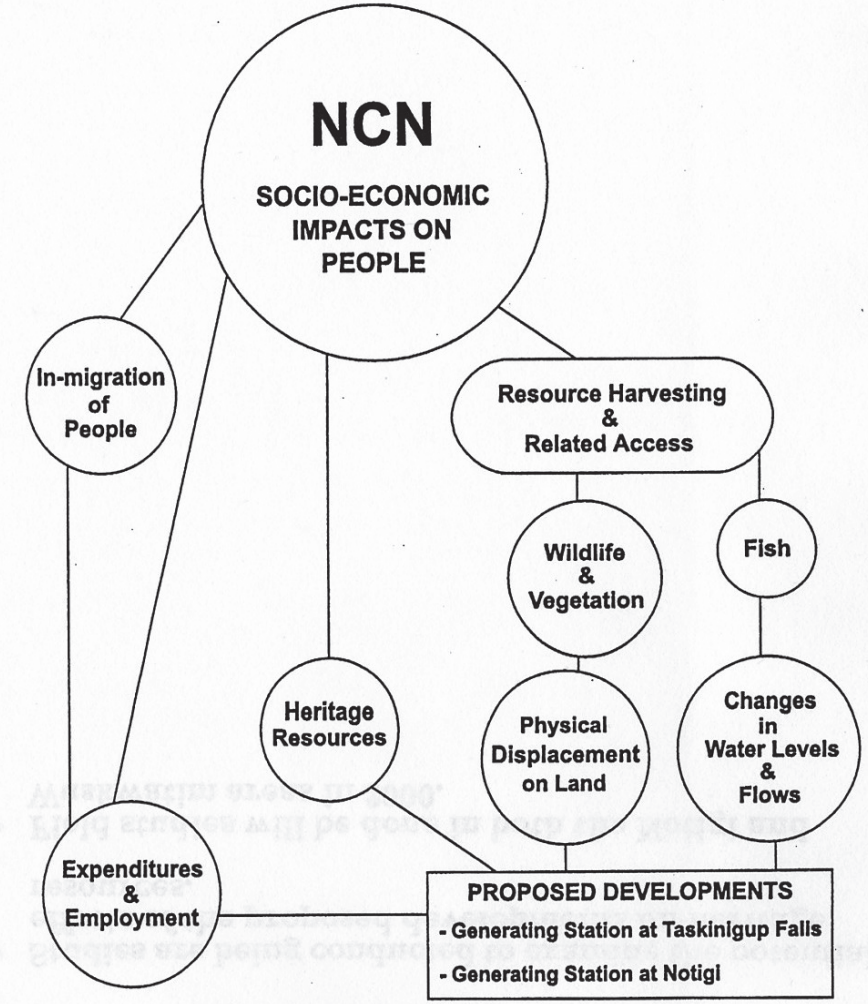
- How would roads, camps, borrow areas, and other infrastructure affect NCN?
- Would people return to Nelson House to take advantage of new jobs? If so, what effect would this have on housing and other services, such as education, health care, and recreation?
- Would new police and enforcement services be needed during construction, with many new people in the area?
- Could the buildings and infrastructure at the camp be useful to NCN after the project is over?







How Socio-economic Studies Relate to Other Parts of Impact Assessment



Resource Use

Use of natural resources is important to NCN members:

- Resource use could be affected by the proposed Future Developments by:
  - direct effects on the resources, e.g., the number of moose.
  - effects on how easy it is to access the resources, etc.

- NCN use of many resources will be documented, including:
  - domestic and commercial fishing.
  - domestic hunting and gathering.
  - domestic and commercial trapping.
  - domestic and commercial forest use.
  - hunting and fishing lodges.

- NCN resource use will be documented in various ways, depending on the resource being looked at:
  - key person interviews.
  - harvest calenders.
  - questionnaires.
  - government records.

NCN and the study team are developing an approach to documenting resource use by NCN members.

Studies of the Effects on Heritage Resources

- Studies are being conducted to examine the potential effects of the proposed developments on heritage resources.

- Field studies will be done in both the Notigi and Wuskwatim areas in 2000.

Assessing the Effects of the Proposed Developments

- **The information gathered during the studies being done this year and next year, as well as from studies in 1998 and 1999, will be used to write an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).**
- **An EIS is a study, which is done before a project is built, to identify the expected effects of the project on land, water, and animals, as well as the community and people.**
- **The studies will use information from many sources, including field studies as well as local and traditional knowledge.**

The EIS must be done to meet the regulatory requirements of the governments of Manitoba and Canada and address the concerns of NCN about the Future Developments.



Some of the things to be studied as part of an EIS.

When Will Decisions be Made?

These are the dates as we estimate them now:

2000: Environmental studies started in 1998 and 1999 will be continued and expanded.

2000: On-going consultation with NCN members about studies, the Agreement in Principle (AIP), and training, employment, and business opportunities.

2000: An AIP could be signed this fall.

2001: Decision on whether to maintain the Notigi and Wuskwatim projects in the list of options for next Future Development.

2001: If the decision is "yes", environmental studies will continue for use in the environmental impact statement.

2001: A Project Development Agreement and other agreements could be negotiated between NCN and Manitoba Hydro in accordance with the AIP.

2001: EIA/Public consultations.

2001: Environmental Impact Assessment(s) for the project(s) would be submitted in late 2001 or early 2002.

2002: Public review and hearings.

2003: Decisions by Canada and Manitoba on environmental approvals received.

2003: The earliest construction could begin if project(s) receive approval.

2007: The earliest that the Notigi Generating Station could be in operation, if approved.

2008: The earliest that the Wuskwatim Generating Station could be in operation, if approved.

What are Your Questions and Concerns About Future Development?

- We want to know what questions and concerns you have about the proposed future hydro development(s).
- Please fill out a questionnaire and leave it with us today, if possible.
- If you have further questions or concerns after today, please talk to the Community Consultants or other NCN members working on Future Development.



Thank you for your input

School Programs

The environmental studies were presented to the students (February 29-March 3, 2000).



ATTACHMENT 5

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Notigi and Wuskwatim Generation and Transmission Facilities
Joint NCN and Manitoba Hydro Study Program

July 2000

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NOTIGI AND WUSKWATIM GENERATION

AND

TRANSMISSION FACILITIES

Joint Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation/Manitoba Hydro Study Program

April 2000 (Updated July 2000)



Notigi Control Structure



Taskinigup Falls

Introduction

Article 8 of the 1996 Comprehensive Implementation Agreement, which was signed by the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN), Manitoba Hydro, Manitoba, and Canada, sets out a process for NCN and Manitoba Hydro to discuss potential Future Developments that could affect the NCN Resource Management Area (RMA). In accordance with Article 8, Manitoba Hydro has informed NCN that two new Future Developments are being considered in the NCN RMA, namely:

- a new hydroelectric generating station at the existing Notigi Control Structure (the Notigi Project); and
- a new hydroelectric generating station at Taskinigup Falls, just downstream of Wuskwatim Lake (the Wuskwatim Project).

In 1997, NCN and Manitoba Hydro established a Working Group to facilitate on-going exchange of information about these proposed Developments. In November 1999, NCN and Manitoba Hydro selected a team of environmental consultants (the environmental study team) to help develop and carry out a joint environmental study program with respect to effects of the Notigi Project and the Wuskwatim Project (and any new transmission facility developments related to these generating projects) on NCN members and the NCN RMA.

The environmental study team prepared this joint study program to address concerns that NCN members and Manitoba Hydro may have about potential impacts from the two Future Developments, and to obtain information to support an application for environmental approvals from the governments of Manitoba and Canada. At the moment, neither NCN nor Manitoba Hydro have made any commitment to proceed with the Future Developments.

NCN representatives told the environmental study team about concerns of NCN members regarding the Future Developments at several two day workshops during February 2000. These workshops looked at:

- water resources, including water quality, fish and the areas where they live, and fishing;
- land resources, including plants, birds, small and large mammals, and resource harvesting;
- cultural and heritage resources, including sacred sites, burial sites, and archeological sites; and,
- the people and their community, including business and employment, recreation, transportation, community health, culture, and community and family life.

As described later, community members have also had the opportunity to have input into the study program during public meetings, at open house presentations, and by participating in surveys and answering questionnaires.



NCN Members Attending the First Open House

This joint study program is based on information from the workshops and other input from the community, from engineers and environmental staff at Manitoba Hydro, and from preliminary discussions with biologists working for the provincial and federal governments, scientists, and heritage specialists. A draft study program was reviewed jointly by NCN and Manitoba Hydro representatives at a two day workshop in Thompson in early May 2000.

The study team expects that the study program will continue to be modified in response to new information and new questions. This plan is really a "work in progress" and will continue to be changed as the study team receives more input.

Joint Study Plan Objectives

The main objectives of the joint study plan related to the Future Developments are to:

- address concerns and issues identified by NCN and Manitoba Hydro with respect to the Future Developments;
- provide information that will assist NCN and Manitoba Hydro in making their respective decisions regarding the proposed Future Development(s):
    - NCN is targeting fall as a time to make decisions with respect to an Agreement in Principle with Manitoba Hydro.
    - Manitoba Hydro is targeting early 2001 to make decisions with respect to whether to proceed to the next step of applying for a licence for the proposed Future Development(s).
- identify opportunities for NCN associated with the Future Developments;
- assist in the planning of the Future Development(s) by identifying and assessing impacts of alternatives identified by NCN and Manitoba Hydro (e.g., for the location of the access road, construction camp, and transmission lines);
- identify environmental issues that need to be considered during planning of the Future Development(s). e.g., identify possible negative effects of the Future Development(s), so that the negative effects can be avoided or reduced (i.e., mitigated), if possible;
- determine how environmental effects and needs for mitigation affect the Future Development(s);
- provide enough information about the existing environment, so that studies can be planned to find out what effect the construction and operation of the proposed generating stations may have on the environment in the future; and
- provide enough information to meet the regulatory requirements of the governments of Manitoba and Canada and prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the selected projects, if it is decided to develop either of the proposed Future Developments. A target date for an EIS is January 2002.



Field Camp at Wuskwatim Lake

Study Approach

The study will combine the scientific analysis of effects on the environment with the NCN judgement of the significance of these effects on the well-being of the community. Information will be obtained from discussions with community members (including Traditional Ecological Knowledge), government and scientific databases, field studies described in this study plan, and other sources.

Community Communication and Consultation

The study team is in regular contact with NCN's Future Development Team, including monthly meetings at which the study team presents the Future Development Team with an update on the studies, and the way the studies should proceed is discussed. The study team is also assisting NCN's Community Consultants and other personnel from the Future Development Office in informing community members about the proposed Future Developments, as well as getting information from community members that is important for the study. Communication includes questionnaires, surveys, open house presentations, and newsletters.

Study Area and Scope

The study area is basically the NCN RMA, but may be somewhat different for specific parts of the study. The study will consider the effect of the proposed Future Development(s) in combination with other developments including:

- past developments (to the extent that these developments continue to influence the environment today).
- existing developments, such as current forestry operations.
- other future developments, such as those that may be planned by NCN in the RMA.

The approach to looking at the combined effects of these activities will be determined at a workshop in late July 2000.

Study Schedule and Products

The priority for the first phase of studies (to March 31, 2001) is to provide NCN and Manitoba Hydro with information that both parties need in deciding whether, and how, to proceed with the proposed Future Development(s).

If a decision is made to apply for a licence for the proposed Future Development(s), the next phase of studies would begin (starting April, 2001) and information would continue to be collected. This would allow for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to meet the regulatory requirements of the governments of Manitoba and Canada.

The results of the field studies will be provided in separate reports. In addition, information will be provided to both NCN and Manitoba Hydro at key points in their decision-making processes.

If the Future Development(s) proceed to the licensing stage, then an EIS would be prepared for each selected project. The EIS would describe in detail the positive and negative effects of the proposed Development, including effects on the water, land, resources, and the people and community. The EIS would include impacts on NCN members, the NCN RMA, and on any other communities or areas (e.g., Thompson and South Indian Lake). Draft Environmental Protection Plans would also be prepared. These plans provide guidelines for construction and operation of a project to reduce any negative effects to the environment where practicable.

Joint Studies for the Year 2000

The joint study plan has grouped the things to be studied into the following categories:

- **the physical environment** - including air quality, climate, water levels and flows, ice conditions, debris, erosion, sediment transport, and sediment deposition.
- **the aquatic (water) environment** - water and the plants and animals that live in the water.
- **the terrestrial (land) environment** - land and the plants and animals that live on the land, including along the shoreline.
- **resource use** - fishing, hunting and gathering, trapping, lodges and outfitters, eco-tourism, and forestry.
- **socio-economic issues** - effects of the Future Development(s) on NCN members and their way of life, including business and employment opportunities, transportation, culture, and community and family life.
- **culture and heritage resources** - important areas such as burial sites, traditional sites, and archeological sites.

The studies that will be done for each of these categories are described in detail in the Notigi/Wuskwatim Work Plan.









Description of the Future Developments

The planned environmental studies are based on an understanding of the changes that the proposed Future Development(s) might cause in the environment. Therefore, the developments are described below (see map).

Notigi Generating Station

- the generating station would be built near the existing Notigi Control Structure and would produce about 100 MW of power.
- there would be no new flooding.
- water levels and changes in water levels on Notigi Lake from month-to-month and between the seasons would not be changed.
- there would be day-to-day changes in water levels and flows downstream of the generating station, but effects are not anticipated downstream of Wapisu Lake.

Wuskwatim Generating Station

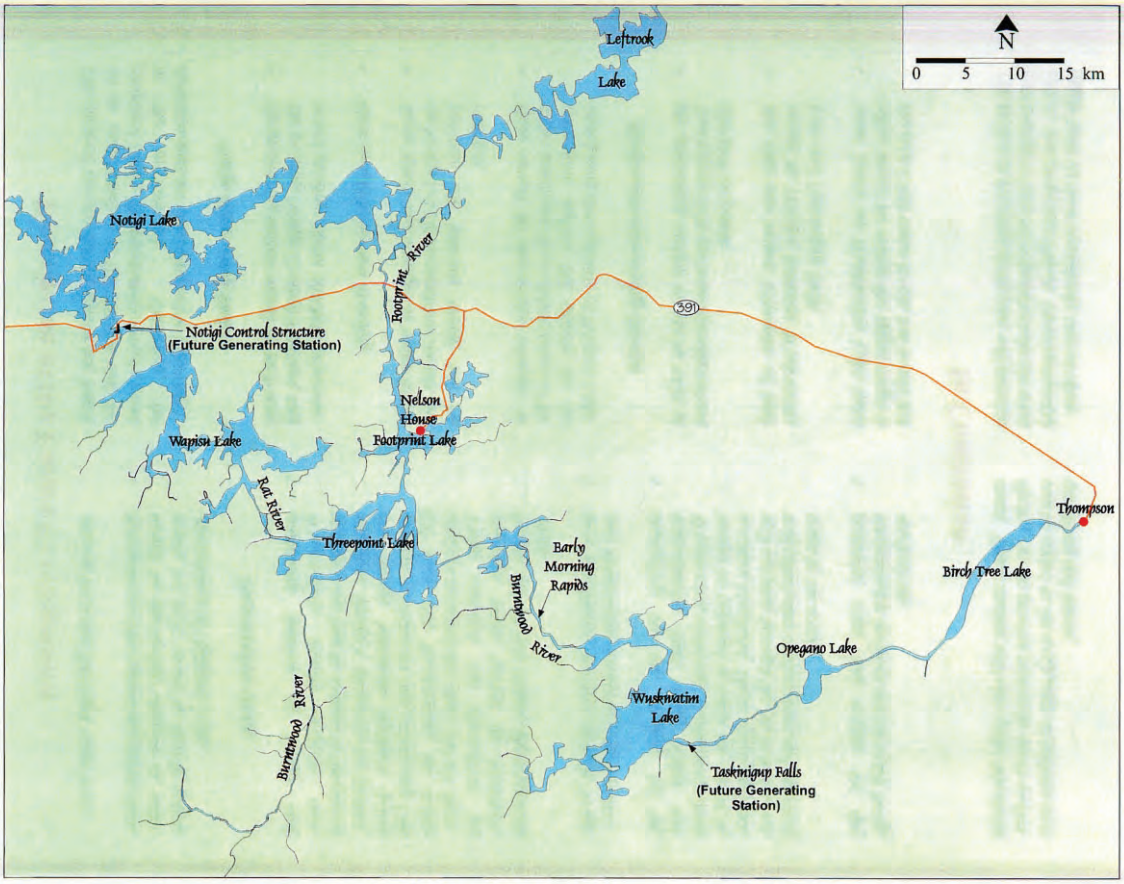
- the generating station would be built at Taskinigup Falls and would produce about 200 MW of power.
- less than one square kilometre of land would be flooded between Wuskwatim Lake and Taskinigup Falls.
- water levels on Wuskwatim Lake most often would be within the upper range o the post-CRD water levels, but would not exceed the post-CRD high water level.
- downstream of the generating station there would be day-to-day changes in water levels, but these would be hard to notice downstream of Opegano Lake.

Transmission Lines

- generating stations at Notigi and Wuskwatim would require new transmission lines to connect to the rest of Manitoba Hydro's transmission system. For Notigi, Manitoba Hydro's initial concept provided for two connecting 138 kV lines. For Wuskwatim, the initial concept provided for three 230 kV lines. These concepts and alternatives are presently under review by Manitoba Hydro and NCN's Future Development Team.
- new transformer facilities at both Notigi and Wuskwatim would also be required.
- depending on the routing of the transmission lines from Notigi and Wuskwatim, additional transmission lines would be required to carry the power to southern Manitoba. These additional lines will not pass through the NCN RMA, but will affect other communities and resource areas to the south.
- potential sites and routes for the transmission facilities are presently being worked out.

In Conclusion

The studies in this joint study plan will provide information to help NCN members decide what effects the proposed Future Development(s) might have on their community and environment. These studies will also assist Manitoba Hydro. As the process proceeds, more studies can be added to the study plan to address new questions and issues.



Map showing the study area and locations of the proposed Future Developments.

ATTACHMENT 6

OPEN HOUSE AT NELSON HOUSE

August 2 and 3, 2000

WELCOME

This is the Third of Several Open Houses About Possible Future Hydroelectric Development

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

Manitoba Hydro

This Open House Presents Information about Some of the Alternatives for Construction Camp Sites and Routes for the Access Road and Transmission Lines:

August 2
Construction Camp Access Road

August 3
Transmission Facilities

No final decisions on these alternatives have been made by NCN or Manitoba Hydro



Access Road and Construction Facilities

- NCN is considering becoming a part owner in any new hydro project at either Wuskwatim or Notigi.
- Construction of a generating station at Wuskwatim would require construction of an access road, camp site, and work areas.
- Although the location of the Wuskwatim generating station is fixed, several options are being considered for:
  - the route of the access road.
  - the location of the construction camp.
- NCN, Manitoba Hydro, and the environmental study team are talking about these important issues - a committee has been formed to look at the alternatives.
- An approach to assess these alternatives has been developed.
- The selection of the best alternative for the access road and construction camp will depend on many things, including:
  - the positive and negative effects on the community, including how the alternative would fit into community plans.
  - differences in construction and operating costs to the proposed Wuskwatim Project.
  - the effects on the environment, including disturbance of heritage sites, sensitive wildlife habitat, etc.
  - effects on the schedule for building the proposed Wuskwatim Project.
  - ot' considerations, such as safety.

Access Road Routes

- Five different routes are being looked at for the access road:
  - Nelson House Road with 170 B Spur.
  - Nelson House Road.
  - Mile 20 Road.
  - Mile 5 Road.
  - Taylor River Road.
- After the preferred alternative is selected, the route will be adjusted in relation to important areas such as:
  - burial sites.
  - ceremonial sites.
  - sensitive environmental areas, such as key wildlife habitat.

Access Road - General Description

The purposes of the access road are to:

- Provide access to the construction site and borrow areas (construction aggregate sources) during building of the construction camp and project support facilities, and then the generating station.
  - During this period, the road would be used to move workers, materials, and equipment.
  - The road would be used by a variety of authorized traffic:
    - mostly semi-trailer truck traffic.
    - heavy equipment for moving construction aggregate (sand and gravel).
    - various smaller passenger and service vehicles.
    - bus passenger traffic.
    - road maintenance equipment.
  - Approximately 10-20 vehicles per hour coming off the nearest main highway can be expected during the peak time of construction.
- Once the Project is completed, Manitoba Hydro would use the road as access for operation and maintenance of the generating station.

Access Road - General Description (continued)

General features of the access road:

- Road would be designed to the Provincial Department of Highways standards for this type of use (specifications for safety, including road width, right-of-way width, curves, and slopes on hills).
- Water crossings would be designed to reflect current environmental and regulatory standards.
- Road would not be paved, but dust control programs would be in place.
- Road access would be controlled during the construction period, mainly for safety reasons.

Schedule for building and operation of the access road, if the Project goes ahead:

- Road contract may be awarded in spring 2003, and clearing for the road would start immediately.
- Trail access to the project site camp area would be available in summer 2003.
- Heavy truck access to the project site would be available winter 2003/04.

Effects on NCN and Nelson House – Road Alternatives

Some issues that have been brought up so far regarding possible effects on Nelson House are:

- **interaction between non-NCN construction workers and the Community.**
- **traffic volume and safety.**
- **the number of people that might move back to Nelson House.**
- **jobs and business opportunities for NCN members.**
- **controlling access by non-NCN members to the NCN Resource Management Area.**
- **after-project use.**

Please tell us your views about the pros and cons of each of the road options, especially regarding effects on NCN.

Effects on Resource Use by NCN - Road Alternatives

Some of the resource use issues that have been brought up so far are possible effects on:

- **domestic and commercial fishing.**
- **domestic and commercial trapping.**
- **hunting.**
- **other resources such as medicinal plants, berries, etc.**

In thinking about resource use, what are the pros and cons of each of the road options?

Location of Important Areas - Road Alternatives

- The routes shown on the access road maps are corridors - the general path along which the roads would be built.
- The evaluation of the different road options will look at the possible effects on the environment and important sites.
- When a final option is chosen, the actual route of the road within the corridor will be selected to avoid important sites such as burial areas.
- The route selection would also be influenced by the location of important natural areas, such as sensitive wildlife habitat.

Are there any important cultural and natural areas along the proposed access road routes?

Camp and Project Support Facilities

Five approaches to the camp and project support facilities are being considered:

- full camp at Wuskwatim, dismantled and removed.
- full camp at Wuskwatim, not removed (possibly retained for NCN use after construction).
- full camp at Wuskwatim, dismantled, removed, and relocated (possibly for NCN use after construction).
- partial camp at 170B (retained for NCN use after construction) with project support facilities at Wuskwatim.
- partial camp at the intersection of Provincial Roads 391 and 280 near the potential NCN-TLE selection (retained for NCN use after construction) with project support facilities at Wuskwatim.

Camp and Project Support Facilities

The camp and project support facilities would include:

- **a work area for Manitoba Hydro.**
- **a work area for contractors.**
- **a construction camp.**
- **a substation to supply power for camp services.**
- **infrastructure for the camp, work areas, and construction site including:**
  - **internal roads**
  - **means to supply drinking water**
  - **sewage treatment**
  - **electricity (construction power)**

Camp and Project Support Facilities - Description of Construction Camp

- **The purpose of the construction camp is to provide accommodation for each worker that is employed in the construction of the generating station.**
- **The general features of the construction camp are:**
  - **buildings usually consist of portable ATCO type trailers (similar to the Pathfinders lab in the community).**
  - **each employee is provided with a single room consisting of a bed, table with lamp, and closet, with communal washroom/showers and laundry facilities.**
  - **all meals are supplied from a central dining room/kitchen facility for everyone.**
  - **there are also recreation areas, training rooms, a beverage room, first aid facilities, and chapel buildings for use by all camp residents.**
  - **complete sewer and water systems.**
  - **separate accommodation buildings for female workers.**
  - **the camp is not designed to accommodate families.**
  - **the camp has 24 hour security and fire alarm monitoring systems.**
  - **there is no provision for a Townsite.**

Camp and Project Support Facilities - Description of Construction Camp (continued)

Camp Population:

- **the camp is designed to accommodate a maximum of 600 workers.**
- **the average camp population is expected to be 225 workers.**

Work Schedule:

- **the work is seasonal, mainly in the summer.**
- **shifts are typically 6 days long, at 10 hrs per day, with lunch and 2 coffee breaks.**
- **generally Sunday is a day of rest.**

Schedule for building and operation of the construction camp, if the Project goes ahead:

- **the camp accommodation typically lasts the duration of the construction project.**
- **clearing for the camp may start in spring 2003.**
- **the camp would be in operation in spring 2004.**
- **the camp would no longer be required for Project use by summer 2009.**
- **temporary accommodation for workers during erection of the camp and support facilities would be provided by Camp Erection Contractors.**

Camp and Project Support Facilities - Description of Project Support Facilities

- **The purpose of the project support facilities is to provide buildings and services required for:**
  - **project site engineering.**
  - **administration to manage the construction of the generating station.**
- **These facilities need to be located at the construction site, no matter where the camp is located.**

Camp and Project Support Facilities - Description of Project Support Facilities (continued)

- The project support facilities include:
  - Manitoba Hydro project offices.
  - Manitoba Hydro maintenance garage and camp maintenance facilities.
  - Materials Laboratory Testing Facilities.
  - Allied Hydro Council - Hydro Project Management Association office building.
  - stores materials buildings and storage areas.
  - Construction Power Substation.
  - sewer and water systems.
- Note that the General Contractor's work area also must be located at the construction site. It would include a concrete batch plant, rock processing plant, maintenance and equipment storage areas, offices, etc. (details not shown on map).
- Schedule for construction and operation of the Project Support Facilities, if the Project is approved:
  - clearing for support facilities may begin in spring 2003.
  - support facilities would be operational in spring 2004.
  - support facilities would be dismantled in summer 2009.
  - stores buildings and area would permanently remain as part of the Generating Station.

Camp and Project Support Facilities - Detailed Description

Full Camp at Wuskwatim, Dismantled and Removed:

- Manitoba Hydro traditional approach of erecting camp and work areas/project support facilities at construction site.
- camp would be dismantled and removed when construction completed.
- stores area (including buildings) would be left in place for Manitoba Hydro operations.
- area would be reclaimed to promote natural re-vegetation, where appropriate.

Camp and Project Support Facilities - Detailed Description

Full Camp at Wuskwatim, Not Removed:

- Manitoba Hydro traditional approach of erecting camp and work areas/project support facilities at construction site.
- camp would be left in place when construction completed (for potential NCN use).
- stores area (including buildings) would be left in place for Manitoba Hydro operations.
- area would be reclaimed to promote natural re-vegetation, where appropriate.

Camp and Project Support Facilities - Detailed Description

Full Camp at Wuskwatim, Dismantled and Relocated:

- Manitoba Hydro traditional approach of erecting camp and work areas/project support facilities at construction site.
- camp building, maintenance building, offices, testing laboratory and Hydro Project Management Association office would be dismantled and relocated (possibly for use by NCN when construction completed).
- stores area (including buildings) would be left in place for Manitoba Hydro operations.
- area would be reclaimed to promote natural re-vegetation, where appropriate.

Camp and Project Support Facilities - Detailed Description

Partial Camp at 170 B with Project Support Facilities at Wuskwatim:

- erect camp (including maintenance building) at Nelson House South 170 B.
- erect office buildings and stores buildings at Wuskwatim Project site.
- sewer and water systems would be required at both locations.
- facilities such as lunch rooms, washrooms, laundromat, first aid, and fire protection would be provided at both locations
- at the end of construction period, the intact camp would be left at Nelson House South 170B.
- all temporary facilities at the project site would be removed, except for the stores area (including buildings) for Manitoba Hydro operations.
- area would be reclaimed to promote natural re-vegetation, where appropriate.

Camp and Project support Facilities - Detailed Description

Partial Camp at Intersection of Provincial Roads 391 and 280 with Project Support Facilities at Wuskwatim:

- erect camp (including maintenance building) at intersection of Provincial Roads 391 and 280 (NCN TLE).
- erect office buildings and stores buildings at Wuskwatim Project site.
- sewer and water systems would be required at both locations.
- facilities such as lunch rooms, washrooms, laundromat, first aid, and fire protection would be provided at both locations
- at the end of construction period, the intact camp would be left at the intersection of Provincial Roads 391 and 280.
- all temporary facilities at the project site would be removed, except for the stores area (including buildings) for Manitoba Hydro operations.
- area would be reclaimed to promote natural re-vegetation, where appropriate.

Effects on NCN and Nelson House – Camp Alternatives

Some issues that have been brought up so far about possible effects on Nelson House are:

- interaction between non-NCN construction workers and the community.
- traffic volume and safety.
- the number of people that might move back to Nelson House.
- jobs and business opportunities for NCN members.
- after-project use.

Please tell us your views about the pros and cons of each of the camp options, especially regarding effects on NCN.

Effects on Resource Use by NCN - Camp Alternatives

Some of the resource use issues that have been brought up so far are possible effects on:

- domestic and commercial fishing.
- domestic and commercial trapping.
- hunting.
- other resources such as medicinal plants, berries, etc.

In thinking about resource use, what are the pros and cons of each of the camp options?

Location of Important Areas - Camp Alternatives

- The evaluation of the different camp alternatives will look at the possible effects on the environment and important sites.

Are there any important cultural and natural areas that may be affected by the proposed camp alternatives?

Alternative Routes/Sites - Where to Now?

- The Committee looking at the alternatives will use information obtained at this Open House, as well as other sources including:
  - discussions with the NCN Future Development Team and other NCN members.
  - technical analysis by engineers.
  - other studies that are being done now.
- The Committee will evaluate the effects of each of the alternatives on:
  - NCN.
  - the Environment.
  - the Project.
- The Committee will present the results to:
  - the NCN Future Development Team and Manitoba Hydro.
  - NCN members at an Open House.

The alternative that is finally selected will depend on discussions between NCN and Manitoba Hydro, and will be part of any future Project Development Agreement to be approved by the NCN membership.

ATTACHMENT 7

OPEN HOUSE ON THE AGREEMENT-IN-PRINCIPLE

February 27 and 28, 2001: Nelson House
March 13, 2001: Thompson
March 22, 2001: Winnipeg
April 10, 2001: Winnipeg
April 12, 2001: Brandon
April 17, 2001: Thompson
April 24, 2001: South Indian Lake
April 30, 2001: Winnipeg
May 1, 2001: Nelson House
May 2, 2001: Thompson
May 8 and 9, 2001: Nelson House

WELCOME

Public Open House

Potential Future Development at Wuskwatim and Notigi



This Open House Describes the Agreement in Principle (AIP)

NCN and Manitoba Hydro have prepared an AIP that will, if ratified by NCN members, provide a framework for discussions about proposed Future Developments at Wuskwatim (Taskinigup Falls) and Notigi.

No Final decisions have been made by NCN or Manitoba Hydro about proceeding with either proposed future development.

NCN Members will vote on the AIP on March 15 and 22, 2001:

- ***Polls will be held in Nelson House, Thompson, South Indian Lake, Winnipeg, and Brandon.***
- ***There will be a traveling poll in Nelson House for elders and the disabled.***

What is Happening?

The Proposed Future Developments

NCN and Manitoba Hydro are discussing the development of generating stations at Notigi and Wuskwatim (Taskinigup Falls):

- **The Manitoba Hydro Board of Directors made a policy decision to provide NCN with the opportunity to be a limited partner in these two projects.**
- **NCN is considering whether to be a partner with Hydro in the new developments.**
- **At this time, both Parties are doing environmental studies, financial assessments, and other analyses to help to decide whether to proceed with the proposed Projects.**
- **Depending on the results of these analyses, a decision may be made:**
  - **not to proceed with any new generating stations.**
  - **to build a generating station at Notigi.**
  - **to build a generating station at Wuskwatim.**
  - **to build enerating stations at both Notigi and Wuskwatim.**

Neither NCN nor Hydro have decided whether to build the generating stations. It is possible that no new generating stations will be built within the Resource Management Area once all the studies have been completed.

1996 Implementation Agreement

In 1996, the NFA Implementation Agreement was signed by NCN, Manitoba Hydro, Canada, and Manitoba to implement and resolve most outstanding claims and obligations under the NFA.

- **Article 8 of the 1996 Implementation Agreement establishes a joint planning process for NCN and Hydro to review potential Future Developments within NCN's Resource Management Area. This process is the basis of discussions that are happening now between NCN and Hydro.**

- **Some of the activities required by Article 8 are to:**

  - **undertake studies to understand potential impacts.**
  - **develop plans to avoid or reduce negative effects.**
  - **identify how NCN can benefit from training, jobs, and business opportunities associated with Future Development.**

Manitoba Hydro is committed to working with NCN on any future hydro development in the NCN Resource Management Area.

Agreement-in-Principle

NCN and Manitoba Hydro are discussing the issues that need to be considered to decide whether Future Development should proceed. These discussions have led to an Agreement-in-Principle (AIP):

- **The AIP sets out the fundamental principles and understandings between NCN and Manitoba Hydro.**
- **The AIP, if approved by NCN and Hydro, will be signed by both parties, but it is not the *final* document - it is a *framework for future discussions*.**
- **When an AIP is signed, the parties hope that they will eventually sign a final agreement about the issues that they are discussing. This final agreement is called the Project Development Agreement or the PDA.**
- **The AIP is a useful tool for many reasons:**
  - **it sets out the joint approach between NCN and Hydro for planning the future developments.**
  - **it spells out what the parties want to discuss, and helps to organize and focus the discussions.**
  - **it sets out some of the responsibilities of the parties during the discussions.**
  - **it allows both parties to deal with new issues that may arise.**
  - **it gives the people a say about whether Chief and Council should proceed to negotiate PDA.**

The AIP that NCN and Manitoba Hydro are discussing addresses the proposed Future Developments at Wuskwatim and Notigi. These discussions are not intended to change the CRD or the 1996 Implementation Agreement.

Stages in the AIP Process

A series of Open Houses are being held to present the AIP to Members. The steps in the development of the AIP were:

- **The NCN Future Development Team developed a draft AIP and held preliminary discussions with Hydro in 2000, following the development of a detailed issues paper by the NCN Future Development Team, NCN Technical Advisors, and community consultants.**
- **Further discussions with the community and Hydro, together with the results of the Opinion Survey, were used to complete the draft AIP.**
- **NCN and Hydro worked together to revise the draft AIP.**
- **The draft AIP is now being presented to the community for discussion and comment.**
- **A final AIP will be voted on by Members.**
- **Chief and Council and Manitoba Hydro will sign the final AIP, if it is supported by both parties.**

A vote on the AIP is planned for March, 2001.

What is in the Draft AIP?

The rest of this Open House will give you information about what is in the AIP. The topics in the AIP are topics which NCN and Hydro think they will have to talk about before either the Notigi or Wuskwatim Projects are built.

The AIP includes the following Articles:

- **Purpose of the AIP**
- **Fundamental Principles and NCN Costs**
- **Wuskwatim Project Description**
- **Notigi Project Description**
- **Training, Employment, and Business Opportunities**
  - **Hydro Operations**
  - **Wuskwatim/Notigi Projects Construction**
  - **Business Opportunities**
  - **General Provisions**
- **Atoskiwin Training and Employment Centre (A-TEC)**
- **Development Arrangement**
- **Adverse Effects**
- **Land, Resource, and Navigation Issues**

What is in the Draft AIP? (continued)

- **Regulatory Matters**
- **Conflict of Interest**
- **AIP Approval and Implementation**
- **Public Information and Confidentiality**
- **Treaty and Aboriginal Rights**

Purpose of the AIP

The purpose of this AIP is to guide NCN and Hydro in a planning process. The AIP is not legally binding on NCN or Hydro. If the AIP is approved, the planning process may lead to various, binding agreements relating to the Wuskwatim and Notigi Projects.

- **Since signing the 1996 Agreement, NCN and Hydro have tried to establish a new relationship, based on mutual trust and respect.**
- **NCN and Hydro will look for ways to develop Wuskwatim and Notigi and, at the same, time, balance economic, environmental and social goals.**
- **Through an opinion survey, NCN Members have identified several important issues.**
  - **Over 90% of Members felt it was very important to train and create jobs and business opportunities for local residents; and to protect health, safety, culture, heritage sites, animals, plants, and natural beauty.**
  - **Over 80% of members felt it was very important to minimize flooding; to protect fish and furbearing animals; to address navigation and safety; to compensate for damages; to involve the community in decision-making; and to monitor effects.**
  - **Over 70% felt it was very important for NCN to own part of the Projects, and to improve access to the NCN Resource Management Area (RMA) for NCN Members.**
  - **Over 50% felt it was very important to restrict access of non-Members to the RMA.**

Purpose of the AIP (continued)

- **NCN and Hydro will discuss all of these issues. They will make a reasonable attempt to address these issues in a Project Development Agreement (PDA) or in other ways.**
- **NCN and Hydro also realize that new issues, not mentioned in the AIP, may arise. These new issues may be added to the discussions.**

Photo collage of Opinion Survey team.

Fundamental Principles and NCN Costs

The AIP lists several fundamental principles that NCN and Hydro have agreed upon. NCN costs are also discussed.

- **Neither NCN nor Hydro have decided to build the projects:**
  - The fact that NCN has met with Hydro and discussed the way the AIP is worded, does not mean that NCN has approved Wuskwatim and Notigi.
  - The fact that Hydro has had meetings and discussions does not mean that Hydro has decided to build these two projects.
  - If it turns out that the projects would not be economically viable, they won't be built. The economics of the project would depend on things such as:
    - Market conditions, e.g., The price of electricity.
    - The cost of building and operating the project. This will vary depending on the project that is built, e.g., The access road and transmission lines routes that are selected.
- NCN will continue to consult with its Members:
  - The 1996 Implementation Agreement requires consultation with NCN Members.
  - The Supreme Court of Canada in decisions like Sparrow and Marshall requires consultation with aboriginal people where proposed activities might affect their treaty and aboriginal rights and interests.
- NCN and Hydro will respect the NFA, the 1996 Agreement, and all other agreements between them.
- The *Manitoba Hydro Act (*a provincial law) prohibits Hydro from selling a major hydro facility. NCN and Hydro will structure their various arrangements so as to comply with this law.

Fundamental Principles and NCN Costs (continued)

- Most of the work related to Wuskwatim and Notigi will be openly tendered (anyone can bid on it):
  - NCN and Hydro will agree on some exceptions to this general rule. Some exceptions might be:
    - restricted tendering (limits on who could bid).
    - negotiated contracts (e.g., Hydro may negotiate certain contracts with NCN).
    - scoping arrangements (breaking down a large contract into smaller contracts).
  - One of the reasons for these exceptions would be to give NCN more job and business opportunities.
- Hydro will keep a majority interest in the Wuskwatim and Notigi, if they proceed.
- As a provincial Crown corporation, Hydro doesn't pay income tax. The business arrangements between NCN and Hydro will be structured so as to maintain this tax-exempt status.
- Under the *Indian Act*, income earned by "an Indian or band" on a Reserve is generally exempt from income tax, but income from an association or a corporation may not be. NCN will try to minimize tax liability of NCN and its Members, as well as businesses owned by NCN Members.
- Protection of the environment will be balanced with all opportunities that may arise (for example, job and business opportunities for NCN Members).
- Hydro will contribute to "NCN Costs":
  - under the 1996 Agreement, Hydro approves the funding for the annual Work Plan and Budget submitted by NCN.
  - NCN costs include the costs of travel, meetings, negotiations, consultations with the community, and advisors.

What are the Proposed Projects?

The Proposed Wuskwatim Project

The AIP contains a detailed description of the Wuskwatim Project, so that both NCN and Hydro have a clear understanding of the development that is being discussed.

Area Map

Map of structures in and around the site.

Wuskwatim Generating Station

- The Wuskwatim G.S. would be constructed at Taskinigup Falls. It would produce about 200 MW of power (this is smaller than all the Nelson River generating stations except Jenpeg).
- A "low head" design was chosen by Hydro to minimize the effect on the environment after NCN Members made it clear that a "high head" design with significant new flooding was not acceptable to NCN.
- Less than 0.5 square kilometre of land(0.2 square miles or 125 acres) between Wuskwatim Lake and Taskinigup Falls would be flooded. Wuskwatim Falls would be flooded. Flooded areas would be cleared.
- Upstream of Wuskwatim Lake, the station would not cause any effect on water levels and flows in Threepoint and Footprint lakes. The week to week and month to month changes in water level that happen now would still occur.
- Water levels on Wuskwatim Lake would not go up and down like they have since CRD. Instead, the water level is expected to go up and down less than 1 m (3.3 ft) within the year (usually much less). The water level would remain near the upper end of the range seen in the last 20 years.
- Downstream of the station, the planned plant operation would result in water level and flow changes within the day superimposed on the week to week and month to month changes that now occur:
    - immediately downstream of the station (tailrace), water levels within the day would go up and down an average of 1.1 m (3.6 ft). The maximum change within the day would be 1.4 m (4.6 ft).
    - on Opegano Lake, the water level changes within the day would be less than at the tailrace. The average change would be around 0.1 m (4 inches), up to a maximum of 0.5 m (1.6 ft).
    - on Birch Tree Lake, there would be no noticeable effect on water levels within the day.

Wuskwatim Generating Station (continued)

- Downstream of the generating station, the week to week and month to month changes in water level that happen now would still occur.
- Ice conditions are being studied to help predict what would happen if a generating station was built. Right now, it is expected that upstream and downstream of Wuskwatim Lake, and on Wuskwatim Lake itself, areas that remain open all winter will continue to remain open, and areas that freeze over will continue to freeze over.

Map showing area between Wuskwatim Falls and Taskinigup Falls that would be flooded by the Wuskwatim Project.

“Spaghetti diagram” showing existing and potential future water level regime on Wuskwatim Lake.

Longitudinal profile showing water levels under average, low and high flows from the Notigi Control Structure to the Thompson seaplane base with the Wuskwatim Project in

Access Road and Construction Camp

Although the location of the Wuskwatim generating station is fixed, several options are being considered for:

- **the route of the access road.**
- **the location of the construction camp.**

A committee with representatives from NCN, Manitoba Hydro, and the environmental study team was formed to evaluate the options:

- **the options were presented to community members for their input at an Open House on August 2.**
- **criteria for evaluating the options were identified based on community input at the Open House, discussions with the NCN Future Development Team, technical analysis by engineers, and other studies.**
- **the results of the evaluation were presented to the NCN Future Development team and Manitoba Hydro at the end of October.**
- **community members will be up-dated on the alternatives evaluation at Open Houses following the AIP ratification process.**

The alternative that is finally selected will depend on discussions between NCN and Manitoba Hydro, and will be part of any future PDA to be approved by the NCN membership.

Transmission Facilities for the Wuskwatim Project

A generating station at Wuskwatim would need development of new transmission lines and transformer/switching stations to deliver electricity from the generating station to the people and businesses that would buy and use it:

- **A new transformer/switching station would be built near the generating station to transform the electricity to the higher voltages necessary for transmission to the existing system.**
- **New transmission lines would connect the transformer/switching station to the existing system at Thompson (a new station would be built) and at the existing Herblet Lake Station (near Snow Lake).**
- **The new transformer/switching station at Wuskwatim would be within the NCN RMA, as would portions of the new transmission lines. Other portions of the lines and their connection to the existing system would be outside the NCN area.**
- **Like the access road and construction camp, several transmission concepts are being looked at to connect the power into the existing transmission system.**
- **If both Wuskwatim and Notigi Generating Stations are developed, transmission concepts would be different from those identified for either the Notigi or Wuskwatim projects developed alone.**

Transmission Facilities for the Wuskwatim Project (continued)

- **These concepts are being evaluated in the same process being used for the access road and construction camp. Information about the evaluation will be presented to NCN members at Open Houses following the AIP.**

Following community comments and comparison of the alternative transmission concepts, selection of specific routes would be adjusted in relation to important areas such as burial sites, ceremonial sites, and sensitive environmental areas, such as key wildlife habitat.

The Proposed Notigi Project

The AIP contains a detailed description of the Notigi Project, so that both NCN and Hydro have a clear understanding of the development that is being discussed.

Area Map

Map of structures in and around the site.

Notigi Generating Station

The generating station would be built near the existing Notigi Control Structure. It would produce about 100 MW of power (somewhat less than the Jenpeg G.S.):

- **There would be no new flooding from this generating station.**
- **Upstream of the station on Notigi Lake, the week to week and month to month changes in water level that occur now as a result of CRD operations would still occur. The generating station may cause water levels upstream to go up and down a small amount (less than 2 inches) within the day.**
- **Downstream of the station, the planned plant operation would result in water level and flow changes within the day:**
    - **immediately downstream of the station (tailrace), water levels within the day would go up and down an average of 0.4 m (1.3 ft). The maximum change within the day would be 0.7 m (2.3 ft).**
    - **by Wapisu Lake, the water level changes within the day would have decreased to less than 0.2 m (0.7 ft).**
    - **the planned plant operation would not cause a noticeable effect on water levels and flows in Threepoint and Footprint lakes.**
- **Downstream of the generating station, the week to week and month to month changes in water level that occur now would continue.**
- **Ice conditions are being studied to help predict what would happen if a generating station was built. Right now, it is expected that upstream on Notigi Lake, and downstream along the Rat River and Wapisu Lake, areas that remain open all winter will continue to remain open, and areas that freeze over will continue to freeze over.**

Transmission Facilities for the Notigi Project

A generating station at Notigi would need development of new transmission lines and transformer/switching stations to deliver electricity from the generating station to the people and businesses that would buy and use it:

- **A new transformer/switching station would be built near the generating station to transform electricity to the higher voltages necessary for transmission to the existing system.**
- **Transmission lines would connect the transformer/switching station to the existing system at Thompson and at the Herblet Lake Station (near Snow Lake). There are a number of possible arrangements of transmission facilities and routes that could make this connection.**
- **The new transformer/switching station at Notigi would be within the NCN RMA, as would portions of the new transmission lines. Other portions of the lines, and their connections to the existing system, would be outside the NCN area.**
- **Like the access road and construction camp, several transmission concepts are being looked at to connect the power into the existing transmission system.**
- **If both the Wuskwatim and Notigi Generating Stations are developed, transmission concepts will be different from those identified for either Notigi or Wuskwatim.**
- **These concepts are being evaluated in the same process being used for the Wuskwatim transmission lines. Information about the evaluation will be presented to NCN members at an Open House after thee AIP ratification process.**

Following community comments and comparison of the alternative concepts, selection of specific routes would be adjusted in relation to important areas such as burial sites, ceremonial sites, and sensitive environmental areas, such as key wildlife habitat.

Training, Employment and Business Opportunities

The AIP contains a section on business, training and employment opportunities. Looking for ways to find jobs and business opportunities for NCN Members is one of NCN's highest priorities.

Hydro Operations

- **Hydro employs many people in "Hydro Operations" (running Hydro's complete system), and periodically trains and hires new employees.**
- **NCN and Hydro agree to work together to look for ways to employ NCN Members in Hydro Operations by:**
  - **consulting to see for which positions NCN Members want to be trained or already are qualified.**
  - **estimating how many permanent, temporary and seasonal jobs might come open in each coming year.**
  - **studying existing job qualification standards (for example, how much education you need before you can apply for training as a hydro lineman).**
  - **recommending changes to job standards if they are not reasonable.**
- **The 1996 Agreement gives Hydro discretion to make certain decisions about jobs and business opportunities. The AIP doesn't change this.**

Training, Employment and Business Opportunities (continued)

Wuskwatim/Notigi Projects Construction

- **Most of the training and job opportunities arising from contruction of the Wuskwatim and Notigi Projects will be with contractors and sub-contractors (in other words, neither NCN or Hydro).**
- **NCN and Hydro will look for reasonable ways for NCN and its Members to participate in construction of the Projects by:**
  - **consulting with contractors about relevant issues.**
  - **analyzing the work and schedules related to the projects.**
  - **surveying NCN Members and businesses to look at how ready Members and businesses are to take advantage of opportunities arising from Wuskwatim and Notigi.**
  - **looking at education standards for various jobs and consulting about what training might be needed to qualify Members for various jobs.**
- **Both parties recognize that the contractors will be responsible for deciding how many workers are needed, when they will be needed, and what qualifications they will need.**

Training, Employment and Business Opportunities (continued)

Collective Agreements:

- **A collective agreement is a contract between a union and an employer. Hydro now has collective agreements with several unions.**
- **NCN and Hydro will look for appropriate ways to incorporate into the existing collective agreements, and to negotiate into new agreements, clauses about preferential arrangements for NCN Members.**
- **Collective agreements can contain "no strike, no lockout" clauses for specific periods of time. NCN and Hydro intend that collective agreements related to Wuskwatim and Notigi will contain this type of clause.**
- **The Burntwood Nelson Agreement (BNA) is a collective agreement between the Hydro Projects Management Association (the employer) and the Allied Hydro Council (a group of unions):**
    - **NCN and Hydro will jointly develop proposals to revise the BNA but Hydro will have the final authority in negotiating these agreements.**
    - **If NCN wants to become part of the Hydro Projects Management Association, it may become a "limited partner". Hydro would still have majority control.**

Training, Employment and Business Opportunities (continued)

Tendering of Construction Contracts

Most of the construction contracts for Wuskwatim and Notigi will go to tender:

- **This means that the bidder who best meets the criteria established in the tender will get the contract.**
- **Tender documents tell potential bidders what the job and deadlines will be and what rules they will have to comply with. These documents will mention the arrangements under which NCN Members will be employed.**
- **Bidders in an open tender process may have to meet certain requirements:**
    - **for example, they may have to post a performance bond (an amount of money to guarantee that the bidder will do the job properly).**
    - **NCN and Hydro may discuss waiving these requirements in some cases to meet the objectives of the AIP (for example, providing more opportunities for NCN businesses).**
- **The Transmission Facilities will be both inside and outside the NCN RMA. Other parties (maybe other First Nations) may have an interest in getting jobs constructing the Transmission Facilities. NCN and Hydro will discuss how NCN and other parties can all be treated fairly.**

Training, Employment and Business Opportunities (continued)

- **Though many parts of the projects will be openly tendered (anyone can bid on them), NCN and Hydro may negotiate some exceptions to this general rule. These exceptions will be mentioned in the Project Development Agreement.**

- **Hydro will provide workshops, counseling and conflict-resolution programs to help NCN members get and keep new jobs. There will also be cross cultural workshops for other employees.**

- **If the AIP is signed, NCN will develop a course curriculum that will let NCN Members meet admission standards in community colleges or universities. Hydro will cooperate with NCN, and may provide funding under a separate agreement.**

Atosikiwin Training and Employment Centre

The AIP describes the Atosikiwin Training and Employment Centre (A-TEC), which is a company that NCN may establish to carry out training and do job referrals.

- **NCN, to help reach the goal of maximizing opportunities for Members, may establish a company called the Atosikiwin Training and Employment Centre (A-TEC), to carry out training and do job referrals for the Projects. A-TEC or other agencies may be used for educational upgrading and skills training.**

- **As new jobs related to Wuskwatim and Notigi become available, A-TEC would refer qualified NCN Members for those jobs. This includes apprentices, where appropriate.**

- **If the AIP is approved, NCN and Hydro will discuss an agreement on A-TEC including:**

    - **details about funding and how the funding will be credited to Hydro.**

    - **how the A-TEC programs will be monitored and evaluated.**

- **Just because Hydro provides some funding to A-TEC, does not mean that Hydro is committing itself to other future programs.**

Photo collage of career day

Development Agreement

The AIP contains a section about a Development Agreement. There may be one or more business arrangements between NCN and Hydro that deal with the planning, design, construction, ownership and operation of the Wuskwatim and Notigi Projects.

- **If the AIP is approved, NCN and Hydro will try to negotiate a Development Arrangement, which would follow the goals set out in the AIP.**

- **If Wuskwatim and Notigi go ahead, there will be a "Project Entity" which will build, own and operate them:**

    - **the Project Entity would likely be a limited partnership, somewhat similar to the one that owns the Mystery Lake hotel.**

    - **the Project Entity would earn income by selling electricity to Hydro under a "Power Purchase Agreement".**

    - **arrangements will be made so that the Project Entity doesn't have to pay income tax on this income. Income earned by NCN and its Members should be tax-exempt to the extent possible.**

- **NCN will have the option of acquiring an ownership interest in the Project Entity. This interest will be at least 25%. NCN and Hydro will consider increasing this amount, perhaps as high as 33%.**

- **NCN and Hydro may agree to let other parties own part of the Wuskwatim/Notigi projects.**

Development Agreement (continued)

- **Under the 1996 Agreement, Hydro maintains its discretion to make certain decisions about Future Development. The AIP does not change this, but NCN and Hydro may agree to limit some of Hydro's discretion in the future.**
- **NCN and Hydro will share risks and benefits. How the Parties will share risks and benefits will be worked out in the PDA.**
- **As majority owner of the Project Entity, Hydro will have ultimate control over building and operating the projects.**
- **If Wuskwatim and Notigi go ahead, there will have to be new transmission facilities to connect the generating stations to the rest of the electrical transmission system. NCN and Hydro will consider the feasibility of NCN and others acquiring an ownership interest in these facilities.**
- **NCN and Hydro will discuss how the projects are to be financed. Money may be borrowed.**
- **Both NCN and Hydro will want to be sure that the projects make good financial sense and may decide to jointly hire an independent consultant to look at this issue. NCN and Hydro will each make their own decisions whether or not to participate in the projects.**

Adverse Effects

The AIP contains a section on possible adverse effects from the Wuskwatim/Notigi projects. The 1996 Agreement says that Hydro will have to compensate NCN for some types of Adverse Effects that may occur as a result of Future Development.

- **Adverse effects are negative impacts of the Wuskwatim/Notigi projects on the environment and people, including the well-being of NCN Members.**
- **NCN and Hydro are using the joint planning provisions of the 1996 Implementation Agreement to identify and resolve potential adverse effects:**
    - **adverse effects are to be prevented, minimized or mitigated.**
    - **where this cannot reasonably occur, compensation will be determined through negotiations between NCN and Hydro.**
    - **NCN and Manitoba Hydro must agree on a compensation proposal before Hydro can proceed with the construction of any permanent generating station. If they cannot agree on compensation, the matter can be referred to an arbitrator.**
    - **Hydro has stated that NCN support is important for the projects to proceed.**

Adverse Effects (continued)

- **NCN and Hydro have agreed to review socio-cultural issues that are of fundamental importance to NCN and to try to address these issues. These include:**
    - **identification and protection of specific sites (including grave sites),**
    - **possible social impacts of the project(s) on language and heritage, and**
    - **the importance of archeological, anthropological and cultural issues to the environmental assessment.**
- **There would be no new flooding as a result of the Notigi Project and flooding from the Wuskwatim Project would be less than 0.5 square kilometres (less than 0.2 square miles) between Taskinigup Falls and Wuskwatim Falls.**

Land, Resources, and Navigation

This section includes various topics about the land and water near Nelson House that will have to be discussed by NCN and Hydro. Some of these topics are related to the rights and duties of NCN and Hydro set out in the 1996 Agreement and the 1998 TLE Agreement.

Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE):

- Under the TLE Agreement, NCN will select new lands to be made Reserve land.
- Some of the TLE land selections are within close proximity to the Wuskwatim/Notigi projects.
- NCN has already given Hydro information about some of its TLE selections. Hydro has responded to NCN's selections under the TLE agreement. Further discussions are necessary and NCN and Hydro agree to meet within 30 days of the signing of the AIP to discuss these selections further.

Easements:

- An easement is a legal right to use land belonging to someone else for a specific purpose. The 1996 Implementation Agreement included an Easement Agreement, which gave Hydro the right to use certain NCN lands for storing water.
- If the Wuskwatim and/or Notigi Projects are built, Hydro and NCN will consider whether a new Easement Agreement, or an addition to the old Easement Agreement, might be needed.

Borrow sites:

- Burrow sites are deposits of material like gravel needed to construct dams, roads and other parts of the project.
- Some of NCN's TLE land selections are potential borrow sites near Wuskwatim. If NCN and Hydro sign a PDA, the PDA would outline conditions for using material from those borrow sites.

Land, Resources, and Navigation (continued)

Cumulative Effects:

- The combined effect of many human activities may have a negative effect on the environment, even though the effect of each activity alone may not be very large. This is called cumulative effects.
- Hydro development is not the only type of economic activity which may affect NCN in the future. There may also be mining, forestry, tourism and other activity near Nelson House.
- These activities may have a cumulative effect on land, water, fish, animals, and other resources. NCN and Hydro will consider these cumulative effects as part of their ongoing discussions and studies.

Sustainable Development:

- The Resource Management Board was created under Article 6 of the 1996 Agreement.
- The Board includes representatives of NCN and Manitoba.
- One purpose of this board is to develop Land Use Plans and Resource Management Plans for the NCN Resource Management Area.
- The AIP recognizes that NCN may consider referring issues related to the Wuskwatim/Notigi projects to the Resource Management Board for the development of recommendations.

Land, Resources, and Navigation (continued)

Navigation:

- The CRD caused concerns about navigation **safety** due to the condition of shoreline, debris, and other issues. In the 1996 Implementation Agreement, **Hydro agreed to pay** for ongoing safety measures.
- Under the AIP, NCN and Hydro agree to continue annual shoreline programs etc. They will **review the existing safety measures** and consider potential changes.
- The parties will look how the Future Developments may affect debris, ice conditions and other issues related to navigation, so that ways can be found to **avoid or minimize** any negative impacts..

Regulatory Matters

Before the proposed projects at Notigi and Wuskwatim could be built, agencies in the governments of Manitoba and Canada that protect the environment must issue environmental approvals for the projects. If NCN and Hydro become partners on the proposed projects, then they would make a joint application for these environmental approvals.

An important part of the process to obtain an Environmental Approval is the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):

- **An EIA is an assessment or series of studies conducted before a project is built in order to identify the expected effects of the project on land, water, and animals, as well as the community and people.**

- **NCN and Manitoba Hydro have jointly selected an environmental study team to assist them in identifying and undertaking the necessary studies, and preparing documentation for the regulatory process, including the EIA.**

- **NCN will be responsible for developing consultation processes for members to learn about and provide feedback on the proposed Future Development projects.**

- **NCN and Hydro will jointly participate in developing a plan for consultation with all interested persons and groups during the development of the EIA.**

- **Hydro has various licences and permits to operate the different parts of its power system. The parties will review and assess relevant licences and permits.**

Photo collage of NCN members doing environmental work (2 boards)

Conflict of Interest

The AIP contains a section on conflict of interest. If the projects are to be built, there will have to be some rules on how contracts are awarded to build different parts of the projects. NCN and NCN Members may want some of these contracts. Therefore, NCN and Hydro will discuss ways to handle any conflicts of interest that might come up.

If Notigi and/or Wuskwatim are built, some parts of the projects will go to tender:

- **This means that different businesses can bid on them, and the contract will go to the best bid.**
- **NCN and/or NCN members would likely bid on some contracts. Some of these bids may be joint ventures.**
- **If NCN and/or NCN members do bid on contracts, measures will be considered to address conflicts of interest.**

A conflict of interest is a situation in which *someone wears more than one hat:*

- **If a person uses his or her power or authority in a way that would make money for them personally from a particular contract, that person may be in a conflict of interest.**
- **However, if the person is just one of a large group of people who will make money from a particular contract, there may be no conflict of interest.**
- **Determining whether a person is likely to be in a conflict of interest depends on all the facts at the time.**

AIP Approval and Implementation

The AIP contains a section on AIP Approval and Implementation describing how to make the AIP itself final. The section also discusses procedures for making final any agreements NCN and Hydro may reach in the future.

Advance Information and Open Houses

- **Information about the proposed AIP will be given to NCN members in Future Development Newsletters and through other media.**
- **To provide information, the following AIP open houses will be held at Nelson House, South Indian, Winnipeg, and Brandon.**

Vote

- **The vote will follow the procedures in NCN's election code.**
- **All adult NCN members can vote on the proposed AIP by secret ballot.**
- **An advance poll will be held on March 15, 2001, at Nelson House, South Indian Lake, Thompson, Winnipeg, and Brandon.**
- **A vote at Nelson House, South Indian Lake, Thompson, Winnipeg, and Brandon will be held on March 22, 2001.**
- **A traveling poll for elders and the disabled will be held in Nelson House.**

AIP Approval and Implementation (continued)

Majority

- **If a majority of NCN members who vote approve the AIP, Chief and Council will sign the AIP.**

If and when decisions are made to actually build Notigi and/or Wuskwatim, and if and when NCN and Hydro agree on a Project Development Agreement (PDA), NCN Members will be asked to vote again, this time on the PDA, which will be a legally binding agreement.

Public Information and Confidentiality

This section deals with confidentiality. Hydro and NCN will share some confidential information, but they must decide how to handle this information.

- **As Hydro and NCN discuss the proposed projects, NCN and Hydro will share some confidential information. They will agree to keep this information confidential, and not share it with anyone else, unless they agree between them to do so.**

- **The Parties will seek ways to provide all relevant information to NCN Members in a manner that does not jeopardize its confidential nature.**

Treaty and Aboriginal Rights

The AIP has a section on Treaty and Aboriginal Rights that specifically says that nothing in the AIP is intended to alter these rights.

- **The AIP states that nothing in the AIP or other agreements contemplated in the AIP (such as a future Project Development Agreement, or Power Purchase Agreement) is intended to:**
    - **alter Treaty and Aboriginal Rights.**
    - **relieve Canada, Manitoba or Hydro of any continuing obligations each one has under the NFA, the 1996 Agreement, or the TLE Agreement.**
    - **authorize the taking or using of Reserve Lands without the consent of NCN.**
- **In a statement to the Legislative Assembly by the Honourable Eric Robinson, the Province of Manitoba recognized the Northern Flood Agreement (NFA) as a modern day treaty.**
- **The Government of Manitoba acknowledges that the 1996 NFA Implementation Agreement is one method of addressing and implementing the NFA.**

What Happens Next?

Next steps....

- **A vote on the AIP is planned for March.**
- **Information about the options for the access road, transmission concepts, and construction camp will be presented to members at upcoming Open Houses after the AIP vote.**
- **Preliminary results of the environmental studies will be presented to members at upcoming Open Houses after the AIP vote.**
- **If the AIP is approved by the majority of votes cast, then Chief and Council will sign the AIP.**
- **Manitoba Hydro's Board and the Minister responsible for Hydro will also consider and approve the AIP before it is signed.**
- **NCN and Manitoba Hydro will sign the AIP if it is approved.**
- **NCN and Manitoba Hydro would continue their discussions about issues outlined in the AIP and the selection of the alternatives for the campsite, road and transmission lines.**
- **Decisions would be made as to whether to maintain the proposed Notigi and Wuskwatim projects in the list of projects under consideration for future development.**
- **Once such decisions are made, the formal regulatory process would also start. If NCN is an equity participant, then a separate Project Entity will be established to plan and develop the projects. This Project Entity would become the proponent.**

For more information....

- **See the brochure titled "Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation *A Vision for the Future*".**
- **Watch for articles in upcoming newsletters.**
- **Talk to your Community Consultants or other Members of the Future Development Team.**

What are Your Questions and Concerns About the AIP?

- We would like to know what questions and concerns you have about the AIP and Future Development.
- Please fill out a questionnaire and leave it with us today, if possible.
- If you have further questions or concerns after today, please talk to the Community Consultants or other NCN members working on Future Development.



Thank you for your input.

ATTACHMENT 8

THE WUSKWATIM ACCESS ROAD

Report to NCN Members on the Comparison of Alternative Routes

December 3, 2001



WELCOME

Nisichawayasihk

Cree Nation

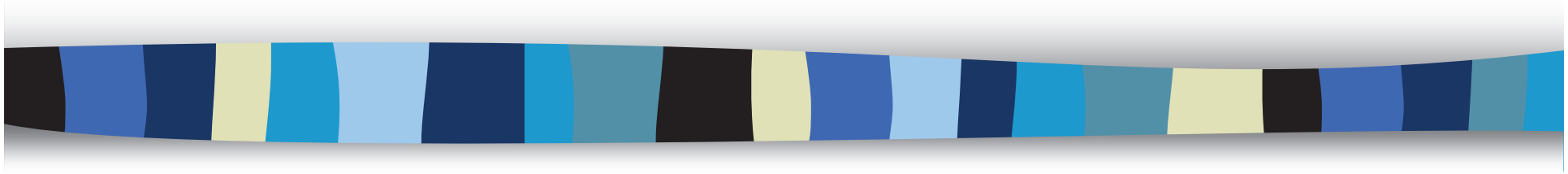
Introduction

- NCN has been working with Manitoba Hydro on a partnership to build and operate a generating station at Taskinigup Falls.
- Evolved from the 1996 Comprehensive Implementation Agreement.
- Agreement in Principle signed September 25, 2001.

1996 Comprehensive Implementation Agreement

- Provides for NCN to look closely at possible future hydro development within the RMA.
- Part of planning for the possible Wuskwatim project is looking at where to locate certain project infrastructure.
- NCN and Manitoba Hydro have been looking at possible locations for the access road for the Wuskwatim project.

The Wuskwatim Access Road: Comparing Alternative Routes



This meeting presents what has been learned about access road alternatives

December 3rd, 2001

In this Presentation

- Why are we making this presentation to you today?
- Why is an access road needed?
- What work was done to compare alternative routes?
- What has been learned?
- What's next?

Why are We Talking to You Today?

- Many activities are continuing towards establishing a formal partnership.
- Trying to protect the 2009 ISD for the Wuskwatim Generating Station.
- Selection of road access is a critical milestone in the proposed hydroelectric project.

Why is an Access Road Needed?

- To build the generating station, need an access road to transport materials, equipment, and people between PR391 and the Taskinigup Falls area.
- Also needed to haul large amounts of sand from a deposit about 30 km northeast of the site.
- Once in operation, needed to allow workers to check on station, do routine maintenance and replace equipment from time to time.

Why were Alternatives Considered?

- **Where alternative ways of doing things are possible;**

  NCN and Manitoba Hydro want to choose the option that best meets both of their goals.

What Work was Done to Compare Alternative Routes?





Consulting with community members

Alternative Routes Considered

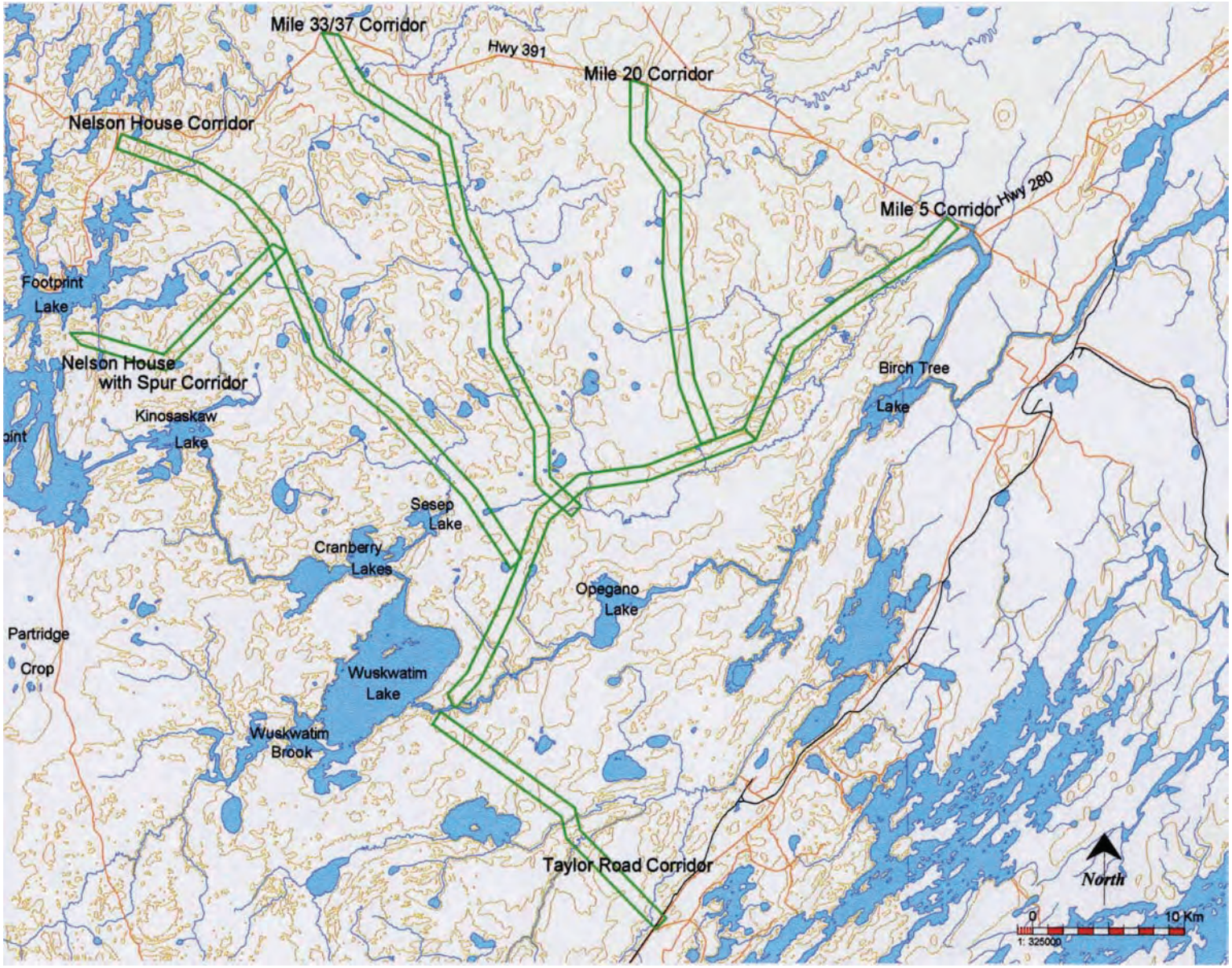
- **Since May 2000, NCN and Manitoba Hydro have together looked at a range of alternatives.**

- **Some routes were suggested by NCN and others suggested by Manitoba Hydro.**

List of Alternative Routes Considered

- Taylor River
- Mile 5
- Mile 20
- Nelson House Road
  (3 alternatives)
- Mile 37
- Mile 33

Location of Alternative Corridors



Who was Involved in Looking at Alternative Corridors & Routes?

- An *Alternatives Working Group* was established and supported by:
  - NCN technical advisors,
  - NCN engineering advisors,
  - Manitoba Hydro engineering & environmental staff, and
  - Environmental specialists and socio-economic specialists, under direction of North/South Consultants.

How were Routes Compared?

- **Alternatives Working Group thought about 3 main types of impacts:**
  - **Impact on NCN**
    - **what benefits & drawbacks would there be for NCN?**
  - **Impact on the environment**
    - **how would the environment be affected?**
  - **Impact on the project**
    - **for potential partners (NCN & Manitoba Hydro), how do routes compare in terms of cost and schedule?**

Consultation with NCN Members

- Results of initial work presented to NCN members on August 2nd, 2000.
- Results of more recent work presented to members on August 1st, 2001.

Focusing on Mile 5 to 20 Area

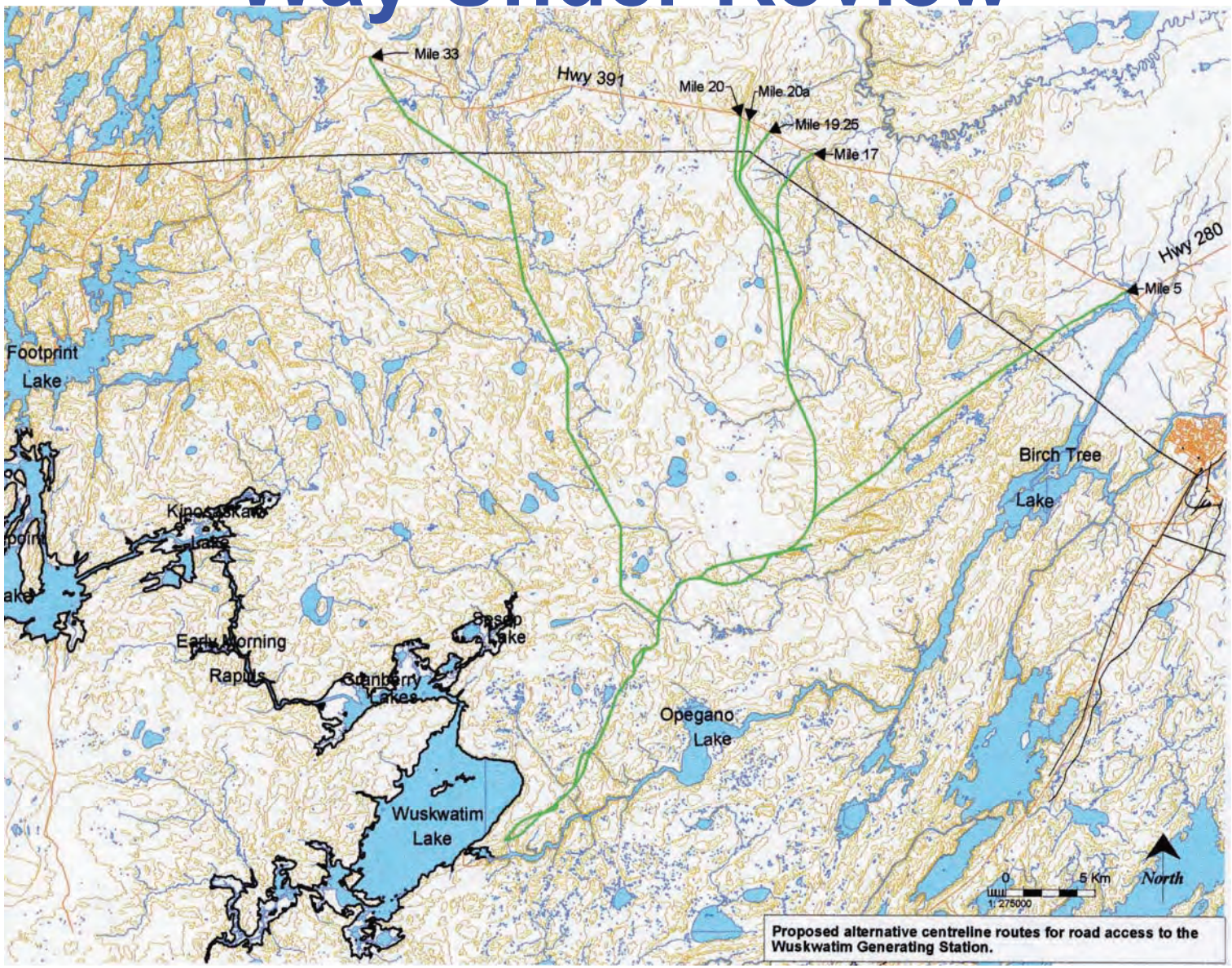
- **Initial results showed that all routes other than Mile 5 and Mile 20 would not provide significantly more benefits to NCN and were so costly as to make the project unviable.**

- **Chief and Council felt that it was appropriate to focus in on the Mile 5 to Mile 20 area and to give further consideration to Mile 33.**

Detailed Study of Mile 5 to 20 Area

- Five detailed alternatives for road centreline right-of-way were identified by terrain specialist
  - based on environmental and cultural constraints.
- Biologists looked in detail at all options.

Location of Centreline Rights-of-Way Under Review



Detailed Study of Mile 5 to 20 Area (continued)

- TEK interviews by Elder Community Consultants.
- Alternatives Working Group met November 6th, 7th, 15th to:
  - hear presentations by various specialists,
  - review information,
  - develop comparison tables,
  - fly routes via helicopter, and
  - come to conclusions.

Helicopter Surveys of Routes were Conducted on November 7th



What has been Learned?





Terrain Types Along Two of the Alternative Routes

Impact on NCN: What was considered

- 8 criteria used to compare routes.
- Impacts on cultural sites (Eagle Hill) and nearby artesian water source most important.
- Other considerations:
  - Benefits of access for NCN.
  - Concerns about access by others.
  - Safety.
  - Impacts on hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering.

Impact on NCN: What was Considered (continued)

IMPACT ON NCN
COMPARISON OF ACCESS ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY ALTERNATIVES
December 3, 2001

Evaluation Criteria	Explanation	Mile 5	Mile 17	Mile 19.25	Mile 20a (Env.)	Mile 20 (Eng.)	Mile 33
Important cultural sites: Eagle Hill, water sources, any others	• Not known cultural sites along Mile 5 and 33 • Mile 17 is unknown on Mile 5; some on water source north • Mile 19.25 is unsure area						
Access by non-members	• Access an issue with all options • Probably greater tendency by non-members to use Mile 5 • Mile 33 requires two roads into RMA	5	3	3	3	3	5
Benefits of access for NCN members	• Least benefit shown by larger # • More convenient access via Mile 33	4	2	2	2	2	0
Safety (construction traffic and quality of intersection)	• Mile 5 – shortest distance that construction traffic on PR 391 is mixed with public traffic • Mile 33, Mile 20, Mile 20a, Mile 19.25, and Mile 17 – construction traffic on PR 391 for greater distance than Mile 5 • Mile 20 and 20a – poor intersections	1	2	2	4	4	5
Impact on Resource Use:							
• Hunting	• Access by non-members into productive moose area	5	2	2	2	2	3
• Fishing	• More water features on Mile 33 and Mile 5; greater access by non-members • All options get non-members to Wuskwatim Lake	4	1	1	1	1	3
• Trapping	• Mile 5 more productive area; greater access by non-members	5	2	2	2	2	3

• Gathering
  ○ Berries
  ○ Medicinal plants
	• Berry picking area identified at Mile 20/20a on land use maps
	• Probably greater productivity for medicinal plants along Mile 5and Mile 33; greater access by non-members along Mile 5
		2
		5
			2
			2
				2
				2
					5
					2
						5
						2
							?
							3

Notes:
Sources: NCN Land Use Maps, TEK interviews, knowledge of Committee members
Smaller # = least adverse effect on NCN or most benefit for NCN
Shading = criteria considered by Committee to be most important

Impact on NCN: Why Mile 17 was Best

- Far enough away from Eagle Hill and water source.
- Closer access for members than Mile 5 (but not as close as Mile 33).
- Safer intersection than Mile 20 and 20a (but less safe than Mile 19.25).

Impact on NCN: Why Mile 17 was Best (continued)

- **Likely less adverse impacts on hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering of medicinal plants than Mile 5 or Mile 33:**
  - **Mile 17 has less abundant resources than Mile 5 & Mile 33.**
  - **Mile 17 has less tendency for non-members from Thompson and elsewhere to access the area than Mile 5.**

The Accessibility Issue

- **Road accessibility has both benefits and drawbacks:**
  - **On one hand, it provides a way for NCN members to reach the Wuskwatim area in the RMA.**
  - **On other hand, it allows others to reach those same areas.**
- **Road accessibility can be managed during construction – less so after Project completion.**

Initial Options Being Examined

- **Private Road:**
  - Access restriction possible (gate, manned checkpoint or permit).
  - Other measures as for public road.
- **Public Road:**
  - Patrols by Province.
  - Patrols by NCN.
  - Restricted zone parallel to road.
  - Resource planning by NCN/Province and others for area accessed.
  - Education of public (e.g., respect for sacred sites).
  - Opposite – limit knowledge of area.

What this Means for Route Selection

- **No matter which option is chosen, access control will be a key issue and needs to be pursued.**
- **Concern for access by non-members is greater with Mile 5.**

Impact on Environment: What was Considered

- 9 criteria to compare routes.
- Woodland caribou and moose most important.
- Other considerations:
  - Aquatic and terrestrial furbearers.
  - Jack pine ecosystem.
  - Forest birds, waterfowl, fish, and water quality.
  - Possible effects on the BOREAS research site.

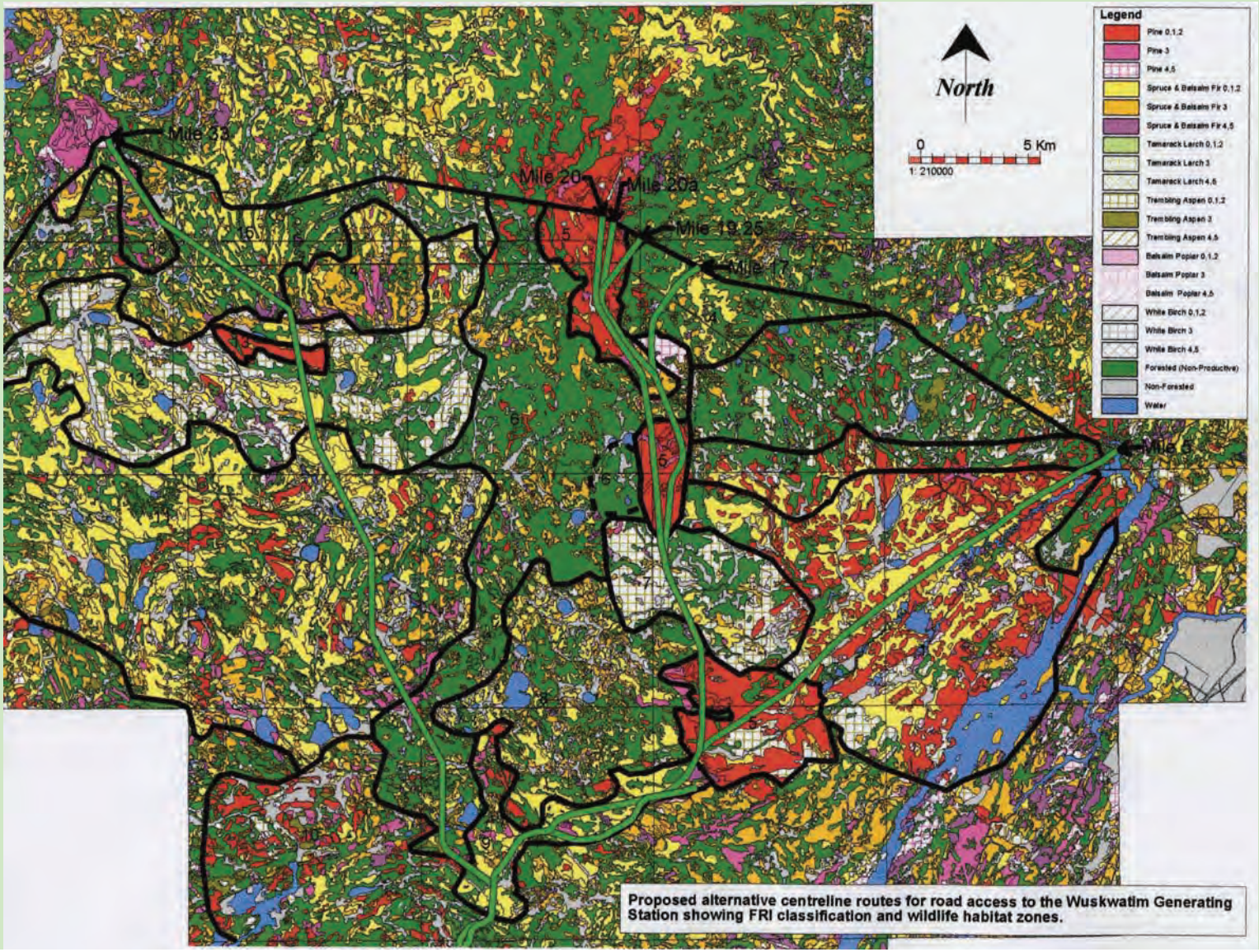
Impact on Environment: What was Considered (continued)

IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENT
COMPARISON OF ACCESS ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY ALTERNATIVES
December 3, 2001

Evaluation Criteria	Explanation	Mile 5	Mile 17	Mile 19.25	Mile 20a (Env.)	Mile 20 (Eng.)	Mile 33
Woodland caribou	• protected by legislation • of particular interest to IUCN • important part of natural ecosystem	1	2	2	2	4	2
Moose	• valued resource • important part of natural ecosystem	3	2	1	1	1	4
Aquatic furbearer	• valued resource • important part of natural ecosystem	4	1	1	1	1	3
Jack pine-on-dry-sites ecosystem	• an enduring landscape feature • regionally uncommon ecosystem type	1	2	3	3	4	1
Terrestrial furbearers	• valued resource • important part of natural ecosystem	3	1	1	2	2	3
Waterfowl	• valued resource • important part of natural ecosystem	3	1	1	1	1	2
Forest birds	• indicator of terrestrial habitat quality • important part of natural ecosystem	3	2	1	1	1	2
Fish/water quality	• valued resource • important regulatory consideration • important part of natural ecosystem	2	1	1	1	1	2
BOREAS Site	• important research site	0	0	0	1	3	3?

Notes: 1. Shaded areas represent the more important criteria for selection purposes.
2. Scorings indicate potential for adverse effect. A low number indicates least potential for adverse effect.

FRI Map showing Habitat Zones and Alternate Routes



Proposed alternative centreline routes for road access to the Wuskwatim Generating Station showing FRI classification and wildlife habitat zones.

Impact on Environment: Why Mile 17 was Best

- Far enough from caribou calving habitat.
- Mile 17 does not impact high-quality moose (and other) habitat (as would Mile 5 & Mile 33).
- Acceptable interaction with caribou – caribou are expected to move through this area in spring and fall, but steps can be taken to reduce potential effects (other routes have similar potential impacts on caribou).

Impact on Environment: Why Mile 17 was Best (continued)

- Less impact on the jack pine ecosystem than Mile 19.25, Mile 20, or Mile 20a.
- Less impact on the BOREAS Research site than Mile 20, or Mile 20a.

Impact on the Project: What was Considered

- 12 criteria to compare routes.
- Most important: safety, effect of terrain type and length on construction, and maintenance costs.
- Other considerations:
  - Stream crossings.
  - Maintenance of PR391.
  - Project construction schedule.
  - Transportation of workers and materials.

Impact on the Project: What was Considered (continued)

IMPACT ON PROJECT
COMPARISON OF ACCESS ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY ALTERNATIVES
December 3, 2001

Evaluation Criteria	Explanation	Mile 5	Mile 17	Mile 19.25	Mile 20a (Env.)	Mile 20 (Eng.)	Mile 33
Construction Length (Kilometres) by terrain type	• Granular Plateau	1.66	11.35	15.35	16.29	16.59	21.58
	• Uplands complex	0.00	4.27	4.27	4.27	4.27	5.55
	• Flank of East Esker	8.53	8.59	8.59	8.59	8.59	11.17
	• Hummocky thin silt/clay over till	14.67	3.48	3.48	3.48	3.48	4.53
	• Thin veneer over silt/clay, undulating	16.61	13.85	11.32	10.68	10.68	13.89
	• Swamps and fens	0.95	1.28	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.51
	• Patterned peatland	4.97	6.03	5.96	5.66	5.66	7.36
	• Floodplain	0.23	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.61
	• Bedrock	1.15	1.15	1.15	1.15	1.15	0.00
	• **Total Length**	**48.77**	**50.47**	**51.75**	**51.75**	**52.05**	**66.20**
Stream Crossings	• Metres of culvert	1950	2050	2050	2050	2050	2820
[illegible]	• [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Contingency Costs	• Risks and uncertainties	$4.6	$4.1	$4.0	$3.9	$3.9	$6.7
Miscellaneous Costs	• Related to road length	$4.6	$4.5	$4.5	$4.5	$4.5	$4.5
Project Construction Schedule	• Construction cost carrying charges	$13.0	$11.6	$11.1	$10.9	$10.9	$12.7
Transportation of Workers and Materials	• Mobilization, transportation and stores costs for materials from Thompson, travel for labour on rotational leave	$4.8	$7.2	$7.7	$7.8	$7.8	$12.4
Effect on PR391	• Costs to maintain PR391 during construction	$0.1	$0.2	$0.3	$0.3	$0.3	$0.5
[illegible]	• Optional paving cost	$5.4	$5.6	$5.7	$5.7	$5.7	$5.6
[illegible]	• [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
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[illegible]	• [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Materials and staff transportation costs after construction	• Based on 67 year plant life (present value)	$0	$1.2	$1.4	$1.5	$1.5	$2.5
Total Cost	• Sum of item costs	$67.1	$65.2	$64.0	$63.4	$63.5	$93.3
[illegible]	• [illegible]	**$3.7**	**$1.8**	**$0.6**	—	**$0.1**	**$29.9**

Source: Manitoba Hydro Shading = criteria considered by Committee to be most important

Impact on the Project: Findings

- Mile 19.25 – safest intersection with PR391.
- Mile 20 and 20a – not a safe intersection with PR391.
- Mile 20a - lowest potential cost to the project ($63.4 M).
  - Mile 20 – $63.5 M
  - Mile 19.25 – $64.0 M
  - Mile 17 - $65.2 M
  - Mile 5 - $67.1 M
  - Mile 33 - $93.3 M

Impact on the Project: Findings (continued)

- Mile 19.25 easiest intersection to construct.
- Mile 5 – provides less flexibility with respect to construction start date.
- Mile 33 – longer construction schedule.

Main Conclusions

- The Alternatives Working Group concluded that Mile 17 would:
  - For NCN - offer most benefit and least adverse effect.
  - For the environment - have least impact.
  - For the project - while not the safest nor the least cost, could be made safe at reasonable cost and fewer risks to schedule.

Main Conclusions (continued)

- Mile 19.25 next best option.
- Mile 33, Mile 20, Mile 20a, and Mile 5 were rejected.

What's Next?



Taskinigup Falls is the site of the proposed hydro-electric development

Making the Decision

- **Chief & Council will consider your input along with conclusions of the Alternatives Working Group to make decision about NCN's preferred route.**
- **Manitoba Hydro will consider this preferred alternative ROW during the same period.**
- **Chief & Council and Manitoba Hydro make a final decision.**

Proposed Road Access Exploration Program

- **Provide necessary information to produce updated cost estimate for Project Decision Making.**
- **Provides necessary information to keep the Project in-service-date on track.**

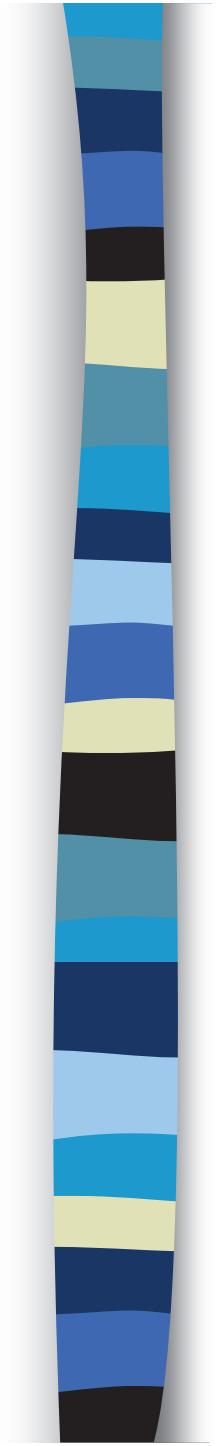
Proposed Road Access Exploration Program (continued)

- Field work needs to be completed this winter.
  - Final engineering, contract preparation, and tendering to take place in 2002-2003 so that road construction may begin in fall, 2003.
  - Work this winter requires clearing of centerline, soil sampling, and land surveying.

Proposed Road Access Exploration Program (continued)

- Require a Work Permit from Manitoba Conservation.

- Department of Transportation and Government Services will be asked to help define the scope of work for the exploration program.



The End

Thank You

EXTRAS (conclusions from Aug. 1st presentation)

Chief & Council conclusions about the access roads

- **Mile 5 or Mile 20 alignment is best overall.**
- **This conclusion has been reached after considering environmental impacts, social impacts, and economic viability.**
- **This option has the least environmental and social impacts, and is the least costly route overall.**

Why Mile 5 or Mile 20?

- During the construction phase, the Mile 5 and Mile 20 roads would:
  - draw construction traffic and camp activity away from Nelson House.
  - lead to less mixing between Nelson House traffic and construction traffic on PR391.

Why Mile 5 or Mile 20?

- After construction, while the Nelson House alternatives would provide more convenient access for use by Nelson House residents, all of the access roads would provide better access to the Wuskwatim area of the RMA for NCN members.

Why Mile 5 or Mile 20?

- Controlling access by others to the RMA during construction won't be a problem because there will be a control point at PR391.

- However, controlling access by others to the RMA after construction will be a challenge no matter which option is chosen.

Why Mile 5 or Mile 20?

- Further detailed work to locate the access road precisely before it is constructed (help avoid sensitive areas in the environment).
- There are known methods to protect sensitive areas.
- Alternatives other than Mile 5 and Mile 20 would make the project economically unviable.

Why Mile 5 or Mile 20?

- **Manitoba Highways confirmed that Mile 20 would be the easiest to build.**

- **Manitoba Highways felt the costs of the Nelson House alternative had been underestimated.**

MILE 5

EFFECTS ON NCN MEMBERS

- no known cultural sites
- greater tendency for non-members to use
- shortest distance that construction traffic is mixed with public traffic on PR 391
- greatest access by non-members into productive moose hunting and trapping area
- greatest access by non-members to productive medicinal plant area

EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

- high quality wildlife habitat, abundant moose, aquatic furbearers, and waterfowl. The diverse habitat is also good for terrestrial furbearers and forest birds.
- potential for being traversed by migrating caribou is not known, though based on existing information there is a lower possibility than for the other routes (movements may occur near the borrow sites)
- low impact on jack pine ecosystem (borrow site only)
- includes 10 stream crossings (intermittent and perennial combined), primarily of tributaries to Birch Tree Creek

EFFECTS ON THE PROJECT

- shortest route (48.77 km)
- good line of sight at the intersection with PR391
- presents a risk of delay to construction schedule because of poor terrain conditions along some portions of the route
- is $3,700,000 more expensive than the least expensive route

MILE 19.25

EFFECTS ON NCN MEMBERS

- too close to Eagle Hill and artesian water source to protect these important cultural sites
- access an issue with all options, but less so here compared to Mile 5
- construction traffic is mixed with public traffic for 19 miles on PR 391
- crosses less productive wildlife habitat, therefore may not be as much access by non-members

EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

- crosses less high quality wildlife habitat than Mile 5 or Mile 33 and therefore would have relatively less impact on moose, aquatic and terrestrial furbearers, waterfowl and forest birds.
- potentially traversed by migrating caribou in spring and fall. Potential adverse effects are expected to be mitigable through the use of traffic controls, etc.
- far enough away from caribou calving area
- passes along the east side of the jack pine ecosystem
- includes 11 stream crossings (intermittent and perennial combined) consisting of the headwaters of tributaries to Birch Tree Creek and streams in the upper drainage of the Sapochi River.

EFFECTS ON THE PROJECT

- 51.75 km long
- good line of sight at the intersection with PR391
- is $600,000 more expensive than the least expensive route

MILE 20a

EFFECTS ON NCN MEMBERS

- too close to Eagle Hill and artesian water source to protect these important cultural sites
- access by non-members an issue with all options, but less so here compared to Mile 5
- construction traffic is mixed with public traffic for 20 miles on PR 391
- crosses less productive wildlife habitat, therefore may not be as much access by non-members

EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

- crosses less high quality wildlife habitat than Mile 5 or Mile 33 and therefore would have relatively less impact on moose, aquatic and terrestrial furbearers, waterfowl and forest birds
- potentially traversed by migrating caribou in spring and fall. Potential adverse effects are expected to be mitigable through the use of traffic controls, etc.
- far enough away from caribou calving area
- passes along the east side of the jack pine ecosystem
- includes 11 stream crossings (intermittent and perennial combined) consisting of the headwaters of tributaries to Birch Tree Creek and streams in the upper drainage of the Sapochi River.

EFFECTS ON THE PROJECT

- 51.75 km long
- poor line of sight at the intersection with PR391
- is the least expensive route

MILE 17

EFFECTS ON NCN MEMBERS

- far enough away from Eagle Hill and artesian water source to protect these important cultural sites
- access by non-members an issue with all options, but less so here compared to Mile 5
- construction traffic is mixed with public traffic for 20 miles
- crosses less productive wildlife habitat, therefore may not be as much access by non-members

EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

- crosses less high quality wildlife habitat than Mile 5 or Mile 33 and therefore would have relatively less impact on moose, aquatic and terrestrial furbearers, waterfowl and forest birds
- the initial section of Mile 17 passes through habitat that may be of slightly higher value to terrestrial furbearers than Mile 19.25, Mile 20, and Mile20a routes
- as with Mile 19.25, Mile 20, and Mile 20a, Mile 17 would be potentially traversed by migrating caribou in spring and fall. Potential adverse effects are expected to be mitigable through the use of traffic controls, etc.
- far enough away from caribou calving area
- Mile 17 does not pass through the jack pine block at PR 391 and therefore has less effect on the jack pine ecosystem.
- would include 11 stream crossings (intermittent and perennial combined) consisting of the headwaters of tributaries to Birch Tree Creek and streams in the upper drainage of the Sapochi River

EFFECTS ON THE PROJECT

- 51.75 km long
- good line of sight at the intersection with PR391
- is $1,800,000 more expensive than the least expensive route

MILE 20

EFFECTS ON NCN MEMBERS

- too close to Eagle Hill and artesian water source to protect these important cultural sites
- access by non-members an issue with all options, but less so here compared to Mile 5
- construction traffic is mixed with public traffic for 20 miles along PR 391
- crosses less productive wildlife habitat, therefore may not be as much access by non-members
- may interfere with berry picking area

EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

- directly impacts less high quality wildlife habitat than Mile 5.
- would be potentially traversed by migrating caribou in spring and fall.
- distance from caribou calving area is **not** considered adequate to avoid disturbance.
- greatest relative effect on jack pine ecosystem type.
- would include eleven stream crossings (intermittent and perennial combined), consisting of the headwaters of tributaries to Birch Tree Creek and streams in the upper drainage of the Sapochi River.

EFFECTS ON THE PROJECT

- 52.05 km long
- poor line of sight at the intersection with PR391
- is $100,000 more expensive than the least expensive route

MILE 33

EFFECTS ON NCN MEMBERS

- no known cultural sites
- least tendency for non-members to use Mile 33, but additional access to borrow sites would be required, which would increase potential for access by non-members
- longest distance (33 miles) that construction traffic is mixed with public traffic on PR 391
- would provide access by non-members into productive moose hunting and trapping area
- expected to provide access by non-members to productive medicinal plant area

EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

- similar to Mile 5 - high quality wildlife habitat, abundant moose, aquatic furbearers, and waterfowl. The diverse habitat is also good for terrestrial furbearers and forest birds.
- based on caribou trails in area, there is potential for caribou disturbance in this area
- low impact on jack pine ecosystem (borrow site only).
- includes 10 stream crossings (intermittent and perennial combined), consisting of the headwaters of tributaries to Birch Tree Creek and streams in the upper drainage of the Sapochi River

EFFECTS ON THE PROJECT

- 66.20 km long
- is $29,900,000 more expensive than the least expensive route

ATTACHMENT 9

INFORMATION PAMPHLETS ON:

Fish Biology
Fish Habitat
Fish Movements
Fish Presence & Abundance
Mercury in Fish
Mercury in People
Vegetation
Forestry
Bird Population

February 2002

Fish Biology

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) and Manitoba Hydro are working together to understand the effects that a proposed hydroelectric development may have on the environment. The proposed project is the Wuskwatim Project at Taskinigup Falls on the Burntwood River. A number of environmental studies are currently underway to address the concerns and issues raised by NCN and Manitoba Hydro, one of which is the potential effects of the project on the growth of fish.

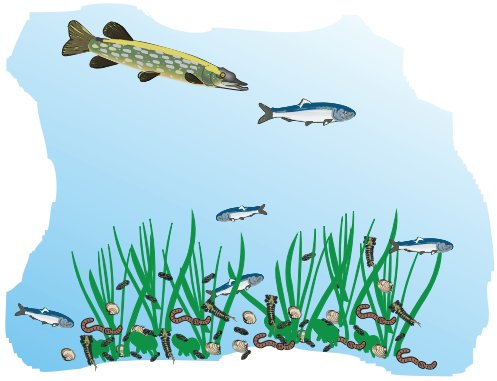
Why are fish biology studies being done?

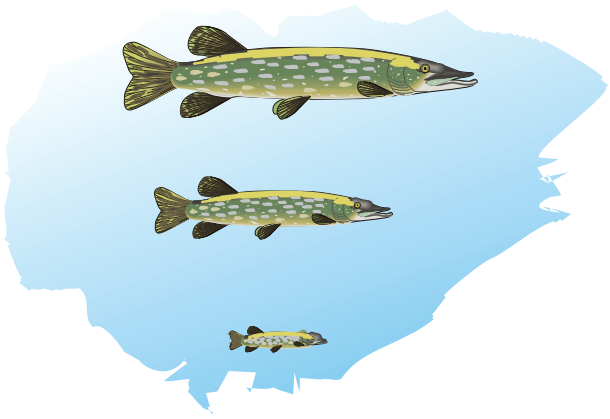
1. Age & Growth:

Studies are being conducted to determine how old fish are in the lakes being looked at and how fast they grow.

Age and size are important components of fish biology that are easily measured and can be used as an indicator of changes occurring in fish populations.

For example, if fish populations are stressed, the size of fish at a certain age may change (e.g., the average length of pickerel that are 3 years old may drop from 350 mm to 300 mm), or fish may not live as long as they did before.





2. Diet:

Diet, or what fish eat is another aspect of fish biology being examined.

Fish growth is related to diet. If changes occur in the sizes of fish in a population (e.g., the average length of pickerel aged 3 years old may drop from 350 mm to 300 mm), then diet changes are looked at as a possible explanation.

Diet can be used as an indicator of changes occurring lower in the food web (i.e., changes in fish food).

What has been completed so far?

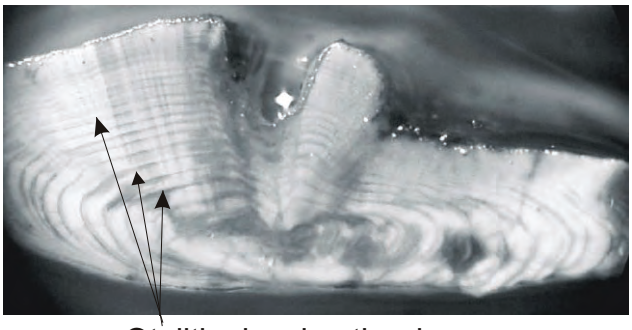
1. Age & Growth:

Ages have been determined for 5,480 fish collected from the resource area in 1998, 1999, and 2000.

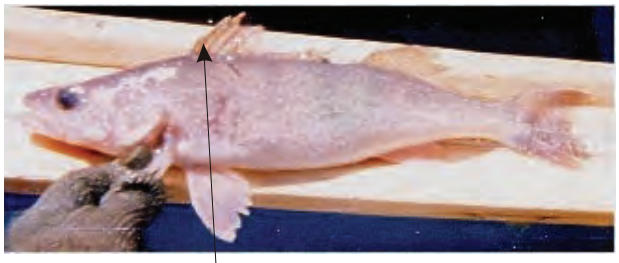
The age of a fish is determined by looking at different bones in the body. Every year as a fish grows, it deposits a layer on these bones (just like a tree has growth rings). In the lab, the bone is prepared to show the layers. When done, the layers and the rings are counted. Each ring represents one year of life.

In whitefish and tullibee a bone from the head (called an 'otolith') or a fin (called a 'fin ray') is used for ageing. In jackfish, a bone at the back of the gill opening (called a 'cleithrum') or a fin ray is used for ageing. In pickerel, a bone from the dorsal fin (called a 'dorsal spine') is used for ageing.

The length of the fish is measured from the front of the head to the base of the fork in the tail. This measurement is called the "fork length".



Otolith showing the rings.



Location of dorsal spine on pickerel.

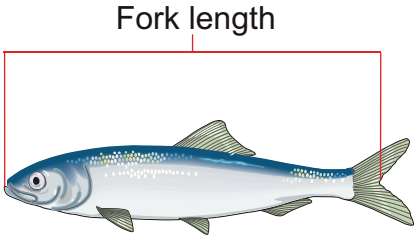


Location of cleithrum on jackfish.

2. Diet:

To date, fish stomachs have been examined from a total of 4,173 fish collected in the resource area.

The stomachs were examined to determine what, and how much, fish had eaten.





What has been found so far?

1. Age & Growth

Lake	Study Year	Fish	Ages (years)		Fork Lengths (mm)	
			Number Aged	Average	Number	Average
Threepoint	1998	Tullibee	73	7	78	293
		Whitefish	73	11	79	380
		Jackfish	116	4	144	391
		Pickerel	251	7	443	284
Threepoint	2000	Tullibee	45	5	46	288
		Whitefish	73	11	82	381
		Jackfish	57	4	59	462
		Pickerel	193	5	355	257
Wuskwatim	1998	Tullibee	94	5	301	312
		Whitefish	72	6	78	361
		Jackfish	76	3	97	353
		Pickerel	57	5	88	310
Wuskwatim	2000	Tullibee	166	5	287	301
		Whitefish	51	6	73	361
		Jackfish	40	4	42	396
		Pickerel	105	4	106	268
Wapisu	1999	Tullibee	131	8	132	324
		Whitefish	35	10	35	375
		Jackfish	139	5	141	433
		Pickerel	159	8	582	325
Leftrook	1999	Tullibee	189	6	206	297
		Whitefish	116	9	130	413
		Jackfish	185	5	243	485
		Pickerel	211	7	477	360
Footprint	1999	Tullibee	151	6	206	261
		Whitefish	18	5	23	320
		Jackfish	126	5	162	440
		Pickerel	149	7	951	339
Notigi	1999	Tullibee	133	5	138	266
		Whitefish	44	6	44	320
		Jackfish	151	4	153	389
		Pickerel	119	6	120	369
Opegano	2000	Tullibee	7	6	7	303
		Whitefish	27	9	27	400
		Jackfish	29	5	28	471
		Pickerel	47	7	47	313
Birch Tree	2000	Tullibee	52	7	61	349
		Whitefish	70	16	79	458
		Jackfish	44	4	44	389
		Pickerel	110	8	117	366

2. Diet

Lake	Fish	# stomachs examined	# stomachs with identifiable objects	Most commonly eaten object	Second most
Threepoint, 1998	Tullibee	34	15	zooplankton	mayflies
	Whitefish	68	44	clams	snails
	Jackfish	72	26	dragonflies/damselflies	fish
	Pickerel	70	33	fish	mayflies
Threepoint, 2000	Tullibee	44	10	mayflies	zooplankton
	Whitefish	81	44	clams	snails
	Jackfish	57	9	crayfish	fish
	Pickerel	349	104	mayflies	fish
Wuskwatim, 1998	Tullibee	102	16	clam shrimp	clams
	Whitefish	66	46	clams	clam shrimp
	Jackfish	79	13	fish	crayfish
	Pickerel	54	19	mayflies	fish
Wuskwatim, 2000	Tullibee	129	108	mayflies	water bugs
	Whitefish	19	12	clams	scuds/water lice
	Jackfish	28	11	fish	mayflies
	Pickerel	46	13	mayflies	fish
Wapisu, 1999	Tullibee	205	6	zooplankton	-
	Whitefish	35	13	clams	snails
	Jackfish	136	37	fish	crayfish
	Pickerel	534	151	fish	opposum shrimp
Leftrook, 1999	Tullibee	190	40	zooplankton	clams
	Whitefish	84	52	snails	clams
	Jackfish	224	75	fish	crayfish
	Pickerel	377	118	yellow perch	brook stickleback
Footprint, 1999	Tullibee	162	4	clams	non-biting midges
	Whitefish	21	4	clams	non-biting midges
	Jackfish	119	31	cyprinids (minnows)	yellow perch
	Pickerel	226	59	fish	opposum shrimp
Notigi, 1999	Tullibee	119	24	water lice/scuds	opposum shrimp
	Whitefish	44	17	clams	water lice/scuds
	Jackfish	148	48	fish	crayfish
	Pickerel	108	38	fish	invertebrates
Opegano, 2000	Tullibee	-	-	-	-
	Whitefish	24	13	clams	non-biting midges
	Jackfish	29	13	crayfish	fish
	Pickerel	44	14	fish	mayflies
Birch Tree, 2000	Tullibee	57	13	mayflies	zooplankton
	Whitefish	78	45	snails	clams
	Jackfish	43	9	crayfish	fish
	Pickerel	112	49	mayflies	water bugs

Fish Habitat

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) and Manitoba Hydro are working together to understand the effects that a proposed hydroelectric development may have on the environment. The proposed project is the Wuskwatim Project at Taskinigup Falls on the Burntwood River. A number of environmental studies are currently underway to address the concerns and issues raised by NCN and Manitoba Hydro, one of which is the effect of the project on fish habitat.

Why are fish habitat studies being done?

Fish habitat describes the environment in which fish live; the depth and flow of the water, the kind of lake or river bottom, and whether there are plants growing in the water. Fish habitat in the study area is being mapped. Information was also collected on bugs (invertebrates) which are fish food. This information will be used to estimate how the project will change the amount and kind of habitat due to:

- changes in water levels on Wuskwatim Lake;
- change in water levels in the Burntwood River downstream of the generating station;
- the small area (<0.5 km^2) that will be flooded upstream of the dam; and,
- other effects (e.g., more mud may settle on the bottom immediately upstream of the generating station).

Fish habitat information collected included:

1. Water depth



Jeff Eddy collecting depth information

2. Bottom type



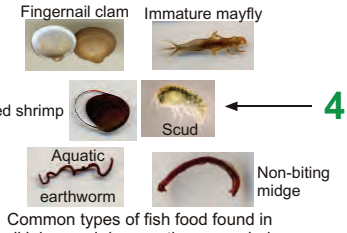
A sample taken from the bottom of a lake

3. Water Plants



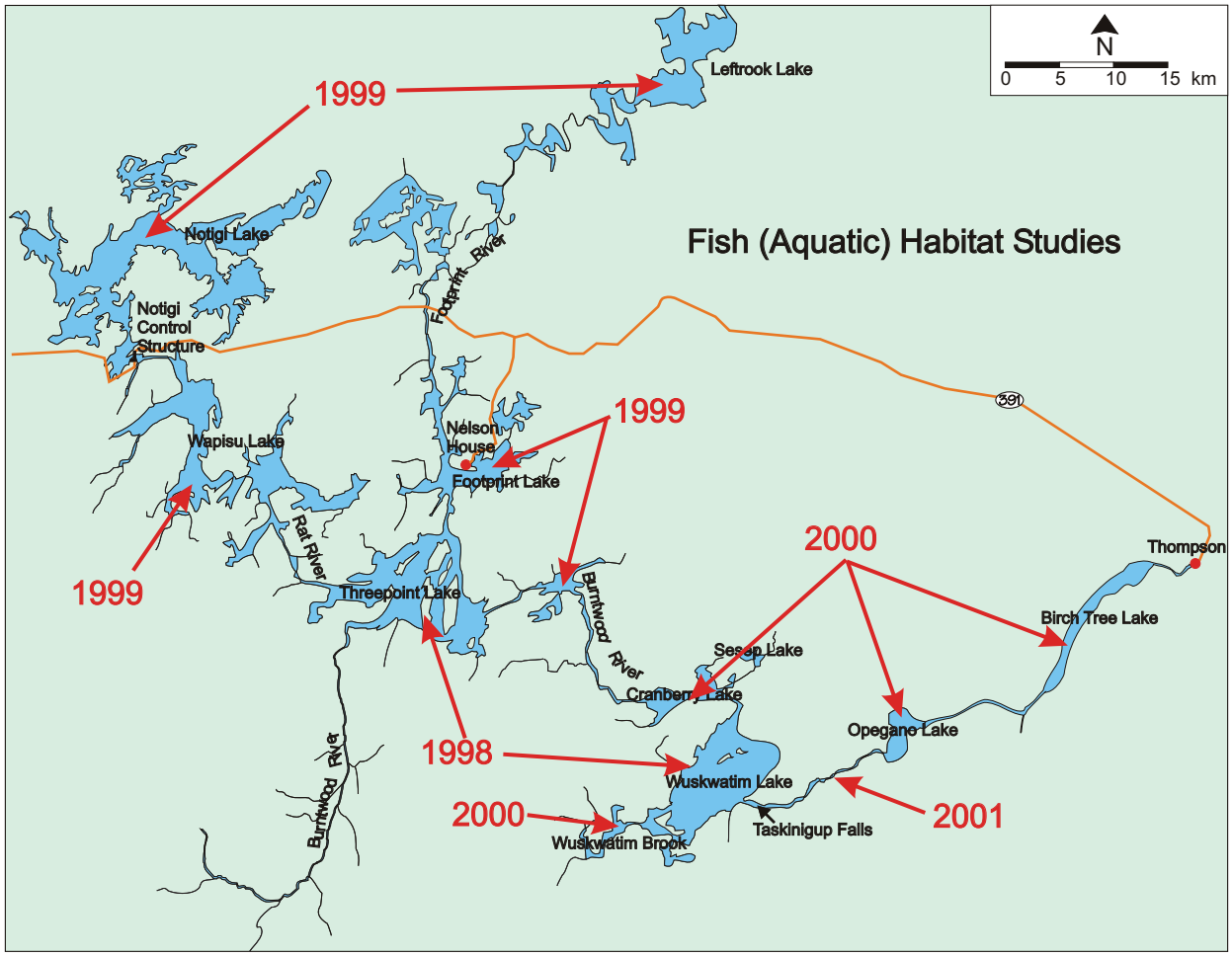
Derek Linklater collecting water plants

4. Invertebrates (Fish Food)



Common types of fish food found in all lakes and river sections sampled:

What has been completed so far?



Information was collected from:

1998: Threepoint Lake and Wuskwatim Lake.

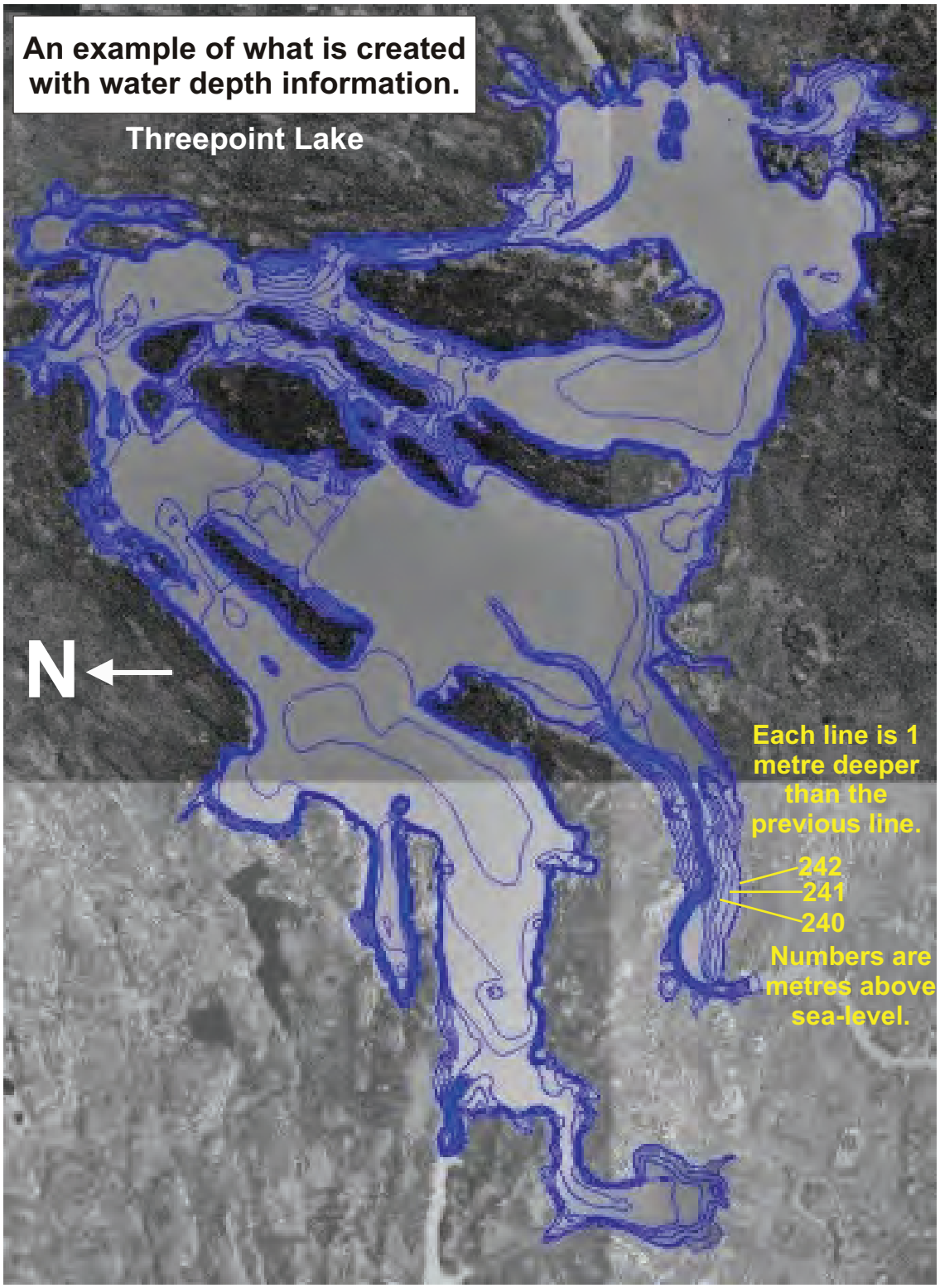
1999: Footprint Lake, Leftrook Lake, Notigi Lake, Wapisu Lake, and areas in the Burntwood River.

2000: Opegano Lake, Birch Tree Lake, Cranberry Lake, and Wuskwatim Brook.

2001: Area between Taskinigup Falls and Opegano Lake.

What has been found so far?

1. Water depth



WARNING: This map is intended to assist in planning and interpretation of fisheries and aquatic monitoring programs. It is not to be used for navigation. Some reefs and shoals may not be indicated.

2. Bottom type

All of the lakes in the study area had bottom types made up of mostly soft silt/clay (mud).

River areas (between the lakes) had various bottom types; from soft silt/clay to hardpan clay and bedrock.



Creek with rocky bottom.



Creek with water plants.

3. Water plants

Most of the lakes in the study area had few water plants, except in sheltered, shallow bays.

What's Next?

Fish habitat information will be combined with information on water quality and fish populations to describe the aquatic environment.



Water plants in Cranberry Lake.

Fish Movements

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) and Manitoba Hydro are working together to understand the effects that a proposed hydroelectric development may have on the environment. The proposed project is the Wuskwatim Project at Taskinigup Falls on the Burntwood River. A number of environmental studies are currently underway to address the concerns and issues raised by NCN and Manitoba Hydro.

Why are fish movement studies being done?

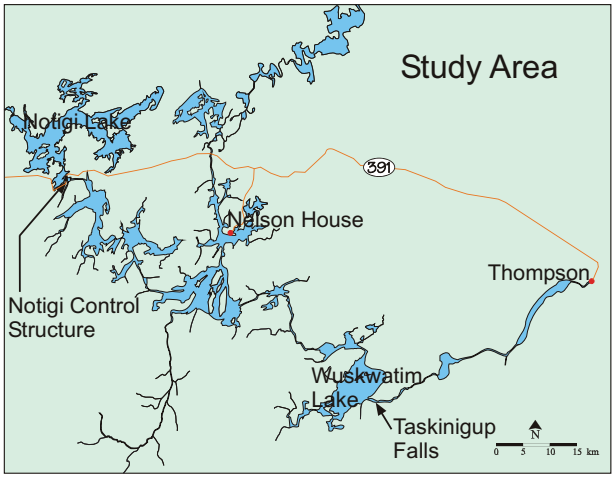
1. To help determine where key species spawn in the study area.

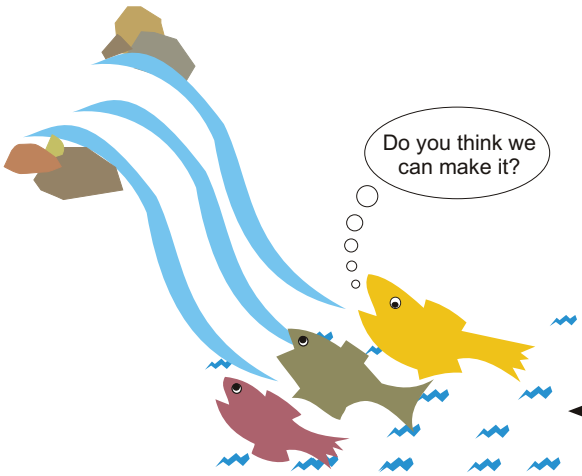
Although every fish species is considered important, more attention is being given to the species harvested in the domestic and commercial fisheries. Therefore, only the movements of whitefish, tullibee, jackfish, and pickerel are being studied.

Fish that overwinter in rivers and streams may prefer some deeper areas with reduced flows. These studies will help determine whether potential changes in ice conditions, water levels, and water flows will have an effect on fish overwintering in these areas.

2. To identify other important habitats such as overwintering areas.

3. To understand fish movements within and between the study area lakes.





4. To confirm that fish do not move upstream over Taskinigup Falls.

What has been completed so far?

Radio-tagging

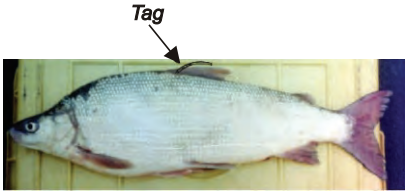
- Radio-tags were applied to adult fish to help find spawning locations based on the movement and congregation of fish at specific sites.
- In 1999, 15 whitefish and 10 pickerel were tagged near Nelson House and 14 pickerel, 4 whitefish, and 2 tullibee were tagged in Wuskwatim Lake.
- In 2000, 20 whitefish were tagged near Nelson House, 14 whitefish and 6 tullibee were tagged in Wuskwatim Lake, and 13 whitefish were tagged in Notigi Lake.
- Tracking flights over the study area were conducted in late fall, 1999, in early spring, 2000, in late spring, 2000, and in late fall, 2000.



Radio-tagged tullibee

ATTENTION FISHERMEN

Fish in the Nelson House area have been tagged with thin, green, numbered plastic tags to determine fish movements between lakes in the area.



If you catch a tagged fish, please return the tag, with the exact location and date caught, for a $5 reward. Tag return forms are available from Ron Spence at the Trust Office. Otherwise, please mail tag and information to the following address:

North/South Consultants Inc.
83 Scurfield Blvd.
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3Y 1G4

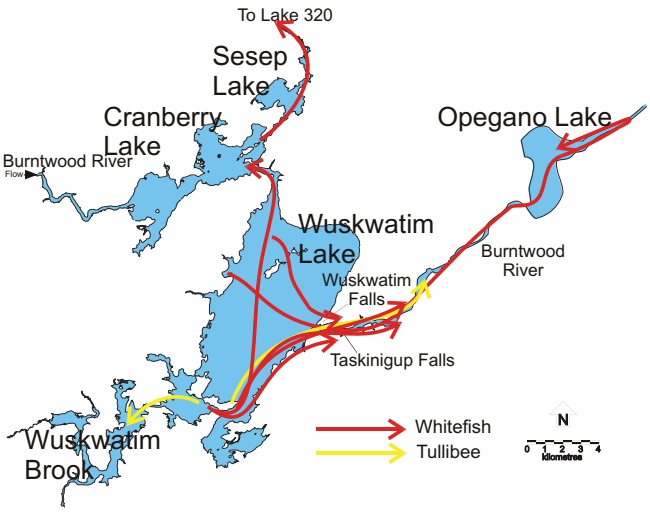
Floy-tagging

- To date, approximately 5,000 fish in the study area have been tagged with numbered plastic tags (Floy-tags).
- The majority of tags were applied to fish from Notigi, Wapisu, Footprint, Threepoint, and Wuskwatim lakes.
- The largest number of fish tagged were pickerel, followed by jackfish, tullibee, and whitefish.
- Some of the Floy-tagged fish have been returned by domestic, commercial, and sport fishers; others are being recaptured during study gillnetting programs.

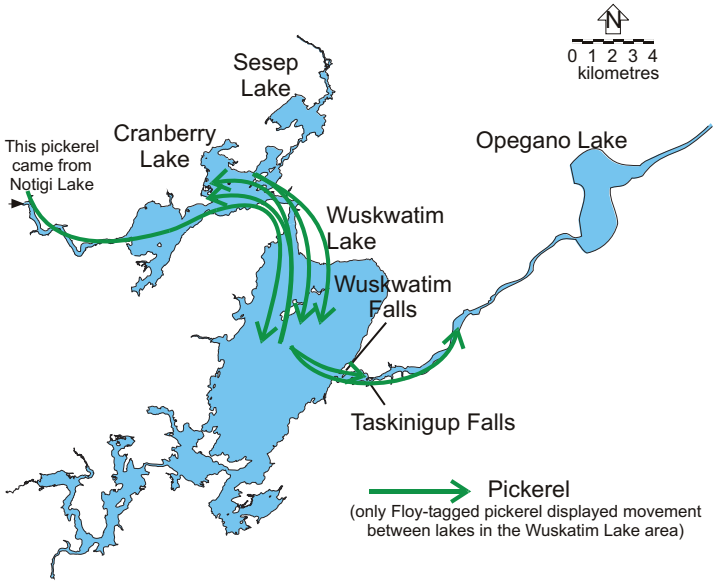
What has been found so far?

Radio-tagging

- Radio tags applied to fish for this study lasted 4 to 6 months. Most fish that were radio-tagged remained in the same water body for the life of the radio tags.
- Of the fish that did move, most were found in an adjacent lake or river.
- However, some fish that were tagged in the Wuskwatim Lake area did move longer distances.



Movement of selected radio-tagged fish in the Wuskwatim Lake area, 1999 and 2000.



Movement of selected Floy-tagged fish in the Wuskwatim Lake area, 1999 and 2000.

Floy-tagging

- By January 2001, a total of 57 pickerel, 38 tullibee, 26 jackfish, and 7 whitefish had been recaptured by domestic, commercial, and sport fishers.
- The majority of these fish were recaptured near the same area in which they had originally been tagged.

General Movement Patterns

Even though fish movements between lakes were uncommon, they did indicate the following:

- Fish are able to travel between Osik, Footprint, Threepoint and Wapisu lakes.
- Fish are able to move downstream from Notigi Lake.
- Fish from Wuskwatim Lake move downstream over Wuskwatim and Taskinigup falls, but there is no evidence of fish moving over the falls in the opposite direction.

What's Next?

Understanding fish movements between lakes will assist in predicting what populations of fish could potentially be affected by the proposed project.

For example, if there is little movement of fish from Wuskwatim Lake to Threepoint Lake, then fish populations in Threepoint would not likely be affected by a generating station at Wuskwatim Lake.

All the fish movements information will go into a detailed report and be provided to the community.

This information, along with information from each of the other study components, would be used as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed projects.

Fish Presence & Abundance

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) and Manitoba Hydro are working together to understand the effects that a proposed hydroelectric development may have on the environment. The proposed project is the Wuskwatim Project at Taskinigup Falls on the Burntwood River. A number of environmental studies are currently underway to address the concerns and issues raised by NCN and Manitoba Hydro, one of which is the possible effects of the project on the fish community.

Why are fish presence & abundance studies being done?

1. To record the different kinds of fish found in the lakes around the proposed generating station.

2. To record how many fish of each species there are in the different areas.

It is important to know what types of fish and how many there are in each lake right now to understand what changes might occur as a result of the project. The information will also be used for comparison to catches after the project (if it is built) to determine if there were changes in fish presence and abundance.

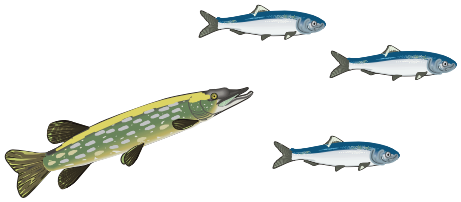
The numbers of fish caught in a lake will be presented using catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE). CPUE is the number of fish caught in a 100 m gill net in 24 hours.

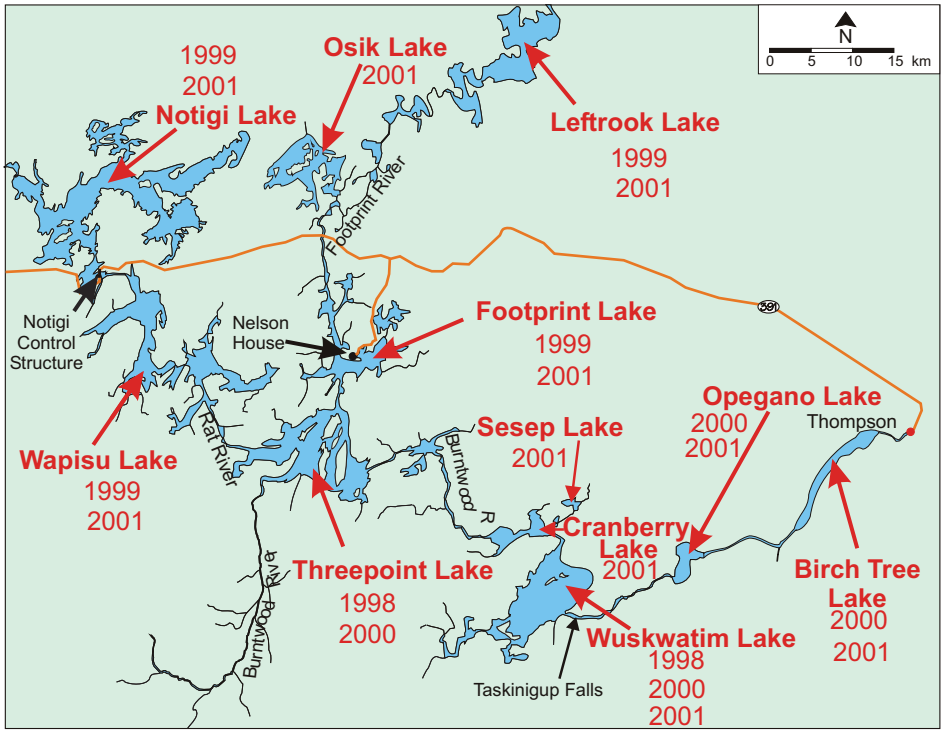
By looking at fish catches the same way (using CPUE), comparisons can easily be made between years for the same lake, between areas in a lake, or can be made between different fish or different lakes.



What has been completed so far?

Fish populations have been sampled using a standard series of gillnets with different mesh sizes to capture different species, sizes, and ages of fish.





Gillnetting has been done on:

- Threepoint Lake
- Wuskwatim Lake
- Footprint Lake
- Leftrook Lake
- Notigi Lake
- Wapisu Lake
- Opegano Lake
- Birch Tree Lake
- Osik Lake
- Sesep Lake
- Cranberry Lake

All major lakes have been sampled twice, and so far, fish catches from 1998 to 2000 have been studied.

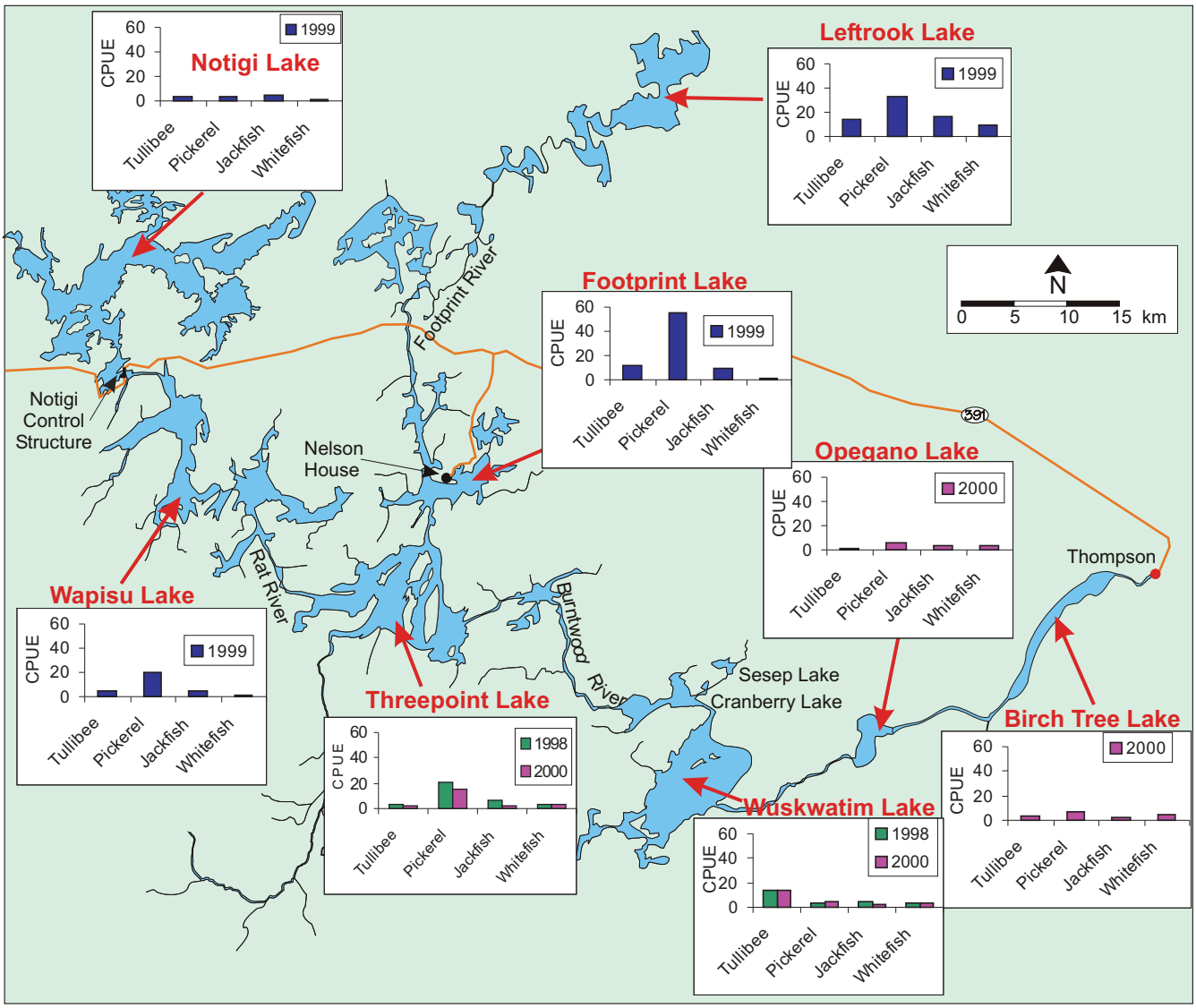
The fish caught in 2001 are being studied now and the results will soon be ready.



What has been found so far?

To date, over 21,000 fish have been sampled in the study area.

Results for tullibee, pickerel, jackfish, and whitefish



Tullibee, pickerel, whitefish, and jackfish were all found in every lake that was studied.

Of these fish, pickerel were caught the most, followed by jackfish, and then tullibee. Whitefish were caught the least.

Results for areas that would be affected by the project:

Wuskwatim Lake

Species	Species Composition %			Catch-per-unit effort		
	1998	2000	2001	1998	2000	2001
Burbot	0.7	1.4	0.5	0.4	1.1	0.3
Tullibee	21.6	17.8	10.3	13.4	14.1	7.4
Whitefish	5.5	4.5	3.0	3.4	3.6	2.1
Longnose sucker	1.4	4.1	0.0	0.9	3.2	0.0
Jackfish	6.9	2.6	4.1	4.3	2.1	2.9
Sauger	23.4	27.4	21.3	14.5	21.7	15.2
Trout perch	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Pickerel	6.4	6.6	25.2	4.0	5.2	18.0
White sucker	29.7	29.2	23.3	18.5	23.1	16.6
Yellow Perch	4.4	6.4	12.4	2.7	5.1	8.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	62.2	79.1	71.4

Opegano Lake

Species	Species Composition %		Catch-per-unit-effort	
	2000	2001	2000	2001
Tullibee	2.5	2.2	0.9	0.9
Whitefish	9.5	8.8	3.5	3.7
Longnose sucker	1.8	0.6	0.6	0.3
Mooneye	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0
Jackfish	10.2	9.1	3.7	3.9
Sauger	29.5	15.9	10.8	6.8
Shorthead redhorse	2.5	0.9	0.9	0.4
Pickerel	16.6	27.5	6.0	11.7
White sucker	23.9	30.3	8.7	12.9
Yellow Perch	3.1	4.7	1.2	2.0
Total	100.0	100.0	36.4	42.9

Sesep Lake

2001

Species	Species Composition %	Catch-per-unit-effort
Tullibee	15.7	5
Whitefish	21.7	7
Jackfish	37.3	12
Pickerel	18.1	5.8
Yellow perch	7.2	2.3
Total	100.0	32.2

Wuskwatim Brook

2001

Species	Species Composition %	Catch-per-unit-effort
Burbot	0.3	0.2
Tullibee	40.3	25.7
Whitefish	4.2	2.7
Jackfish	11.5	7.3
Pickerel	28.8	18.4
White sucker	7.6	4.9
Yellow perch	7.3	4.7
Total	100	63.9

Cranberry Lake

2001

Species	Species Composition %	Catch-per-unit-effort
Burbot	0.4	0.2
Tullibee	5.1	2.8
Whitefish	8.7	4.8
Jackfish	10.2	5.6
Sauger	13.2	7.2
Shorthead redhorse	0.4	0.2
Pickerel	42.5	23.3
White sucker	13.0	7.2
Yellow perch	6.5	3.6
Total	100.0	54.8





Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

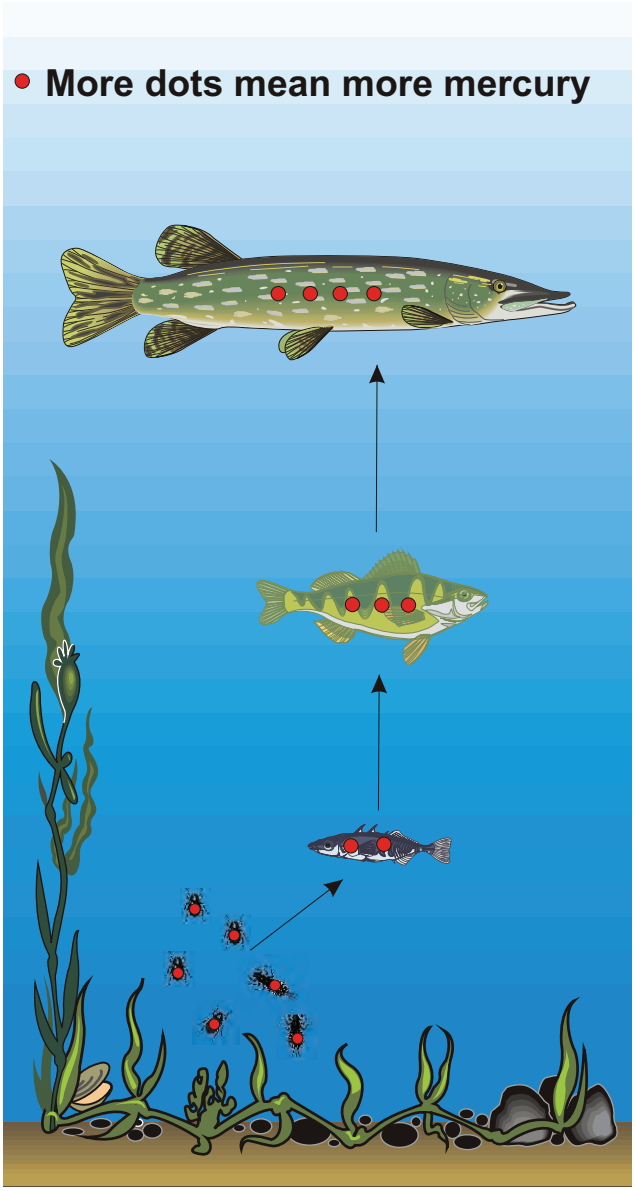
Manitoba Hydro

Mercury in Fish

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) and Manitoba Hydro are working together to understand the effects that a proposed hydroelectric development may have on the environment. The proposed project is the Wuskwatim Project at Taskinigup Falls on the Burntwood River. A number of environmental studies are currently underway to address the concerns and issues raised by NCN and Manitoba Hydro, one of which is the amount of mercury in fish.

What is Mercury?

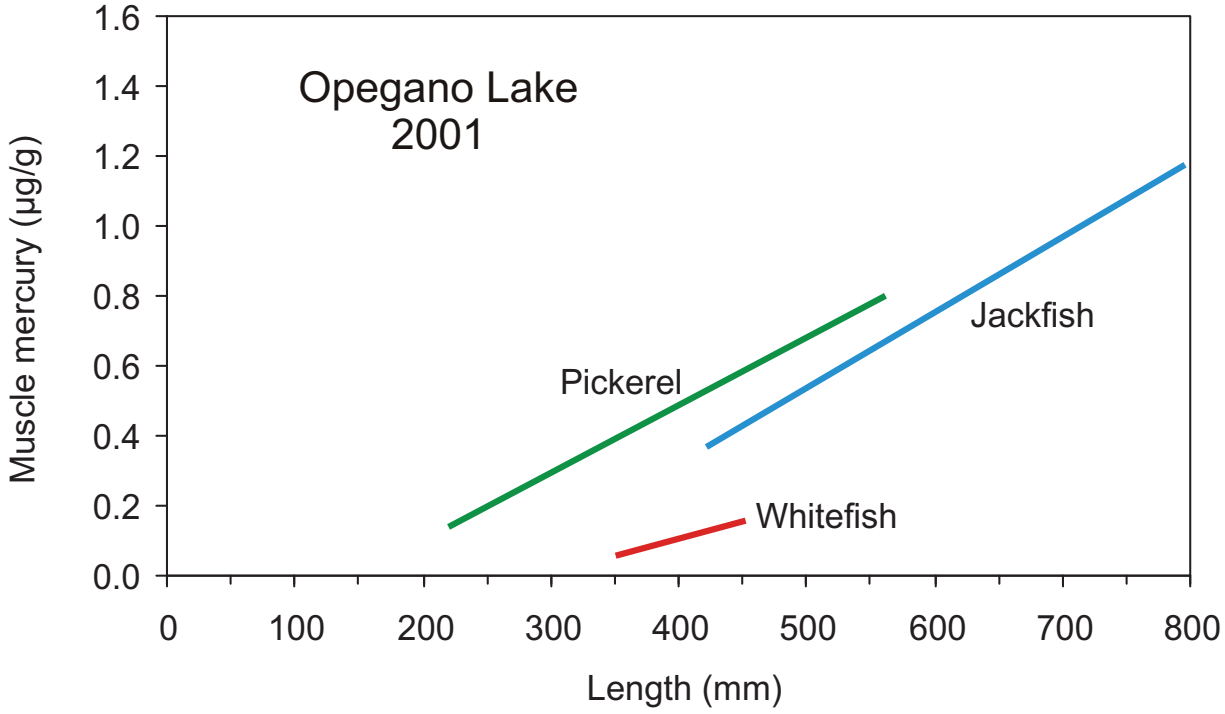
Mercury is a naturally occurring metal found in rocks and soils. When land is flooded to create reservoirs, mercury comes out of the flooded soils and plants. Mercury gets into small organisms such as algae, plankton, plants, and bacteria. These organisms pass the mercury on to organisms that consume them, for example, small fish. These small fish, having eaten many of the smaller organisms, would accumulate the smaller organism's mercury and end up having a higher concentration of it in their own body. The small fish are then eaten by larger fish and the amount of mercury increases again. Therefore, fish such as pickerel or jackfish, which feed on other fish, generally have more mercury in their bodies than tullibee, whitefish, or suckers which usually eat bugs.



Did you know?

In addition to the type of fish, older, larger fish usually have more mercury in their bodies than younger, smaller fish.

The graph below shows the relationship between length of fish to muscle mercury concentration for Opegano Lake. On average, a pickerel 500 mm (20 inches) had over twice as much mercury as a pickerel half its length.



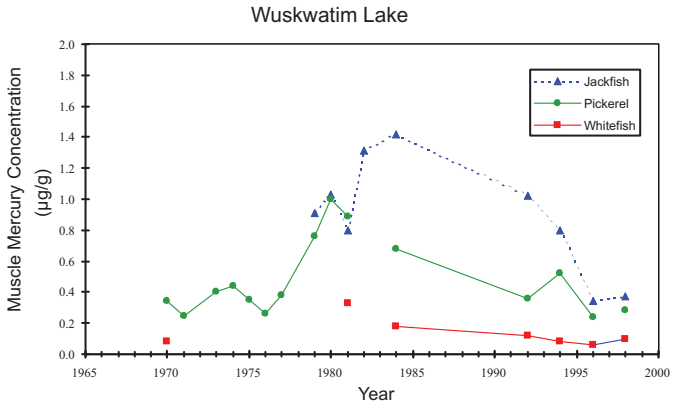
What has been completed so far?

The amount of mercury in fish has been measured since the 1970's in many northern Manitoba water bodies including Southern Indian, Issett, and Wuskwatim lakes, and since 1983 at Threepoint and Rat lakes. The amount of mercury in fish has also been measured from Footprint, Wapisu, Notigi, Leftrook, Opegano and Birch Tree lakes as part of NCN and Manitoba Hydro's joint study.



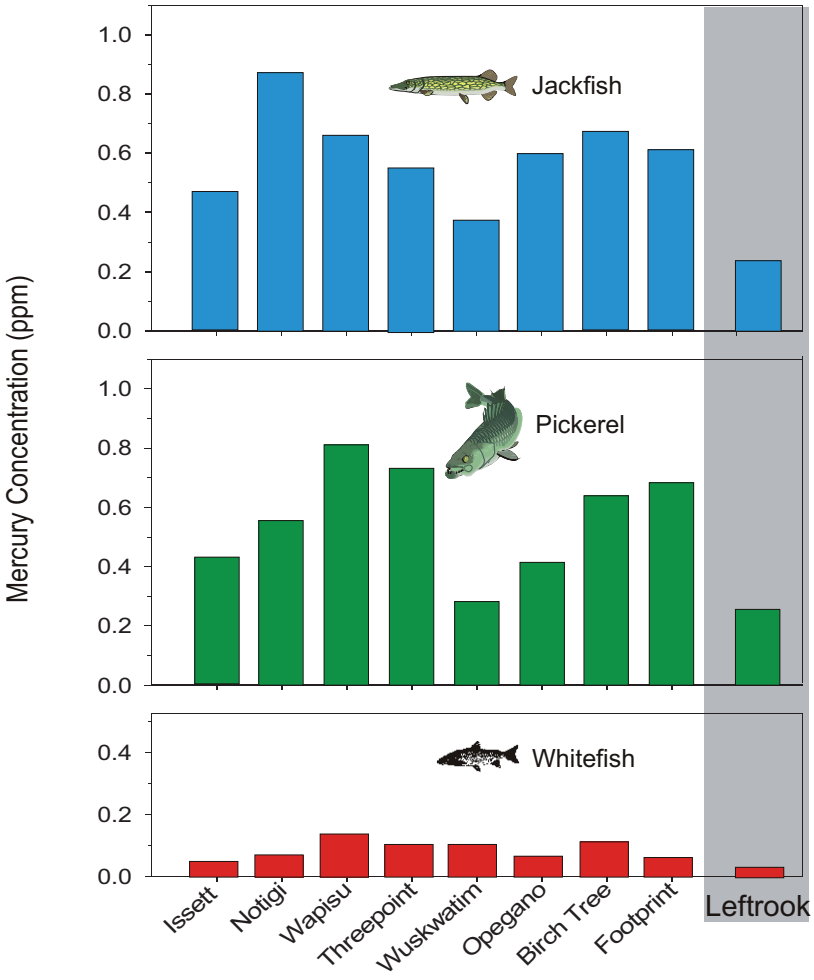
What has been found so far?

Whitefish mercury concentrations increased after CRD in Southern Indian, Issett and Wuskwatim (the only lakes with pre-CRD information). Concentrations steadily decreased and by the mid-1990's levels were similar to pre-flood levels. Concentrations of mercury in whitefish from Threepoint and Rat lakes have been stable since 1983 at levels similar to the concentrations in whitefish tested before CRD. Whitefish from Footprint, Wapisu, Notigi, Leftrook, Opegano, and Birch Tree lakes also have levels similar to whitefish tested before CRD.



Mercury concentrations in jackfish and pickerel dramatically increased after CRD. At Southern Indian, Isset, and Wuskwatim lakes concentrations declined over the 1990's and by 1996-1999 were similar to concentrations in natural lakes in the region. Mercury concentrations in jackfish and pickerel from Rat and Threepoint lakes followed the same trends, but are still above background levels. Samples from the first studies show that mercury concentrations in jackfish and pickerel from Footprint, Wapisu, Notigi, Opegano, and Birch Tree lakes are also above natural levels for the region.

Scientific studies have shown that the amount of increase in fish mercury levels is related to the amount and type of land that is flooded. The CRD flooded large amounts of land resulting in the release of large amounts of mercury to the water. In the case of the Wuskwatim G.S., only half a square kilometer will be flooded. Therefore, increases in mercury are expected to be small.



(Note: For comparison, Leftrook Lake is not directly impacted by hydroelectric development).

Mercury concentrations in fish vary between lakes in the study area. The above figure shows the results of studies conducted betweeen 1998 and 2000.

What's Next?

Although any increase in fish mercury level from the Wuskwatim G.S. are expected to be small due to the small area that will be flooded, mercury monitoring on all lakes previously studied will continue.

Mercury in People

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) and Manitoba Hydro are working together to understand the effects that a proposed hydroelectric development may have on the environment. The proposed project is the Wuskwatim Project, at Taskinigup Falls on the Burntwood River. A number of environmental studies are currently underway to address the concerns and issues raised by NCN and Manitoba Hydro.

What is mercury?

Metallic Mercury (Hg^{++})

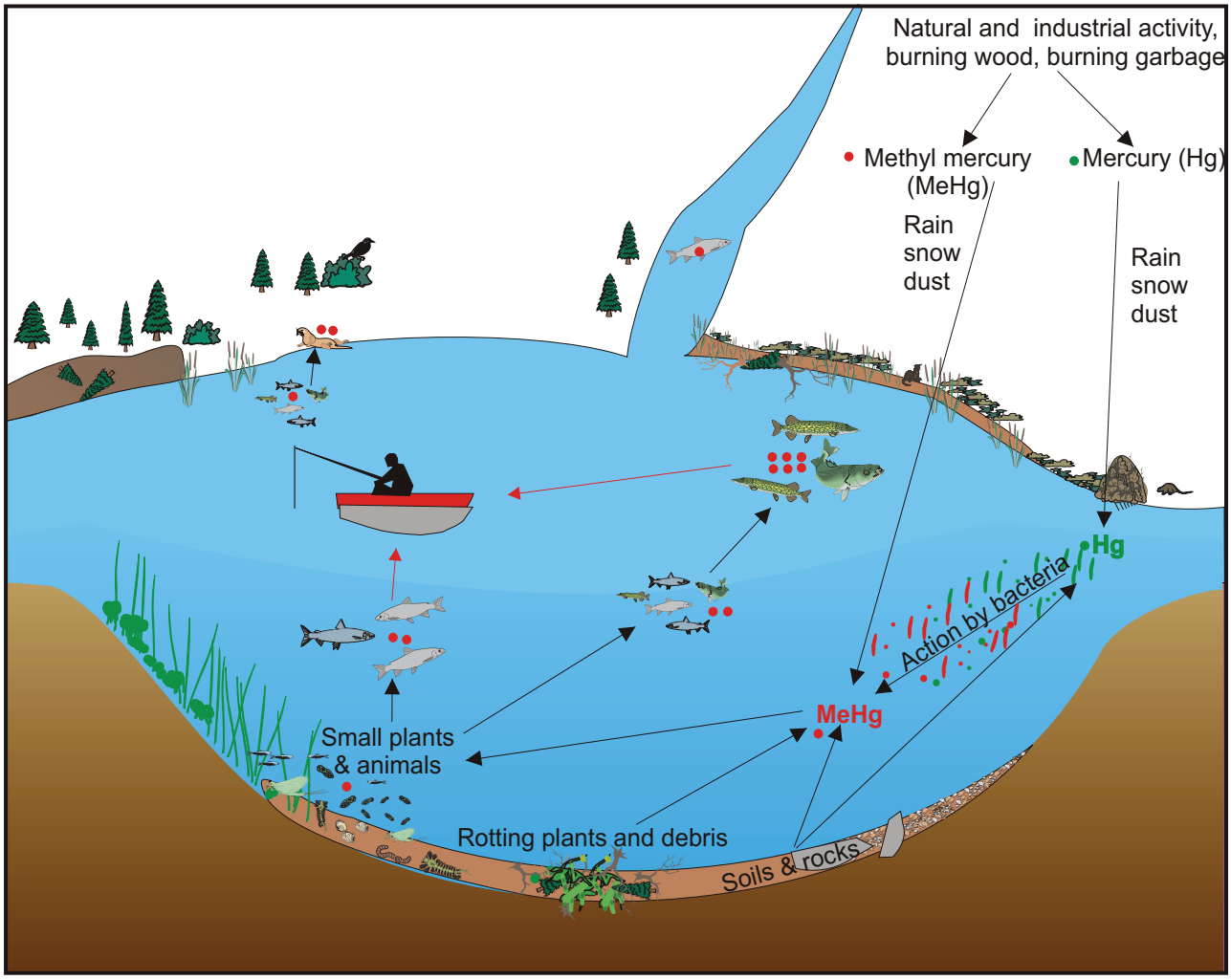
- Metallic mercury is a naturally occurring metal that is found in small amounts in rocks, soils, and plants. It is also found in products such as thermometers, paints, flourescent light bulbs, cigarettes, and batteries.
- Metallic mercury gets into the air by burning mercury-containing coal, oil, wood, natural gas, or garbage.
- Metallic mercury in the air falls with dust, rain, or snow directly onto, or drains into, rivers and lakes.

Methyl Mercury (MeHg)

- Through chemical and biological processes in the water, metallic mercury changes into *methyl mercury*. This is the form of mercury that is transferred within the food chain (e.g., fish to humans).
- Methyl mercury also exists in small amounts naturally in air, water, and soils. Therefore, some methyl mercury is normal is fish, but only very small amounts which are not harmful to humans.



How do humans get methyl mercury?



Tiny plants and animals in the water absorb methyl mercury. These plants and animals pass the mercury onto small fish that eat them. Bigger fish then eat the smaller fish and the methyl mercury gets into their bodies. The methyl mercury is passed to fish-eating birds and mammals (e.g., eagles and mink) and to humans when they eat the fish. This dietary relationship (who eats who) is known as a *food chain* or *food web*.

Methyl mercury levels in a particular species of animal (e.g., jackfish) may vary from waterbody to waterbody due to different amounts of methyl mercury in the water. However, within a particular waterbody, the higher up the food chain you move, the more methyl mercury there is in a particular species. Therefore, fish such as pickerel or jackfish, which feed on other fish, generally have higher mercury levels than whitefish or suckers. Also, older, larger fish usually have more mercury in their bodies than younger, smaller fish.

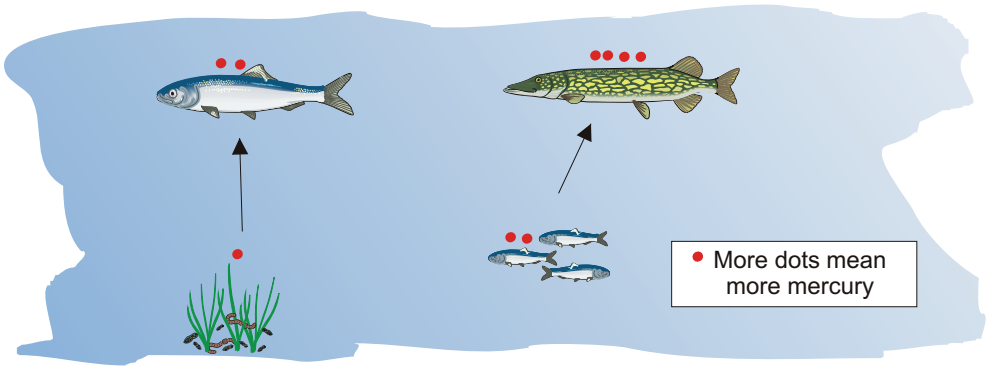
The amount of methyl mercury entering into humans depends on the foods they eat. Usually fish is the main source of mercury for humans, and individuals who eat large amounts of certain kinds of fish (fish-eating species like jackfish) have more mercury.

What does methyl mercury do to humans?

- Methyl mercury affects the human brain, spinal cord, kidneys, and liver, and interferes with normal fetal development during pregnancy.
- High levels of mercury in infants can cause mental and physical retardation.

Important considerations about mercury.

- Although small amounts of mercury are found in some other things (e.g., cigarettes, batteries, and paints) the main source of mercury to humans is in the fish that they eat.
- There is no method of cooking or cleaning fish that will remove mercury.
- Pregnant women, or women that may become pregnant, may want to eat less fish to keep their methyl mercury intake low.
- There is no cure for the effects of mercury.
- Mercury is most harmful to young children and unborn infants.



The amount of fish that a human can safely eat depends on:

- the type of fish;
- the age and size of the fish;
- how much fish they are eating; and,
- how often they eat fish

How much methyl mercury is safe for humans?

Source	Safe Human Consumption (ug/kg/day*)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	0.10
World Health Organization	0.47
Health & Welfare Canada	0.30

* ug/kg/day = microgram methyl mercury per kg human body weight per day

What are the different classifications for mercury levels?

Health Canada Mercury Program Standards

HUMAN	Blood concentration (ppb*)	< 20	= normal acceptable range
		20 - 100	= increasing risk
		> 100	= at risk
	Hair concentration (ppm**)	< 6	= normal acceptable reange
*ppb = parts per billion		6 - 30	= increasing risk
**ppm = parts per million		> 30	= at risk

FISH (a) persons who eat an average amount of fish should eat fish whose methyl mercury concentration is at or below 0.50 ppm.
(b) persons who eat fish often should eat fish whose methyl mercury concentration is at or below **0.20 ppm**.

Source: Wheatley, B. 1994. Mercury - A Health Concern in the N.W.T. Workshop presentation, Oct. 5-6, 1994. Yellowknife, N.W.T.

How much fish can safely be eaten?

If fish MeHg concentration is:	Amount of fish a 70 kg (154 lb) man could eat in a week		Number of meals a 70 kg man could eat in one week (one meal = 200 g or 0.44 lbs)
	grams	pounds	
1.00 ppm	160	0.35	0.8
0.50 ppm	310	0.68	1.6
0.40 ppm	390	0.86	2.0
0.30 ppm	520	1.14	2.6
0.20 ppm	**780**	**1.72**	**3.9**
0.10 ppm	1560	3.43	7.8

Source: Kershaw,T.G., Clarkson, T.W., Dhahir, P. 1980. The Relationship between Blood Levels and Dose of Methylmercury in Man. Archives of Environmental Health, Vol. 35, No. 1, January/February 1980, 28-36.

These classifications are based on a 70 kg (154 lbs) male, therefore those who weigh less than 70 kg (154 lbs), especially pregnant women, should be cautious and reduce their mercury intake levels below what is recommended here.

For women age 15 to 39, it is recommended that mercury levels be maintained at less than one half of the normal acceptable levels to avoid potential harmful effects if the woman becomes preganant.

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

Manitoba Hydro

Vegetation

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) and Manitoba Hydro are working together to understand the effects that a proposed hydroelectric development may have on the environment. The proposed project is the Wuskwatim Project at Taskinigup Falls on the Burntwood River. A number of environmental studies are currently underway to address the concerns and issues raised by NCN and Manitoba Hydro.

Why are vegetation studies being done?

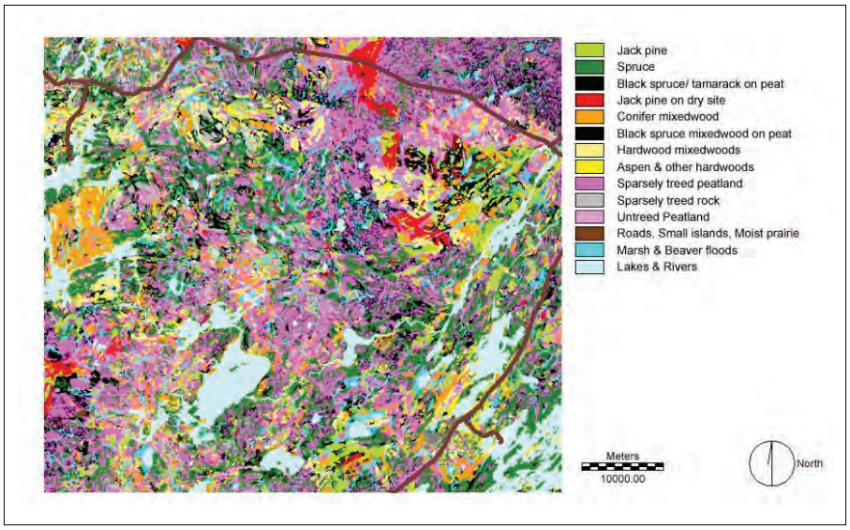
Plants, shrubs and trees growing in the Wuskwatim area will be affected by predicted changes in water levels and flows and construction projects.

Vegetation is an important part of the web of life. It provides:

- food and cover for birds and other animals;
- resources for people (food, medicines, wood); and,
- a living landscape that builds the atmosphere and soils and protects against erosion.

How do we study vegetation?

Air photos give a picture of the ground and the kinds of trees and plants that grow there. Photos of the Wuskwatim area were used to make a vegetation map.



Vegetation map of the study area

In the study area, sites are chosen for closer study to provide a detailed picture of the plants that grow in the area.

Field study sites are located in:

- low-lying area and shorelines where water levels and flows are predicted to change;
- areas where construction activities will occur (generating station and roads);
- areas that NCN and biologists have identified as important (e.g. for moose or ducks); and,
- areas that may have plants or groups of plants that are uncommon or rare.



Bennet Francois and Natalie Tays measure trees and snags inside the vegetation plot



Quadrat along a marking line

The field team gathers information about vegetation by marking a line beginning in the water at the shoreline. The line extends up the bank, through the different bands of vegetation and into the forest. At intervals along this line, rectangular plots are measured with ropes. Inside these large plots are a series of smaller squares or quadrats. The field team makes a list of all the plants growing in the quadrats. They count and measure all the trees and snags in the plot. A small pit dug near the edge of the forest tells us about the soils where the plants grow.

What can we find out about the vegetation?

- the list of plants growing in the plot can be linked to the vegetation map to help give a detailed picture of what is growing in the study area;
- estimate the plants and plant communities that will be lost or disturbed due to changes in water levels and flows;
- estimate what vegetation will be lost or disturbed due to construction;
- identify areas where rare plants or plants important to NCN are found;
- identify areas where plants important to animals are found; and,
- information we gather is used by other biologists who may need vegetation data as part of their studies.







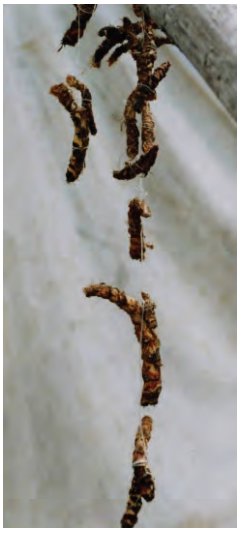


What has been found so far?

- over 200 different kinds of plants grow in the Wuskwatim study area. These include trees and shrubs and plants found in water and on land.
- no nationally or provincially rare plants have been found in the study area;
- 40 different plants in the study area are used by NCN; and,
- earlier flooding of peatlands has created peat "islands" in the areas around Wuskwatim Brook and Sesep Lake. These islands are still moving and changing.



Max Spence picking
Wikaskwah (mint) for tea



Drying Wihkis roots



"Islands" created by flooded peat land

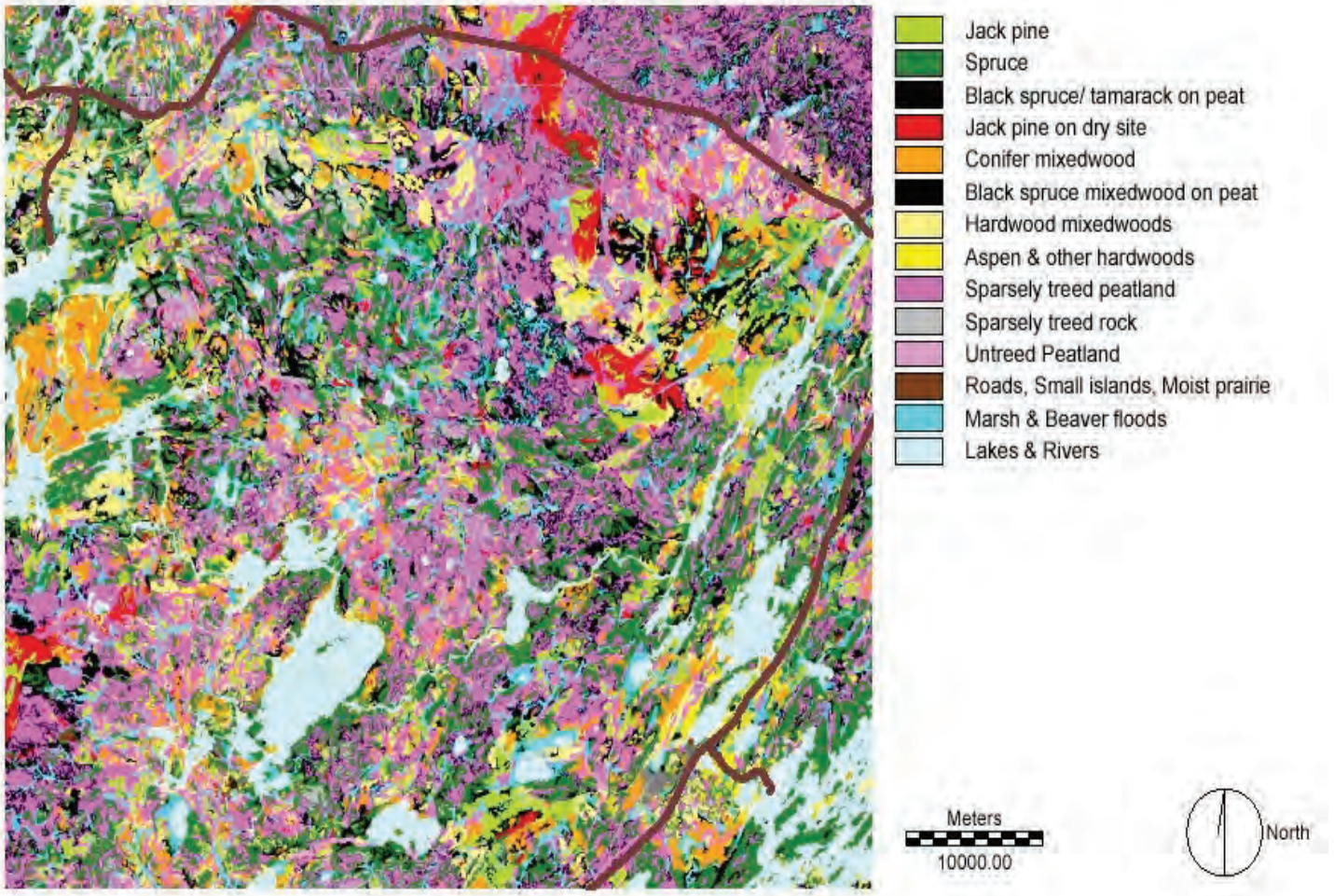
What's Next?

- the data is being analyzed to try to predict what effects the proposed project will have on vegetation in the study area;
- vegetation information will be provided to biologists studying mammals and birds; and,
- a collection of plants found in the Wuskwatim area will be given to the school in Nelson House and to the Manitoba Museum.

Forestry

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) and Manitoba Hydro are working together to understand the effects that a proposed hydroelectric development may have on the environment. The proposed project is the Wuskwatim Project at Taskinigup Falls on the Burntwood River. A number of environmental studies are currently underway to address the concerns and issues raised by NCN and Manitoba Hydro. One of the terrestrial concerns is the effect on commercial forest resources.

The study area is largely forested. Forest type distribution can be seen on the vegetation cover map below.



What are the potential impacts to forest resources?

There are three distinct project related effects that could cause forestry impacts. These are:

- *flooding* - approximately 0.5 km^2 of merchantable timber would be flooded;
- *erosion* - rates would initially increase above existing levels as shorelines stabilize; and,
- *clearing for infrastructure* - some area will be permanently lost while other losses (e.g., construction camp) will be temporary.

Merchantable timber will be salvaged from the flooded area and where infrastructure is built.



Erosion



Young forest



Clearing

What has been done?

- Forest Resource Inventory (FRI) and fire data have been acquired from the Province. This information describes the existing forest resource based on the interpretation of air photos.
- Representative forest stands have been sampled for species composition, age, forest ecosystem classification type, height, stem density, and diameter.
- The location of productive forest lands has been compared to the predicted post-project water level to determine how much productive area would be lost as a result of the project.



David Linklater conducting forestry work.

Preliminary findings:

- flooding and flood-related damage to forests will be minimal;
- stands along much of the access route and on borrow sites are immature and merchantability is questionable (i.e., have little or no commercial value);
- stands in the footprint area are a mix of immature (non-merchantable) and mature (merchantable) timber; and,
- the reduction of the annual allowable cut (AAC) due to loss of productive forest will be minimal. The AAC is the amount of timber that can be harvested each year without reducing the amount of timber available (i.e., sustainable harvest).

The study team would like to thank the following NCN members who assisted in the forestry field studies: Derek Linklater, Murdo Linklater, David Linklater, Glen Francois, Clinton Moore, Ron Moore, and Ralph Moore.


Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation


Manitoba
Hydro

BIRD POPULATIONS

FEBRUARY 2002

BACKGROUND

Since 2000, Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) and Manitoba Hydro have been working together in conducting environmental assessments of areas that could be potentially affected by a hydroelectric generating station and other facilities that might be developed at Taskinigup Falls on the Burntwood River, immediately downstream of Wuskwatim Lake. This information pamphlet provides an update on the findings of bird-related studies that have occurred to-date as part of the environmental assessment of this Project.

Why are bird studies being done?

- To determine what species are in areas that might be affected by the Project.
- To determine where birds are and to estimate their numbers.

This information is to be used in assessing how birds will be affected by the proposed Project and how woody debris and other types of habitat are used by birds such as waterfowl.

What birds are being studied?

All groups of birds are considered important to the environment and are being studied, including: waterbirds (ducks, geese, gulls, terns); raptors (e.g., eagles); upland game birds (e.g., grouse); shorebirds (e.g., sandpipers); songbirds (e.g., sparrows and warblers); and other birds (e.g., sandhill cranes and woodpeckers). Special attention is being given to bird that have been identified as having particular importance, such as waterfowl, that are harvested by NCN members.

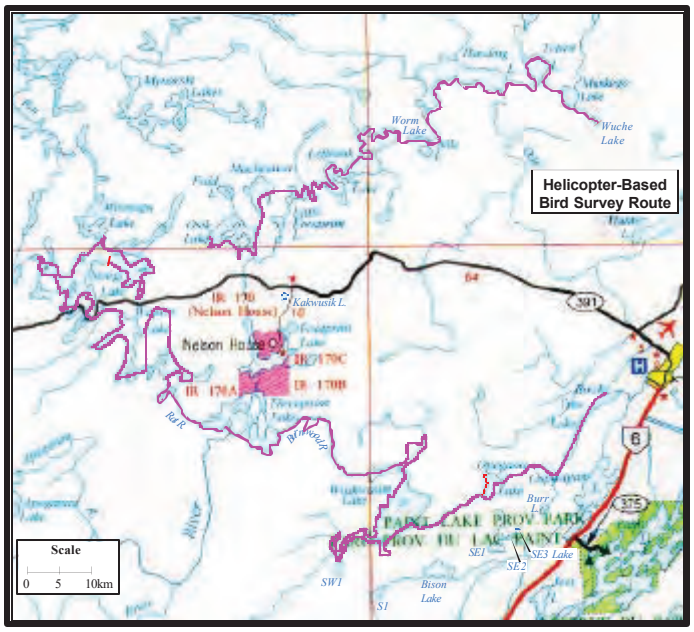
What work has been completed so far?

Birds and their habitat were sampled in 2000 and 2001 using methods outlined below.

Helicopter-based surveys

Six helicopter surveys occurred along the Burntwood River from Birch Tree to Notigi Lake and from Osik to Muskego Lake. Surveys occurred during periods when waterbirds were

migrating in Spring (May/early June), when young waterfowl were present in Summer (July), and during fall migration in September.



Boat-based surveys

Boat-based surveys were designed primarily to determine waterbird and shorebird numbers and distribution. About 1,800 km of shoreline was sampled during 56 surveys conducted in 2000 and 2001 at Opegano, Wuskwatim, Cranberry, Notigi, and Wapisu lakes as well as along reaches of the Burntwood River potentially affected by the Project.

Land-based surveys

Breeding bird surveys were conducted in different habitats at 280 sites to determine the numbers and species of permanent resident and other breeding birds, as well as amphibians. General reconnaissance occurred in the May to October periods throughout the study area. Information was also collected on plant communities and habitats to assist in better understanding why birds occur in certain areas.

RESULTS OF BIRD STUDIES

No endangered bird species were observed in the study area in 2000 or 2001. The study results from 2000 and 2001 suggest that the Wuskwatim and Opegano lake areas do not provide regionally important breeding or staging areas for waterfowl as compared to other waterbodies outside the Rat-Burntwood River system.

Waterbirds

Waterbird numbers (per kilometre surveyed) were highest in waterbodies outside the Rat and Burntwood River system during all seasons surveyed. Waterfowl comprised most of the birds observed during helicopter and boat-based surveys. Waterfowl were most numerous in the summer and fall at shallow and marshy sites within lakes such as Tetroe, Harding Muskego and little Footprint Lake. Waterfowl were also common in sheltered bays and inlets,

particularly where marshy vegetation or floating peat islands were present. For the Burntwood River, these areas occurred mostly within Cranberry Lake and the southern bays of Wuskwatim Lake. The presence of healthy marshes and riparian zones, the availability of good nesting habitat and changes in water regimes appear to be among the factors most important to birds in the study area. Woody debris was among the habitats used by birds for nesting (e.g., cavity nesting ducks, swallows, and blackbirds), cover, loafing, perching and foraging.



Raptors

Bald Eagles were generally more common near fast water along the Rat-Burntwood river system than along other areas within or outside the river system. Eagles were most numerous in the spring and summer between Opegano and Taskinigup Falls, and were generally spread out throughout the study area in the fall. Other raptors (e.g., Merlin, American Kestrel, Cooper's and Red-tailed Hawks, owls) occurred in lower numbers than eagles. At least one pair of Osprey nested on Notigi Lake in 2000 and 2001.



Shorebirds

Low numbers of shorebirds and little suitable shorebird habitat was observed within the study area, including areas within and outside the Rat-Burntwood river system. The areas that had the highest number of shorebirds in the spring and summer were between Birch Tree and Wuskwatim Lake and within a southern bay of Wuskwatim Lake. The few shorebird species observed (e.g., Spotted Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Killdeer) are common in the region.

Songbirds

The most common landbird species observed between Early Morning Rapids and Opegano Lake were typical of coniferous dominant mixed woods and edge habitat in the region, e.g., Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Chipping Sparrow, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. The diversity of bird species in forests was highest at the "edge", namely along rivers and streams.

Other Birds

Other birds that were observed or known to occur in the study area include Tundra Swans, grouse and ptarmigan, rails and Sandhill Cranes, woodpeckers, kingfishers and nighthawks. The survey results suggest that most of these species generally occur in low numbers in the study area.



WHAT'S NEXT?

Field reports are being produced for bird studies conducted in 2000 and 2001. The study results will be summarized in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The study team would like to thank the following NCN members who played an instrumental role in the field studies for the bird component of the environmental assessment: Ron Dysart, Murdo Linklater, Harry Spence, Keith Spence, Ron Spence, and Bennet Francois. Keith Spence was more than just a valuable member of our team, but was one for whom we respected and cared. Valerie Linklater, Beverly McDonald and Margaret McDonald contributed by not only cooking for the field workers, but by their kindness and warmth.

ATTACHMENT 10

OPEN HOUSE AT NELSON HOUSE

Results of the Joint Study Program

February 20 and 21, 2002

WELCOME

Public Open House

Potential Future Development at Wuskwatim

February 20 and 21, 2002

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

Manitoba Hydro

This Presentation Describes the Environmental Studies for the Proposed Wuskwatim Project

No final decisions have been made to build the proposed Wuskwatim Project



Proposed Wuskwatim Project

- NCN and Manitoba Hydro are currently considering construction of a generating station at Taskinigup Falls (the Wuskwatim Generating Station).
- This Open House presents information about the environmental studies being done for the Wuskwatim Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- Many other activities are currently underway (see time line), including:
    - discussions between NCN and Manitoba Hydro about a Project Development Agreement (PDA).
    - CEC meetings to discuss the draft guidelines for the Wuskwatim EIS have just ended; and,
    - on-going discussions related to the licensing of the project.

No final decisions have been made to build the proposed Wuskwatim Project. NCN members will vote on the PDA once it has been produced.

NCN/Manitoba Hydro Joint Study Program

- The Environmental Study Team has been working with NCN and Manitoba Hydro to carry out the environmental studies for the proposed Wuskwatim Project.
- The studies (the Joint Study Program) were designed through a series of intensive workshops and meetings with NCN.
- The studies have also received input from Provincial and Federal research scientists and biologists.
- The Study Program began in 2000 and continued in 2001 and 2002. Additional information was also collected in 1998 and 1999 as part of monitoring studies.

NCN/Manitoba Hydro Joint Study Program Objectives

The overall objectives of the Joint Study Program are:

- **To address the concerns and issues raised by NCN, Manitoba Hydro, and other interested parties;**
- **To provide information that can be used during project planning to avoid or reduce negative impacts;**
- **To provide the information required to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement; and**
- **To provide baseline information in enough detail to allow for future monitoring studies.**

Both traditional knowledge (TK) and information from science based studies will be key components of the EIS and the future monitoring studies.

NCN Traditional Knowledge

NCN community consultants are conducting interviews with NCN Elders, resource users, and other members.

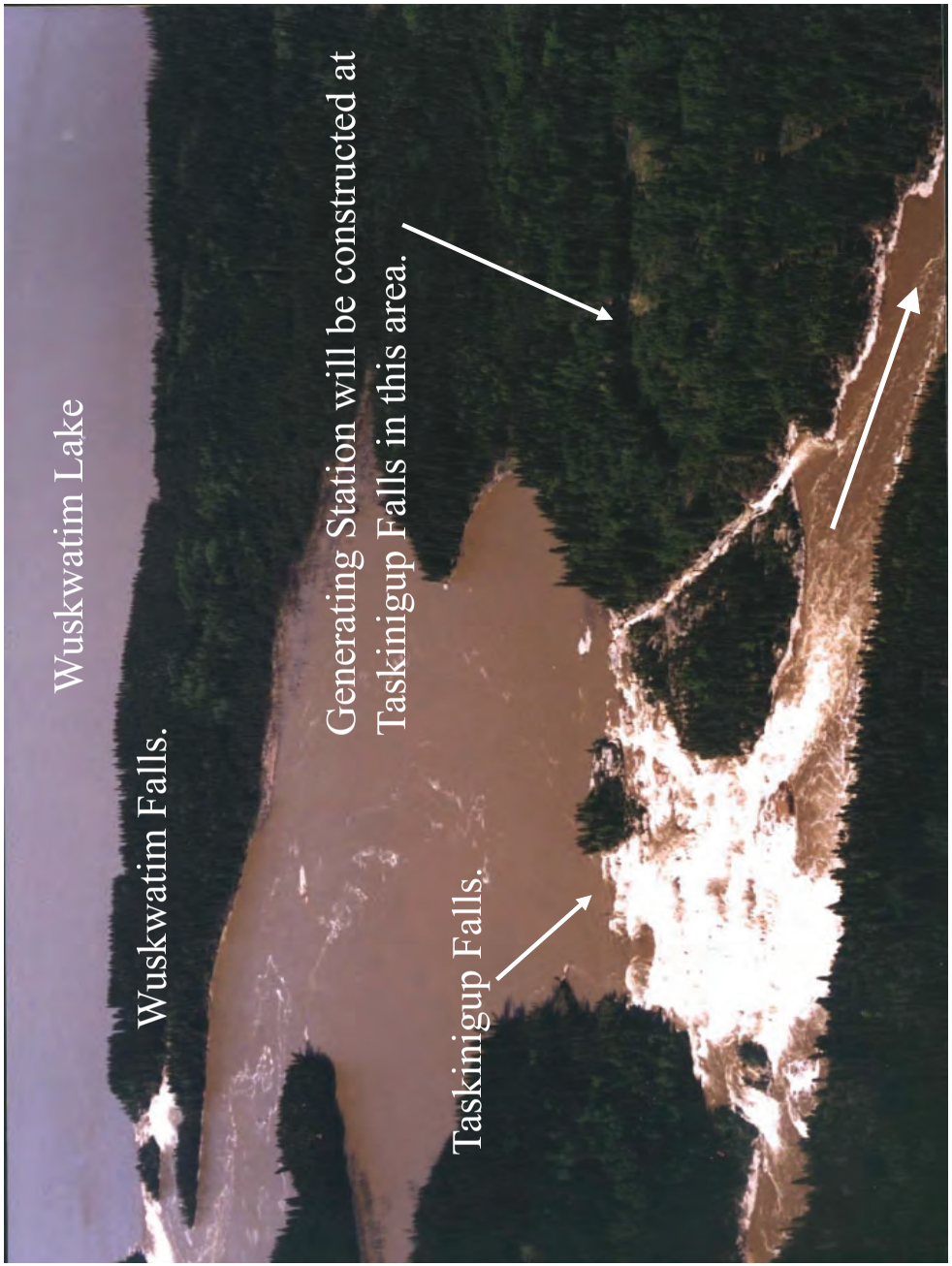
- **NCN, Manitoba Hydro, and the Environmental Study Team feel that it is important to include Traditional Knowledge (TK) in the environmental studies.**
- **NCN has a TK Committee to guide the process of collecting TK.**
- **The Community Consultants have been conducting interviews with elders and resource harvesters.**
- **TK will be important for the environmental studies and as a legacy for the community.**
- **NCN members participating in the field studies are also providing valuable information to the study team biologists.**

TK Committee's View of Traditional Knowledge

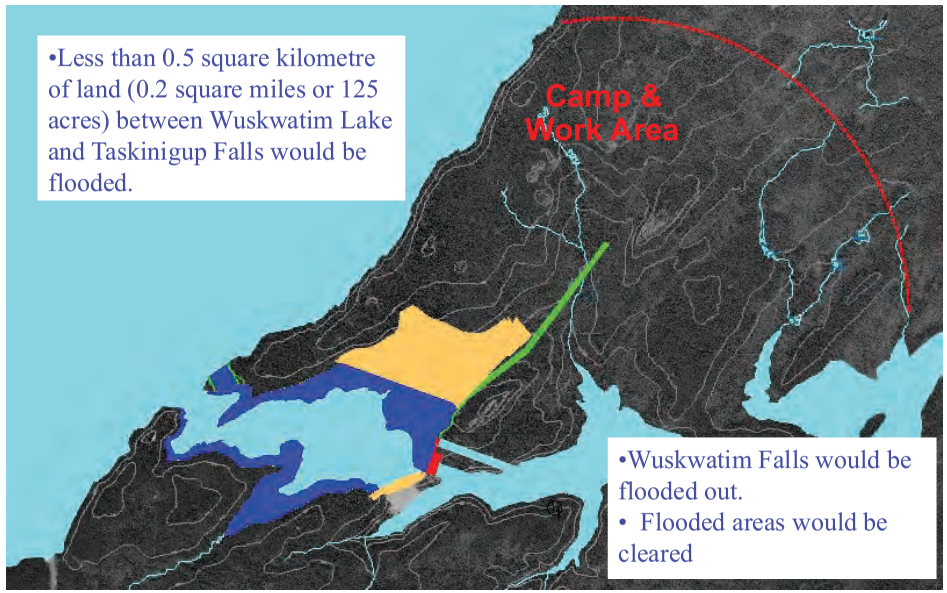
- **It is the observation and experience of the land; Aboriginal law re: how the environment works.**
- **It is the relationship to the land.**
- **It is the goals and aspirations of NCN.**
- **It is NCN's outlook on the proposed project.**
- **It is NCN's identity and culture.**
- **It is the stewardship of the land.**
- **It is a base for natural resource management.**

What is the Proposed Development?

Wuskwatim Generating Station



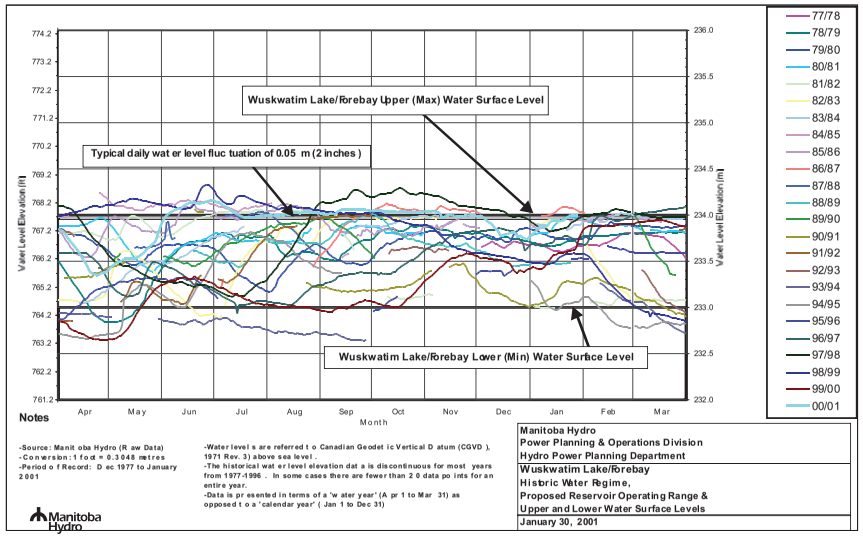
- **The Wuskwatim GS. would be constructed at Taskinigup Falls. It would produce about 200 MW of power (this is smaller than all the Nelson River generating stations except Jenpeg).**
- **A "low head" design was chosen by Hydro to minimize the effect on the environment after NCN Members made it clear that a "high head" design with significant new flooding was not acceptable to NCN.**



Wuskwatim Generating Station (upstream effects)

- Upstream of Wuskwatim Lake, the station would not cause any effect on water levels and flows in Threepoint and Footprint lakes. The week to week and month to month changes in water level that happen now would still occur.

- Water levels on Wuskwatim Lake would not go up and down like they have since CRD. Instead, the water level is expected to go up and down less than 1 m (3.3 ft) within the year (usually much less). The water level would remain near the upper end of the range seen in the last 20 years.



Wuskwatim Generating Station (downstream effects)

- Downstream of the station, the planned plant operation would result in water level and flow changes within the day superimposed on the week to week and month to month changes that now occur:

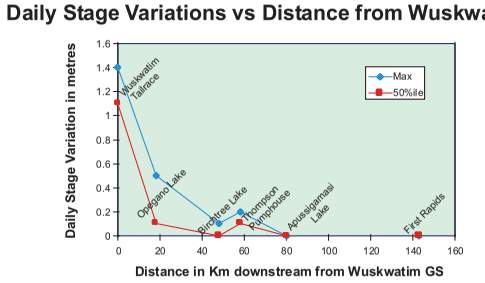
  - immediately downstream of the station (tailrace), water levels within the day would go up and down an average of 1.1 m (3.6 ft), up to a maximum of 1.4 m (4.6 ft).

  - on Opegano Lake, the water level changes within the day would be less than at the tailrace. The average change would be around 0.1 m (4 inches), up to a maximum of 0.5 m (1.6 ft).

  - on Birch Tree Lake, there would be no noticeable effect on water levels within the day.

- Downstream of the generating station, the week to week and month to month changes in water level that happen now would still occur.

- Results of preliminary screening analysis:



- On-going detailed analyses indicate that predicted water level changes within the day will actually be slightly less.

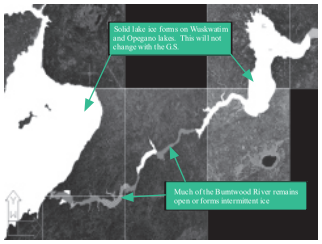
Construction of the Wuskwatim Future Development

- **No decision has been made to construct the proposed Future Development.**
- **If NCN and Manitoba Hydro decide to proceed with the project and regulatory approvals are received, construction could begin in late 2003/early 2004.**
- **Construction of the generating station would proceed in steps beginning with the access road and finishing with completion of the powerhouse in time for first power in 2009.**
- **A camp to house construction workers would be built at the site.**
- **Other temporary facilities (e.g., contractor's work area) would also be needed.**
- **Transmission facilities would also be built.** **SEE TRANSMISSION SECTION**

Ice Studies

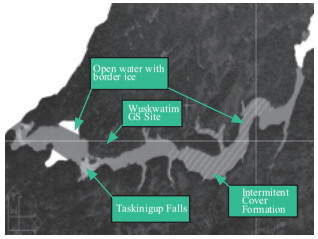
- Field measurements and computer-based models of ice processes have been used to predict the effects of the Wuskwatim G.S. on ice conditions.
- The studies have predicted that ice conditions will generally not change from the existing environment.

Existing Environment:



Wuskwatim Falls



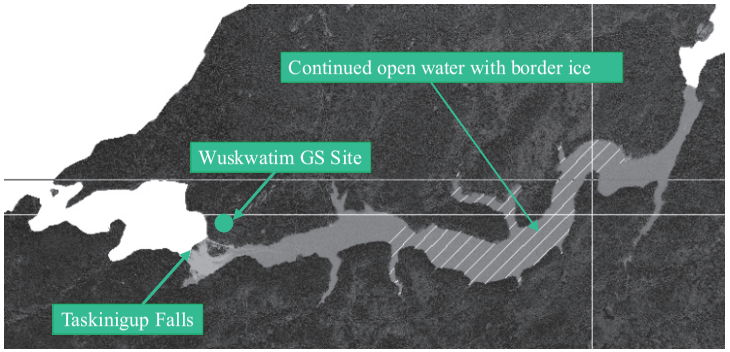


Taskinigup Falls



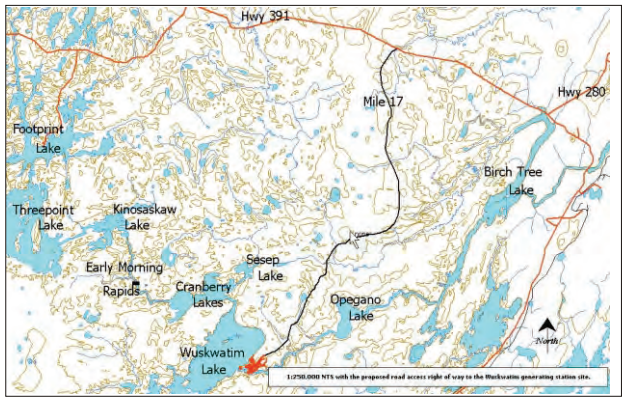
Predicted Environment:

- Immediately upstream of the G.S. solid ice would form in some areas that remain open at present; other areas will remain unchanged.



Road Access - Where We Are Now

- Construction of the generating station requires a road to transport materials, equipment, and people between PR391 and the generating station site.
- After construction, a road is needed to allow workers to do maintain the station.
- Selection of an access road route was a lengthy and involved process - many difficult issues had to be considered.
- NCN members provided input at open house presentations in August 2000 and December 2001, as well as in other meetings and interviews (resource users).
- After carefully considering input from the Alternatives Working Group and NCN members, NCN Chief and Council and Manitoba Hydro chose Mile 17 from six possible route options.
- Mile 17 is the access road option that best meets the goals of both NCN and Manitoba Hydro.
- A committee has been formed to identify possible ways to manage who uses the access road.



Exploration Program

- An exploration program along this route was started in mid January and will continue for several months.
- The Nelson House Resource Management Board reviewed the application for the Work Permit for the exploration program.
- The Work Permit requires that wildlife observation surveys be conducted along the route this winter.
- Nelson House Forest Industries has the contract for the work-camp and doing the clearing for the survey.
- The Department of Highways is surveying the route and collecting information on soils. This information will be used to get a better cost estimate for road construction.







What Studies are Being Done on the Environment?

Environmental Studies

NCN and Hydro have been working together to understand the effects that proposed hydroelectric developments may have on the environment:

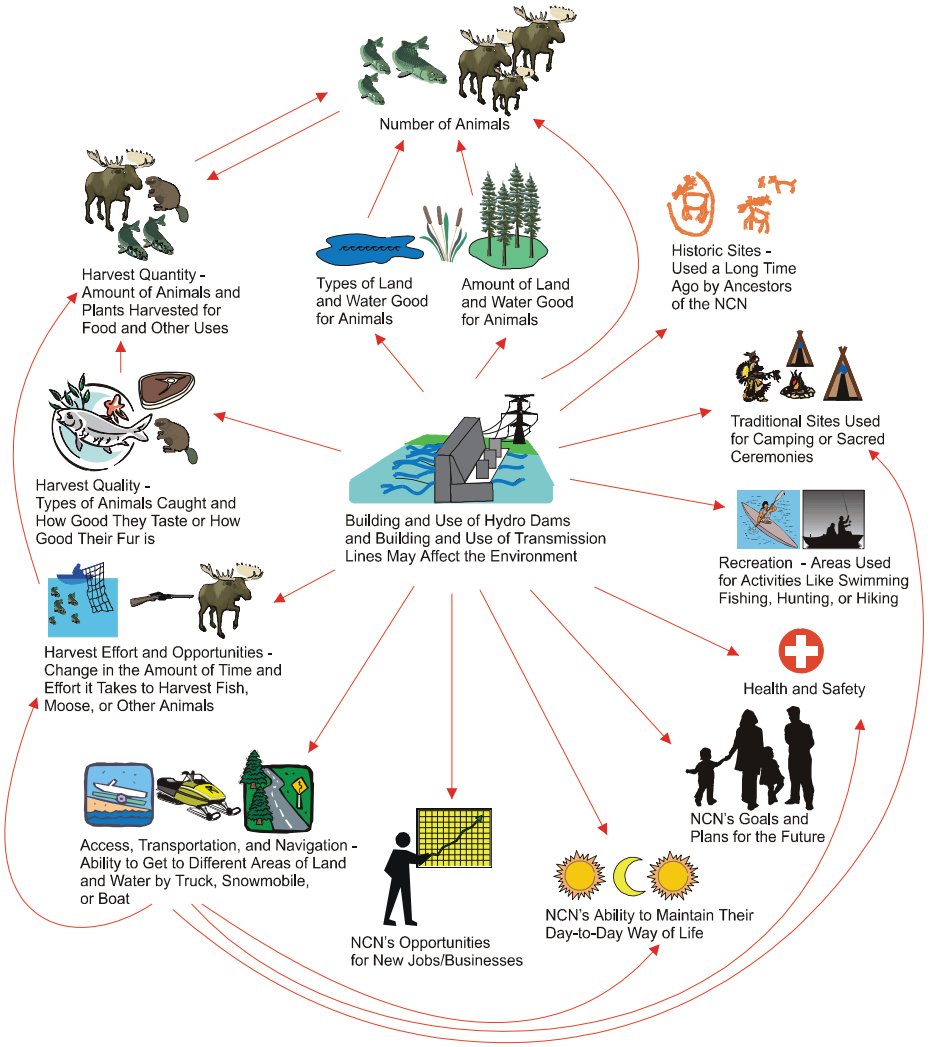
- **The environmental studies that will be done this year began in 2000, and continued in 2001 and 2002.**
- **Studies are looking at:**
  - **water flow and ice formation.**
  - **erosion and debris.**
  - **water and things that live in it, including fish.**
  - **the land environment and things that live in it.**
  - **use of resources by NCN (e.g., hunting, trapping, fishing).**
  - **commercial forestry.**
  - **heritage resources.**
  - **socio-economic issues such as business and employment opportunities, transportation, culture, and community and family life.**

NCN members have been participating in the studies by providing information about things being studied, such as wildlife, and by working with the field crews.

Assessing the Effects of the Proposed Developments

- **The information gathered during the studies will be used to write an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).**
- **An EIS is a study, which is done before a project is built, to identify the expected effects of the project on land, water, and animals, as well as the community and people.**
- **The studies will use information from many sources, including field studies as well as local and traditional knowledge.**
- **The EIS will also look at CUMULATIVE EFFECTS - the effect of the proposed project together with other planned developments, such as forestry.**

The EIS must be done to meet the regulatory requirements of the governments of Manitoba and Canada and address the concerns of NCN about the Future Wuskwatim Project.



Things to be studied as part of an EIS.

Studies of the Water Environment

- water quality
- fish habitat (water depth, bottom type, water plants and bugs)
- fish biology
- fish movements

Why are Studies of Water Quality Being Done?

- The studies are examining substances in the water (like suspended mud), which can affect the plants, algae (microscopic plant-like organisms that float in the water), and animals that live in the water.
- Some substances in water may also affect its use by humans (for example, resource users drinking water while away from the community).

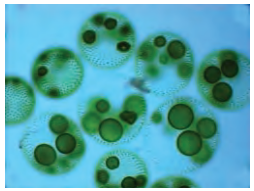


Harry Spence at the Opegano Limnology Site

What is Being Looked at?

The studies are looking at many things including:

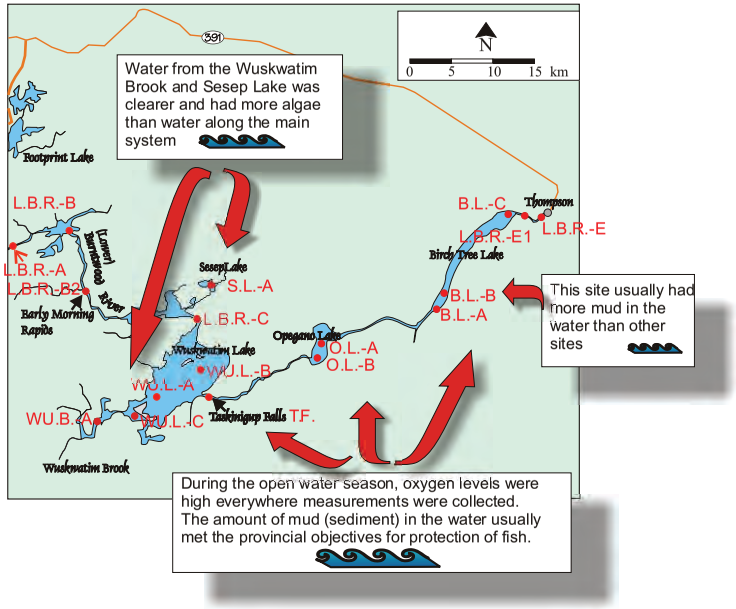
Oxygen: How much oxygen is in the water; oxygen is important for fish and other animals living in the water.
Suspended solids: How much mud is in the water.
Algae: How much algae is in the water.



Algae

What has Been Completed So Far?

Water has been sampled at several sites in the Wuskwatim Project study area (as well as various upstream sites) in 1999, 2000, and 2001 in winter and in the open-water season.



What's Next?

Information gathered during the field studies will be used to help predict how the proposed project might affect water quality by:

- **The possible input of substances (e.g., sediments) during construction;**
- **Input of substances due to flooding (very small area); and,**
- **Introduction of sediments and other substances due to short-term increased erosion.**

Fish Habitat

Why are fish habitat studies being done?

Studies are being done to map fish habitat in the study area (Early Morning Rapids to Opegano Lake). This information will be used to determine potential effects on fish habitat upstream and downstream of the proposed project due to:

- **changes in water flow and water level fluctuations;**
- **changes in erosion and sedimentation;**
- **changes in water depth and velocity; and,**
- **the small area (<0.5 km^2) that will be inundated upstream of Taskingup Falls.**

Fish habitat information collected included:

1. Water depth



Jeff Eddy collecting depth information

2. Bottom type



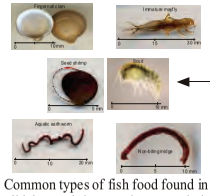
A sample taken from the bottom of a lake

3. W ater Plants



Derek Linklater collecting water plants

4. Invertebrates (Fish Food)



Common types of fish food found in all lakes and river sections sampled:

What's Next?

Fish habitat information will be combined with information on water quality and fish populations to describe the aquatic environment and to predict potential changes to aquatic habitat if the proposed project is built.

Fish Presence & Abundance

Why are fish presence & abundance studies being done?

1. To record the different kinds of fish found in the lakes around the proposed generating station.

2. To record how many fish of each species there are in the different areas.

It is important to know what types of fish and how many there are in each lake under existing conditions to understand what potential changes might occur as a result of the project. The information will also be used as a baseline to determine if there are changes in fish presence and abundance caused by the project.





Fish populations have been sampled using a standard series of gillnets with different mesh sizes to capture different species, sizes, and ages of fish.





What has been found so far?

The numbers of fish caught in a lake will be presented using catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE). CPUE is the number of fish caught in a 100 m gill net in 24 hours.

By standardizing catches as CPUE, comparisons can easily be made between years for the same lake, between areas in a lake, or can be made between different fish or different lakes.

Wuskwatim Lake

Species	Species Composition %			Catch-per-unit effort		
	1998	2000	2001	1998	2000	2001
Burbot	0.7	1.4	0.5	0.4	1.1	0.3
Tullibee	21.6	17.8	10.3	13.4	14.1	7.4
Whitefish	5.5	4.5	3.0	3.4	3.6	2.1
Longnose sucker	1.4	4.1	0.0	0.9	3.2	0.0
Jackfish	6.9	2.6	4.1	4.3	2.1	2.9
Sauger	23.4	27.4	21.3	14.5	21.7	15.2
Trout perch	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Pickerel	6.4	6.6	25.2	4.0	5.2	18.0
White sucker	29.7	29.2	23.3	18.5	23.1	16.6
Yellow Perch	4.4	6.4	12.4	2.7	5.1	8.8
OVERALL	100.0	100.0	100.0	62.2	79.1	71.4

Opegano Lake

Species	Species Composition %		Catch-per-unit-effort	
	2000	2001	2000	2001
Tullibee	2.5	2.2	0.9	0.9
Whitefish	9.5	8.8	3.5	3.7
Longnose sucker	1.8	0.6	0.6	0.3
Mooneye	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0
Jackfish	10.2	9.1	3.7	3.9
Sauger	29.5	15.9	10.8	6.8
Shorthead redhorse	2.5	0.9	0.9	0.4
Pickerel	16.6	27.5	6.0	11.7
White sucker	23.9	30.3	8.7	12.9
Yellow Perch	3.1	4.7	1.2	2.0
OVERALL	100.0	100.0	36.4	42.9

Sesep Lake

2001

Species	Species Composition %	Catch-per-unit-effort
Tullibee	15.7	5
Whitefish	21.7	7
Jackfish	37.3	12
Pickerel	18.1	5.8
Yellow perch	7.2	2.3
Total	100.0	32.2

Cranberry Lake

2001

Species	Species Composition %	Catch-per-unit-effort
Burbot	0.4	0.2
Tullibee	5.1	2.8
Whitefish	8.7	4.8
Jackfish	10.2	5.6
Sauger	13.2	7.2
Shorthead redhorse	0.4	0.2
Pickerel	42.5	23.3
White sucker	13.0	7.2
Yellow perch	6.5	3.6
Total	100.0	54.8

Wuskwatim Brook

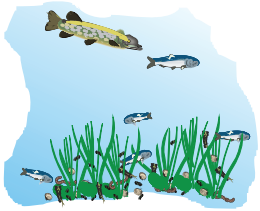
2001

Species	Species Composition %	Catch-per-unit-effort
Burbot	0.3	0.2
Tullibee	40.3	25.7
Whitefish	4.2	2.7
Jackfish	11.5	7.3
Pickerel	28.8	18.4
White sucker	7.6	4.9
Yellow perch	7.3	4.7
Total	100	63.9

Fish Biology

Why study fish biology?

Age & Growth:
How old are the fish? How fast are they growing?



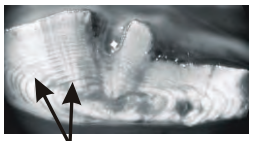
Diet:
What are the fish eating?

What has been done?

Age & Growth:
To date, ages have been determined for over 1,000 fish in the study area.

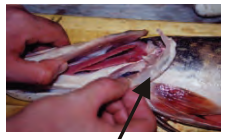


The age of pickerel is determined by examining a bone from their back fin called a "dorsal spine".



The ages of whitefish and tullibee are determined by examining a bone in the head, called an "otolith". Each ring of the otolith represents one year of life.

Diet:
To date, over 750 fish stomachs have been examined.



The age of jackfish is determined by examining a bone under the gill plate, called a "cleithrum".

What has been found?

Age and Growth

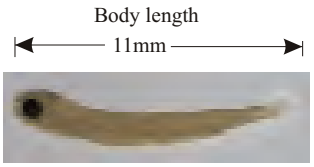
Lake	Year Caught	Fish	Oldest (yr)	Largest (mm)	Largest (inch)
Wuskwatim	1998 & 2000	Tullibee	14	488	19.2
		Whitefish	24	505	19.9
		Jackfish	6	580	22.8
		Pickerel	13	570	22.4

Diet

Lake	Fish	Most Common Food	2nd Most Common Food
Wus kwatim, 1998	Tullibee	clam shrimps	clams
	Whitefish	clams	clam shrimps
	Jackfish	fish	crayfish
	Pickerel	mayflies	fish
Wus kwatim, 2000	Tullibee	mayflies	water bugs
	Whitefish	clams	scuds/water lice
	Jackfish	fish	mayflies
	Pickerel	mayflies	fish

Fish Spawning

Studies were conducted to determine when and where whitefish, pickerel, and tullibee spawn.



Newly hatched whitefish.



Sampling for newly hatched fish.

1. Newly hatched fish:

- Fish less than 30 days old can not swim. Therefore, the area where these fish are caught is probably close to the spawning area.
- Sampling for newlyhatched whitefish and tullibee was performed in many areas of:
  - Wuskwatim Lake,
  - Opegano Lake, and
  - areas in the Burntwood River.

2. Adult Fish: Radio-Tags

- Radio-tags are attached to a fish to help track when and where fish move. The transmitted signal can be detected by radio receivers when flying over the area.
- If many fish go to an area when they should be spawning, it may mean its a spawning site.
- Fish were caught and tagged in Wuskwatim, Sesep, and the Cranberry Lakes.
- In 1999 and 2000, a total of 42 fish whitefish, pickerel, and tullibee were tagged.



Pickerel with radio-tag.



Checking a gillnet.

3. Adult Fish: Gillnetting

- In 2000 and 2001, suspected pickerel and jackfish spawning areas were sampled by gillnetting.
- Fish were examined to determine if they were ready to spawn than tagged and released.

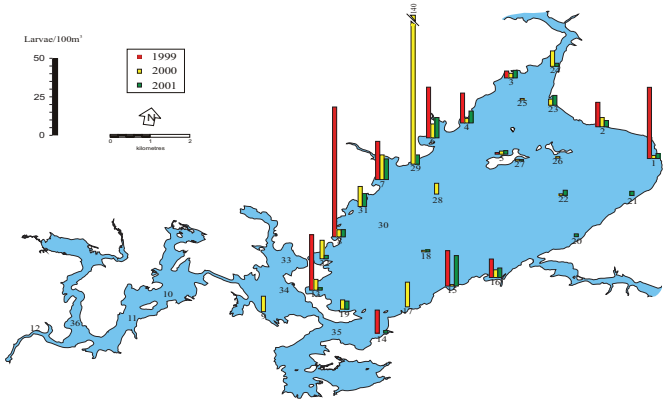
1. Larval Fish:

- Larval tullibee were found throughout Sesep and the Cranberry Lakes.
- The greatest number of larvae in Wuskwatim Lake is found on the west shore.

Larval cisco catches from Sesep and the Cranberry Lakes.



Map illustrating where larval lake whitefish were caught in Wuskwatim Lake.



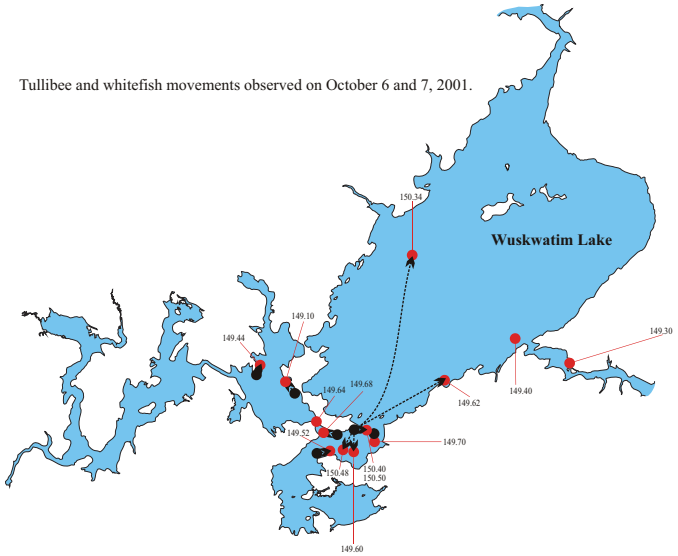
2. Adult Fish: Radio-Tags

- No major movements or congregations were observed for radio-tagged whitefish in 1999 or 2000.
- Because of this, spawning areas could not be positively identified.

3. Adult Fish: Gillnetting

- Large numbers of pickerel in spawning condition were tagged just below Wuskwatim Brook.
- NCN members have indicated this area as an important location for pickerel.

Tullibee and whitefish movements observed on October 6 and 7, 2001.



Fish Movement

Why study fish movements?

Fish Movements:

Where do fish move within and between lakes?

Taskinigup Falls:

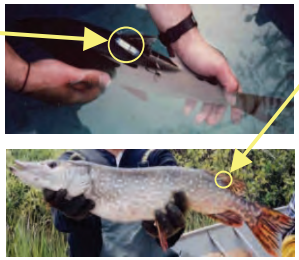
Studies are also being done to confirm that fish do not move upstream over Taskinigup Falls.

What has been done?

Radio-tags

In 1999 and 2000, a total of fish were tagged and tracked:

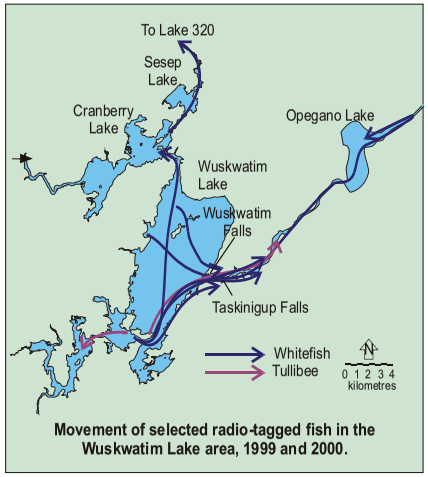
- 20 whitefish,
- 14 pickerel, and
- 8 tullibee.



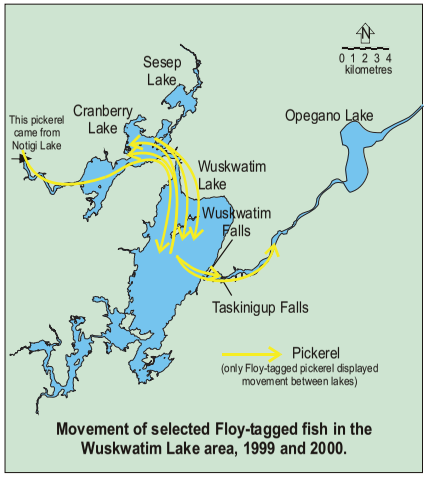
Floy-tags

In 1999 and 2000, approximately 1,002 fish were tagged, including whitefish, pickerel, tullibee, and jackfish.

What has been found?



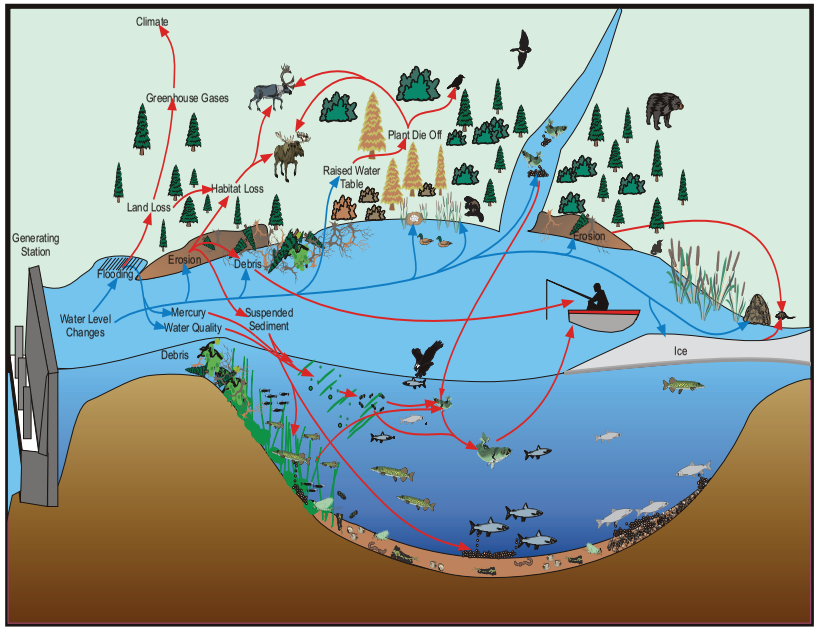
Movement of selected radio-tagged fish in the Wuskwatim Lake area, 1999 and 2000.



Movement of selected Floy-tagged fish in the Wuskwatim Lake area, 1999 and 2000.

How Will This Information Be Used?

- Information about the existing environment, based on field studies, TK from NCN members, government databases, and published scientific reports, will be used to help predict how the proposed project might affect the aquatic environment.

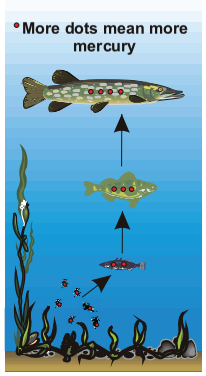


- This picture shows how the project could affect the water, plants, bugs, and fish living in the lake.
- For example, increased water levels could increase erosion of the shore. This would make the water muddier, and affect the growth of plants and bugs. Changes in the plants and bugs could then affect the fish.
- The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will describe these pathways and, using our understanding of the existing environment, say if there would be a change as a result of the Project, and, if so, how big the change would be.

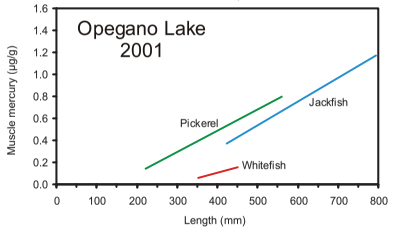
Mercury in Fish

What is mercury?

Mercury is a naturally occurring metal found in rocks and soils. When land is flooded to create reservoirs, mercury comes out of the flooded soils and plants. Mercury gets into small organisms (such as algae) and is passed on to small fish that eat them. These small fish accumulate mercury and end up having a higher concentration of it in their own body. The small fish are then eaten by larger fish and the amount of mercury increases again. Therefore, fish such as pickerel or jackfish, which feed on other fish, generally have higher mercury levels than whitefish or suckers.



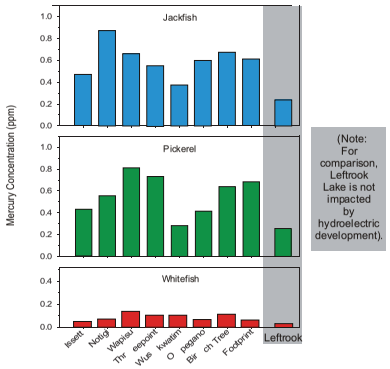
In addition to the type of fish, older, larger fish usually have more mercury in their bodies than younger, smaller fish.



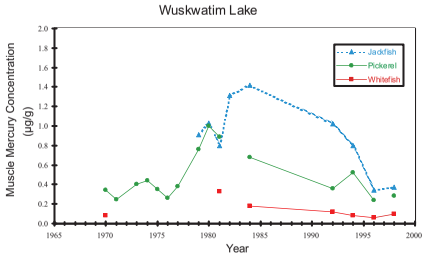
What has been completed so far?

The amount of mercury in fish has been measured since the 1970's in Wuskwatim Lake, and since 1983 at Threepoint Lake and Rat Lake. The amount of mercury in fish has also been measured from Footprint, Wapisu, Notigi, Leftrook, Opegano, and Birch Tree lakes as part of the Joint Study Program.

The increase in fish mercury levels is related to the amount and type of land that is flooded. The CRD flooded large amounts of land resulting in the release of large amounts of mercury to the water. In the case of the Wuskwatim G.S., only half a square kilometre will be flooded. Therefore, increases in mercury are expected to be small.



(Note: For comparison, Leftrook Lake is not impacted by hydroelectric development).



What's Next?

Although increased fish mercury levels as a result of the Wuskwatim G.S. are expected to be minimal, mercury monitoring on all lakes previously studied will continue.

Mercury in People

Important considerations about mercury.

- Although small amounts of mercury are found in some other things (e.g., cigarettes, batteries, and paints) the main source of mercury to humans is in the fish that they eat.
- There is no method of cooking or cleaning fish that will remove mercury.
- Pregnant women, or women that may become pregnant, may want to eat less fish to keep their methyl mercury intake low.
- There is no cure for the effects of mercury.
- Mercury is most harmful to young children and unborn infants.

How much fish can safely be eaten?

If fish MeHg concentration is:	*Amount of fish a 70 kg (154 lb) man could eat in a week*		*Number of meals a 70 kg man could eat in one week*
	grams	pounds	*(one meal = 200 g or 0.44 lbs)*
1.00 ppm	160	0.35	0.8
0.50 ppm	310	0.68	1.6
0.40 ppm	390	0.86	2.0
0.30 ppm	520	1.14	2.6
0.20 ppm	**780**	**1.72**	**3.9**
0.10 ppm	1560	3.43	7.8

Source: Kershaw, T.G., Clarkson, T.W., Dhahir, P. 1980. The Relationship between Blood Levels and Dose of Methylmercuryin Man. Archives of Environmental Health, Vol. 35, No. 1, January/February 1980, 28-36.

These classifications are based on a 70 kg (154 lb) male, therefore those who weigh less than 70 kg, especially pregnant women, should be cautious and reduce their mercury intake levels more than what is recommended here.

For women age 15 to 39, it is recommended that mercury levels be maintained at less than one half of the normal acceptable levels to avoid potential harmful effects if the woman becomes pregnant.

Studies of the Land Environment

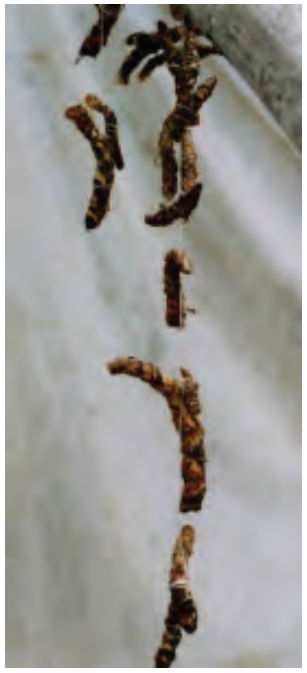
- vegetation
- birds
- mammals

Why Do We Study Vegetation?

Plants, shrubs and trees growing in the Wuskwatim area will be affected by predicted changes in water levels and flows and construction projects.

Vegetation is an important part of the web of life. It provides:

- **food and cover for birds and other animals;**
- **resources for people (food, medicines, wood); and**
- **a living landscape that builds the atmosphere and soils and protects against erosion.**



Wihkis roots drying



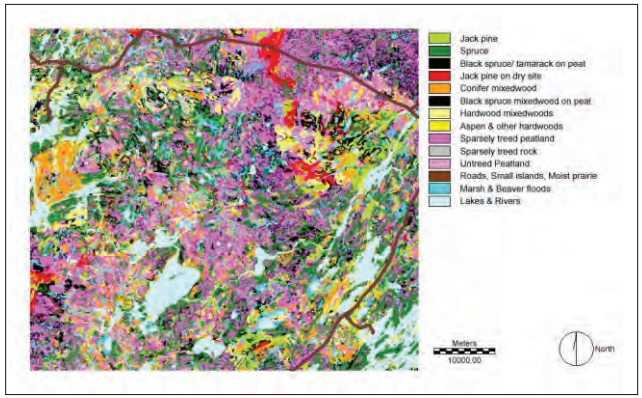
Beaver lodge in Wuskwatim Brook area



Bald Eagle nest in anAspen tree on Wuskwatim Lake

How Do We Study Vegetation?

Air photos give a picture of the ground and the kinds of trees and plants that grow there. Photos of the Wuskwatim area were used to make a vegetation map.



Vegetation map of the study area

In the study area, sites are chosen for closer study to provide a detailed picture of the plants that grow in the area.

Field study sites are located in:

- **low-lying areas and shorelines where water levels and flows are predicted to change;**
- **areas where construction activities will occur (generating station and roads);**
- **areas that NCN and biologists have identified as important (e.g. for moose or ducks); and**
- **areas that may have plants or groups of plants that are uncommon or rare.**

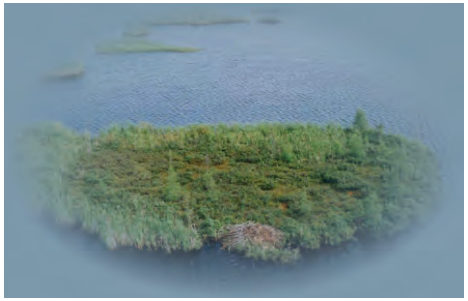


Bennet Francois and Natalie Tays, measure trees and snags inside the vegetation plot

What Have We Found So Far?

- **We have found over 200 different kinds of plants growing in the Wuskwatim study area. These include trees and shrubs and plants found in water and on land.**
- **So far, we have found no nationally or provincially rare plants in the study area.**
- **We have learned of 40 different plants in the study area that are used by NCN.**

Our vegetation mapping is showing that earlier flooding of peatlands has created peat "islands" in the areas around Wuskwatim Brook and Sesep Lake. These islands are still moving and changing.



"Islands" created by flooded peat land

What's Next?

- **We are analyzing our data to try to predict what effects the proposed project will have on the vegetation in the study area.**
- **We will be providing information on vegetation to biologists studying mammals and birds.**

Birds

- Birds are an important part of the environment, with some (e.g., ducks, geese, grouse) being harvested by NCN members.
- An assessment of potential effects of the Project on birds is a requirement of the environmental assessment process.
- All groups of birds were studied, including: waterbirds (ducks, geese, gulls, terns); raptors (e.g., eagles); upland game birds (e.g., grouse); shorebirds (e.g., Sandpipers); and songbirds (e.g., sparrows and warblers).

Birds and their habitat were sampled in 2000 and 2001 using:

- 6 helicopter surveys.
- land-based surveys in different habitats at 280 sites (or equivalent to 56 surveys).
- 56 boat-based surveys along a total length of nearly 1,800 km of shoreline.
- general reconnaissance in the May to October periods throughout the study area.





Harry Spence (above left) and Ron Dysart (center) assisted in boat-based and Ron Spence (above right) in helicopter surveys

Preliminary Bird Study Results

- No endangered bird species were observed in the study area in 2000 or 2001.
- Waterbird numbers (per kilometre surveyed) were highest in waterbodies outside the Rat and Burntwood River system during all seasons. Waterfowl were most numerous:
  - in small, shallow, marshy lakes such as Tetroe and Muskego lakes
  - in sheltered bays and inlets, particularly where there was marshy vegetation or floating peat islands
  - for the Burntwood River system, waterfowl were most common within Cranberry Lake and the southern bays of Wuskwatim Lake

Preliminary Bird Study Results (continued)

- Most common landbird species observed between Early Morning Rapids and Opegano Lake were typical of coniferous dominant mixed woods and edge habitat in the region.
- Species diversity in forests was highest at the "edge", namely along rivers and streams.
- Woody debris was used as habitat for nesting (e.g., cavity nesting ducks, swallows, and blackbirds), cover, loafing, perching and foraging.
- The study results do not suggest that the Wuskwatim or Opegano lake areas provide regionally important breeding or staging areas for birds.
- Bird study results will be summarized in 2000/ 2001 field reports and the EIS.



Adult Eagle in Aspen along Notigi Lake



Duck nest, near Wuskwatim Brook



Gull nesting colony on Wuskwatim Lake

Mammals

Mammals are an important part of NCN tradition, culture, and lifestyle:

- Mammals are valued as a supply of food (hunting), and income and employment (trapping and guiding).
- The generating stations would cause small changes in water levels and may have an effect on mammals that live near the water.
- The construction and operation of the generating station, and increased access to the area, could affect moose and woodland caribou as well as other mammals.
- Information from the studies will be used to help predict the effects of the proposed project on mammals and help identify measures to reduce potential significant negative effects.

Mammal Tracking Surveys

Surveys along the proposed access road route and in the general area were conducted to describe mammal distribution away from the lake and river shore:

- ***Winter road surveys*: NCN members counted animal sign to see how many animals traveled the Mile 20 access trail. Moose and lynx provided most of the sign (fox, otter, wolf, marten, wolverine, and mink also contributed). Similar surveys are taking place this winter.**

- ***Caribou surveys*: Helicopter routes were flown in January 2001and again in February 2002. The true Wapisu population is likely greater than 200 caribou.**

- ***Caribou tracking*: NCN members determined local caribou movement patterns by conducting surveys along PR 391, existing the Mile 20 access trail, and along the transmission line during October, November and December 2001.**



Lynx tracks

Muskrat and Beaver Studies

- **A survey of muskrat push-ups in early spring found that lakes along the CRD route had very few push-ups compared to off-system lakes.**

- **During summer, many muskrat burrows were recorded on Wuskwatim, Notigi, Opegano and Wapisu lakes. Active muskrat burrows in 2001 were down in numbers due to water level changes on these lakes compared to 2000.**

- **More signs of muskrat were counted on floating islands in Wuskwatim, Wapisu and Notigi lakes during 2001 than in 2000. Many muskrats live on these islands and feed on the plants.**

- **Beaver lodges were recorded on Wuskwatim Lake (40 lodges, plus 36 lodges downstream of Wuskwatim Falls into Opegano Lake), Wapisu Lake (27 lodges), and Threepoint Lake (6 lodges). Beaver sign was also noted along shores.**



Wuskwatim Brook beaver lodge - plundered by wolverine

Habitat-based Mammal Surveys

Habitat surveys of forest and forest edge communities in the Wuskwatim area were done to assess mammal presence according to species and habitat.

- **Some mammals were more commonly found in certain habitat types, while fewer animals occurred in other habitat types.**
- **Forest communities surveyed included black spruce, white spruce, jack pine, trembling aspen, coniferous mixedwood, deciduous mixedwood, bog and fen (i.e., muskeg).**
- **moose were the most widespread, occuring in more than 80% of the areas surveyed.**
- **black bear, wolf and woodland caribou occurred in 30-50% of the sites surveyed.**
- **marten, fox, mink, beaver, and muskrat, sign were also observed.**

Caribou Radio-Collaring Study

- **NCN and Manitoba Hydro are conducting a radio-collaring study of woodland caribou.**
- **In early February, radio-collars were put on 20 caribou.**
- **Signals from the collars will be transmitted to a satellite so that the movements of the animals can be followed.**
- **This study will provide valuable information about the number of caribou that use the area where the proposed project would be built, and help develop appropriate management plans if the station is constructed.**







Commercial Forestry

- There are three distinct project related effects that are anticipated to cause forestry impacts. These are:
  - Flooding - approximately 0.5 km^2 of merchantable timber would be flooded.
  - Erosion - rates would initially increase above existing levels as shorelines stabilize.
  - Clearing for infrastructure - some area will be permanently lost while others (e.g., construction camp) will be temporary.
- Merchantable timber will be salvaged from the flooded area and where infrastructure is built.



Erosion, forest loss, woody debris contribution to basin



Typical forest clearing; land use conversion

Commercial Forestry - Preliminary Findings

- Flooding and flood related damage to forests will be minimal,
- Stands along most of the access route and borrow sites are immature and merchantability is questionable,
- Stands in the footprint area are a mixture of immature (non-merchantable) and mature (merchantable) forest types,
- The reduction of the annual allowable cut (AAC) due to productive forest land use conversion and loss will be minimal resulting in a minor impact



Murdo Linklater assisting with forestry work

Studies of Resource Use

Resource Use

Use of natural resources is important to NCN members.

The proposed Future Development could affect resource use by:

- **directly affecting resources (e.g., reducing the number of moose); and/or,**
- **changing accessibility to resources**

The types of resource use that could be affected include:

- **traditional harvests (e.g., hunting, fishing, gathering)**
- **commercial fishing**
- **commercial trapping**
- **commercial forestry**
- **recreation**

Information on NCN Resource Use has been gathered from the following sources:

- **interviews with those responsible for managing resources in the NCN RMA**
- **to date 163 households in Nelson House are participating in a Resource Harvest Calendar**
- **meetings with the NCN commercial fishermen and trappers**
- **country foods program data**

Studies of the Effects on Heritage Resources

Northern Lights Heritage Services Inc. staff, and NCN were busy during the summers of 2000 and 2001 conducting archaeological field investigations.





The construction area and the areas between Wuskwatim Lake and Taskinigup Falls on the Burntwood River were investigated.

At Wuskwatim Falls a stone feature was uncovered about 25 m north of the falls during shovel testing. A 2 m x 2 m area was opened which revealed numerous rocks that may have been a portage marker in the distant past . A small piece of black chert stone core was found nearby.



Studies of the Effects on Heritage Resources (continued)

The remains of an old cabin are located at Taskinigup Falls. When David McLeod and Leo Spence excavated the interior of the cabin, much to their surprise they found a canoe buried deep in the moss.



- Field investigations along the access road will be completed in spring 2002.
- The study team will use results from these field studies as well as past research on Wuskwatim Lake conducted by Manitoba Heritage Resources Branch to assess the potential effect of the proposed Wuskwatim Project on heritage resources.

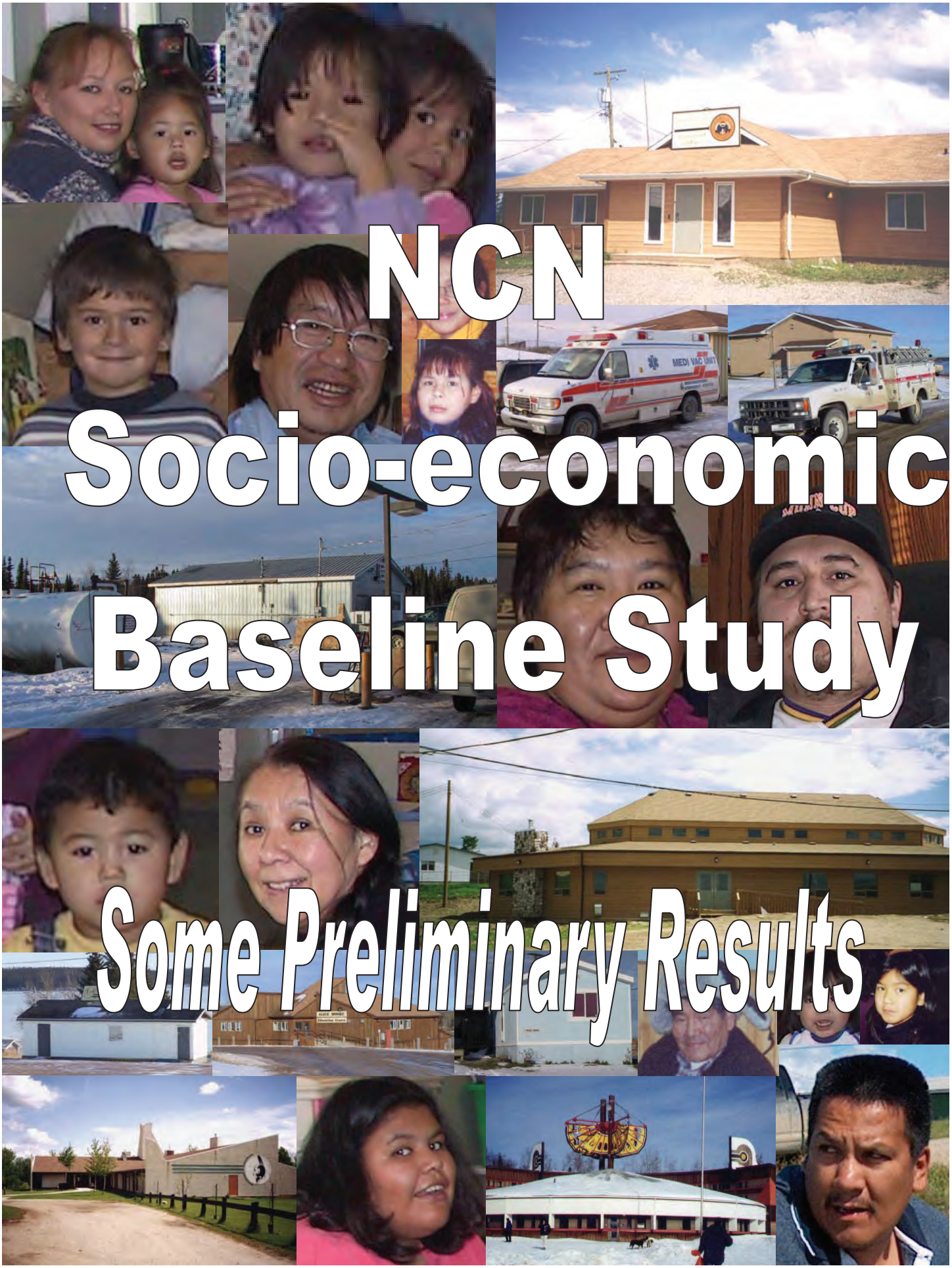
Debris Studies

Background:

- **Debris can affect resource harvesting activities such as fishing and hunting.**
- **Very little clearing was associated with the Churchill River Diversion:**
    - **this has created an ongoing debris problem along the Rat and Burntwood River systems.**

Studies Undertaken in 2000 and 2001:

- **Boat, helicopter and land-based surveys involved characterizing the type and amount of debris along the Burntwood and Rat river systems from Notigi to Birch Tree Lake:**
    - **periodic boat based debris characterization and mobility studies.**
    - **field studies to quantify volume of debris.**
- **Other related information from erosion and forestry studies will be used to determine what debris-related changes might be expected within the proposed project area.**
- **A debris workshop in mid-January 2002 involved discussion of the assessment conducted to date and the potential management options to deal with debris issues.**


NCN
Socio-economic
Baseline Study
Some Preliminary Results

Socio-economic Baseline Studies as part of the Proposed Wuskwatim Project?

- Socio-economic studies consider people, their lifestyles, and their communities.
- A socio-economic baseline study looks at what it is currently like to live in communities and regions near a proposed project.
- It also tries to predict what life might be like if things were to continue the way they are today without the proposed project.
- Socio-economic baseline studies for the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station are being completed for:
  - NCN
  - Thompson
  - Northern Region
- The baseline study for NCN is the most comprehensive.

Topics Included in the Socio-economic Baseline Study for NCN

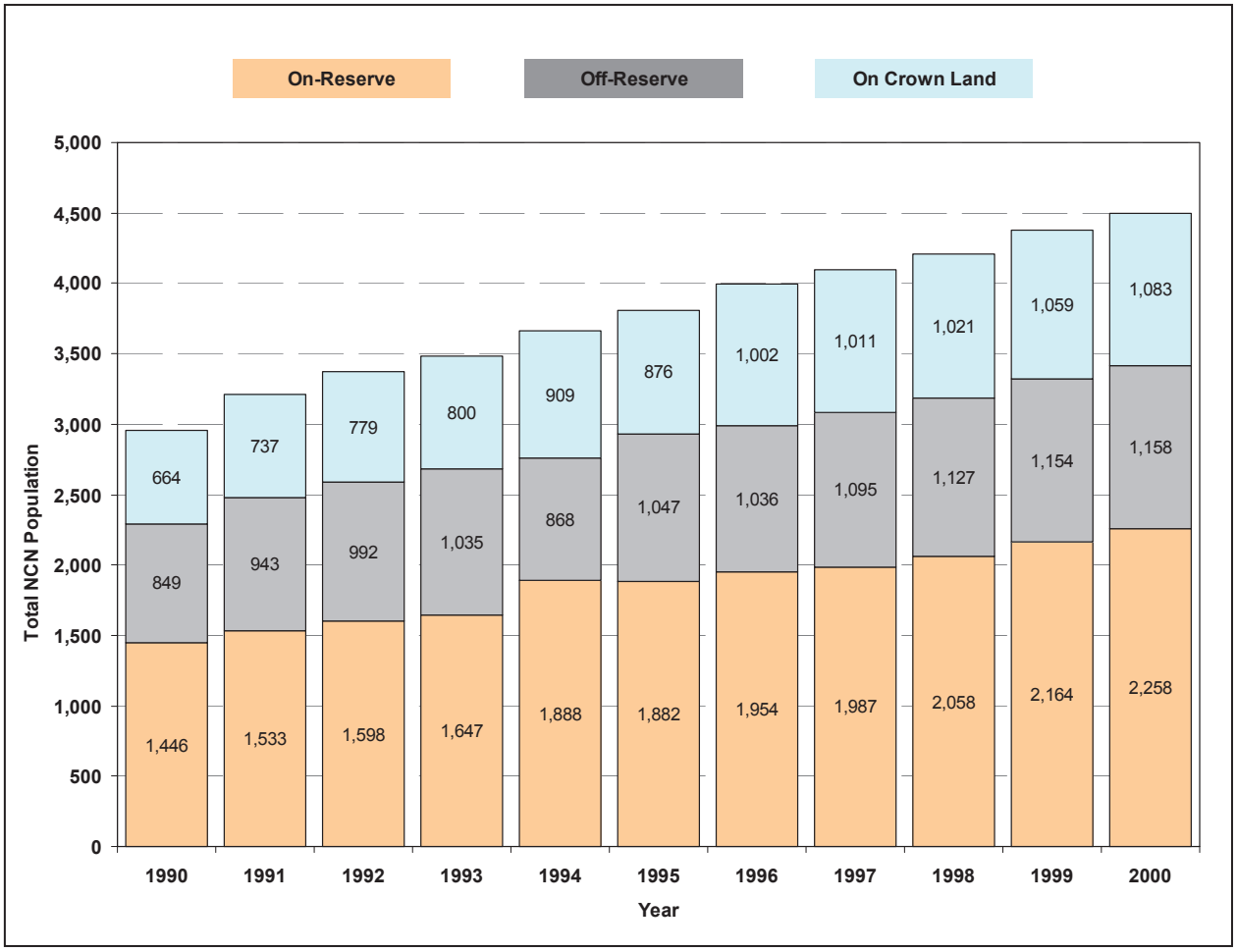
- History & trends
- Population
  - Current
  - Projected
- Economy, including Resource-Based Economy
  - Employment, training & income
  - Business
  - Compatibility with goals and plans
- Built Environment & Community Services
  - Transportation Infrastructure
  - Community infrastructure & services
  - Community finance
- Personal Family & community Life
  - Traditional Outdoor activities
  - Navigation Safety & Access
  - Traffic Safety & Access
  - Health
  - Social Interaction & Community Cohesion
  - Culture

Some of what we know to date is outlined in the following storyboards



TOTAL NCN POPULATION

Total NCN Population On-Reserve, Off-Reserve and On Crown Land: 1990 to 2000

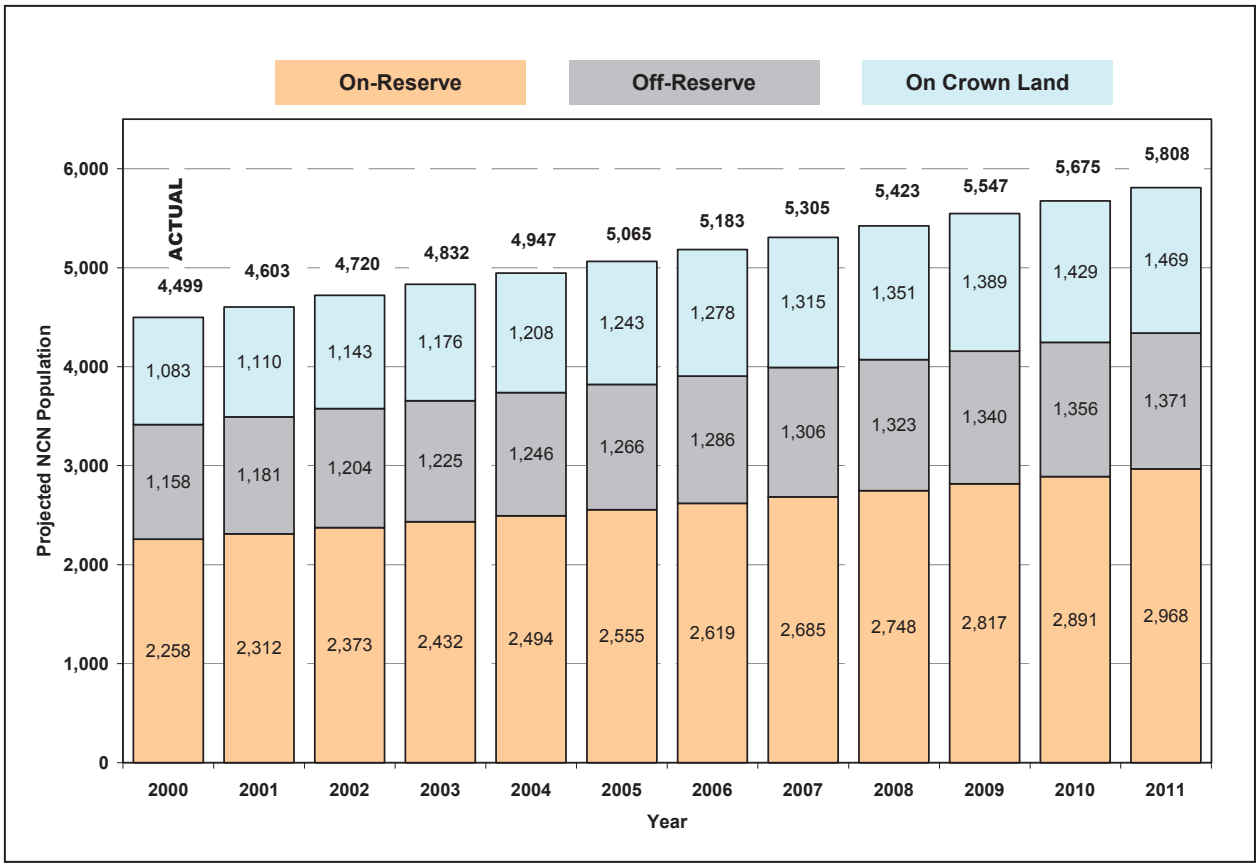


PROJECTED NCN POPULATION



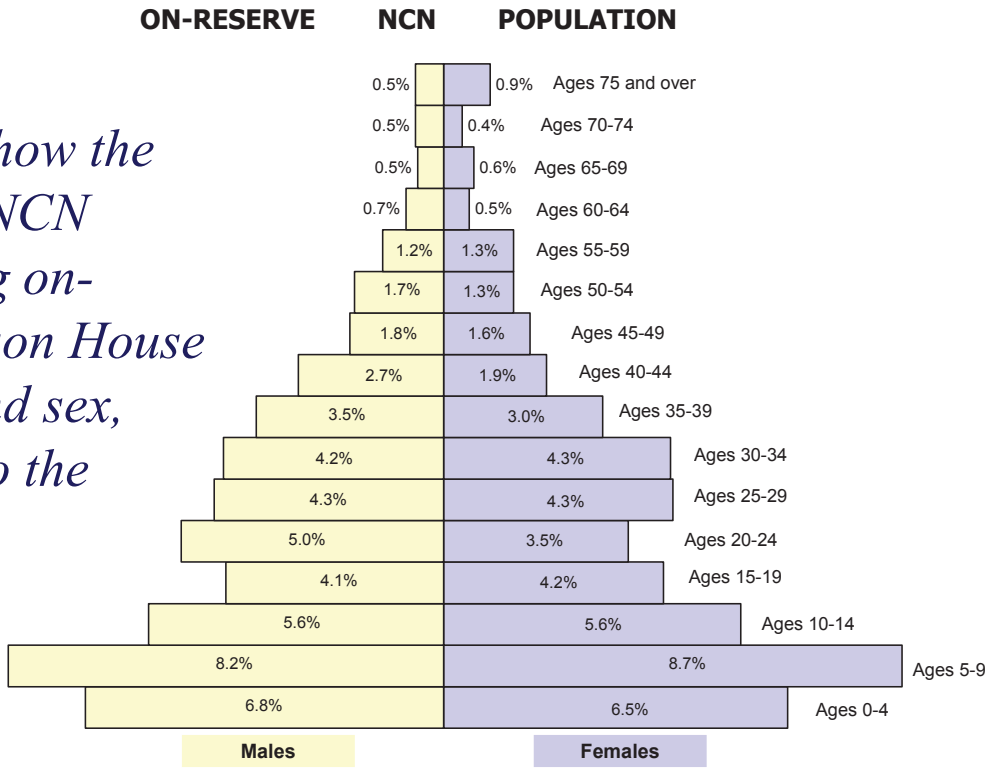
NCN's membership is predicted to experience a 2.1 to 2.5 per cent growth rate between 2000 and 2011. This is considered to be quite high.

Projected NCN Population On-Reserve, Off-Reserve and On Crown Land Using a Medium Growth Scenario: 2001 to 2011

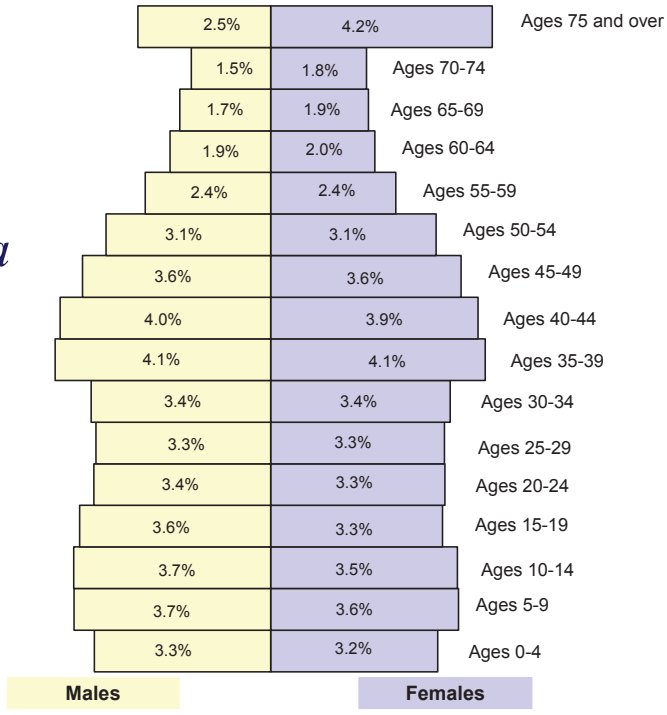


NCN POPULATION ON-RESERVE BY AGE & SEX

These charts show the proportion of NCN members living on-reserve in Nelson House by their age and sex, as compared to the total Manitoba population.



Compared to Manitoba as a whole, NCN has a very young on-reserve population..



LEVEL OF EDUCATION AMONG NCN MEMBERS



Information from Statistics Canada, and the 2000 NCN Opinion Survey and Human Resources Survey in Nelson House indicate that general levels of education among NCN's on-reserve members are increasing.

Highest Level of Education of NCN Members Living in Nelson House

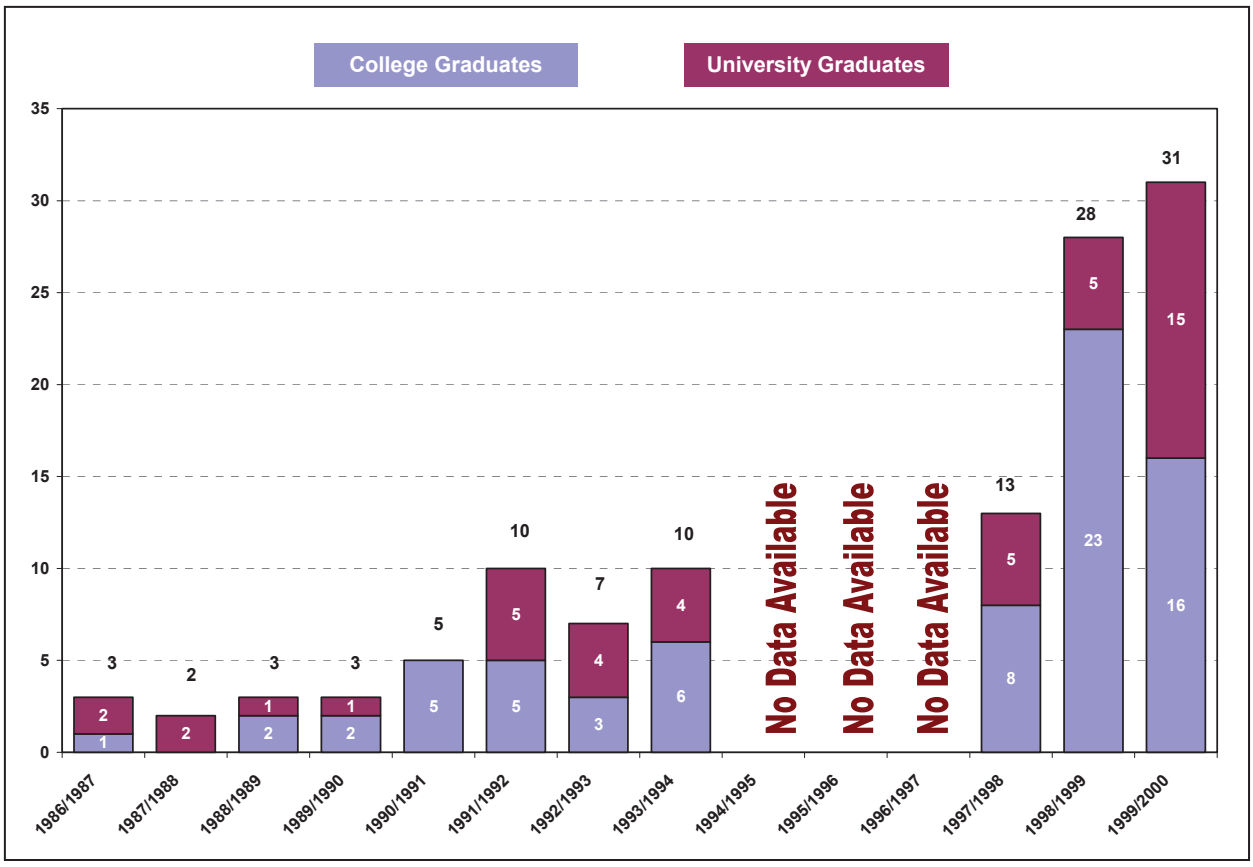
	Percentage of total NCN members living at Nelson House ages 15 and over			
Level of Education	**1991 Statistics Canada (Total = 785)**	**1996 Statistics Canada (Total = 1,070)**	**2000 NCN Opinion Survey (Total = 813)**	**2000 NCN Human Resources Survey (Total = 423)**
Less than Grade 9	41.0%	33.6%	22.9%	18.9%
Grades 9 to 12:	33.8%	43.0%	40.4%	34.3%
– Without Secondary School Graduation Certificate	31.2%	36.9%	30.4%	26.7%
– With Secondary School Graduation Certificate	2.6%	6.1%	10.0%	7.6%
Trades			7.2%	8.3%
– Without Certificate or Diploma	N/A	N/A	3.3%	n/a
– With Certificate or Diploma	3.8%	0.9%	3.9%	n/a
Other Non-University Education Only	12.1%	11.2%	15.2%	17.5%
– Without Certificate Or Diploma	3.2%	4.7%	4.1%	n/a
– With Certificate Or Diploma	8.9%	6.5%	11.1%	n/a
University:	8.9%	11.7%	11.0%	21.5%
– Without Degree	4.5%	8.4%	7.9%	17.7%
– With Bachelor's Degree or Higher	4.5%	2.8%	3.1%	3.8%
Not Stated:	N/A	N/A	3.4%	35 people

NCN UNIVERSITY & COLLEGE GRADUATES



The number of NCN members who graduated from colleges and universities each year increased dramatically between 1986/1987 and 1999/2000.

NCN University and College Graduates: 1986/1987 to 1999/2000



ON-RESERVE EMPLOYMENT RATE

Employment Rate of NCN Members Living in Nelson House and of the Provincial Population

Data Source	Employment Rate		
	Overall	Male	Female
Statistics Canada (1996)	53.7%	45.5%	66.7%
NCN Human Resource Survey (2000)	47.1%	N/A	N/A
NCN Opinion Survey – Total Household Sample (2000)	46.4%	45.9%	39.1%
Provincial Employment Rate – 1996 Census of Canada	**89.9%**	**89.8%**	**90.0%**

The employment rate on-reserve is between 46 and 54 per cent. This is lower than the provincial employment rate, which was about 90 per cent in 1996.







The largest sources of employment in Nelson House are Government Services, Education Services and Health and Social Services

ON-RESERVE INCOME LEVELS

Annual household income is defined as the amount of income earned by all persons living in the household.

Between 1991 and 1996, average household income in Nelson House rose by 1.6 per cent.

Annual Household Income of NCN Members Living in Nelson House and of the Province

Household Income ($$/year)	Percentage of Total Households in Nelson House	
	Statistics Canada 1991 (Total number of Households = 245)	Statistics Canada 1996 (Total number of Households = 365)
Under $10,000	10%	7%
$10,000 to $19,999	22%	23%
$20,000 to $29,999	27%	32%
$30,000 to $39,999	20%	15%
$40,000 and greater	21%	23%
Average Household Income	**$29,078**	**$31,742**
Average Household Income in Manitoba	**$40,179**	**$43,404**

BUSINESSES IN NELSON HOUSE

Profiles of the businesses in Nelson House are being developed. These include the type of work done by the business, the number of people they employ and future plans for expansion.











COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES

Housing...

Currently in Nelson House there are 415 accommodation units available:

- *367 houses*
- *9 multiplexes*
- *22 trailers, and*
- *8 apartments.*



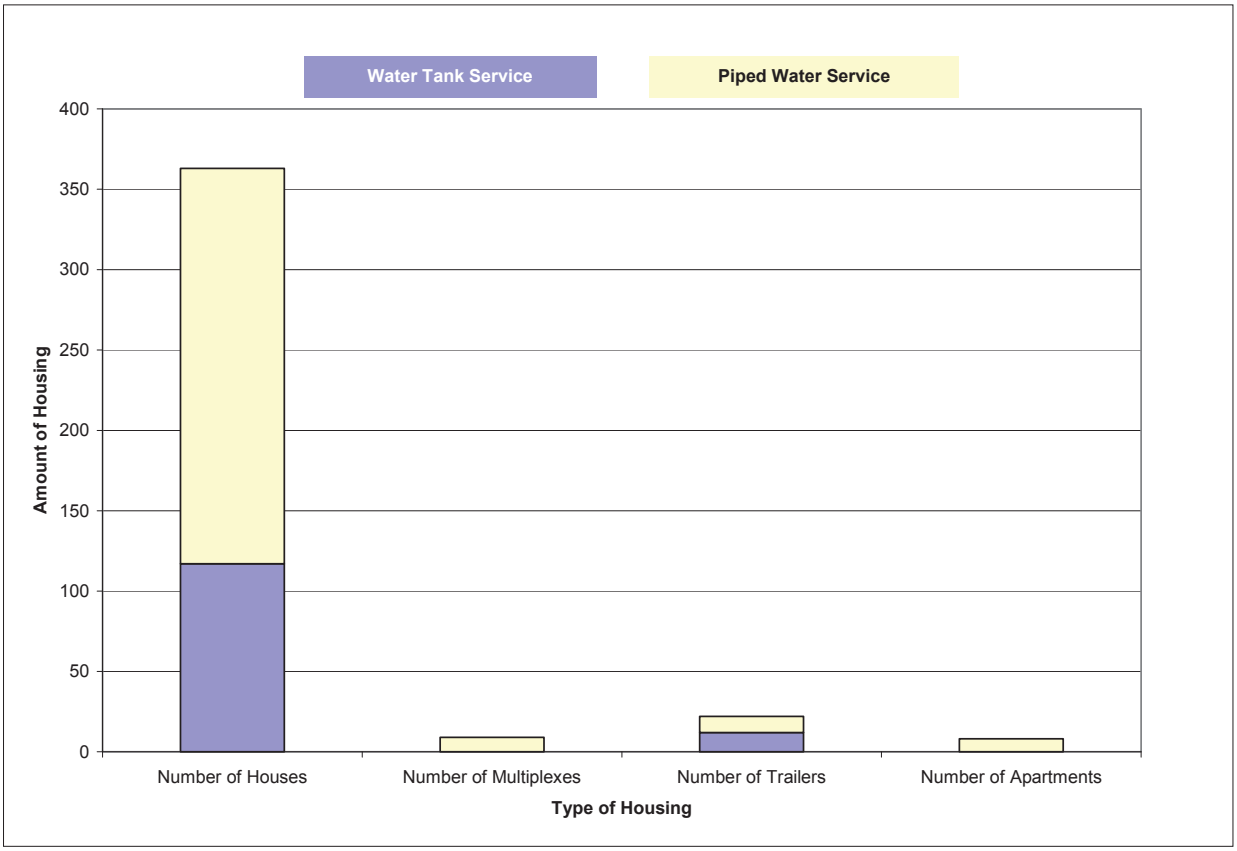
The average size of single family house in Nelson House is 1,100 square feet.

There is an average of 8 people living in each house and 140 homes have more than one family living in them.

There are about 164 families on the waiting list to receive a house.

Water & Sewer Services...

Household Water and Sewer Services Available in Nelson House by Type of Accommodation: 2001



Roads...

Most roads in Nelson House were built in the 1970s and 1980s and range in quality from poor to average.



Health Services...

Nurses and doctors at the Fannie Hartie Medical Centre see about 40-60 patients a day and run a variety of clinics.





The Nelson House Medicine Lodge provides alcohol and drug treatment to First Nations in the MKO region.

Family & Community Wellness Centre...



The new Family and Community Wellness Centre houses most community health related services and all child and family services.

Education Facilities & Services...



Otetiskiwin Kiskinwamahtowekamik provides Kindergarten to S4 (Grade 12) education.

NCN operates its own Education Authority.



Policing...



On-reserve policing is provided by NCN's own police force.

Other Government Services...

Other services provided through NCN Government include:

- *Social Services*
- *Human Resources*
- *Resource Management*
- *Technical Services*

NCN Trust Programming...

Programming through the NCN Trust helps to provide a number of community services, including:



- *The Country Foods Program*
- *The Cultural Program*



- *Firefighting Services, and*
- *Recreation Programming*

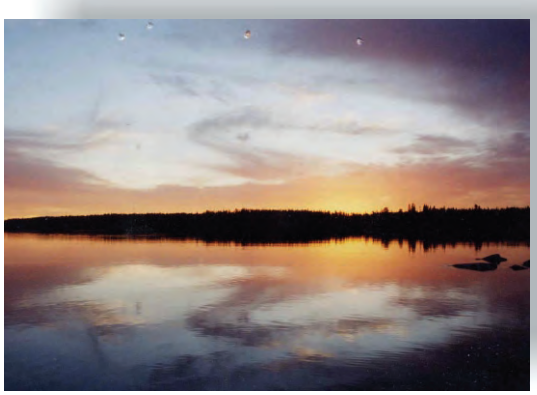
The NCN Trust provides significant funding for community infrastructure and services.

Environmental Studies - Next Steps

- Many of the environmental studies have been completed, but others, such as interviews with NCN members, the harvest calendar, winter tracking studies, water quality sampling, etc. are on-going.
- Environmental monitoring studies will continue during and after construction of the project.
- Information describing the existing environment and the assessment of impacts will be written up in the EIS and provided to NCN and Manitoba Hydro for review.
- NCN members will be able to see the results of the assessment and provide feedback at an Open House tentatively planned for early summer.
- Once NCN and Manitoba Hydro have completed their review of the EIS and the document has been revised, it will be submitted as part of the application for a license to build the proposed Wuskwatim Project.

What are Your Questions and Concerns About Future Development?

- We want to know what questions and concerns you have about the proposed Wuskwatim Project.
- Please fill out a questionnaire and leave it with us today, if possible.
- If you have further questions or concerns after today, please talk to the Community Consultants or other NCN members working on Future Development.



Thank you for your input

ATTACHMENT 11

PRESENTATION TO NCN MEMBERS AT NELSON HOUSE ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE WUSKWATIM GENERATION PROJECT

Water Environment

March 4, 2003

Environmental Impact Review

Predicted Effects of the Wuskwatim Generation Project on the Water and Land Environment

Water Environment

March 4, 2003

Background (1)

- NCN and Manitoba Hydro selected a team of consultants (North/South, TetrES, InterGroup & NDLea) to do an environmental study for the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station.
- The environmental studies for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) have now been completed.
  - The environmental study used information from TK, field studies, and published reports (e.g., scientific studies and government data).
  - NCN membership has heard about progress of the study at previous Open Houses.
  - The results of the study are described in a report called the EIS.

Background (2)

- **Before construction starts, NCN and Manitoba Hydro both need to make a decision whether or not to proceed with the project.**
  - **NCN members would vote on a Project Development Agreement (PDA) in late 2003.**
- **The Project also needs licences and approvals from governments.**
  - **The Environmental Impact Statement is required for these approvals.**

Purpose of the review meetings

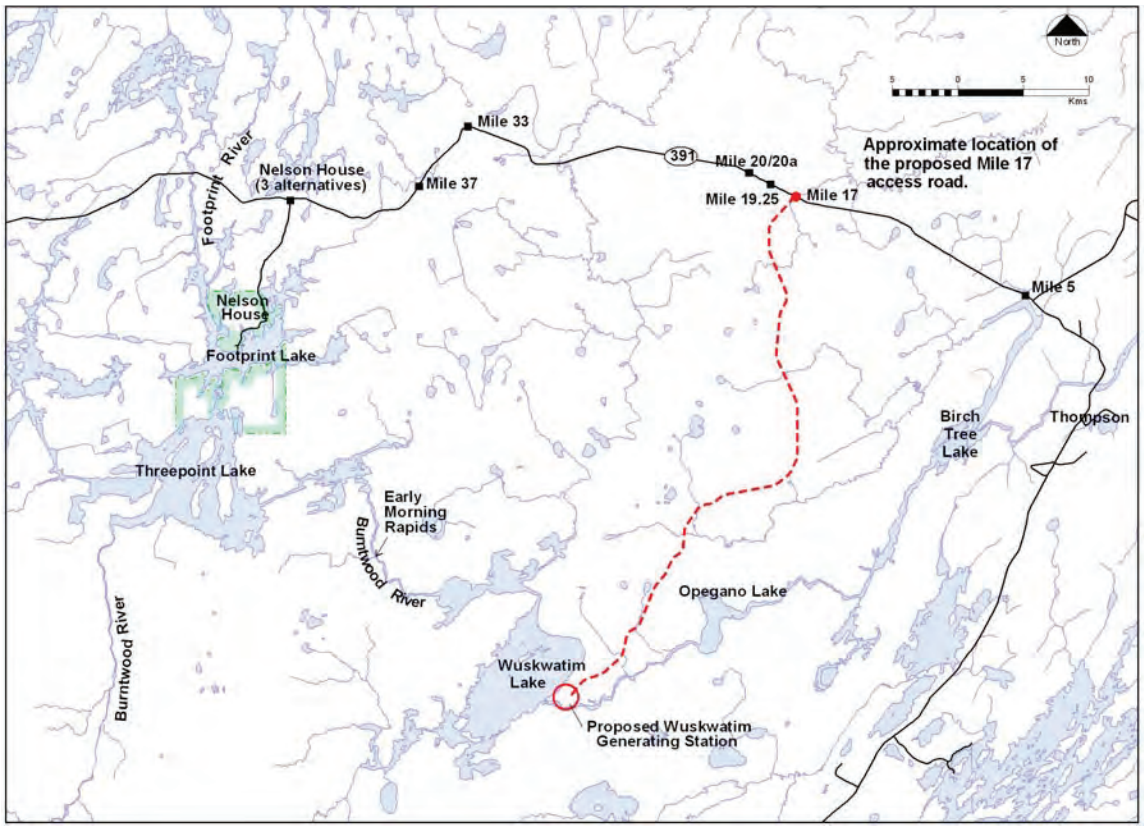
- **We will present the results of the environmental studies to NCN membership.**
- **After the presentation, there will be a group discussion to:**
  - **Answer questions from NCN about the Project.**
  - **Receive feedback from NCN on their view of the how the Project will affect the environment.**

Wuskwatim Generating Station

- **The Wuskwatim Generating Station will be built at Taskinigup Falls.**
- **The station will take about six years to build, possibly starting in late 2003/early 2004. The station is scheduled to begin operating in mid 2009.**
- **An access road (Mile 17) to Wuskwatim Lake will be built from PR 391 . An access management plan has been developed and provides options for controlling access into the area in order to help protect resources.**
- **An environmental protection plan is also being developed to reduce impacts during construction.**
- **Transmission lines will connect the station to Thompson and Herblet Lake.**
- **Today's presentation is looking at the generating station project (the transmission facilities were discussed at a previous meeting).**

Mile 17 Access Road

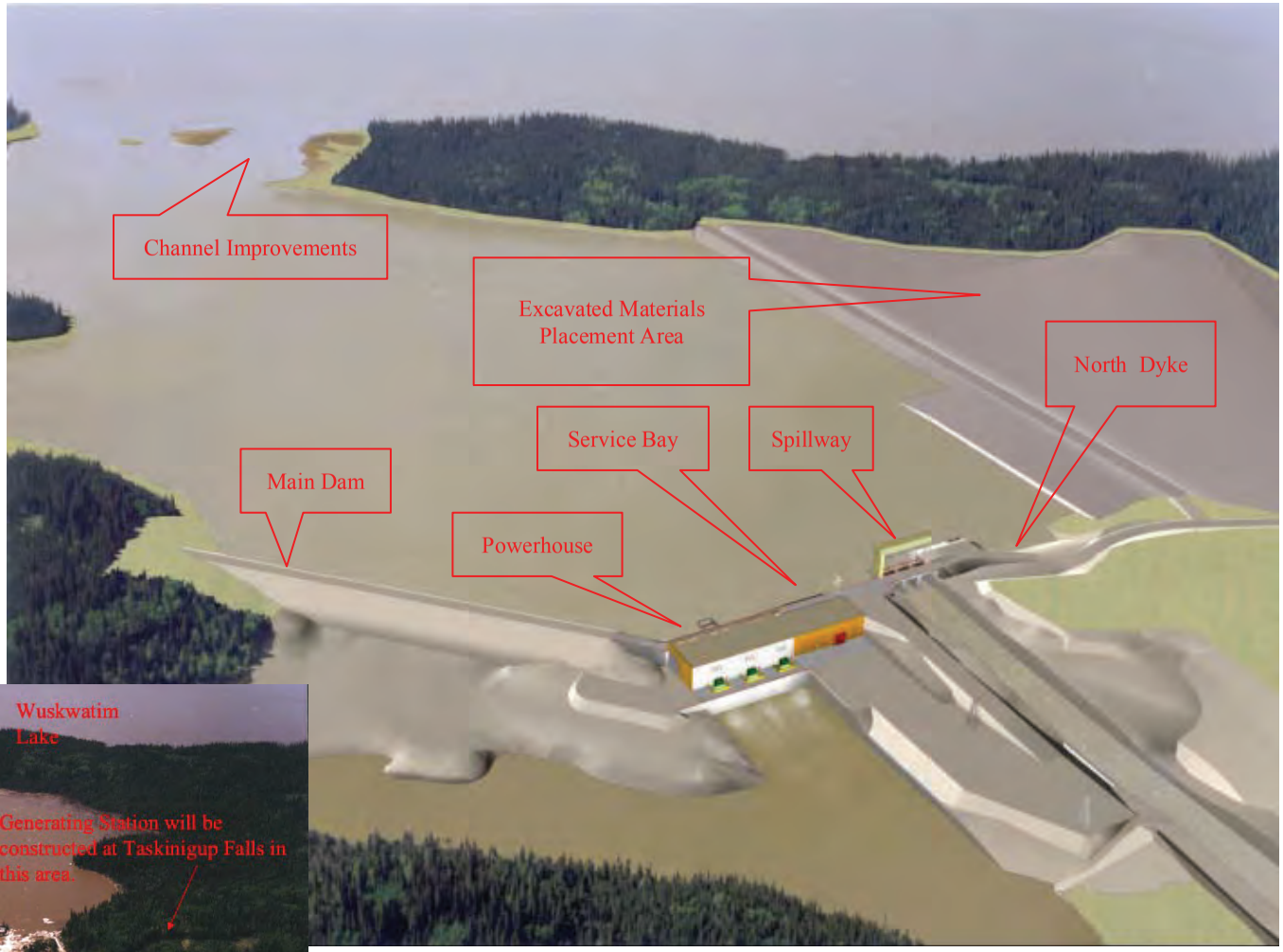
- **Mile 17 was jointly selected by NCN and MH after comparing alternative locations on the basis of impacts on the environment, NCN, and the Project.**



Location of the station (1)



Location of the station (2)

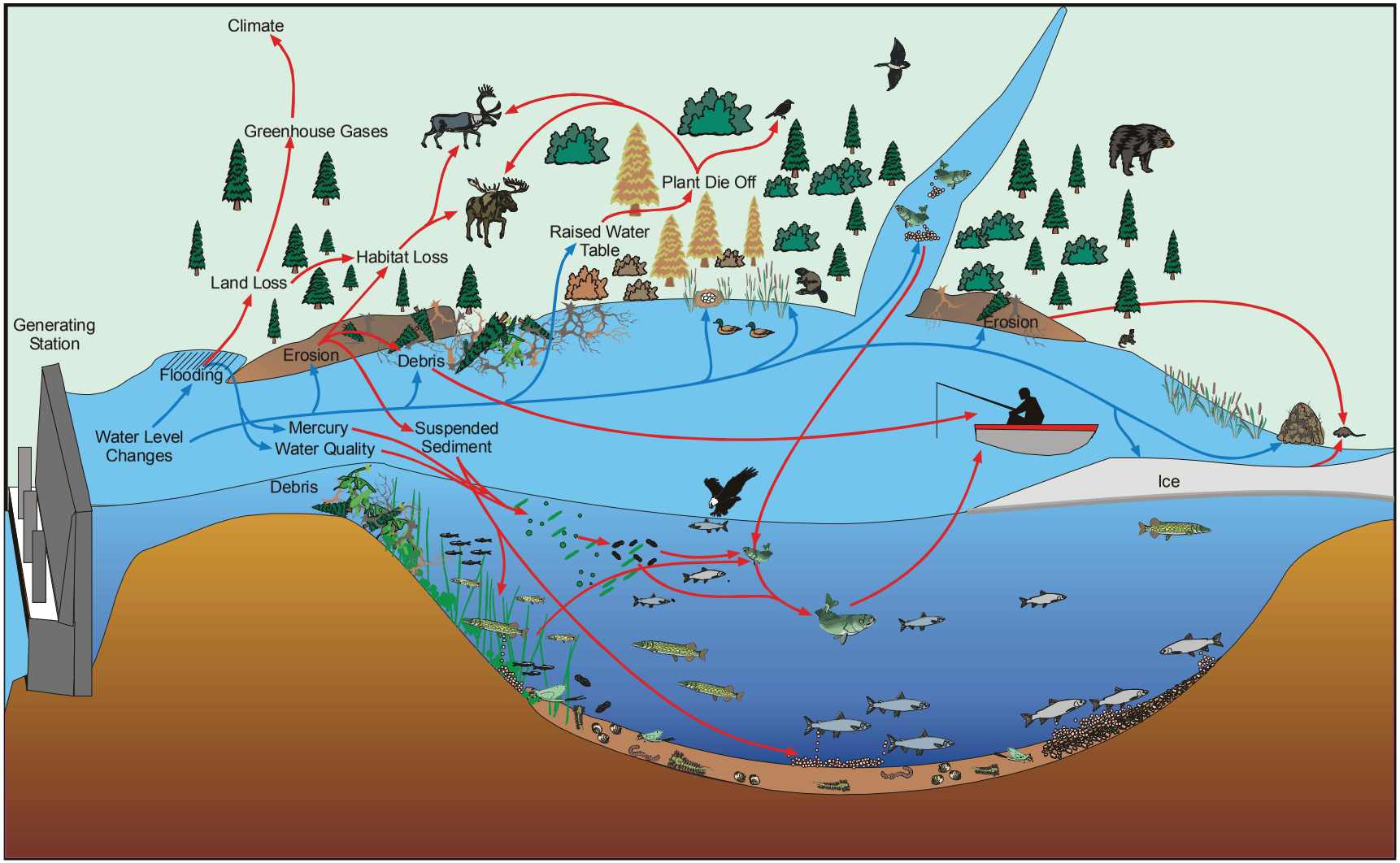




Effects of the Generating Station

- **The Wuskwatim Generating Station has been specifically redesigned to be a low impact project:**
  - **A "low head" of 234.0 m was selected over the high head of 243.2 m (a difference of 9.2 m or about 28 feet).**
  - **This was selected to minimize flooding (0.5 sq. km for low head vs 140 sq. km for high head).**
  - **The station will be operated to generally keep water levels on Wuskwatim Lake steady.**
  - **The station will also be operated to limit the extent of effects on water levels and flows downstream.**

“Linkages” considered in the environmental studies



Water levels and flow(1)

- **The Churchill River Diversion will continue to operate as it is today.**
- **The Wuskwatim Project will not affect water levels and flows upstream of Early Morning Rapids. It will stabilize water levels on Wuskwatim Lake.**
- **Water level fluctuations will continue on Threepoint and Footprint lakes as they do now.**



Water levels and flow(2)

- Currently water level fluctuations on Wuskwatim Lake generally change about 4 ft in a season (maximum 5 ft).
- The generating station will stabilize water levels on Wuskwatim Lake and adjacent waterbodies (Cranberry Lake, Wuskwatim Brook) and keep the water levels near the upper end (234.0 m) of the current range.



Water levels and flow(3)

- 90% of the time (in any year) water levels on Wuskwatim Lake will stay within a 10 inch range (just under 234 m).
    - Daily water levels will go up and down about 4 inches.
- Over the past 30 years, CRD flows have changed from year to year. Some years the flows are higher and some years the flows are lower.
- In the future when the CRD flows are low, the Wuskwatim Project may operate differently.
- During periods of low CRD flows, the water level on Wuskwatim Lake could gradually be lowered and then brought up again over several days or weeks.
    - The most that Wuskwatim Lake will be brought down will be 3.3 ft. or 1 metre below 234.0 m. The lake will not be taken down more than 1 metre other than an act of God.
    - This will only occur during really low flows which does not happen often. When it does occur it generally happens during the summer months.

Water levels and flow(4)

- **Flooding due to the generating station will be limited to less than 0.5 square kilometer between Wuskwatim Falls and Taskinigup Falls.**
- **Wuskwatim Falls will be under water.**



Water levels and flow (5)

- **Downstream of the station, the month-to-month changes that occur now as a result of CRD will continue, as well as daily changes from the Wuskwatim Project.**



Water levels and flow (6)

- **The operation of the Wuskwatim Project will add changes in water levels and flows within the day:**

  • immediately downstream of the station water levels will typically* go up and down 1.4 ft (maximum of 4.8 ft).

  • by Opegano Lake these changes typically* will have decreased to 5 inches (maximum of 1.4 ft).

  • by Birch Tree Lake, and further downstream, there will be no noticeable effect from the station.

  • under emergency conditions (e.g., loss of Hydro DC transmission lines) water level fluctuations immediately downstream of the station could be 9 ft. This would only last for a few hours and would not be noticeable by Birch Tree Lake.

  ***Note: typical = at or below this level 50% of the time**

Effects to ice

- **Wuskwatim Lake is currently covered by ice during the winter. The Burntwood River between Taskinigup Falls to Opegano Lake has sections of ice cover and sections of open water.**
- **The Wuskwatim Project will not change this pattern except that ice cover will form over much of the area between Wuskwatim Falls and Taskinigup Falls.**

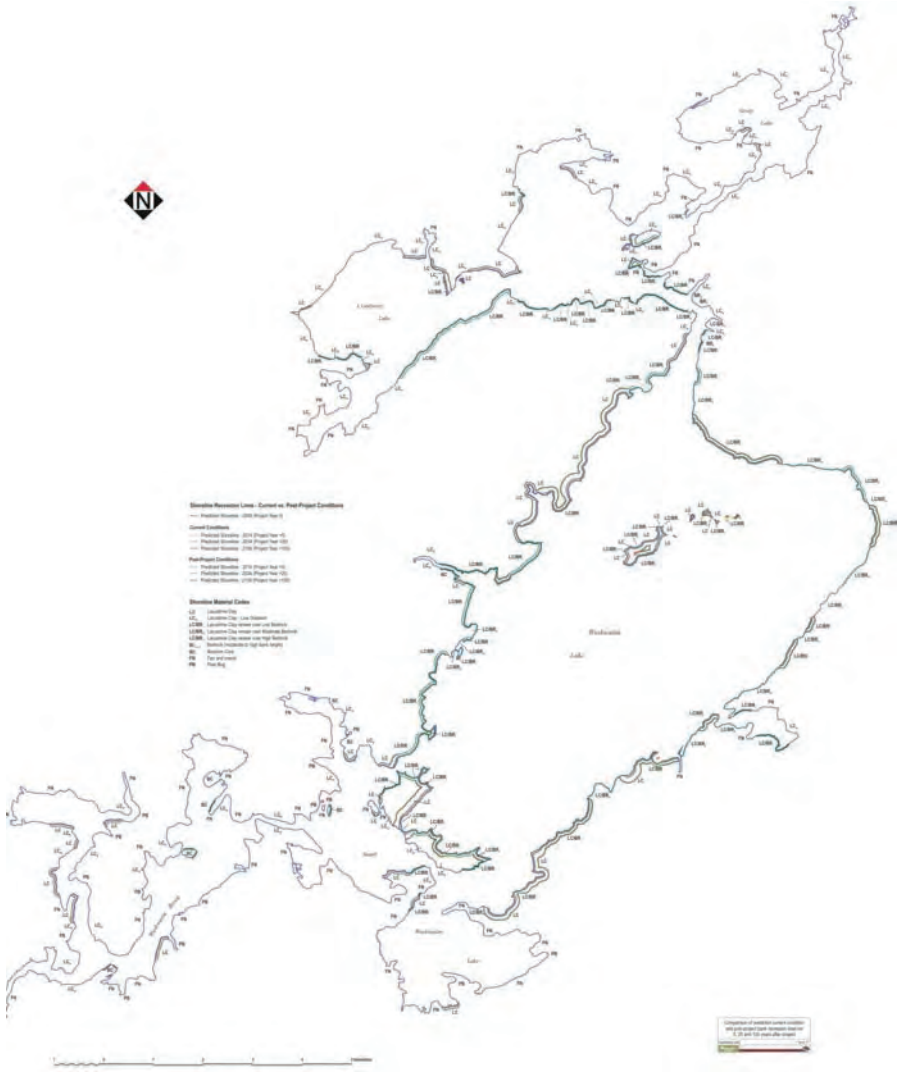
Effects to erosion (1)

- **A substantial amount of erosion occurred and continues to occur as a result of CRD.**
- **About 30% of the shoreline of Wuskwatim Lake and adjoining waters is eroding today.**
- **Keeping the water level at the upper end of the current range will increase the amount of erosion on Wuskwatim Lake.**
    - **Compared to what is happening now, the biggest increase is expected for the first 5 years after construction.**
    - **After 5 years, erosion will begin to decrease.**
    - **After 25 years, erosion will be back to what is happening now.**

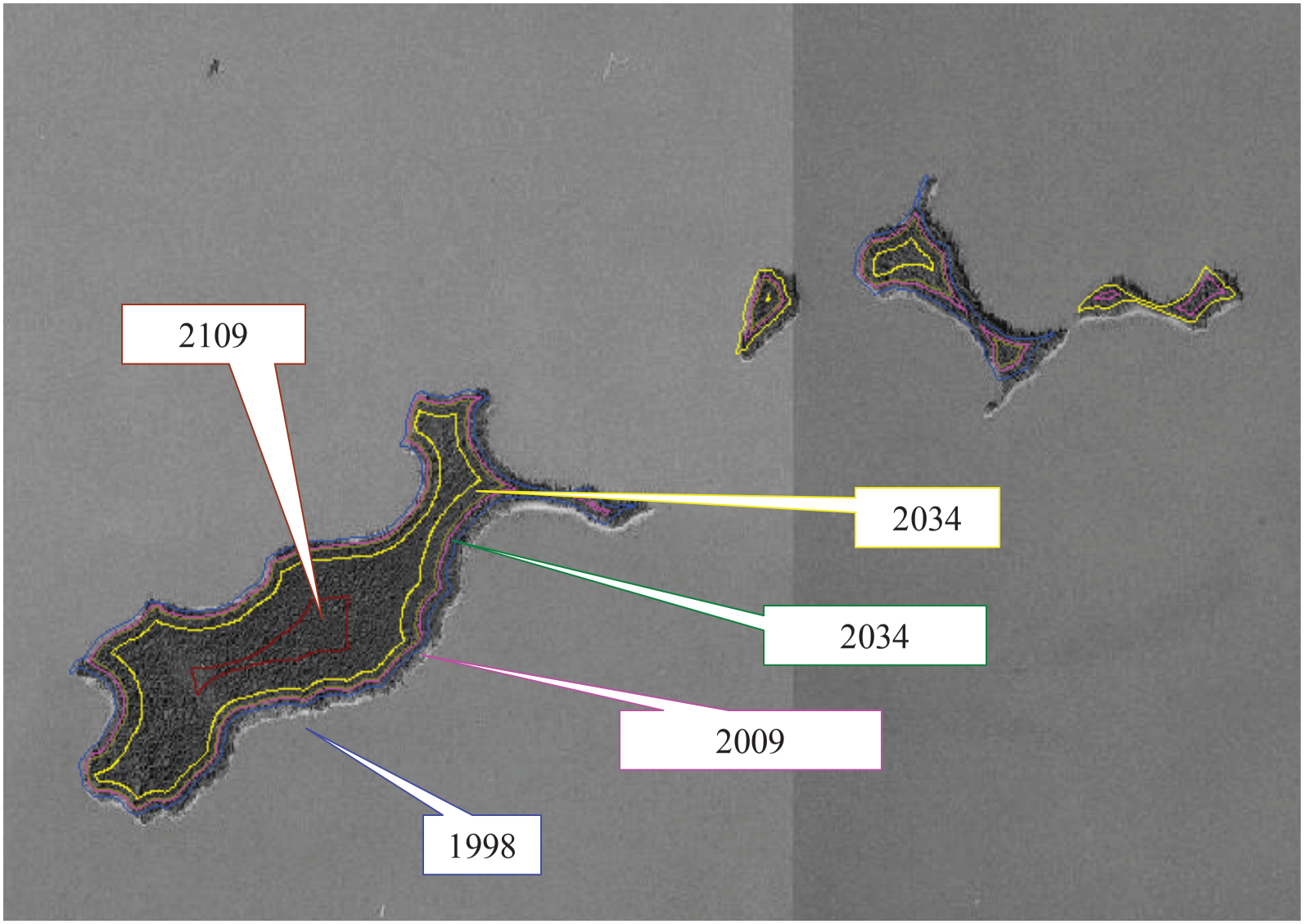
Effects to erosion (2)

- **How much erosion will increase depends on what the shore is made of and how exposed it is to waves.**
- **In the south and east parts of the lake where there is the most wave action, clay shores are predicted to erode back an average of 105 ft over 25 years with the Project. 82 ft without the Project.**
- **In areas not as exposed to wind and wave action, or for clay shores with underlying bedrock, the amount of shoreline lost will be considerably less.**

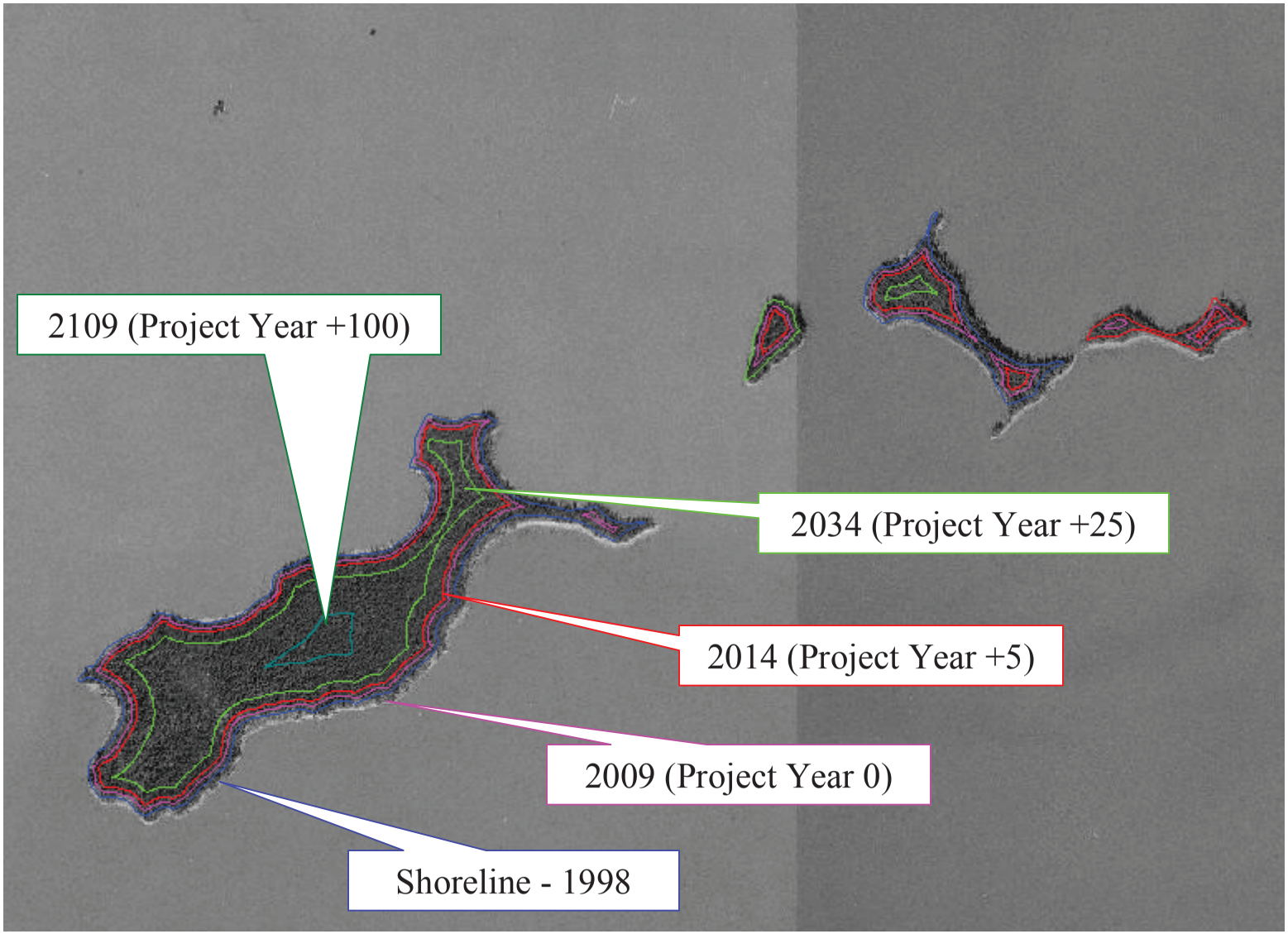
Effects to erosion (3)



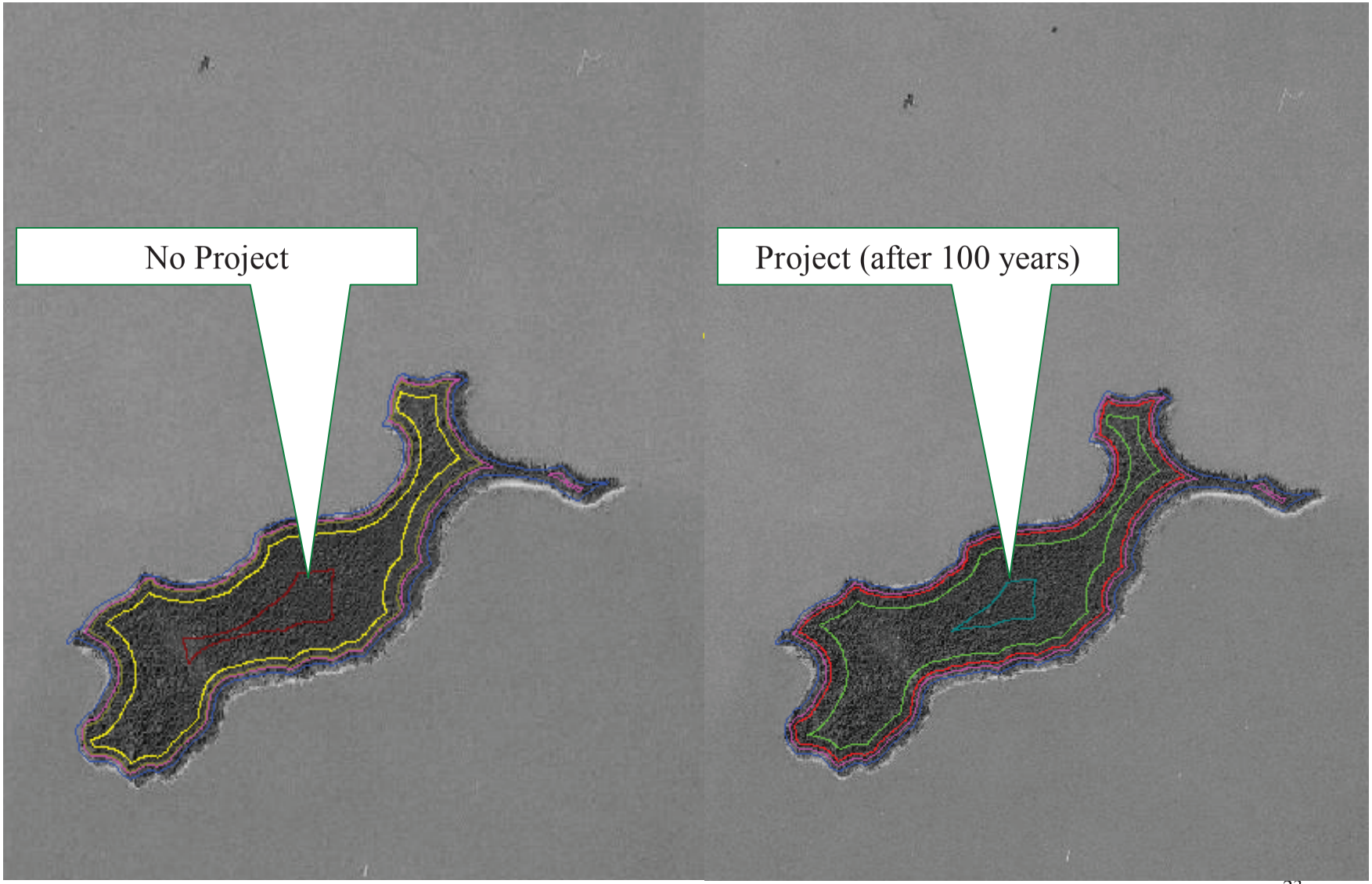
Predicted Shorelines without Project



Predicted Shorelines post Wuskwatim



Difference in Predicted Shorelines



Effects to erosion (4)

- **Immediately downstream of the station, there may be a localized increase in bank erosion where water is discharged from the station.**
- **Further downstream along the Burntwood River, erosion rates will remain the same.**

Effects to debris

- **Increased erosion will increase the amount of debris being added to Wuskwatim shorelines.**
- **Most of this new debris will be trapped against existing shoreline debris and will not move into the the lake.**
- **Debris levels will remain the same downstream of Wuskwatim Lake since erosion rates will remain the same.**

Water quality (1)

- **During the 6 year construction period, there will be some effects on water quality, at the construction site and downstream of the station.**
- **For example, when temporary dams needed for construction are removed, you would see a muddy plume extending downstream.**
- **Water quality will be monitored during construction.**



Typical Cofferdam Removal

Water quality (2)

- **Depending on how the contractor chooses to build or remove the cofferdams, some effects could become larger. If this occurs, techniques will be examined to reduce these effects.**
- **Sewage and other wastewater released from the site will be treated to meet Provincial standards.**

Water quality (3)

- **Once the Wuskwatim Project has been in operation for awhile, no measurable changes in water quality are expected in Wuskwatim Lake as a whole or downstream of the station in the Burntwood River.**
- **On Wuskwatim Lake, water next to eroding banks will be more muddy, particularly during and after storms.**



Water quality (4)

- Small changes in water quality in Wuskwatim Brook, and Sesep Lake will also occur.
  - Keeping the water level constantly high in areas where there is peat and other vegetation will cause some substances to enter the water.
  - There will be some increases in substances that make algae grow.
  - There will be some decreases in oxygen in localized areas.

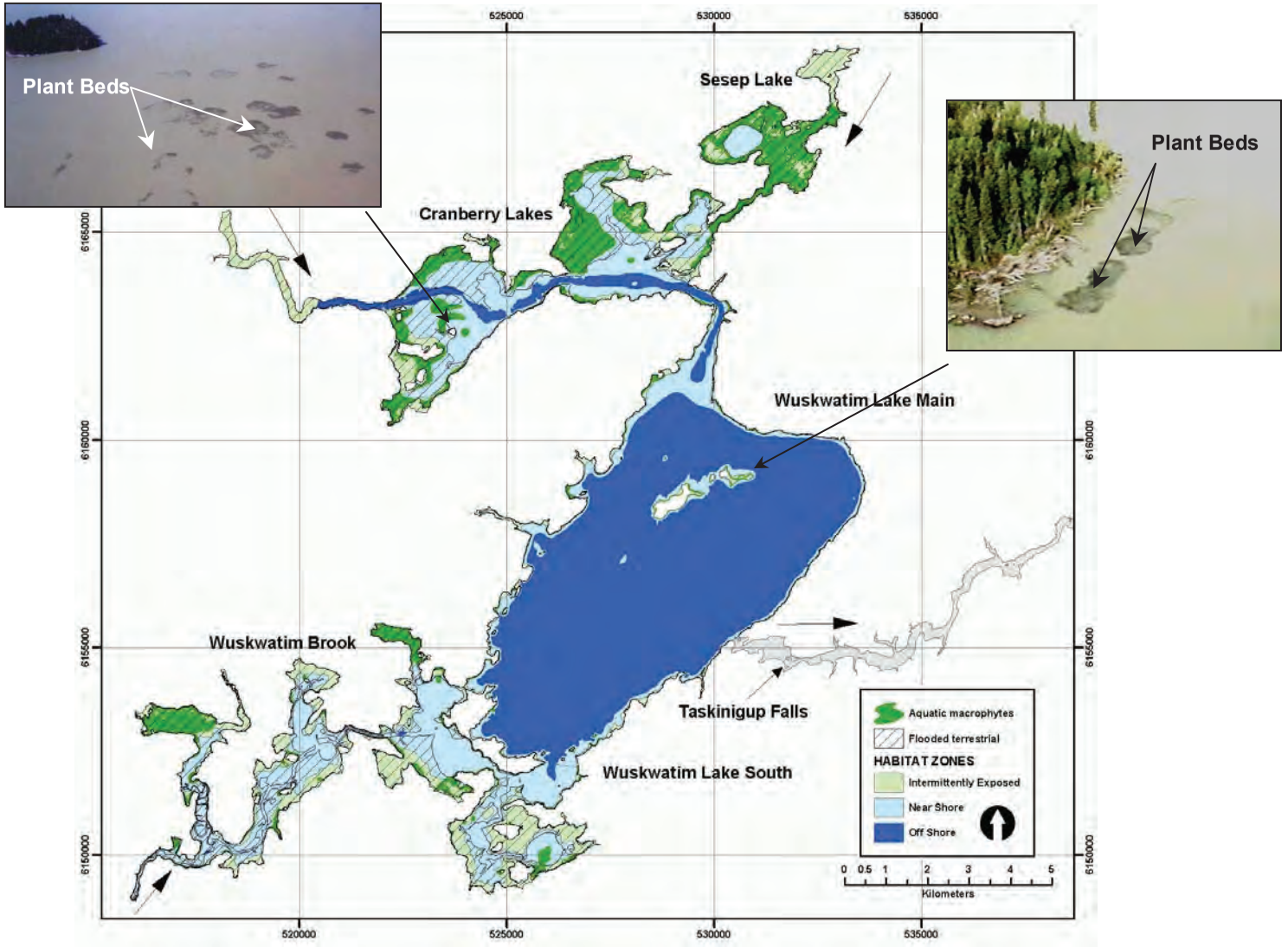
Effects to aquatic life (1)

- To determine how the generating station will affect fish such as pickerel, jackfish, whitefish and tullibee, we looked at the other aquatic life that these fish depend on.
- The studies looked at aquatic plants, algae, zooplankton (very small animals), and bugs (slightly larger animals, e.g., snails and worms).
- These groups are food for some kinds of bigger fish, as well as food for minnows, which are eaten by many kinds of larger fish.

Effects to aquatic life (2)

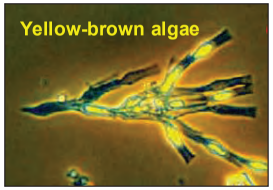
- More aquatic plants are found in sheltered areas such as Wuskwatim Brook and parts of Cranberry Lake.
- There are very few plants in the main part of Wuskwatim Lake because the water is muddy and the shoreline is exposed to waves.
- Many of the sheltered bays are not suitable because of the debris in the water.
- Keeping the water level steady year-round will cause a small increase in aquatic plants where they occur already.

Effects to aquatic life (3)



Effects to aquatic life (4)

- Increasing the level of water in areas like Wuskwatim Brook will slightly increase the amount of algae and zooplankton, which are already abundant here.
- These groups are important food for some kinds of fish.

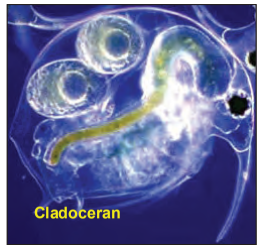


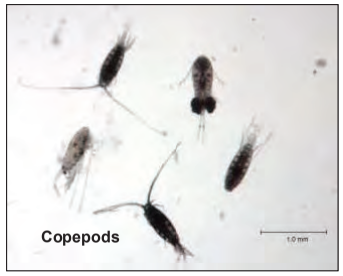




Common kinds of algae







Common kinds of zooplankton

Effects to aquatic life (5)

- **Right now, there are fewer bugs in areas where the lake bottom is not always under water, and there are more bugs where there is shallow water all the time.**





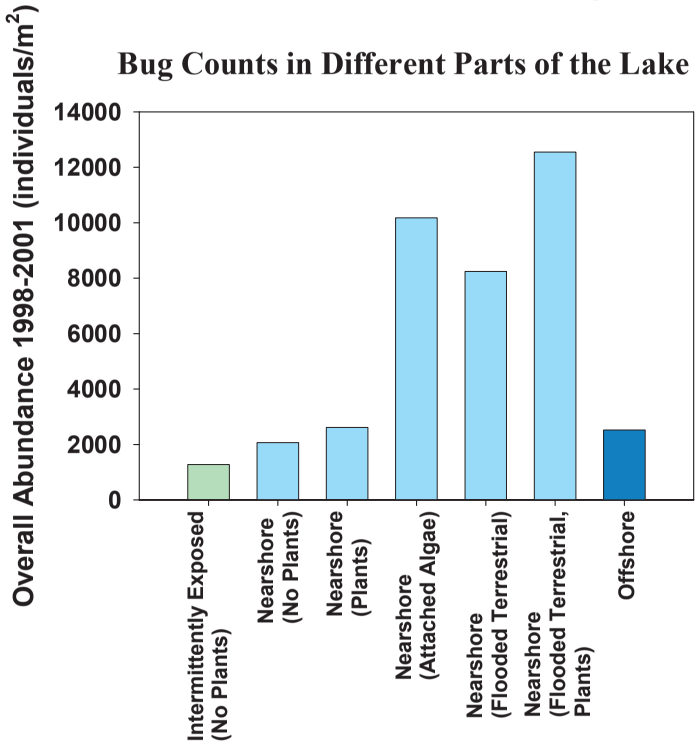


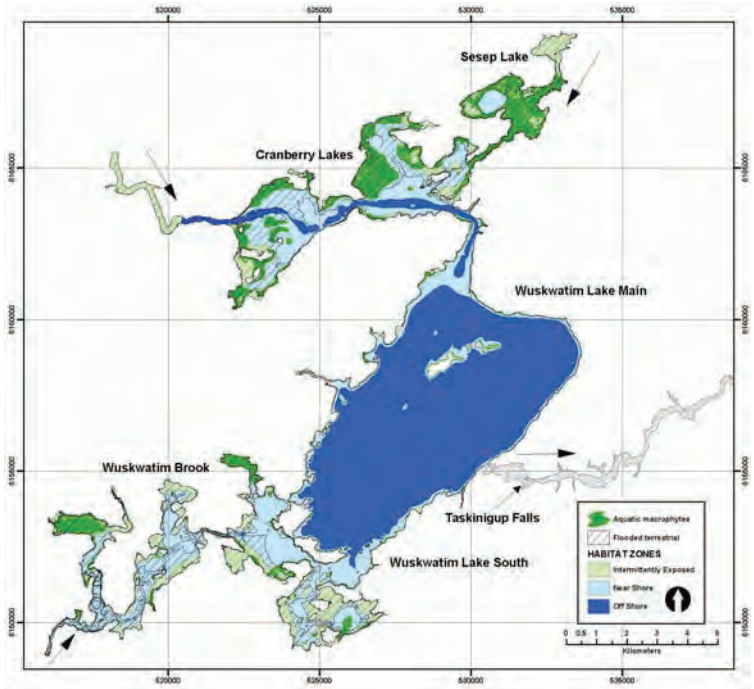


Common kinds of bugs

Effects to aquatic life (6)

- Some areas that are dry some of the time will now be permanently wet.
- Since there are more bugs in shallow areas that are always wet, there will be an increase in the number of bugs.





Effects to aquatic life (7)

- **The bugs living in the Burntwood River between Wuskwatim Falls and Taskinigup falls are typical of a fast-flowing river.**
- **Building the station will make this area part of Wuskwatim Lake. This will change the kinds of bugs that live there.**
- **Downstream of the station, adding water level changes within the day will cause a decrease in the amount of aquatic plants and bugs.**

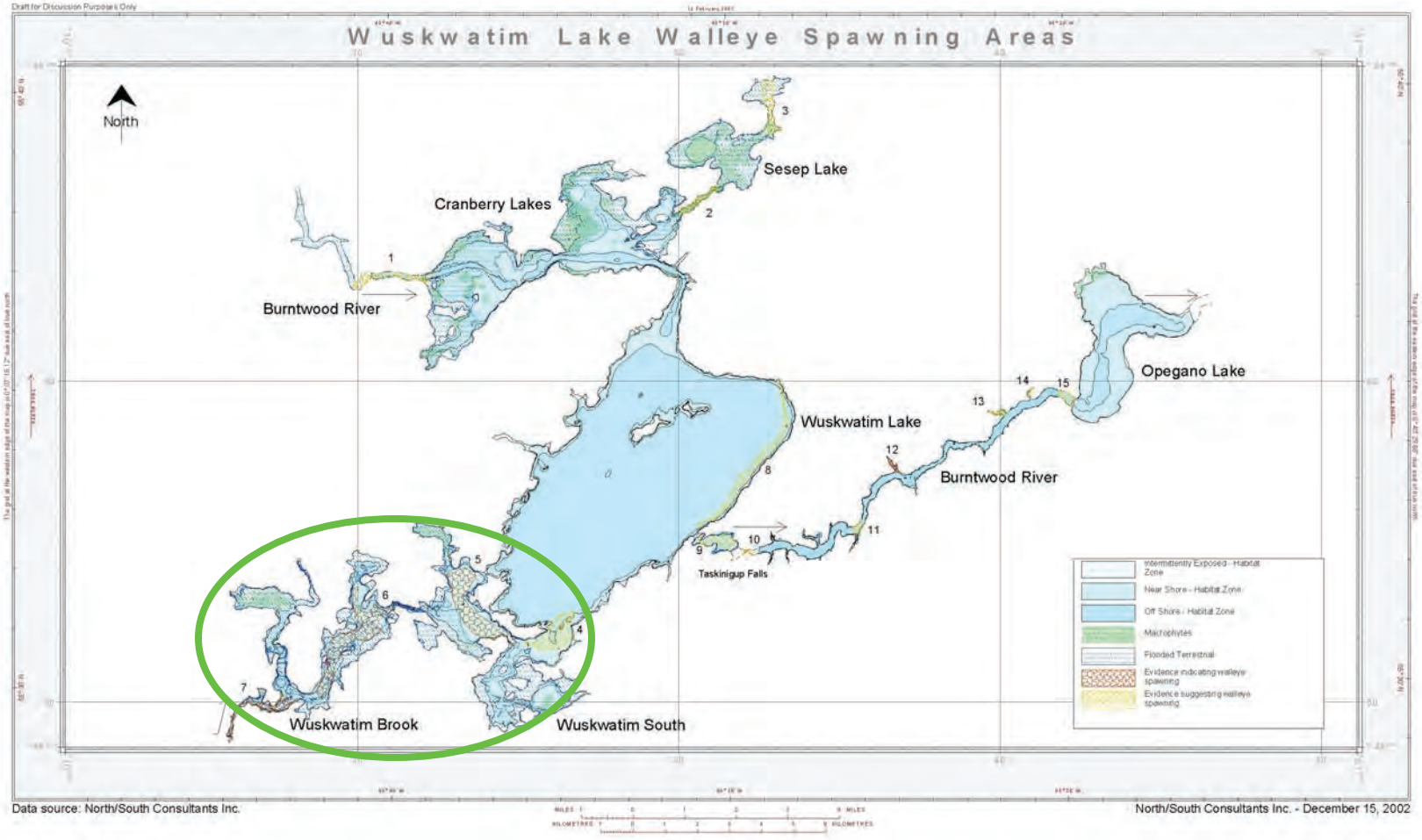
Effects to fish (1)

- **Some of the changes that have been described for Wuskwatim Lake, like increasing the amount of plants and bugs, means the lake would have more minnows and more food for fish.**
- **The positive effect of more food might be counteracted in some cases by other, negative changes that may occur for the first years after the station is built.**

Effects to fish (2)

- Fish require suitable places to lay their eggs and the eggs need proper conditions to hatch.
- The increase in erosion would cause mud to settle on some areas that are now gravel or rock.
- These gravelly shoreline areas can be important spawning habitat for species like pickerel, whitefish and tullibee.
- Both TK and field studies have shown that Wuskwatim Brook is an important spawning area for pickerel.
- These areas will not be affected by increased erosion so pickerel will continue to have these areas to lay their eggs.

Effects to fish (3)

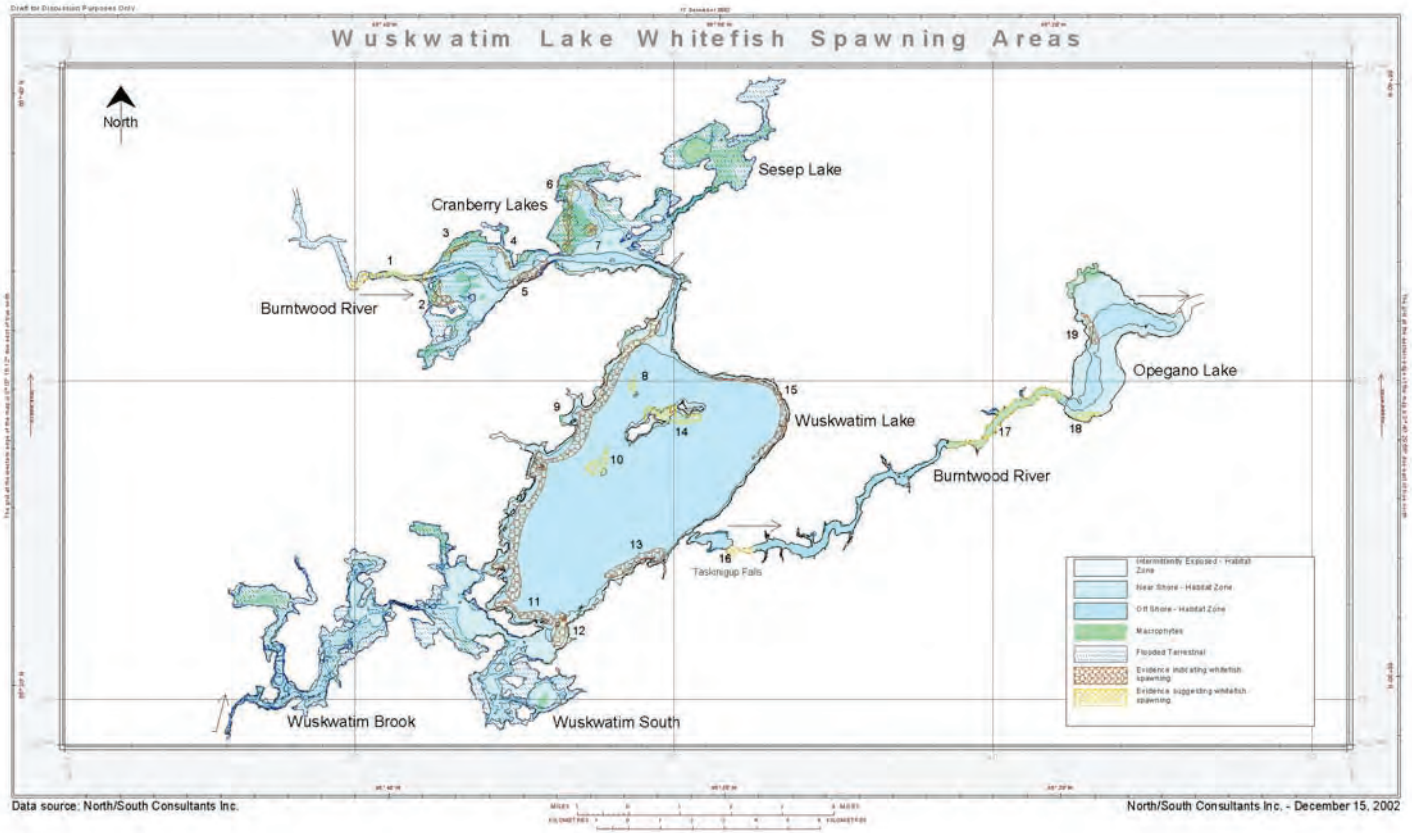


- **The main pickerel spawning sites won't be negatively affected by increased erosion.**

Effects to fish (4)

- **Jackfish are not common in the main basin of Wuskwatim Lake.**
- **Jackfish are abundant in Wuskwatim Brook, Cranberry Lake and Sesep Lake where there is suitable spawning habitat (shallow, previously flooded terrestrial vegetation).**
- **Keeping the water level at the high end of the range will ensure that jackfish can use these spawning areas.**

Effects to fish (5)



- During our studies, most of the newly hatched whitefish and tullibee were found along the shore of Wuskwatim Lake.
- At low water levels, it is possible to see patchy gravel areas that extend into the water – these may be where these species are spawning.

Effects to fish (6)

- For pickerel and jackfish, the increase in the numbers of bugs and minnows will have a positive effect.
- Although the lake will be able to produce more fish, the abundance of these species may be decreased if there is a big increase in commercial, domestic, and sport harvest.



Effects to fish (7)

- For whitefish and tullibee, there will also be a positive effect of an increase in food.
- Their spawning areas will be affected both negatively (more mud from erosion) and positively (bigger spawning areas).
- In the first 5-10 years after the station is built, the positive and negative effects will cancel each other out, but in the long term there will be a small increase in the production of these species.

Effects to fish (8)

- There has been no documented movement of fish upstream over Early Morning Rapids.
- Therefore, any unexpected effect on fish populations in Wuskwatim Lake will not affect fish populations in upstream lakes (e.g., Footprint Lake).



Effects to fish (9)

- There are fairly high concentrations of fish in the bays between Wuskwatim Falls and Taskinigup Falls.
- Some of these fish may be living in the area, while others have come from Wuskwatim Lake and may eventually move over Taskinigup Falls.
- Fish close to the construction area could be affected by some construction activities. (Note there are guidelines for activities such as blasting to reduce harmful effects.)

Effects to fish (10)

- **Some whitefish, pickerel and tullibee move downstream over Wuskwatim Falls and Taskinigup Falls under existing conditions.**
- **Flooding of Wuskwatim Falls will allow fish to move back and forth over where the falls are today.**
- **The area close to the generating station will not be good fish habitat. Because of this, fewer fish may enter the area and fewer fish may move downstream through the turbines.**
- **Fish that continue further downstream will pass the turbines of the station:**
    - **The proportion of fish killed by turbines varies – expect more than 80 –90 % will survive.**

Effects to fish (11)

- At present, newly hatched fish drift downstream over the falls but this may be reduced after the station is built (young fish would stay in Wuskwatim Lake).
- Both TK and our studies say that no fish move upstream over Taskinigup Falls.



Effects to fish (12)

- **Relatively low numbers of fish live in the Burntwood River between Taskinigup Falls and Opegano Lake.**
- **Suitable habitat is limited as only Opegano Lake and some backwater inlets provide areas of low water velocity, and there are impassable falls both upstream and downstream of Opegano Lake.**
- **During construction, fish in this part of the river will be periodically affected by higher levels of mud.**

Effects to fish (13)

- **Daily changes in water levels and flows will negatively affect fish living between Taskinigup Falls and Opegano Lake, since:**
  - **The number of bugs and plants along the river and in backwater inlets will be reduced.**
  - **Eggs may be exposed.**
- **Overall fish abundance may also be affected by a decrease in the number of newly hatched fish coming from Wuskwatim Lake (these would stay in the lake).**

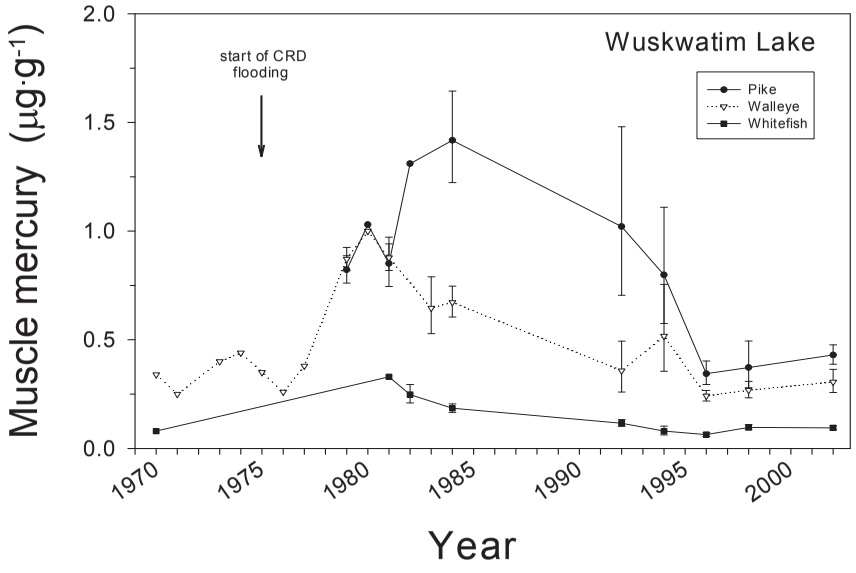
Effects to fish (14)

- Similar effects would occur in Opegano Lake, but to a lesser extent since the daily changes in water level are smaller.
- Given the low numbers of fish that live in the Taskinigup Falls to Opegano Lake reach, this will affect only a small percent of the fish in the study area.



Mercury in fish (1)

- **Mercury levels are a major concern to NCN due to the effects of CRD on mercury in fish.**
- **Mercury levels in Wuskwatim Lake have returned to levels similar to those recorded before CRD.**
- **Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation is currently not accepting pickerel from Wuskwatim Lake because they are using data from the early 1980's when the mercury levels were highest .**
- **This will be discussed with FFMC.**



Mercury in fish (2)

- **The small flooded area will cause only a small increase in mercury, but peat areas where water levels will be kept at the upper end of the range may also produce mercury.**
- **Based on observed changes in mercury in Wuskwatim and other lakes following CRD, the predicted mercury concentrations in Wuskwatim Lake fish are:**
  - **Lake whitefish will just exceed 0.1 ppm (the domestic consumption is 0.2 ppm);**
  - **Pickerel may reach 0.35 ppm (the commercial sales limit is 0.5 ppm); and**
  - **Jackfish could increase to slightly below 0.5 ppm and would stay below the 0.5 ppm commercial sales level.**

Mercury in fish (3)

- In the worst case scenario (assumes all peat areas die off) the maximum concentrations would be:
  - Lake whitefish = 0.14 ppm;
  - Pickerel = 0.39 ppm; and
  - Jackfish = 0.56 ppm.
- Note that we don't expect the peat area to die off (to be discussed at the next meeting).

Mercury in fish (4)

- **Downstream of the generating station, in backwater inlets and the north part of Opegano Lake, the daily water level changes are expected to result in the die-off of peat:**
  - **Mercury levels in fish resident near the peat areas may slightly increase.**
  - **Changes in overall mercury levels are not expected due to the large amount of flow in comparison to the small area affected.**
  - **Mercury levels in areas downstream of Opegano Lake will not be affected.**

Domestic fishery

- There is currently little use of Wuskwatim Lake for domestic fishing because of access.
- Domestic fishing is expected to increase with increased access. Harvests may become similar to those from Threepoint Lake.
- Increases in sport and commercial fishing will compete with domestic fishing.

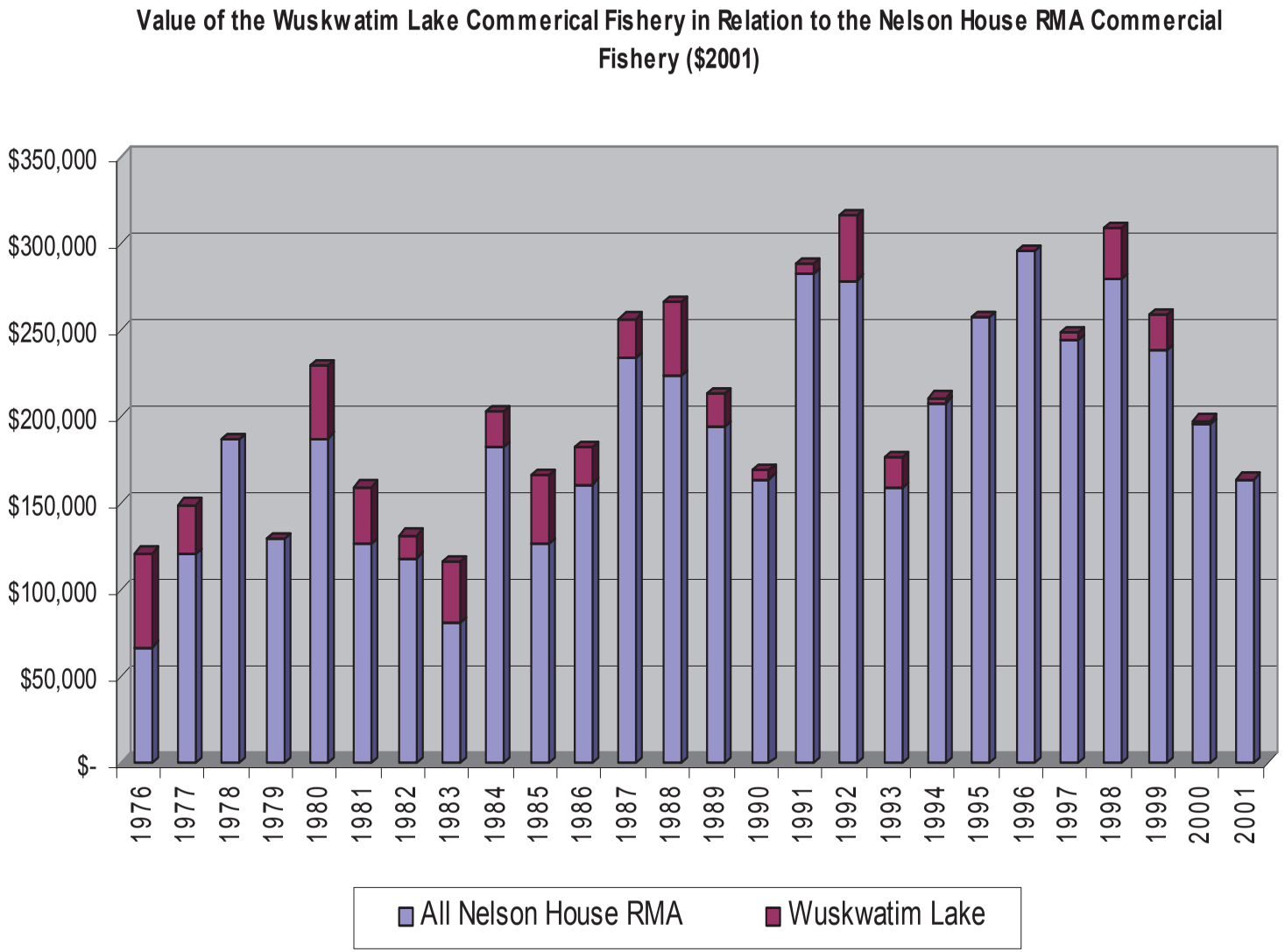
Commercial fishery (1)

- A commercial fishery has operated on Wuskwatim Lake in the past.
- Because there is no road access the fishery has been dependent on air transportation.
- The fishery is generally conducted by 4-8 fishermen.
- The lake has been fished in 21 of 27 years since 1976.
- It is primarily a summer fishery although it has been fished in 7 winters since 1976, the last time in 1993.

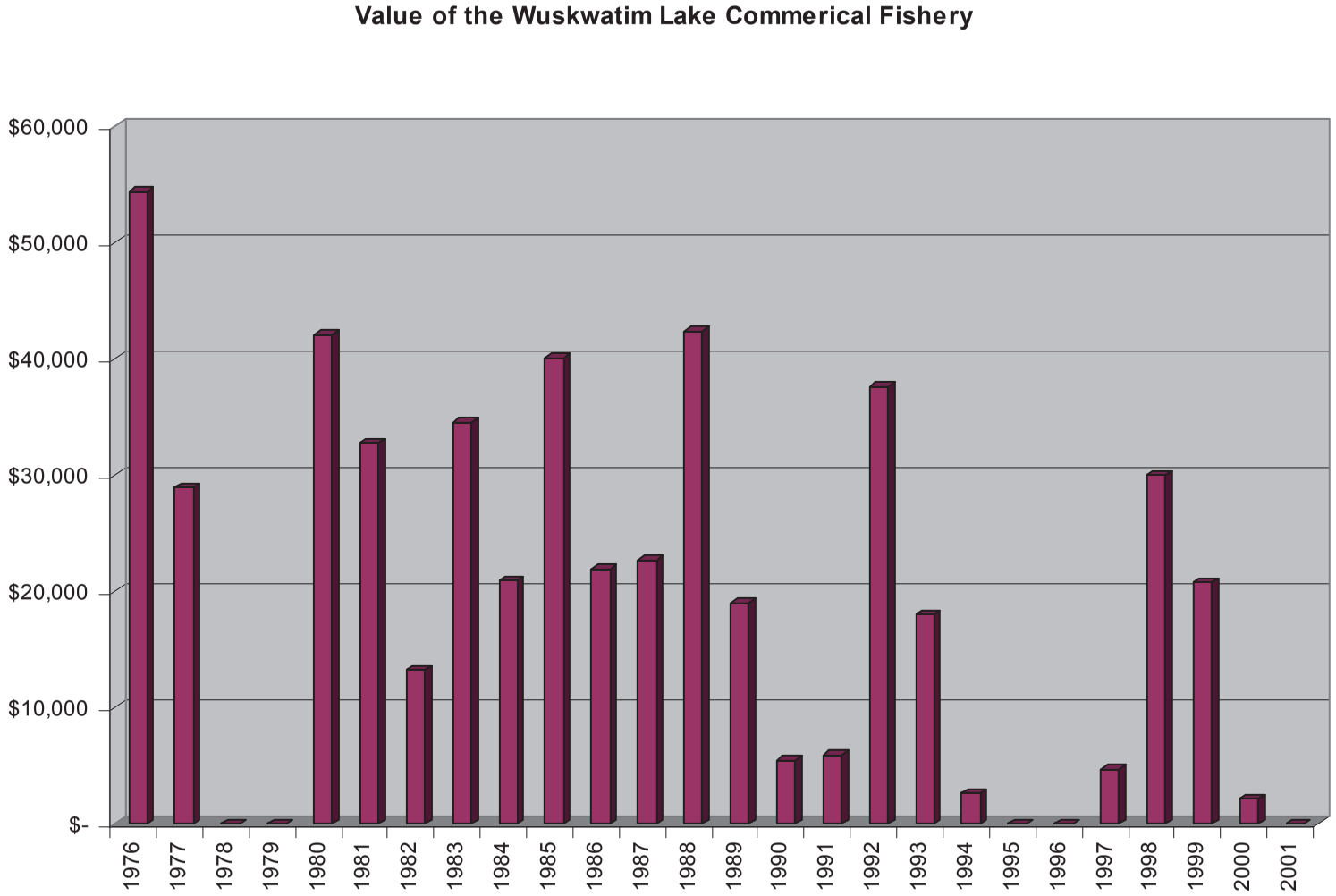
Commercial fishery (2)

- **Wuskwatim Lake was not fished in 2001 or 2002.**
- **With an average annual harvest value of ~$24,000 ($2001) Wuskwatim has contributed an average of 10% of harvest value from RMA since 1976.**
- **Value to fishermen is limited by transportation costs.**
- **Building the road would increase the worth of each kg of fish by $1.00 (difference in cost between air and road transportation).**

Commercial fishery (3)



Commercial fishery (4)



Commercial fishery (5)

- Road access will increase domestic and sport fishing which will compete with the commercial fishery.
- Higher stable water levels will have an effect on shore access, debris, and navigation.
- Most additional debris is expected to be contained by the existing floating debris mat.
- There may be a small increase in debris in nets.
- The will be no change to winter navigation.
- Docks will be subject to less water level fluctuation.

Thank You









ATTACHMENT 12

PRESENTATION TO NCN MEMBERS AT NELSON HOUSE ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE WUSKWATIM GENERATION PROJECT

Land Environment

March 5, 2003

Environmental Impact Review

Predicted Effects of the Wuskwatim Generation Project on the Water and Land Environment

Land Environment

March 5, 2003

Background (1)

- NCN and Manitoba Hydro selected a team of consultants (North/South, TetrES, InterGroup & NDLea) to do an environmental study for the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station and Transmission Facilities.
- The environmental studies for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) have now been completed.
  - The environmental study used information from TK, field studies, and published reports (e.g., scientific studies and government data).
  - NCN membership has heard about progress of the study at previous Open Houses.
  - The results of the study are described in a report called the EIS.

Background (2)

- **Before construction starts, NCN and Manitoba Hydro both need to make a decision whether or not to proceed with the project.**
  - **NCN members would vote on a Project Development Agreement (PDA) in late 2003.**
- **The Project also needs licences and approvals from governments.**
  - **The Environmental Impact Statement is required for these approvals.**

Purpose of the review meetings

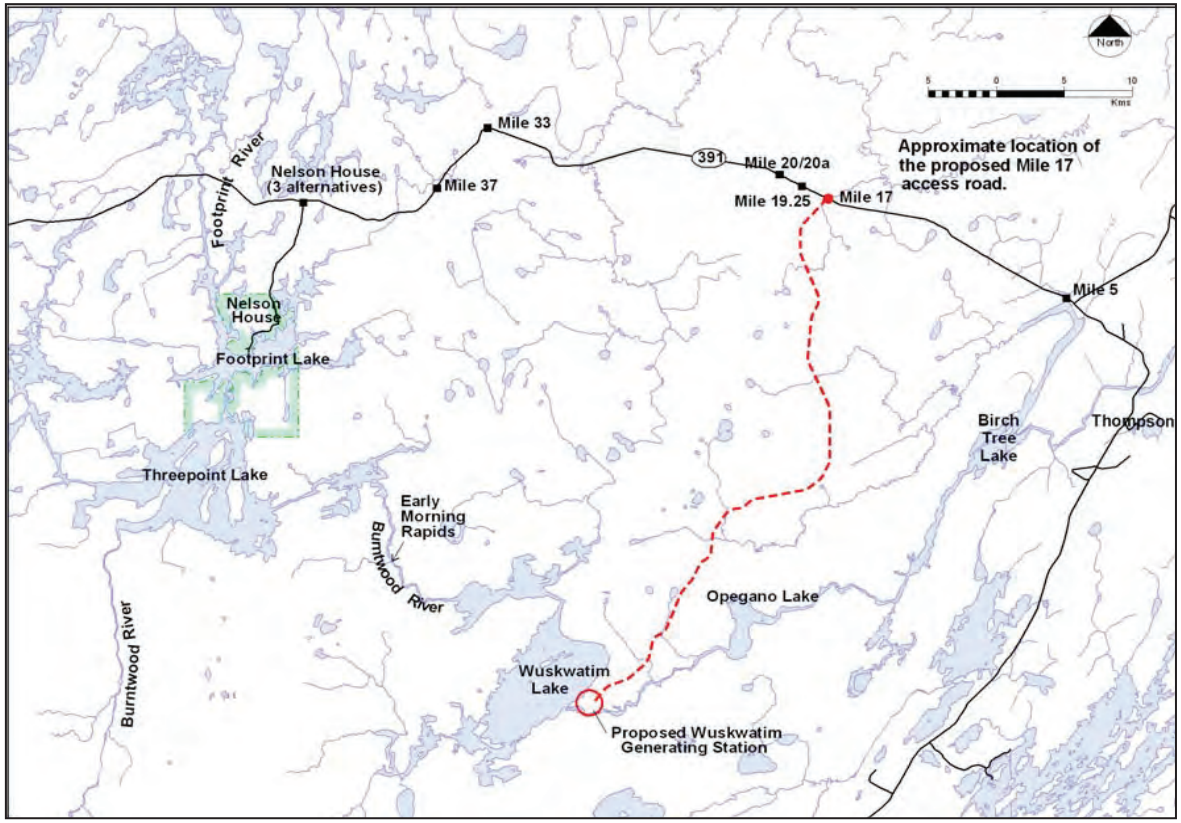
- **We will present the results of the environmental studies to NCN membership.**
- **After the presentation, there will be a group discussion to:**
  - **Answer questions from NCN about the Project.**
  - **Receive feedback from NCN on their view of the how the Project will affect the environment.**

Wuskwatim Generating Station

- **The Wuskwatim Generating Station will be built at Taskinigup Falls.**
- **The station will take about six years to build, possibly starting in late 2003/early 2004. The station is scheduled to begin operating in mid 2009.**
- **An access road (Mile 17) to Wuskwatim Lake will be built from PR 391. An access management report has been developed and provides options for controlling access into the area in order to help protect resources.**
- **An environmental protection plan is also being developed to reduce impacts during construction.**
- **Transmission lines will connect the station to Thompson and Herblet Lake.**
- **Today's presentation is looking at the generating station project (the transmission facilities were discussed at a previous meeting).**

Mile 17 Access Road

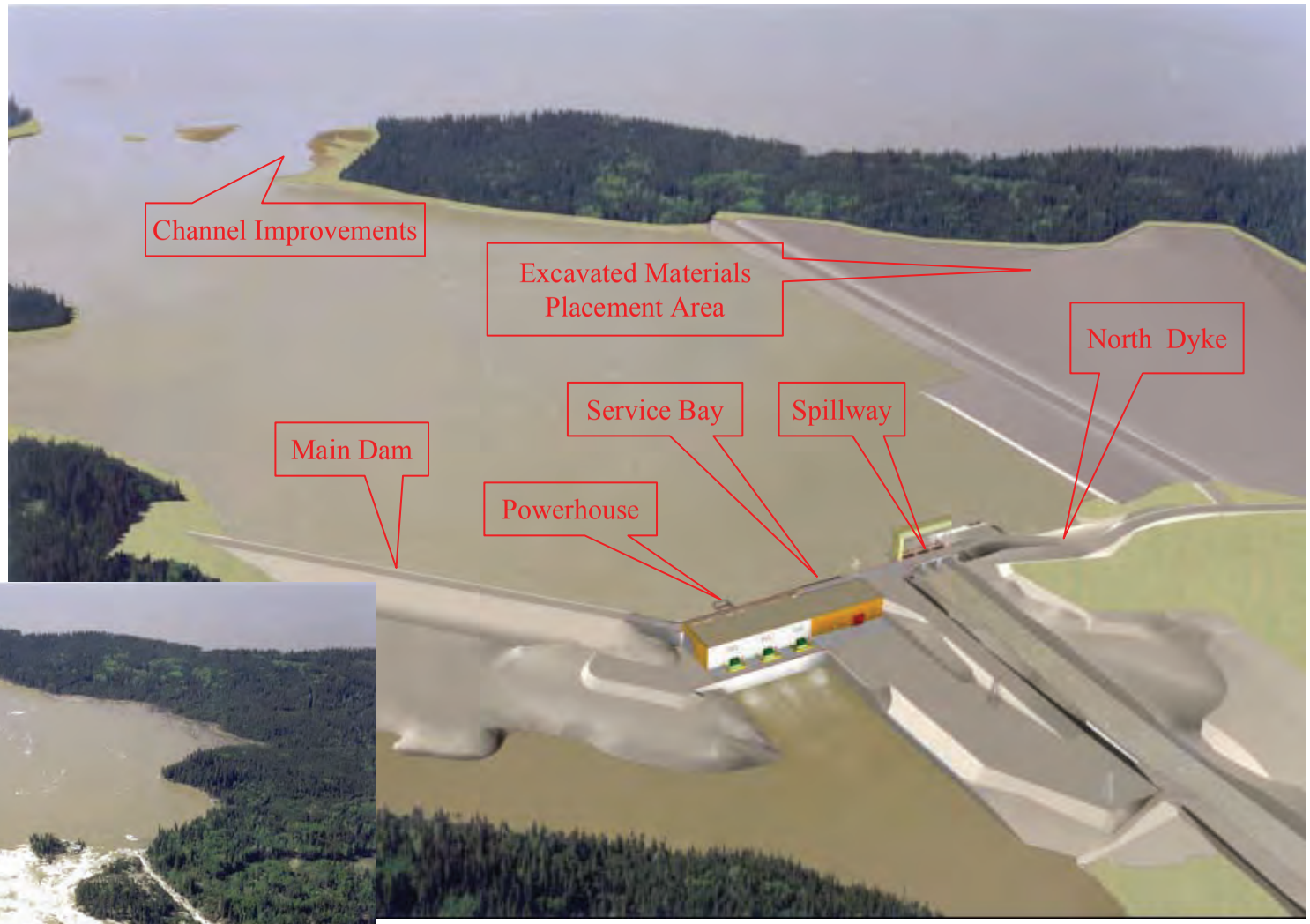
- **After consideration of alternative locations for the access road, and comparing impacts on environment, NCN, and the Project, the "Mile 17" alternative was selected.**



Location of the station (1)



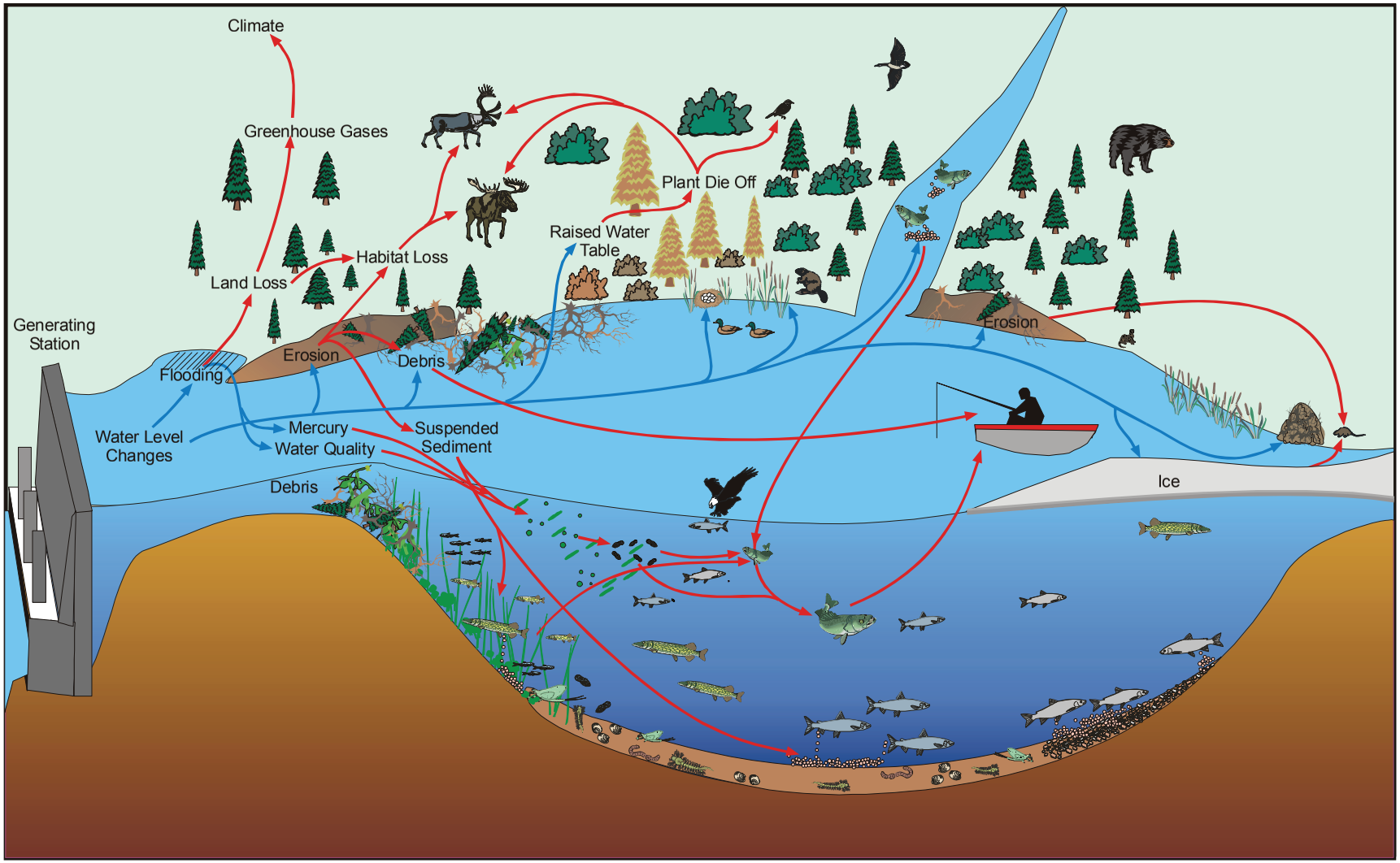
Location of the station (2)



Effects of the Generating Station

- **The Wuskwatim Generating Station has been specifically redesigned to be a low impact project:**
  - **A "low head" of 234.0 m was selected over the high head of 243.2 m (a difference of 9.2 m or about 28 feet).**
  - **This was selected to minimize flooding (0.5 sq. km for low head vs 140 sq. km for high head).**
  - **The station will be operated to generally keep water levels on Wuskwatim Lake steady.**
  - **The station will also be operated to limit the extent of effects on water levels and flows downstream.**

“Linkages” considered in the environmental studies

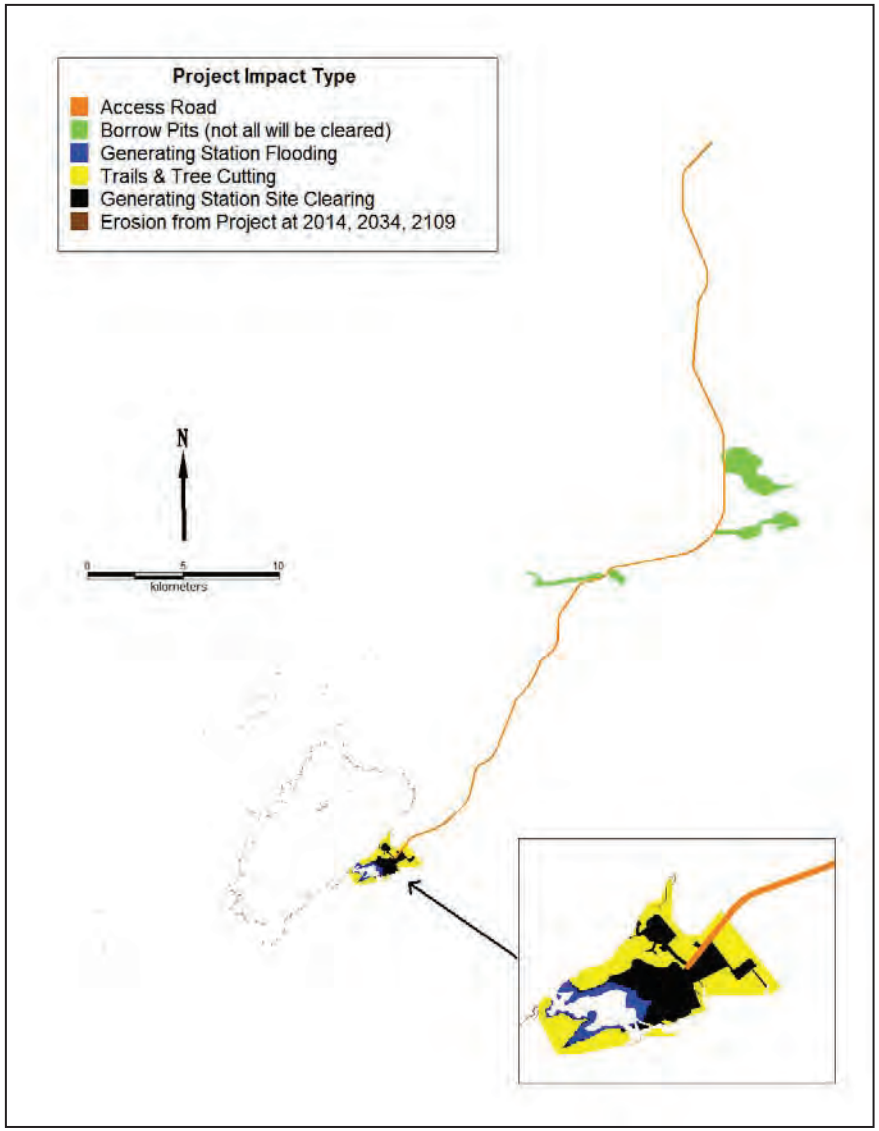


Terrestrial Habitat and Plants





Where Are The Affected Soil and Land Plants?



- Areas will be cleared for the:
  - generating station;
  - flooded area;
  - access road;
  - borrow pits.
- There will be trails and tree cutting around the generating station.
- Erosion from the Project will remove a small amount of land upstream.
  - Downstream areas not shown on map.
- Strips of vegetation and soil beside the Access Road will change because the soil will become wetter or drier.
- More access will increase fire risk. More fires could change the kind of vegetation.

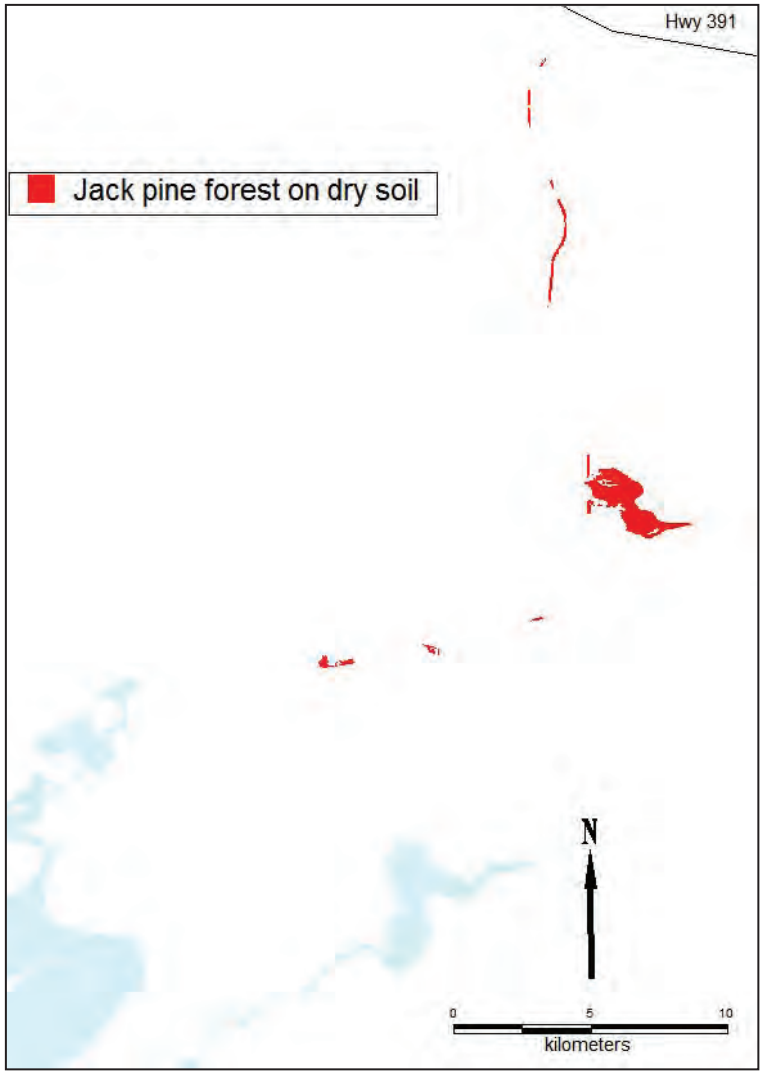
What Are The Effects On Soil & Land Plants?

Most of the affected soil and
plants are common in the area.

Trees that are uncommon in the area include:

- Jack pine (Oskahtik) on dry soil;
- Balsam fir (Pikowahtik or Nupukasik); and
- White spruce (Wapiskimnahtik).

What Are The Effects On Dry Jack Pine Forest?



- Affected jack pine forest on dry soil is found along the access road and in the borrow pit areas.
- These areas are located on a gravel ridge. This is an uncommon feature in the area.



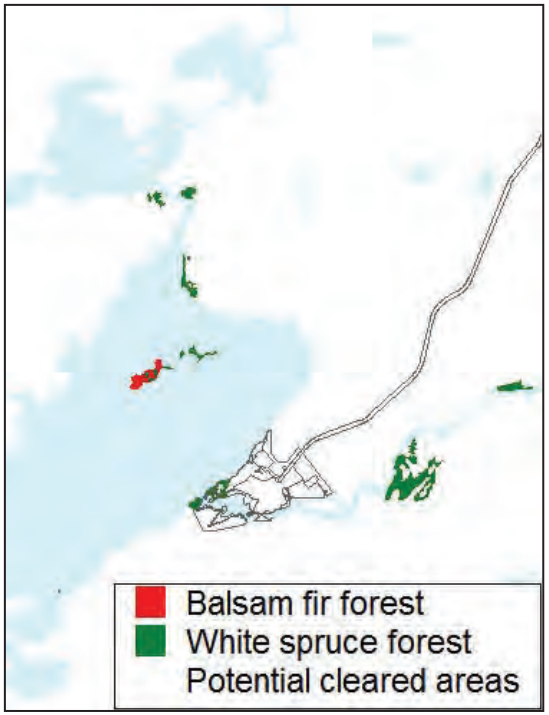
- Increased access will increase the risk of fire which could change jack pine forest to open areas.

What Are The Effects On Balsam Fir Forest?

- The affected balsam fir forest is found on the big island in Wuskwatim Lake.
- Even if the project does not happen, erosion will remove almost all of the forest on the big island.



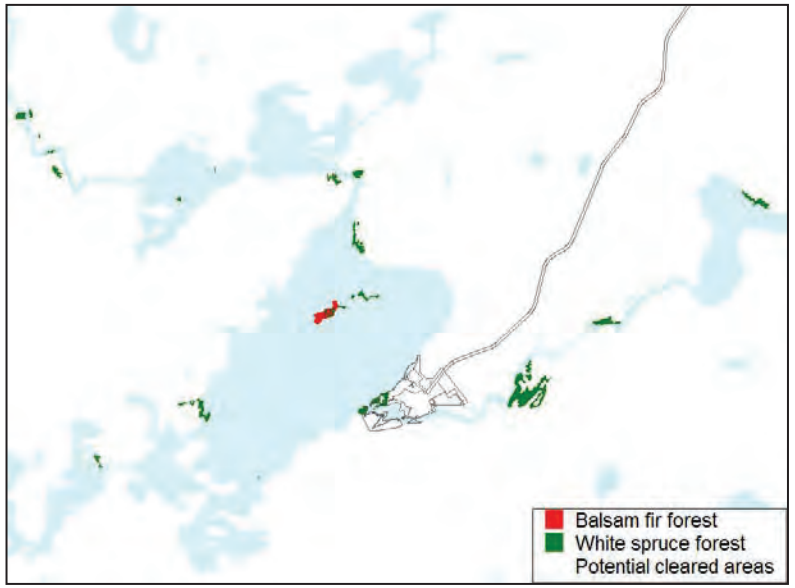
Pikowahtik or Nupukasik / Balsam fir



- Balsam fir were found at the generating station site and at one stream crossing.
- Some balsam fir will be cleared.
- More balsam fir roots and branches may be harvested because it will be easier to get there.
- One mitigation measure could be to promote balsam fir regrowth after the site is cleaned up.

What Are The Effects On White Spruce Forest?

Most of the white spruce forest is along the shores of Wuskwatim L. and the Burntwood R.



- Even if the project does not happen, erosion will remove some of the white spruce.
- White spruce will be cut down in the generating station and construction camp area.
- One mitigation measure could be to promote white spruce regrowth after the site is cleaned up.

Effects On Other Land Plants?

- Most plants that will be affected are common in the area.
- Harvesting of some plants may increase because it will be easier to get to the area.



Ithinimina
Blueberry



Wisagimina
Bog Cranberry



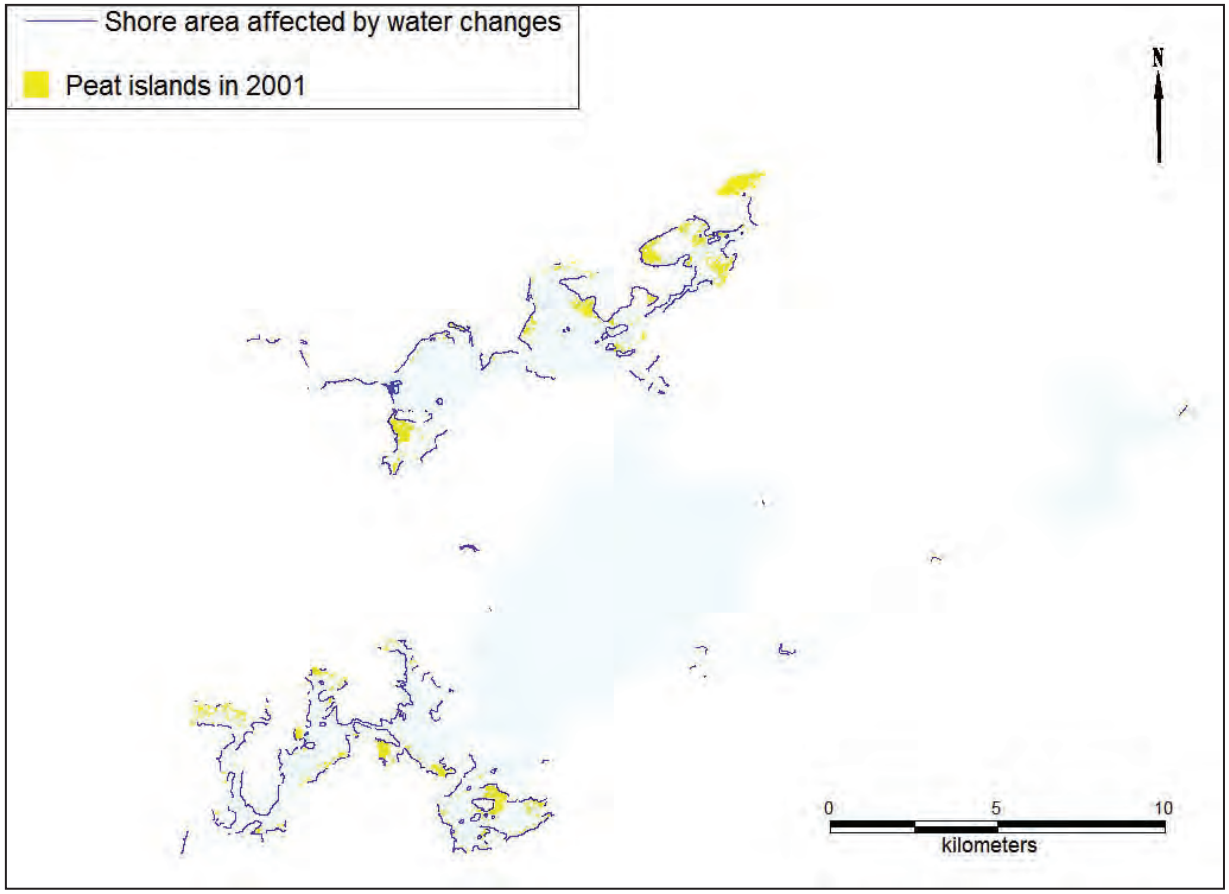
Wisagimina
Dry-ground Cranberry

What Are The Effects On Plants?

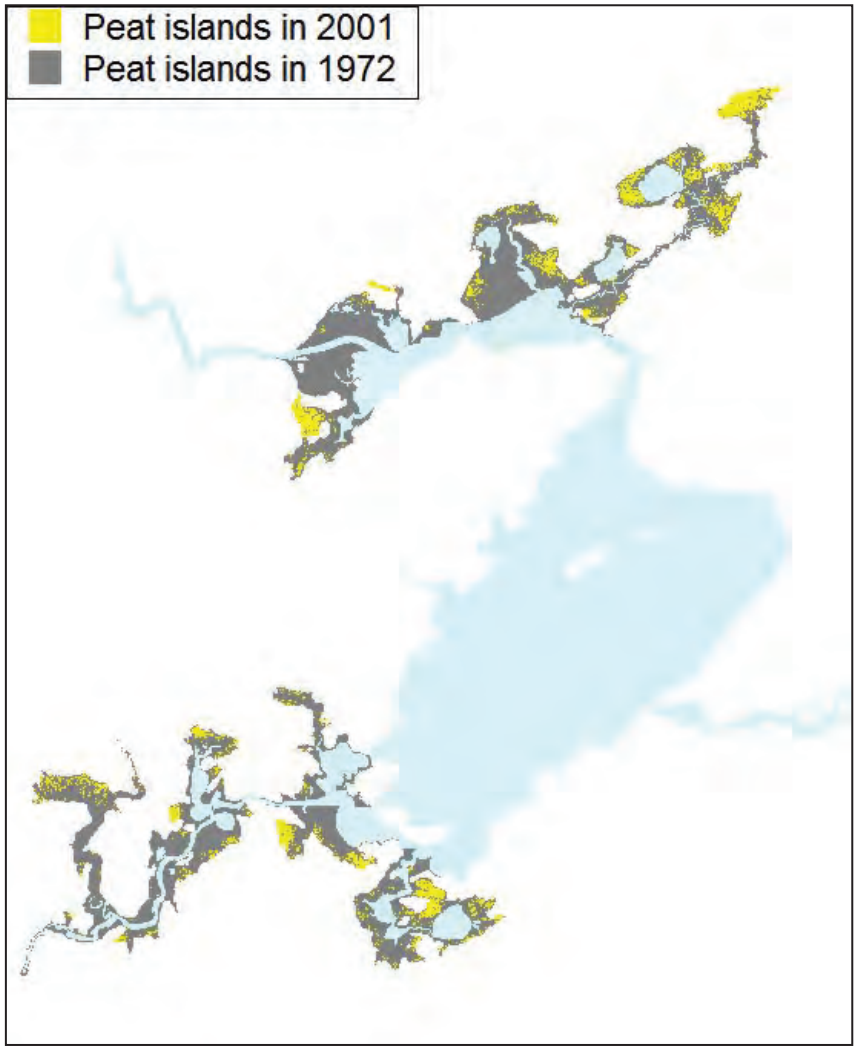
- New kinds of plants may be brought into the area on vehicle tires or when grass is seeded in the ditches along the access road.
- After construction, all equipment no longer required will be removed and the site will be cleaned up.
- The re-growth of natural vegetation will be encouraged by spreading organic material.

Where Are The Affected Shore Plants?

Water changes will affect peat islands and plants on short stretches of shore.



Where Are The Affected Shore Plants?



- Peat islands are spongy soils in the lake that are either floating or sitting on the bottom.



- The peat islands were created by CRD flooding.

How Will Peat Islands Be Affected?

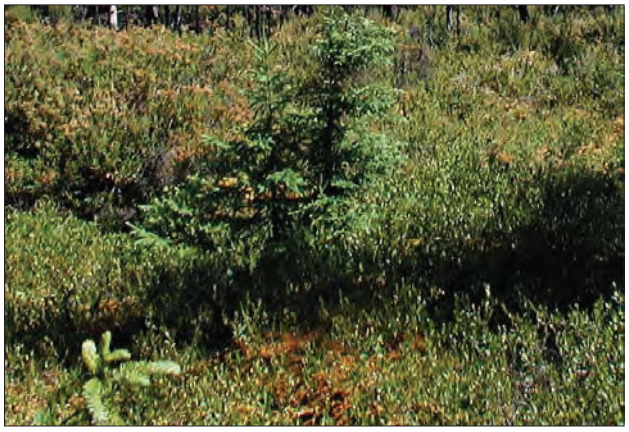
- Keeping the water levels steady on Wuskwatim Lake should stop the breakdown of peat islands.
- The peat islands should grow bigger over time.



Over a long time, the amount of cattails growing on peat islands should go down while the amount of grassy plants, Sphagnum moss and short shrubs should go up.



Grassy plants



Sphagnum moss & short shrubs

How Will Shore Plants Be Affected?

More plants may be harvested because it will be easier to get to the area.

Plants that grow best when water levels are steady (e.g. sedges) will increase around Wuskwatim Lake.



Plants like sedges and northern manna grass should increase.

How Will Shore Plants Be Affected?

Steady water levels on Wuskwatim Lake should reduce the amount of plants that:



Otawaskwa / Cattail

Grow best when the water goes up and down.



Wikaskwah / Wild Mint

Grow best out of the water on wet soil.

How Will Shore Plants Be Affected?

- None of the affected plants are rare or uncommon.
- Slowly, the types of plants found along the shore should become more like what was there before CRD.
- In the sheltered bays, spongy soil will slowly grow from the shore out into the water.

Bird Studies

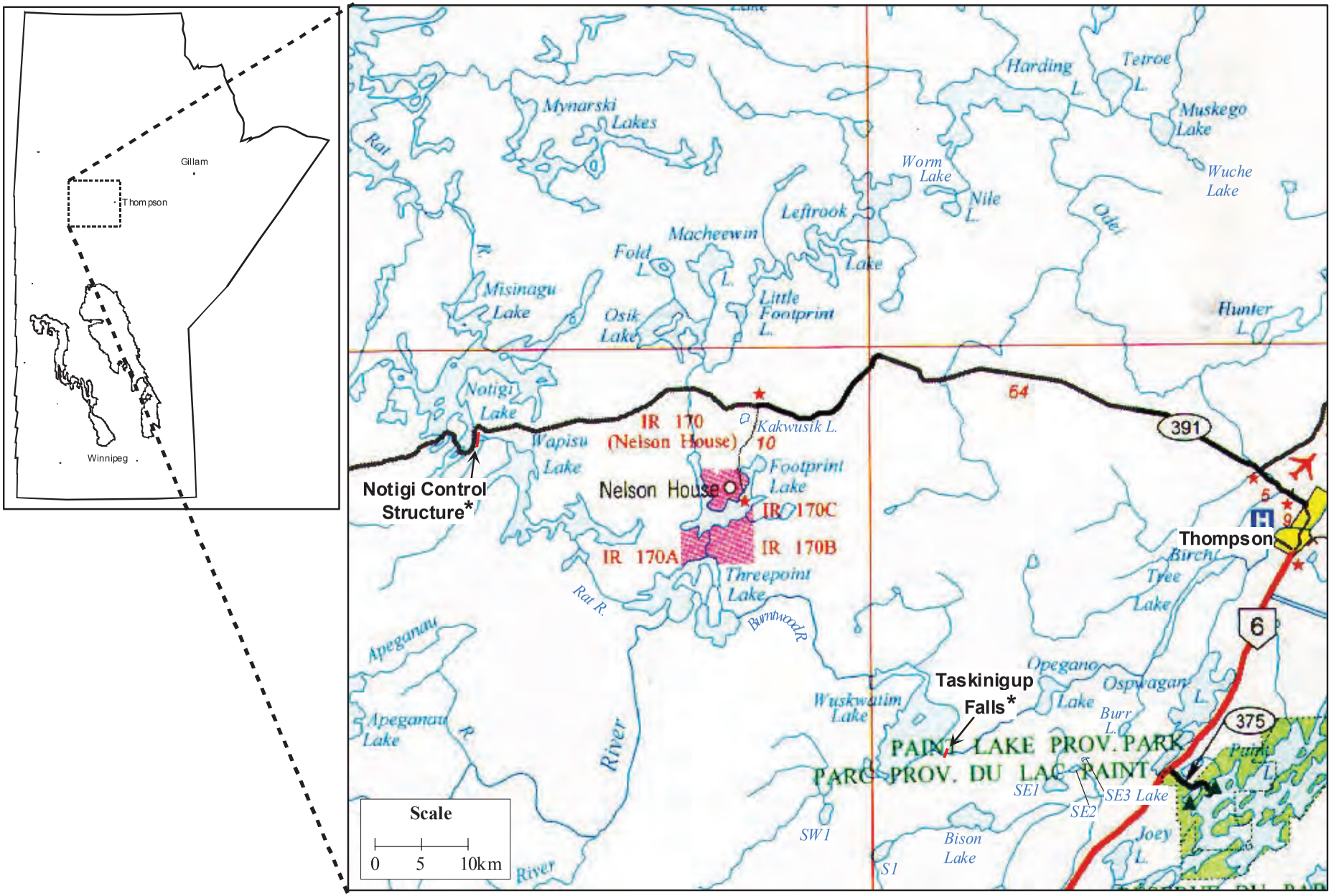


Basis for Impact Conclusions

- Impact conclusions based on:
  - Traditional Knowledge (TK); and
  - Analysis of two years of baseline studies of bird abundance and distribution (2000 & 2001) that included terrestrial breeding bird surveys, boat-based surveys & helicopter-based surveys



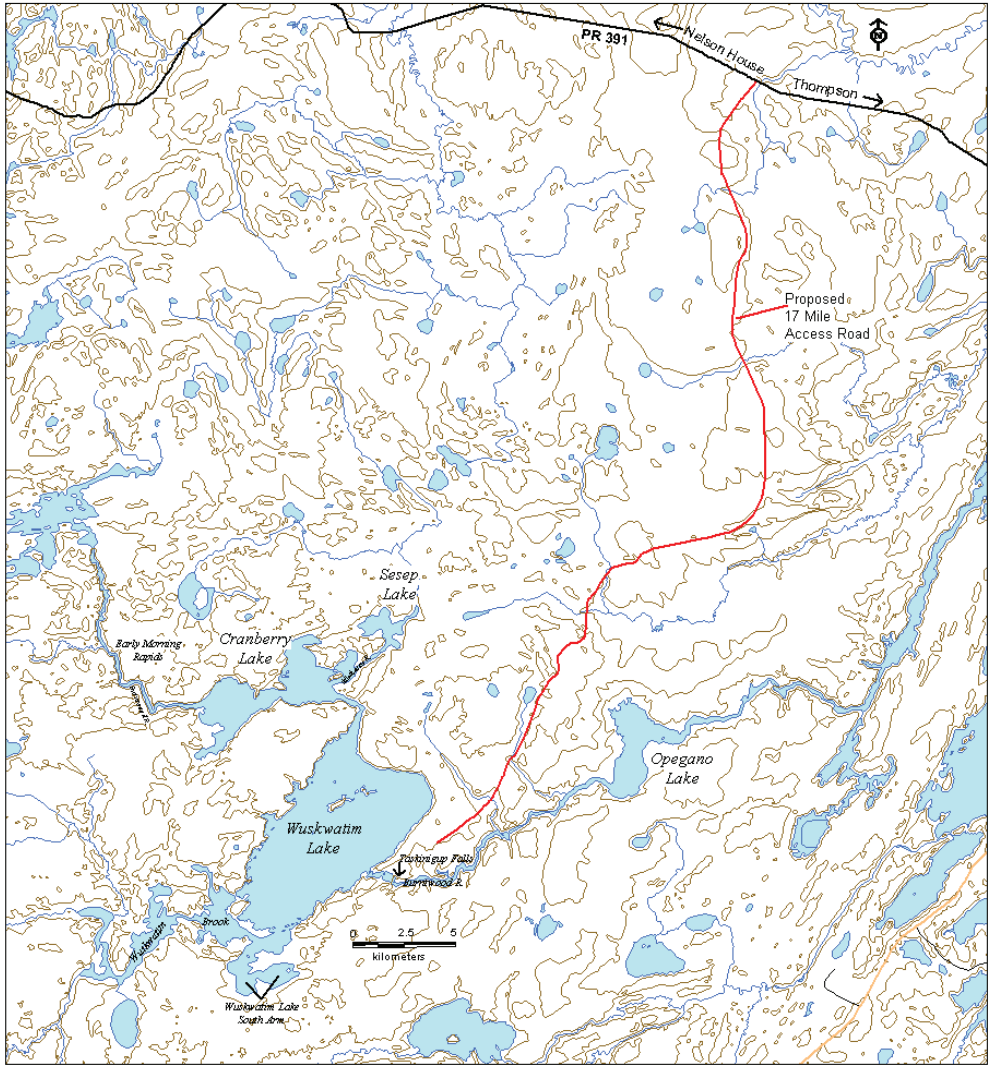




* - Proposed Generating Station Site

Bird Study Area

Wuskwatim Study Area for Birds, Amphibians & Reptiles



Construction Effects

- Construction-related effects on birds primarily associated with:
  - Clearing of habitat along access road, borrow sites, and generating station site area
  - *Involves long-term removal and fragmentation of some bird habitat*
  - Noise associated with machinery, people and activities such as blasting
  - *Potential short-term disturbance of birds*

Construction Effects

The majority of birds affected will be some forest-dwelling birds such as songbirds

- Due to the clearing of primarily forest habitat for the access road and generating station

- Potential negative effects on birds associated with construction expected to be small to moderate, site-specific, short- to long-term
  - ***There is not expected to be a noticeable change in bird populations in the region***

Operational Effects

- Main operation-related effects on birds include:
  - Long-term decrease in cattail marsh and peat island habitat
  - Land loss through erosion
  - Increased access to the Wuskwatim Lake area (potential for increased human disturbance including increased hunting)

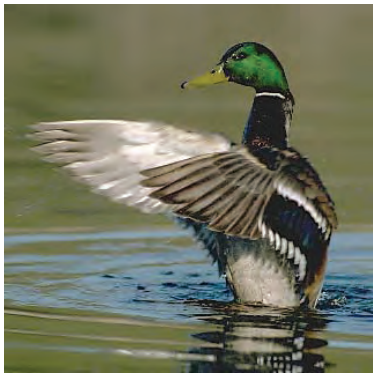
Other Operational Effects

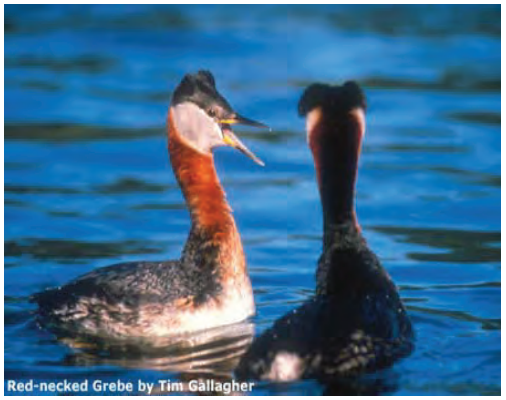
- Potential for occasional bird collisions with:
  - communication towers and transmission lines to/from powerhouse to switching station; and
  - vehicles along access road
- Water level stabilization may reduce flooding of some waterbird nests (e.g. some waterfowl, loons, grebes)

Operational Effects

What birds will be affected?

- Birds associated with marsh habitat (e.g. Red-winged Blackbirds, some waterfowl, grebes)
  - mostly due to the long-term decrease in cattail marsh habitat



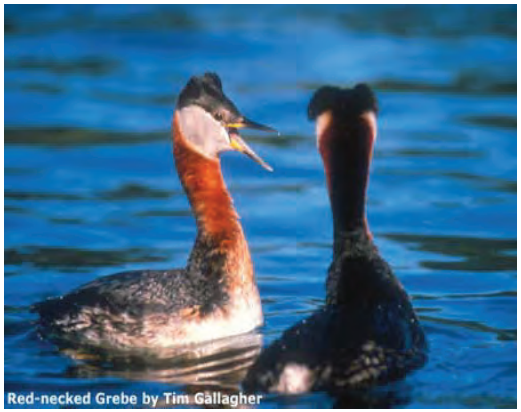




Operational Effects

- The loss in marsh habitat over the long-term is expected to:
  - off-set benefits to marsh nesting birds gained by decreased nest flooding due to more stable waterlevels





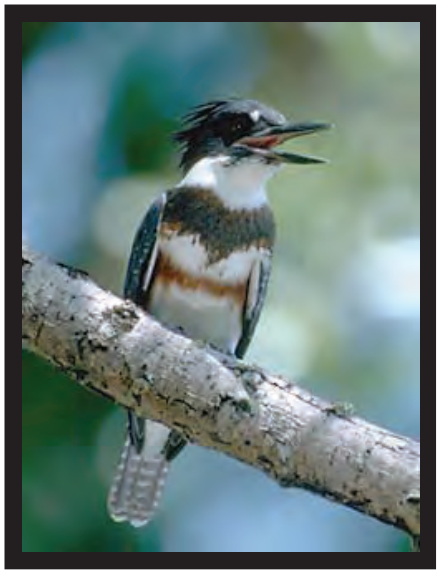
Operational Effects

- Over the long-term, it is expected that birds that require marsh habitat (e.g. Red-winged Blackbirds, some waterfowl, grebes etc.) would gradually be displaced to other marsh habitat in the region

Operational Effects

- Birds that nest near eroding shorelines may also be affected during the nesting season
  - shoreline nests falling into the water





Operational Effects

- Off-shore peatlands are expected to increase over the long-term

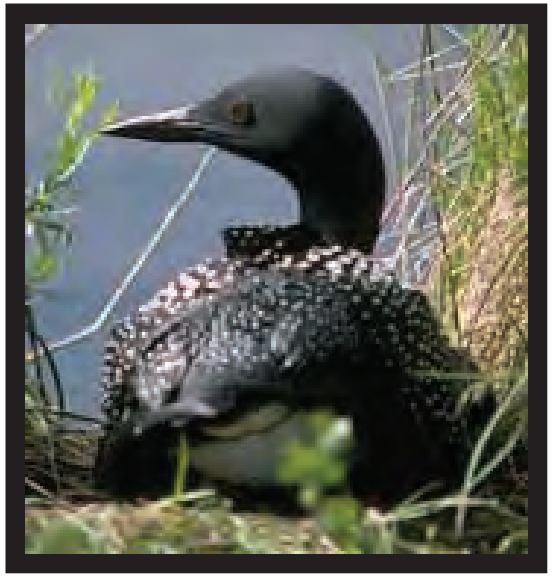
  - Good for birds that nest in boggy peatland habitat such as Common Snipe and Palm Warblers





Operational Effects

- Expanding peatlands from shore will merge with existing peat islands over the long-term
  - Will reduce the amount of available peat island nesting habitat for birds such as loons and some waterfowl





Operational Effects

Conclusion:

- Potential negative effects on birds associated with operation are expected to be small to moderate, mostly site-specific and long-term
  - ***There is not expected to be a noticeable change in bird populations in the region***

Reptiles and Amphibians



Reptiles

- No reptiles (snakes and turtles) were observed in the Wuskwatim study area in 2000 or 2001
  - Study area is north of the northern documented range limit for reptiles
  - Local resource users and study team members have not seen snakes or turtles in study area

Reptiles

Conclusion:

- Due to the lack of reptiles on or near the potentially affected areas;
  - **project construction and operation are expected to have no effect on reptiles**

Amphibians

- The Wuskwatim study area is within the range of the boreal chorus, wood and leopard frogs







Amphibians

- Low numbers of boreal chorus and wood frogs and no leopard frogs were recorded during surveys in the Wuskwatim study area in 2000 and 2001
  - Limited suitable habitat occurs in the study area





Operational Effects on Amphibians

Main operation-related effects on frogs are:

- Loss of some frog habitat through flooding between Wuskwatim and Taskinigup Falls
  - *frog habitats potentially changed through flooding are marginal in quality*
- Habitat loss associated with increased erosion
- Increased frog mortality from long-term use of access road
- Positive effects may occur due to some ponding in low-lying areas

Other Operational Effects on Amphibians

- Increased frog mortality from long-term use of access road
- Positive effects may occur due to some ponding in low-lying areas

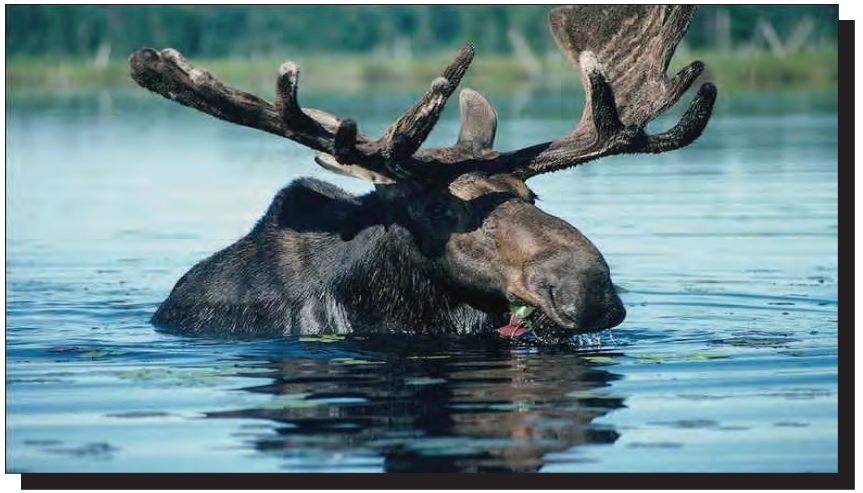
Operational Effects on Amphibians

Conclusion:

- Potential negative effects on amphibians associated with operation are expected to be small, local and long-term
  - ***There is not expected to be a noticeable change in frog numbers in the region***

Mammal Studies



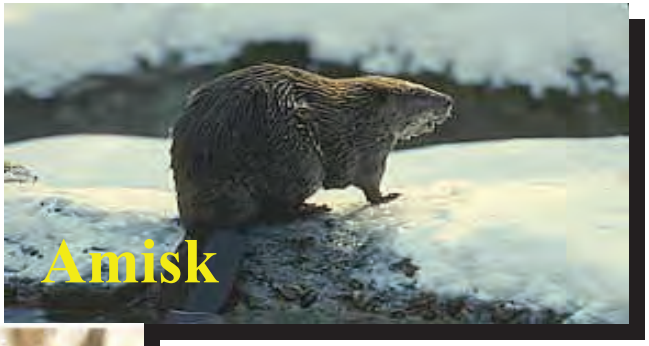


Effects to Mammals

- Woodland caribou and moose
- Muskrat and beaver
- Other animals (e.g., wolf, bear)













Will woodland caribou be affected?

- About 200 woodland caribou live in the Nelson House RMA.
- Caribou are scattered throughout the Project area during summer in small numbers, and are mainly outside the Project area in winter.





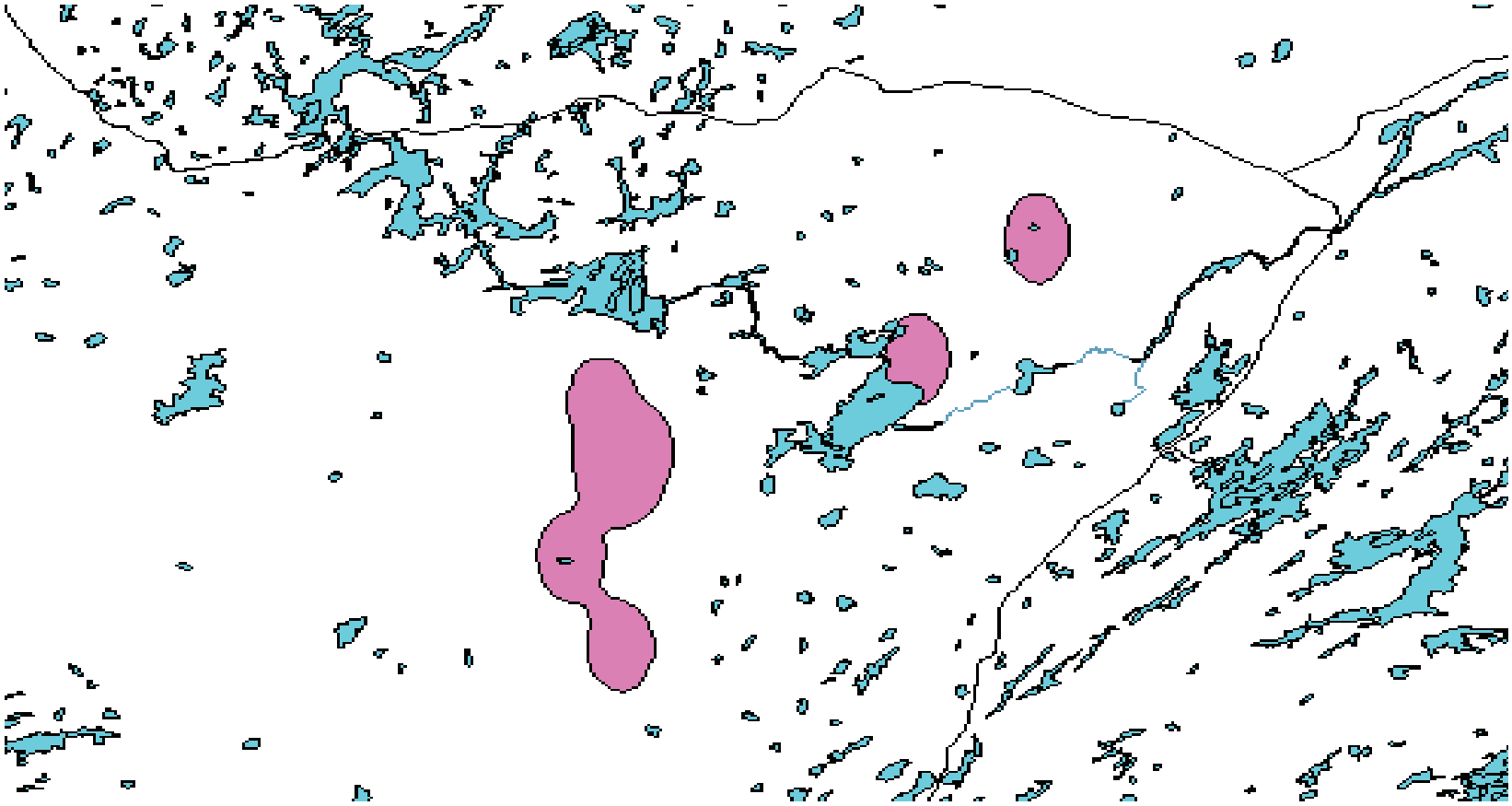
Will woodland caribou be affected?

- Potential effects to woodland caribou due to the Project are small because:
  - Most of the herd uses areas outside of the area directly affected by the Project, and
  - Changes in habitat caused by the Project are relatively small.

Will woodland caribou be affected?

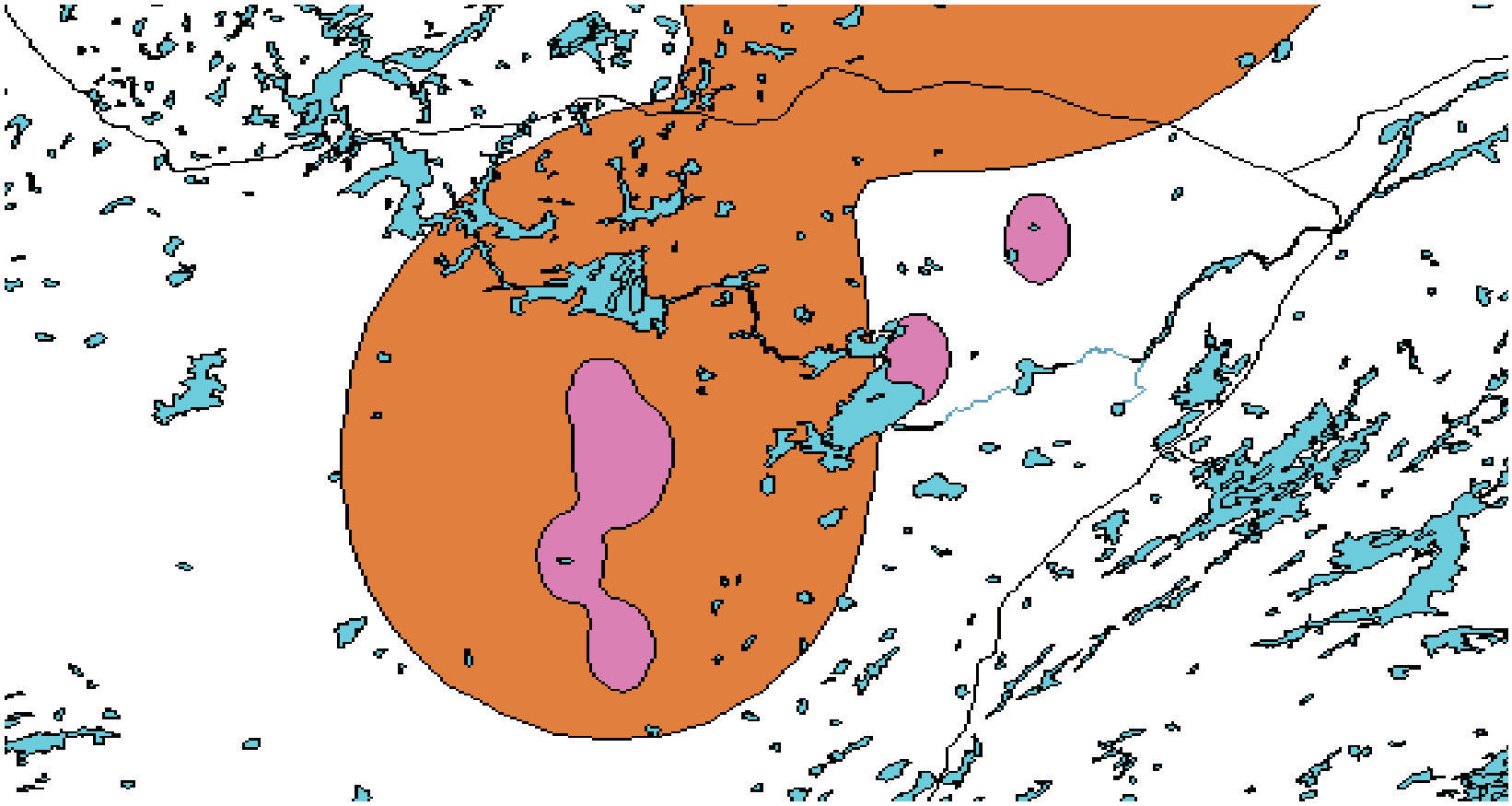
- Potential effects are being reduced in several ways:
  - The road was routed to avoid affecting calving habitat used by some caribou in the Project area.
  - The generating station and road avoid important winter range.
  - Movement corridors and summer habitat are located in the Project area. Some caribou and habitat would be affected. This requires further study and monitoring.

Will woodland caribou be affected?



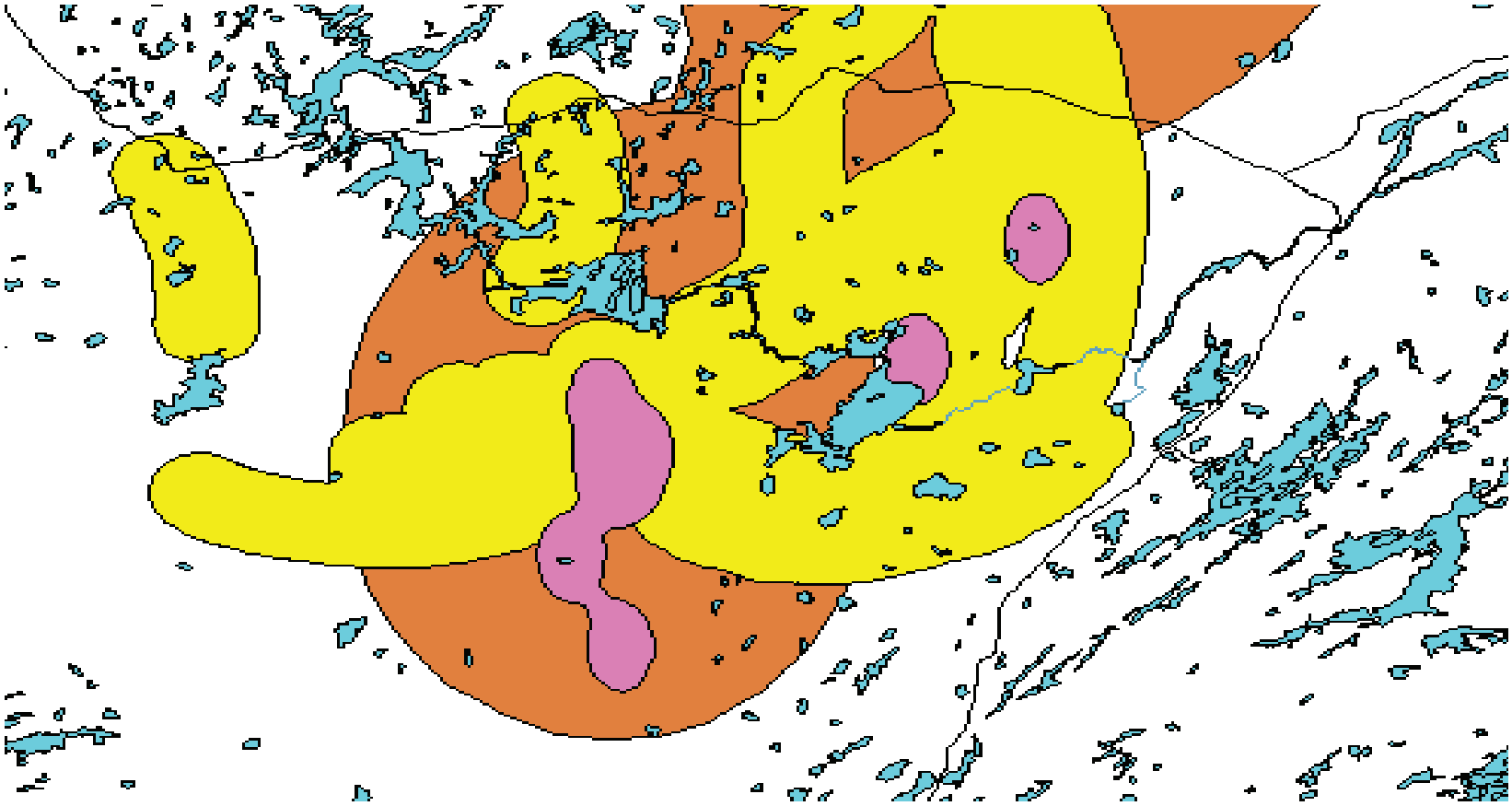
Important calving sites avoided

Will woodland caribou be affected?



Important winter habitat avoided

Will woodland caribou be affected?



Movement corridors require further study

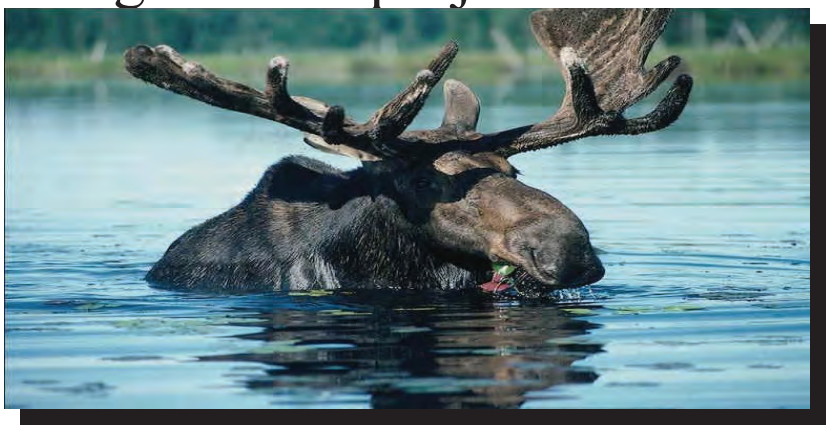
Will woodland caribou be affected?

- Biggest concern is that the access road will increase the harvest of caribou.
  - An access management plan is being developed by NCN and Manitoba Hydro, in consultation with the Nelson House Resource Management Board, to protect caribou and other wildlife from being over-harvested.

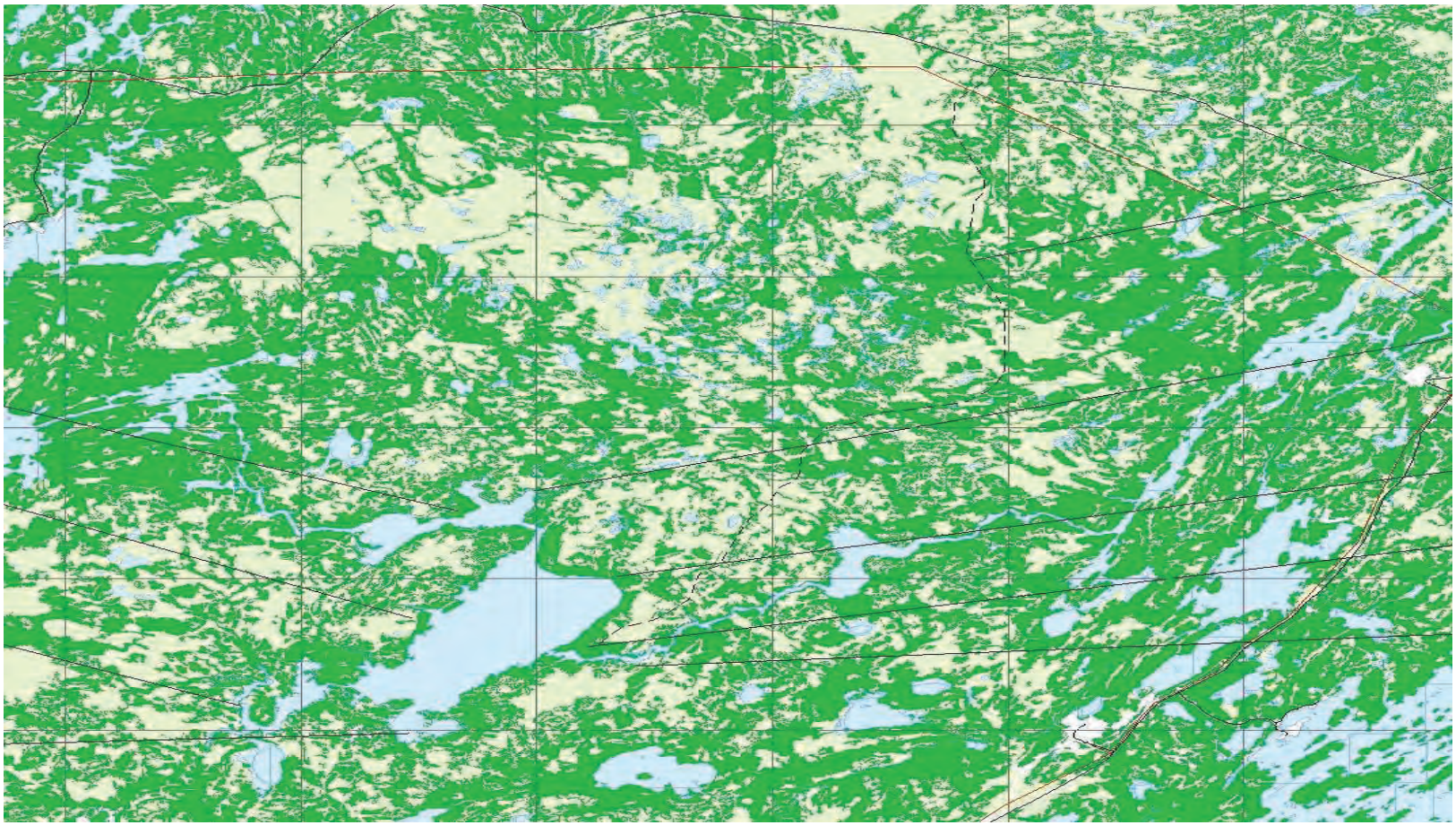
Will moose be affected?

- The moose population won't be affected by the Project because:
  - Changes in habitat caused by the Project are relatively small,
  - Some higher quality moose habitat was avoided along the road, and
  - There is no unique moose habitat affected by the Project. It is scattered throughout the project area.





Will moose be affected?



Dark Green – Good moose habitat

Will moose be affected?

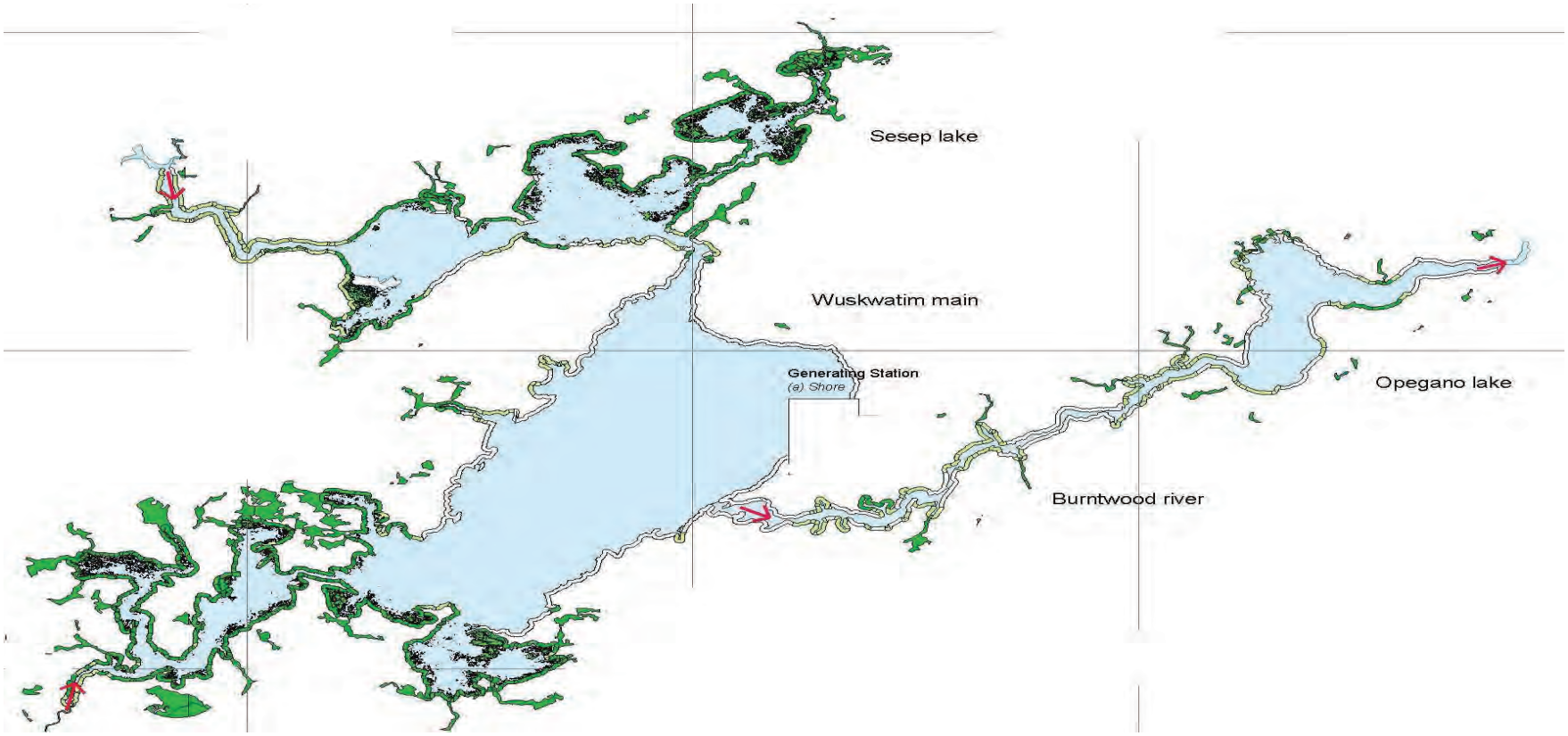
- Again, the biggest concern is over-harvesting due to improved access. This will be mitigated through the Access Management Plan.

Will muskrat and beaver be affected?



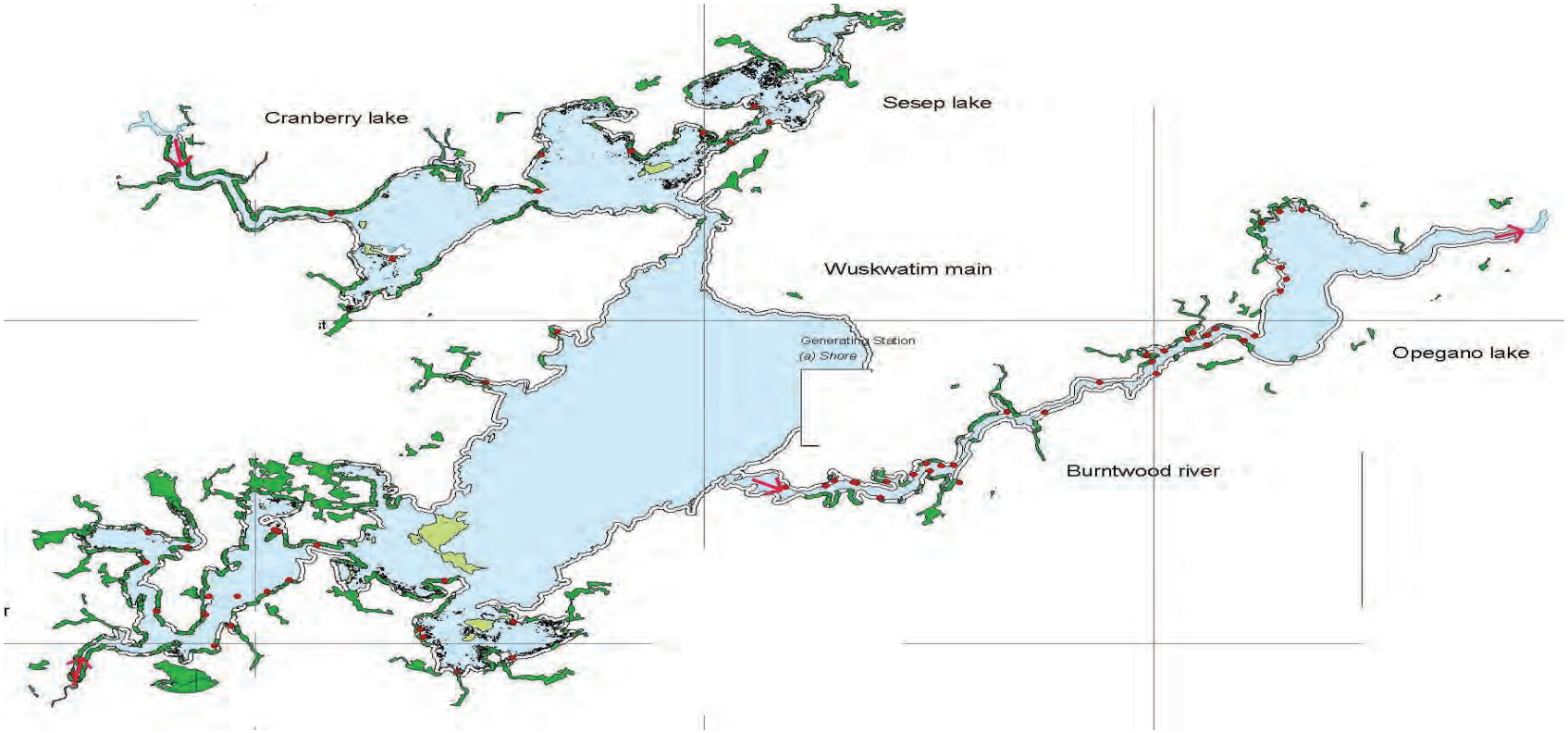
- No major changes in muskrat and beaver are expected.
- The positive effects from the steady water level on Wuskwatim Lake may be offset by effects on food (e.g., reduced cattails as food for muskrat) and occasional water draw-downs.
- Long-term increase in shoreline peatland may increase muskrat populations slightly.
- Downstream beaver population will decrease slightly from daily water-level fluctuations, especially during winter.

Will muskrat and beaver be affected?



Dark Green – Good muskrat habitat

Will muskrat and beaver be affected?



Dark Green – Good beaver habitat

Will other animals be affected?

- The overall populations of other furbearers, such as bear and wolf, will not be affected by the change in habitat.
- Populations could be affected by increased harvesting (mitigated by Access Management Plan).







Domestic Resource Use

- The increase and stabilization of water levels on Wuskwatim Lake is not expected to have a large effect on resource harvesting activity.
- Resource use downstream of the proposed GS is currently low because of the poor access. Increasing fluctuations in water levels downstream of the station are not expected to have a large effect on resource harvesting.

Domestic Hunting and Trapping

- Hunting is expected to increase in the Wuskwatim area because of increased access.
- There is also expected to be an increase in the number of cabins built on the lake.

Commercial Trapping(1)

- There are 54 RTLs in the Nelson House trapline district.
- The average harvest since 1976 from traplines with road access ($163,954) is more than double the harvest from traplines without road access ($65,412).
- The access road will increase access to at least four traplines and the GS will provide safe access across the Burntwood River in winter.
- Increased access is expected to result in increased harvests from affected traplines.

Commercial Trapping(2)

- No major changes are expected in muskrat and beaver populations.
- Disturbances from construction of the road and G.S. are expected to cause a redistribution of animals and may have negative effect in short term.

How will commercial forest harvesting be affected?

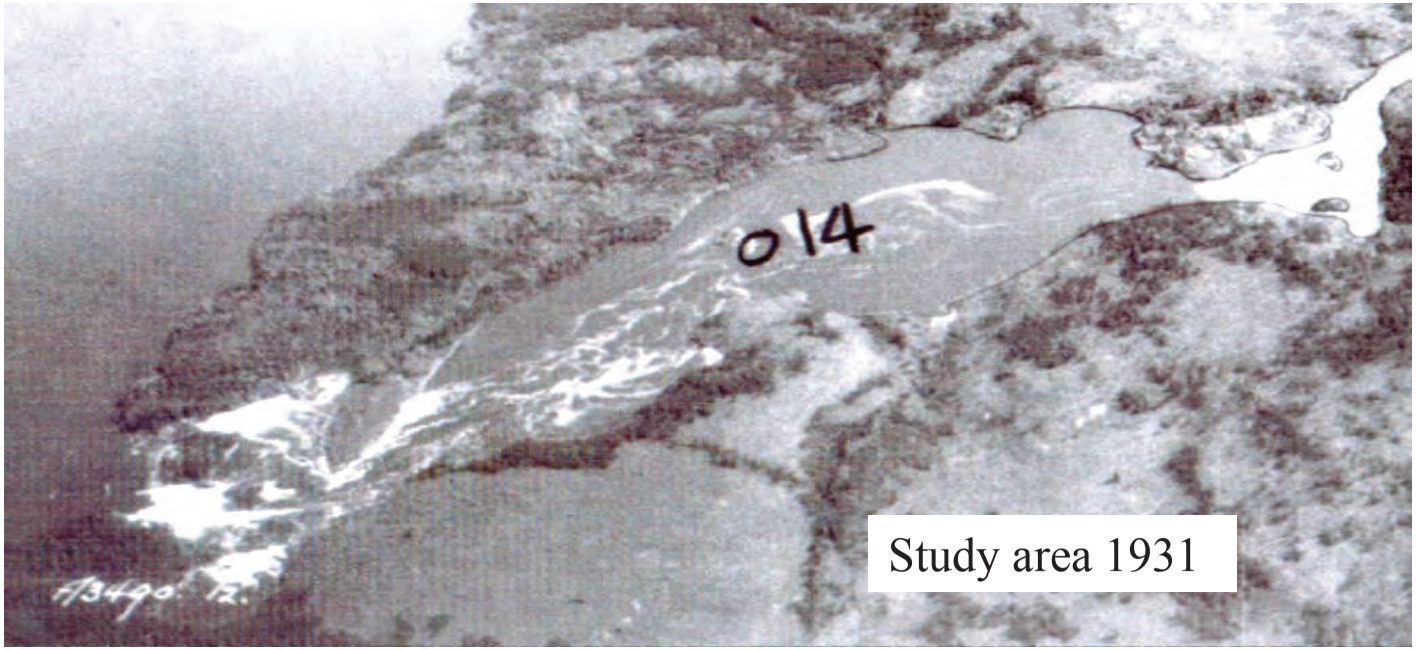
- The annual allowable harvest level in the project area is currently not being fully utilized;
- Project impacts (minor) on productive forest lands will not negatively affect current harvest levels in the area;
- The GS access road & dam may provide opportunity for local commercial forestry operations.

Heritage Resources



Archaeological and Cultural sites

- Between 2000 and 2002, study team archaeologists looked at the proposed channel improvement at Wuskwatim Falls, the site of the generating station and spillway, the area for the construction camp, the sewage lagoon, the water intake facility, the north and south bank of the Burntwood River between Taskinigup and Wuskwatim Falls, the cleared access road, and borrow areas.



Study area 1931

Archaeological and Cultural sites

- Archaeological field methods consisted of pedestrian surveys throughout most of the immediate impact area, shovel testing areas considered to have a potential for archaeological resources, examining tree throws along the Burntwood River, examining exposed sections of the riverbank, and remote sensing at the cabin site at Taskinigup Falls.

Ed Fread, Northern Lights Heritage Services Inc., and Leo Spence, NCN, testing along the Mile 17 Access Road.



Archaeological and Cultural sites

- A stone feature, concluded to be a way marker along the portage, was found in a shovel test on the north side of Wuskwatim Falls.
- The lower logs of a post-1900 log cabin were recorded on the north bank of the river at Taskinigup Falls. A wood canoe had been stored in the building but was crushed when the building collapsed.
- Three archaeological sites were recorded along the river between Taskinigup and Wuskwatim Falls when artifacts that had eroded from the riverbank were collected.



Artifacts found between Taskinigup and Wuskwatim Falls.

Stone feature found in shovel test at Wuskwatim Falls.





Leo Spence, NCN, excavating at the Taskinigup Cabin Site.

Leo Spence, NCN, and Ed Fread, Northern Lights Heritage Services Inc., examining exposed shoreline near Wuskwatim Falls.



Archaeological and Cultural sites

- No significant archaeological sites were found at the other areas examined.
- NCN Elders and other members have been consulted to make sure that cultural and other important sites are identified.
- Archaeological monitoring will be conducted when the area is being cleared for construction.
- A post-construction assessment to record any newly exposed archaeological sites will also be conducted.

Thank You

Thank You



ATTACHMENT 13

NCN FUTURE DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTERS

March 2000
July 2000
August 2000
October 2000
Winter 2000
April 2001
July 2001
October 2001
December 2001
February 2002
April 2002
July 2002
August 2002

Nisichawayasihk Future Development NEWSLETTER

Notigi Control Structure





Taskinigup Falls

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
Future Development Working Group

Ensuring the Visions of Our Children.....
& our Children's Children.....

MARCH 2000

COUNCILOR ELVIS THOMAS

Sometime prior to 1977, Governments and Manitoba Hydro got together to develop a plan to harness hydroelectric power from lakes and rivers that are a part of and run through NCN territory. Some parts of our territory were chosen as sites for hydroelectric generating stations.

By the time NCN found out about what was happening, permits and licenses were already obtained by these Governments and Manitoba Hydro that allowed them to go ahead with their plans. Thus, the construction of a mega-hydro project (the NOTIGI CONTROL STRUCTURE) on NCN territory was underway.

The completion of this mega-project had devastating results on our people, land, and resources. We are still reeling from the impacts of the hydro development activity within NCN territory. Our people struggled to get what they could from a project that was well underway and completed before we could do a complete and thorough assessment of its devastating impacts.

At that time there was no consultation with the people most affected. Our people voiced concerns about what was happening on NCN territory regarding Hydro development and its effects on NCN people, lands and resources. NCN people demanded their concerns about hydro development within NCN territory be addressed and a compensation package developed.

The response of governments and Manitoba Hydro was the realization of First Nation populations and their unique Rights. Canadian law, as expressed by the Supreme Court of Canada, recognises and affirms certain rights and obligations that flow from the Constitution, the Indian Act and our Treaties. On the basis of asserting these rights, our people were able to achieve the establishment of an on-going negotiation process. (Keeping in mind that Environmental legislation and policies were non-existent or weak at this time)

Our people then proceeded to engage in a negotiation process that would result in a compensation settlement for the people of NCN. In order to make compensation a reality, NCN had to enter into a negotiation process. Consultation processes were devised to give the people as much information as could be obtained so that NCN could make an informed decision concerning any proposed compensation package.

Because of the concerns about impacts from hydro development, in December 1976, our people entered into the Northern Flood Agreement. From this time, until March 1996, our attempts to implement the NFA involved many contentious issues that various parties took positions on. Those negotiations focused on how to implement the NFA. The NFA Implementation Agreement signed in March 1996 was approved by NCN by way of referendum and settled most outstanding NFA claims. NCN voted overwhelmingly to ratify the agreement.



The 1996 NFA Implementation Agreement—provides NCN with an opportunity for a different process, which is a big improvement over how matters were handled in the past. This time NCN is being consulted from the beginning. We will have our concerns addressed throughout the process. We won't be left in the position of having to go cap in hand to governments and Hydro after the dams are already built. The benefits will be there for our people this time. We have the opportunity to influence Hydro's decisions at an early stage.

The 1996 NFA implementation Agreement— has an Article 8 provision about future development. In Article 8, NCN agreed to a planning process between Hydro and NCN in the event Hydro was to propose any new development within NCN territory. Article 8 requires Hydro to provide information to NCN, concerning Future Development on NCN territory.

The process that is set out requires Manitoba Hydro to consult with NCN and obtain consent from NCN (through compensation agreements) before any new Hydro development takes place on NCN territory. Manitoba Hydro is also required to address the environmental impacts (refer to Environmental Impacts Assessment activities for details in this issue of the Nisichawayasihk Future Development Newsletter) that any new development may bring and to deal with the compensation issues. It is Manitoba Hydro s desire that the issue of compensation be dealt with by the time the environmental licensing application process is concluded and NCN is standing beside Manitoba Hydro as a co-proponent.

With Manitoba Hydro considering the possibility of selling more electric power outside of the Province, hydro has now revised its future development scheduling and informed NCN of its intent. Manitoba Hydro has informed NCN that the original in-service dates that were initially contemplated have to be changed.

Under the terms of the 1996 NFA implementation Agreement, Hydro is obligated to pay for the costs associated to develop a joint process in regard to any studies that are identified. With Hydro obligated not to go ahead with any new developments within NCN territory, NCN has agreed to cooperate in a process for future development studies and preliminary exploratory works are now underway to determine if the areas are indeed suitable for new hydro development and what can be done to minimize adverse effects pertaining to future development.

It is expected that Hydro will honour the terms of the 1996 agreement. To that extent NCN has submitted a work plan and has received a budget totalling 1.4 million dollars. The money received from Hydro is being used by NCN to prepare for a genuine community consultation process where NCN involvement can direct the proposed developments on NCN territory (refer to Marcel Moody article on next page for more detail). Part of the budget is also being used to assess the economic potential that exists with the magnitude of the proposed new hydro developments on NCN territory. To determine if it is in NCN best interests NCN will also have to assess our human resource situation and our business capacity with a view toward capacity building in order to prepare for the possibilities that lie ahead. Not only for any proposed new hydro development but also for our future as NCN. As you can appreciate there are many important issues that NCN will have to grapple with. Ultimately, NCN will have to decide (by referendum) if it is in our best interests to proceed with any new hydro development on NCN territory.

As the Councillor holding the Future Development portfolio, I want to assure the community that your concerns will be brought forward and treated very seriously. I also want to assure NCN membership that NCN will work hard to protect our best interests and if NCN wants future development activities occurring in NCN territory that our community receives the benefits. With all this in mind, as the Future Development portfolio holder, I will work towards ensuring the best interests of NCN membership are at the forefront of all discussions, consultations, and potential future negotiations.

Future Development Co-Manager: Mr. Marcel Moody

BACKGROUND

In 1996, Chief & Council of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation entered into an Agreement with Canada, Manitoba and Manitoba Hydro to settle most of the outstanding Northern Flood Agreement Claims. Included, as part of the settlement was Article 8 – Future Development Article, which outlines the process for which any future development would be resolved.

Manitoba Hydro did not anticipate any future development within the Nelson House Resource Area until 2008, with the facility to be completed and ready for generation by 2014. However due to the rapid increase in electricity and the global, federal and provincial movement away from many traditional sources of electricity has forced Manitoba Hydro to expedite their plans to construct a generating station earlier than anticipated.

As a direct result of increased demand for electricity and the wide acceptance of generating electricity using dams as a more efficient and cleaner source of generating electricity, Hydro has committed to a parallel process with Split Lake & NCN to determine which option is the most viable for the Crown Corporation to pursue. Once Hydro has determined which option is the most viable for the Corporation, it is Hydro's intend to develop the generating as soon as time permits.

Manitoba Hydro has indicated that Wuskwatim continues to be their preferred site with Gull Rapids, which is located in the Split Lake Resource Area as the alternative. They may also wish to proceed with Notigi at the same time. Exploratory work has been completed at Wuskwatim in 1998 & 1999 with plans for more exploratory work this winter (2000).

Manitoba Hydro will built a generating station somewhere in the North, it's just a matter of where and when and it's up to Nelson House whether it wants to participate with this process or not.



Manitoba Hydro has provided funding to NCN for our participation in the work plan. To date, NCN has completed the following:

- Meetings with Hydro to discuss issues;
- Some preliminary work in anticipation of a project;
- Set up of future development office;
- Hiring of community consultant and support staff;
- Purchase of audio & Video equipment to prepare materials for the community;
- Negotiation of costs to participate in the work plan;
- Human Resources survey and a business survey is currently being done by the Community Consultants; and
- A socio-economic survey is currently being developed. The survey will be completed by mid-March with the surveys to be done shortly thereafter.

OPPORTUNITIES FROM HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT AT WUSKWATIM (Taskinigup) & NOTIGI

The opportunities of such a major undertaking in our resource area could be many depending of the type and level of NCN's participation. Our participation could include, but is not limited to the following:

1. Equity participation
   To enjoy the long term benefits of any major development we may want to secure an equity or ownership in the Development. This is especially important for a hydroelectric development, as it is capital intensive. Once construction is complete, most of the jobs and other short-term opportunities will disappear. As a result, equity investment that will return profits on an annual basis may provide the owners with ongoing revenues that can be used as the owner see fit. NCN has an opportunity to own at least 10% of the proposed Wuskwatim generating station.

   The economic benefits owning part of an electric generating station could establish NCN as one of the most influential and most progressive reserves in this country.

   Other First Nations in other parts of the Country are entering into partnership with other utilities as part of their economic development initiative. This option is available for Nelson House if

Future Development Co-Manager: Mr. Marcel Moody

if the project proceeds and will be analyzing all the information we receive to ensure accurate information is provided to the members. Please note that all the work that is currently being should not be construed as permission for Hydro to proceed with any projects. The issues identified must be resolved to the satisfaction of NCN if the project is to be considered. NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE WITH RESPECT TO ANY FUTURE DEVELOPMENT. That decision to proceed or not will ultimately be made by the members.

1. Employment Opportunities
   As part of any development in the North, there is always the opportunity for employment. Preliminary work at Wuskwatim has created some temporary jobs and if we proceed with the development of a dam at Wuskwatim, it could provide a large number of jobs during the different planning and development phases as well as during construction. The employment office has received a list from Manitoba Hydro outlining the jobs that may be available and the skills required fill those jobs. This information is currently being analysed.

2. Contract opportunities
   Hydro has indicated that preference for contracts will be awarded to Nelson House. We need to work out what this will mean as Hydro has agreements with others also. We are discussing preferences with Hydro to ensure NCN gets the most it can from any development that proceeds.

The possible opportunities include, but not necessarily limited to the following:

- Groceries
- Lumber
- Heavy equipment
- Road construction
- Servicing of equipment
- Catering
- Transportation
- Security and janitorial services
- Food and lodging

NOTE: All the issues identified herein will be subject to negotiations, depending on the direction of the community.

THE ENVIRONMENT

The 1977 Churchill River Diversion (CRD) Project has significantly impacted the Nelson House reserve and the Nelson House Resource Area.

Wuskwatim /Taskinigup Falls
The proposed project at Wuskwatim/Taskinigup Falls will produce about 205 megawatts of electricity. It will result in some localized flooding (about 1 square kilometer) around Wuskwatim Lake. There will be other effects from infrastructure such as a town site, transmission line and a road, but this project will not have the same adverse effects as the CRD project. If Hydro proceeds with Wuskwatim/Taskinigup Falls, based on current information there will be no additional flooding around Threepoint or Footprint Lakes. Hydro has already told us it will not proceed with a high head project at Wuskwatim/Taskinigup Falls due to NCN's concerns about adverse effects and the environment.

Notigi
The proposed development at Notigi will produce about 100 additional megawatts of electricity. Adding a generating station to Notigi will create minimal additional adverse effects to the environment. We will continue to experience the same flows as what we are currently experiencing. The only change is that the control structure will generate electricity.

Transmission Lines
If generating stations are built at Wuskwatim/Taskinigup Falls and Notigi, transmission lines will have to be built so that the electricity produced can get to consumers. Several different route options are under consideration and the impacts of each will have to be assessed by NCN. It is anticipated that there will be economic benefits from the transmission lines as well as any new generating stations.

Conclusion

Having considered some of the pros and cons of a new dam at Wuskwatim, the fundamental question that we must ask ourselves is " are we better off with or without new generating stations at Wuskwatim/Taskinigap Falls and Notigi". The opportunities that exist from such major projects is phenomenal if it can be structured properly. Conversely, like with any development that utilises a natural resource, there may be negative consequences. The test for NCN is to achieve a balance between economic benefits and protection of the environment and traditional values. NCN must obtain enough information to carefully assess how to achieve this balance so our people will have a better future.

Manitoba Hydro & North/South Consultants

Assessing Hydro Development at Notigi and Taskinigup Falls

Report No. 1

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation and Manitoba Hydro are discussing the potential for future developments in the local resource area. The 1996 Comprehensive Implementation Agreement requires these discussions. In this agreement, NCN and Hydro agreed to work together to study potential future developments. In this way, NCN will be informed about any possible impacts and will be able to negotiate benefits for NCN members, if the development proceeds.

The agreement requires Hydro to enter into a compensation agreement with NCN before construction can begin. Hydro has also indicated it is prepared to negotiate a pre-project development agreement with NCN.

At this time, neither NCN nor Hydro has made a commitment to support the development(s). The discussions and studies happening now are to collect information so that good decisions can be made in the future.

Activities to date

The 1996 Implementation Agreement requires Hydro to provide information to Chief and Council at an annual meeting each year. These meetings have been held every year since 1997.

In order to share information and discuss concerns on a more regular basis, the Nisichawayasihk - Hydro Future Development Working Group was established. NCN and Hydro are developing a cooperative working relationship through this group.

The following are some highlights:

- In 1998 Hydro wanted to collect some rock and gravel information near Notigi. NCN asked for an environmental study before the work took place. Hydro agreed, and NCN members did much of the field monitoring. NCN members also worked on the short-term drilling program and a local business supplied meals and other services.
- In winter 1999, Hydro planned a small drilling program in the gravel areas north of Wuskwatim Lake. An environmental study was completed as requested by NCN, and four members worked on the drilling program.
- In summer 1999, there was a site investigation at Taskinigup Falls. An environmental study was completed before the program began. Eleven NCN members worked on the site investigation project, and the Nisichawayasihk Development Corporation provided catering services and many supplies.
- This winter there is a site investigation in the gravel areas north of Wuskwatim Lake. Nelson House Forest Industries obtained the contract for the entire project and is sub-contracting for specialized services. NCN businesses and members are doing much of the work. An environmental study was done for the project.
- NCN has developed its own plan to study future development. NCN members have been hired to collect and share information with the community, and develop newsletters and other information packages.



Camp at Borrow Site Area

Assessing Hydro Development at Notigi and Taskinigup Falls

The Future Developments

There is good potential for development at both Taskinigup Falls and at Notigi. Hydro expects to make a decision early next year on whether to apply for environmental approvals from the federal and provincial governments for one, both, or neither of the projects. When making this decision, Hydro will consider NCN's concerns and interests. The earliest construction would begin is 2003.

Notigi Generating Station

The Notigi Control Structure presently consists of a spillway and dikes and is used to control the flow of water along the Rat River as part of CRD. To generate electricity, a powerhouse with turbines and generators would need to be built.

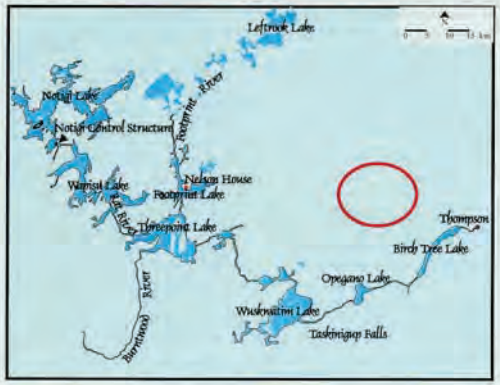
Here are some of the things we know now:

- Water levels and fluctuations on Notigi, Threepoint, and Footprint lakes would stay the same as they are today.
- There may be some changes in water levels downstream of Notigi in the Rat River and Wapisu Lake depending on how the station is operated.
- A transmission line would have to be built to join Notigi to the rest of the Manitoba transmission system.
- Access would be by the existing Highway 391. While the powerhouse is being built, a detour would be constructed near the site so people could continue to use Highway 391.

Taskinigup Falls

Taskinigup Falls is about 1.5 kilometers downstream of the outlet of Wuskwatim Lake. Here are some of the things we know now about a generating station at this site:

- It would be a "low head" design. Less than half of a square kilometer between Wuskwatim Lake and the falls would be flooded.
- The water level in Wuskwatim Lake would almost always stay near the upper end of its present range and fluctuate little from day-to-day or month-to-month.
- There would be daily fluctuations in water level downstream of the generating station. Under most flow conditions, these fluctuations would hardly be noticed downstream of Opegano Lake.
- An access road and transmission lines would be built.



Red Circle Approximate Borrow Site Area

Future Development Consultation Report

One of the jobs of the Future Development Working Group Office is to inform the community as to what is happening with Future Development, but also we are to record and inform: the NCN community, the Working Group and Manitoba Hydro to what concerns NCN membership has. The following comments and concerns are from minutes taken during the two Future Development Consultation meetings that were held. The first meeting was general in focus, while the second dealt with the winter access trail Manitoba Hydro needs to build.



Concern 1:

Hydro proposed that a Winter Access Road be built, starting from the Thompson area, going to Hydro's proposed Borrow Sites that are North of Wuskwatim. Nelson House membership suggested the road be built from the R.C.Graveyard to the Borrow sites. Our option would work better because it would not result in environmental damages being non-local travel. Nelson House will do the work, with the contract to build the Winter Access Road given to Nelson House Forest Industries.



Concern 2:

Will there be reports? A member commented that people are not being properly informed, and wanted some sort of schedule set up. This newsletter is the first in a series of many, which are now being: proposed, worked on and assembled. Manitoba Hydro, NCN and the Working Group all agreed that it was important to keep the NCN membership regularly advised in regards to what was taking place.



Concern 3:

There are worries that the Woodland Caribou would be affected. Manitoba Hydro, NCN and the Working Group are talking about this issue with Manitoba Hydro. It is proposed the further discussions take place with the NCN Resource Management Board. The Woodland Caribou are realised to be very sensitive in regards to environmental changes. Plans are being proposed and formatted to study the herd/herds that exist in the NCN Resource Management area.

Concern 4:

There is a concern of how many trappers will be affected? What about the spiritual impacts, the Sacred and historic sites? How will our medicines be affected, medicines found in the Flora & Fauna? Issues such as what Trappers are to be affected are one of the topics of discussion the Chief and Council, and the Working Group have brought forward. Consultation meetings are planned with the Trappers, to hear their concerns. Sacred and historical sites are also talked about and solutions are being sought that are to address this issue. With Low head water levels, Sacred and historical sites on Wuskwatim Lake are not to be affected. The same applies to medicines found in the Flora and Fauna. Very minimal to no flooding insures there is little to no damage in this area of concern.

Concern 5:

A member commented that they would like to see changes in education and asked what educational levels are needed? Few know that we now have physics in place at Pathfinders. Evening courses are available and it is our individual responsibility to plan our careers.

Continued Next Page

Continued from p5



Let's look at opportunities we have. An 8-page survey is presently being done by the Working Group Consultants. In the survey, we will find out what experience and qualifications everyone has career planning needs are more identifiable. Further to this the Working Group has requested from Manitoba Hydro, job descriptions and the relevant education prerequisites for these jobs. Manitoba Hydro has forwarded this information to the first nation and informed directions will come from this material.

Concern 6:

A NCN Member commented that our intention is partnership. The Manitoba Hydro Act allows for Partnership. NCN's lawyer is looking into the legalities of this. Manitoba Hydro has also indicated that partnership is possible. There is a lot more to be discussed about this.





Pictures were taken during the First General Information meeting and the meeting held for the Winter Access Trail. Members of the Future Development Working Group's Community Consultants took these pictures.

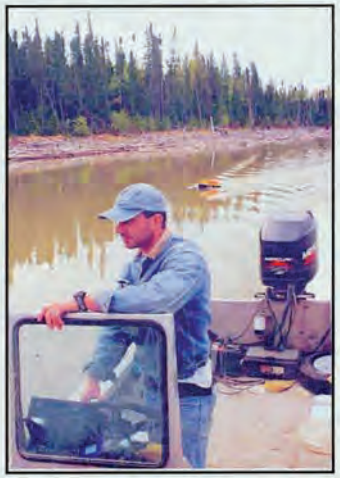
Assessing Hydro Development at Notigi and Taskinigup Falls

Studies on Possible Effects of These Projects

NCN and Hydro have been cooperating on environmental studies since 1998. These studies will give NCN some information to help in managing resources in their area. This information will also help NCN and Hydro in considering possible future hydroelectric projects.

In 1999, NCN and Hydro jointly selected a team to plan and manage an environmental assessment for possible developments at Taskinigup Falls and Notigi. An environmental assessment is a study to identify potential effects of a project before it is built. The assessment will study possible effects on land, water and animals, as well as the community and people. Many different studies will be needed to complete the assessment.

The environmental assessment team and NCN, with assistance from Hydro, are developing a plan to guide the studies over the next year or so. A few members of the environmental assessment team, the NCN





Future Development Working Group, and representatives from Hydro are meeting several times in February to identify issues and concerns of NCN and begin to develop a study plan for the environmental assessment.

In early April, an Open House will be held to provide more information about the potential projects to all members of the community. Everyone will have a chance to hear about the proposed studies and bring their issues and concerns to the environmental assessment team.

Coming soon...

- A brochure describing the environmental studies in 1998 and 1999.
- Presentations to schoolchildren about the environmental studies.
- An Open House in early April - dates and locations will be announced in leaflets, posters, and on radio and TV.

Pictures of Phase #3 Winter Camp at Borrow Site Area







WORKING GROUP CONSULTANTS

Office Manager: Jimmy "D" Spence



Tansi: My name is Jimmy D. Spence. I was born and raised at Wuskwatim Lake and then moved to where Nelson House is today. I have worked for NCN for many years in various capacities, but being a Community Consultant has proven to be the most interesting and challenging. This has given me the opportunity to get to know the people in the community and those who I work with on a daily basis.

If and when the projects get the go-ahead, I believe all benefits that evolve will benefit all NCN membership. The Jobs, Business and Training all constitute a brighter future for us, if the project gets the community approval.

One possible negative effect that has to be further studied is the real impacts that the Taskinigup/Notigi projects will have on the Resource area. Impacts to trapping, fishing and such have to be studied and monitored.

Alvin Yetman



Good day, my name is Alvin Yetman. I was born and raised in Nelson House, MB. I have recently been hired as a Community Consultant of Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation in regards future developments at: Taskinigup Falls by Wuskwatim, and at the Notigi control structure. Over the next while, we will be seeing a lot of each other. We, "the Community Consultants" will be doing different studies that will be beneficial to our community. These studies will assist us in many areas, such as, training and employment, planning process and businesses establishments. Therefore, your participation is greatly required and appreciated.

If NCN, its' members and Manitoba Hydro pursue with the project(s), it will be a great opportunity for the members and future generations to come. There are many benefits that could occur such as training and jobs. We may have the opportunity to be part owner of Generating Stations established on our Resource Area. If we enter into an agreement with Hydro, we make our Nation a place we can be proud of.

I realize the dramatic experience our elders encountered with Manitoba Hydro in the past and how devastating it was to their way of life. But we have to learn from our past experiences and insure we do not make the same mistakes. We must live for today and ensure the vision of our Children and our Children's Children.

Mark Linklater



Tansi! May name is Mark (Chimo) Linklater; I was one of the seven Community Consultants chosen to work for the Future Development office. I started in November 1999. I have been going around the community doing surveys for the Human Resource Inventory Questionnaire and would like to thank the people that have participated. Since I have been working for the Future Development, I have learned a lot about the Northern Flood Agreement: Article 8.The NFA book can be attained at the Trust Office.
The benefits I see in Article 8, Future Development, is that it will build a stronger economy for NCN. It will benefit all local businesses and future businesses that could result from this project. It also benefits the local community members who are qualified, experienced or receive training for any related jobs dealing with Future Development; there will be training available for anyone who is willing and motivated. The possible negative aspects I see are mainly environmental, in terms of possible flooding, the destruction of land, the questions and concerns people have, and if they can be answered.
I would like to ask for the NCN members to cooperate with the skill assessment surveys and other future surveys that the Consultants are taking around the community. Please note, that the Wuskwatim is not approved until the membership of NCN have taken a vote on whether to approve or disapprove the continuation of this project.
I am very dedicated to my work and to the membership of NCN and will work as a team with the Consultants to make sure that all the correct information is distributed to NCN.

Donna Moore/Linklater



Hello/Tansi. My name is Donna Moore/Linklater, one of the hired Community Consultants for the Future Development Project. I live in Hillside and have lived here for fifteen years. My goal is to help the NCN people in anyway that I can. With this goal the future will be better for our community's children and their children's children.
I have been involved with consulting for NCN for quite a number of years, going out into the community, collecting/handing out information from and for NCN membership. This information is part of an information base for future reference.
Right now we are with Future Development studying the economics of NCN so that NCN can benefit from contracts, and jobs from this project. The Human Resource study we are working on, for this office and Mr. Jeff Hunter, is ongoing and we have not yet collected enough information. Once we have the information, it will be talked about and handed out in summary. Then NCN will have the info to decide on any Future Development agreement.
So with this said, I will enjoy talking with the NCN membership and ask for your full cooperation when we are doing the door-to-door consultation with you. We have to think about the positives and come together as a First Nation and be proud standing strong for the Nisichawayasihk First nation. We have to work for our future.

WORKING GROUP CONSULTANTS

Ryan Spence



My name is Ryan Spence. I am 24 yrs old, and I have lived in Nelson House all my life. I graduated from High School in 1994and in 1998 I took a course in Management and Administrative studies. I was recently hired as one of the community consultants for Future Development. I have been working hard in getting input for, and from the NCN membership. I enjoy my work in this ongoing process.
We need to determine what are goals are for the future of our community and for our people. One of the possible benefits I see in Future Development is establishing a business arrangement with Hydro that includes our own Economic Development policies and strategies. The development of socio-economic plans that maximizes training, employment and business opportunities for all NCN members is a must.
Community involvement in this matter also benefits because it gives NCN a chance to analyze and discuss the outcomes of Future Development in workshops or meetings with the community.
There are many benefits that will come from Future Development. I believe that if we work together as a Nation and work with our leadership in finding the best deal possible, Nisichawayasihk will become a stronger Nation.

Charlie Joe Hart



Tansi – I'm Charlie Joe Hart. I am working as a Community Consultant in regards to Section #8 of the Implementation Agreement.
The possible benefits of future Development have yet to be seen.
Possible negative impacts are land changes, erosion, floating debrís, mercury and loss of traditional livelihoods.
The Spiritual value of the land will have to be considered and reconciled.

Lisa McDonald



Tansi/hello and welcome Nelson House introduction of the Community Consultants of the N.C.N. Working Group .We hope, through this you will gain a complete and comprehensive understanding about the Future Development Project.
At this time, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself; my name is Lisa McDonald, I work as a Community Consultant. At work we had a good start. Everyone was cooperative to develop an organized business structure; it's a pleasure to work here.
During the period since we've been hired, we've conducted and attended meetings. During these meetings we gained knowledge on the Future Development Project through meetings with Hydro, North/South Environmentalists, & the N.C.N. Working Group. There is a lot of material to be analyzed and interpreted for the membership. This job is different from my prior experience working with students at the school. Since I've been hired, I've kept an open mind and work has been a great challenge. These new experiences will be a great asset to me.
At work, it's important to us much feedback from the people of Nelson House and at the same time it is just as important to voice your opinion. Everyday is a learning experience, and we need your full support. In order to establish a decision, N.C.N. needs to work together on this on-going process and be involved in all aspects in order to obtain maximum benefits.

Secretary: Shirley Linklater



My name is Shirley Linklater and I have been recently hired as the Secretary/Finance Clerk for the Future Development office. My job is to assist the Consultants, Working Group and Community Liaison Worker in performing secretary tasks, as well as, taking care of the financing. It is my pleasure to work for the Future Development and I am excited to finally achieve experience in the finance field, which is the field I would like to pursue my career on.
The Future Development came into existence from the Northern Flood Agreement, under article 8, it describes the implementation of the planning process and principles. If this project goes through there will be training and employment opportunities for the community members, who will be first priority. The Consultants will provide more information as provided.
My personal opinion is that this project is an excellent opportunity for NCN. If it is not approved Hydro has other options and NCN will lose out and might not ever have a chance like this again. It is all up to you to decide what is best for your community and all community members. We cannot live in the past anymore, we have to look towards the future with the right decisions. My recommendation is to think this thoroughly and I wish you all the best.

Summary of Implementation Agreement
ARTICLE #8 - FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

When the 1996 Implementation Agreement was approved, NCN agreed to a process for discussing information about future development with Manitoba Hydro. Article 8 is about involving NCN in discussions at the earliest planning stages of any potential future development. **But the Agreement is also clear that just because NCN participates in discussions under Article 8, those discussions do not mean that NCN has given its approval to proceed with any future development.**

Hydro informed NCN that it wants to consider building new generating stations at Notigi, Taskinigap Falls and Gull Rapids (near Split Lake). Article 8 says that before Hydro selects an option for future development, it must provide detailed information to NCN, including maps of potential sites, full descriptions of each option and an outline of the anticipated positive and negative effects of each option on NCN and any water bodies in the NCN Resource Management Area.

Hydro is also required to consult with NCN about which option for future development, if any, is preferred by NCN, how any particular design for a generating station and related infrastructure can be modified to reduce the negative effects upon NCN, how NCN can be adequately compensated for any future development and the ways NCN Members can benefit from the construction of new Hydro projects.

During the negotiations leading up to the 1996 Agreement, Hydro did not plan to look at the development of Wuskwatim until around 2013. Discussions then were based upon hydro consumption in Manitoba at that time to sell hydro to other provinces and the United States.

Snce the Implementation Agreement was signed in 1996, there have been ongoing discussions with Hydro about various matters. At their annual meeting last June, Hydro informed Chief and Council that it had reviewed its domestic consumption and its ability to sell out of province/country and concluded that it may be necessary to precede with earlier than originally planned.

Under the Implementation Agreement, Hydro is required to pay reasonable costs for NCN to participate in obtaining, reviewing and analysing information about future development, attending meetings and participating in studies about options for future development and its effects. NCN and Hydro are required to jointly develop the terms of reference for the various studies that need to be done. If disputes arise about the terms of reference, NCN can go to Arbitration. NCN developed its first formal Work.

In the 1996 Implementation Agreement, NCN also agreed to co-operate with Hydro by identifying areas of concern to NCN and its Members and consulting with Hydro about the various options for future development and the related issues. NCN also agreed to involve its Members in this planning process through public meetings and community surveys.

In exchange for NCN agreeing to participate in a planning process as outlined above, Hydro agreed that it would not proceed with the construction of any permanent dam or generating facility until NCN and Hydro have agreed upon a compensation proposal or one has been approved by an Arbitrator.

Hydro can still undertake preliminary exploratory activities before a compensation proposal has been agreed to. NCN has the opportunity to discuss these matters with Hydro through the Work Plan and Annual Meeting processes. This is the process that has been followed so far in relation to Phases 1, 2 and 3 of the Wuskwatim Site Evaluation plans, including the current winter trail and Phases 1 & 2 for Notigi.

In addition to Article 8, there are federal and provincial environmental assessment processes for which NCN and Hydro are gathering information. Various court decisions are also important, as they require governments and Hydro to consult with NCN where treaty and aboriginal rights could be impacted.

NOTICE

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT
OPEN HOUSE
WITH:
NISICHAWAYASIHK CHIEF & COUNCIL
MANITOBA HYDRO
NORTH/SOUTH CONSULTANTS

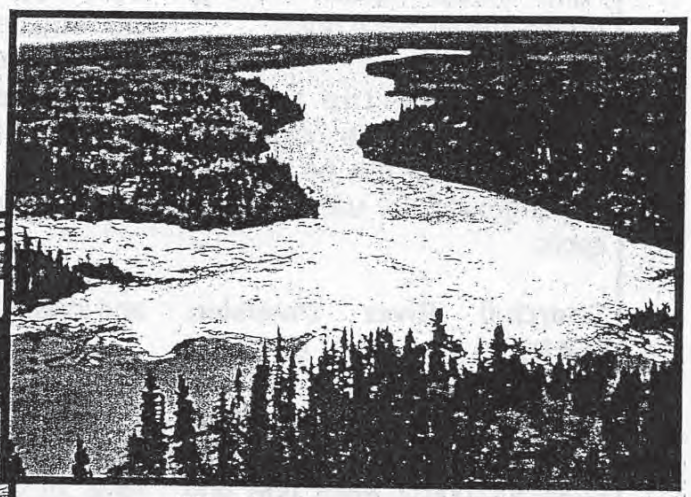
Duncan Wood Memorial Hall
April 5 & 6, 2000
1:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Contact the FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
FOR MORE INFORMATION
484-2414

Nisichawayasihk Future Development NEWSLETTER



Notigi Control Structure



Taskinigup Falls

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
Future Development Working Group

Ensuring the Visions of Our Children.....
& our Children's Children.....

July 2000

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED IN CONNECTION TO NORTHERN HYDRO DEVELOPMENT

Aboriginal Rights – Legal rights possessed by Aboriginal peoples of Canada, and guaranteed by the Constitution of Canada. The Courts are still in the process of defining exactly what these rights are. So far, Courts have said that Aboriginal rights include certain hunting, fishing and land-use rights.

Borrow Area – Like a quarry, an area from which gravel and similar material can be dug out of the ground, for use in various spots.

Churchill River Diversion (CRD) – A system of dams, control structures and generating stations created by Manitoba Hydro in the 1970's, in order to control water flow and channel more water into the Nelson River, for the purpose of maximum hydro generation.

Dam – In a general sense, any structure blocking a river or water channel. Most Dams are built for the purposes of generating hydro electricity.

Environmental Assessment – In general, a careful study, leading to a written report, of what effects a project will have on the environment. Manitoba Hydro will do an environmental assessment before building any future dams.

Environmental Impact Statement – a written report that describes how a development (such as a hydroelectric generating station) will effect the water, land, plants, animals, and the community and its people.

Environmental Statement/Studies – Studies of what effects a project will have upon the environment, leading to a written report. Generally, The environment is studied before the proposed project is constructed. That way, comparisons can be made between what happened before the project and what happened after the project.

Fauna – Animals, including fish and insects.

Fee simple Title vs. Reserve Lands – "Fee simple" is a legal term for individual ownership of land. In cities and towns, most individuals own their land in Fee Simple. In contrast, the Canadian Government in Trust holds lands on Aboriginal Reserves for all the members of the First Nation whose Reserve it is. The land is owned collectively, rather that individually.

Flora – Plants, including those growing in lakes and rivers.

Fluctuations – Changes in the water levels on a river or lake. Some fluctuations occur naturally, during the spring thaw, for example. Other fluctuations are as a result of dams, which artificially control water levels, by releasing more or less water from time to time.

Generating Station – A structure which generates electricity. In Manitoba, most generating stations are connected to dams over rivers, such as the Nelson River. Water from behind the dam is gradually released, and the falling water is used to move turbines and generate electricity.

High Head – A relatively tall dam. There will be a big difference between the water level behind the dam and the water below the dam.

In-Service Dates – The dates on which Hydro estimates its future projects will become operational (will begin generating electricity). The proposed in-services dates: Notigi - 20 Taskinigup/Wuskwatim – 2 and Gull Rapids – 2008

Low Head – A relatively low dam. The difference in water levels behind and below the dam will not be as big as in the case of a high-head dam. There will be less flooding with a low head at Taskinigup Falls than a high head.

NCN – The Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, formally known as the Nelson House First Nation or the Nelson House Indian Band.

Partnership – A legal relationship between two or more people, corporations or entities. Partnership agreements set out the rights and obligations of each partner. Partnerships are created so that two or more entities can run a business together, and share the profits.

Working Group Co-Managers Report

For some time now the Future Development Team, consisting of Chief and Council, local and external advisors, have engaged in discussions with Manitoba Hydro as per the provisions of Article 8 of the 1996 Implementation Agreement.



Throughout the process, the Future Development Team have made it very clear that these are discussions only and in no way should this be implied that they are committed to a Wuskwatim or Notigi Development Project.

As part of the Article 8 process the Chief and Council are obligated to gather and disseminate information related to either a Notigi or Wuskwatim Project to their membership. It is hoped that the membership will then be able to make an informed decision if asked to decide on a project. It is expected that Manitoba Hydro will decide in the spring of 2001 if they will proceed with a Wuskwatim, Notigi, or Gull Project, or, any Project at all.

In general, the Future Development Team have been involved in preliminary discussions in the following areas to date:

Employment & Training: A community survey was initiated and completed with an analysis forthcoming to determine the community's needs. Also, Anokiiwin Training Institute has developed a proposal for a training plan along with plans for a training facility. Simultaneously, negotiations are underway for a training facility. In addition to this, a list of trades that were utilized in the Limestone Project has been provided to us so that we can determine what trades will be required for training purposes.

Business Opportunities: A community survey was recently completed to identify interest in this area. More work is required to identify what the opportunities are and how they can be accessed.

As an example, catering is one area that local people can benefit from.

Burntwood-Nelson Agreement: The BNA is a collective agreement that sets rules for those that will those that will be employed at the worksite if a project should proceed. Since this particular agreement will expire at the end of this year, negotiations are set to begin. In our initial meeting, NCN has asked that consideration should be given to us in the areas of hiring preferences, that we be the referral agency, and there be a quick mechanism to resolve. A small group of three from the NCN team will be at the negotiating table to bring forth these and other concerns.

Assessment of Adverse Effects: If a Wuskwatim project should proceed there will be a need to put transmissions lines in, put a road into the site, and the generating station to be constructed. For the purpose of formulating compensation, an assessment will have to be conducted to determine what damages, or adverse effects, these structures will cause to the environment.

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Opinion Survey

At present, a community survey is being conducted to find out what concerns the membership has with regard to a Wuskwatim Project. This information will be compiled and to be included in the Agreement in Principle. We are asking everyone to participate in this survey.



Agreement in Principle

A draft AIP has been developed by our legal counsel and the rest of the Future Development Team. This draft AIP sets out the framework of topics that may be negotiated in the final agreement. These topics include: employment and training, business opportunities, ownership and business arrangements, cultural issues, health and safety issues, land matters, compensation, infrastructure/remedial/mitigation works, community consultation, environmental assessment, licensing process, navigation issues, outstanding claims/issues, resource management issues. A preliminary meeting was held on June 15, 2000 with the Hydro lawyers in June to review the AIP. The completion of the AIP is anticipated this fall. Ratification of the AIP by the membership of Nelson House will have to occur thereafter.

Environmental Impact Statement

It is a regulatory requirement of the Manitoba and Federal Governments to have an EIS completed prior to a project proceeding. To date, a draft Study Plan was provided by the NCN/Hydro Environmental Management Team and jointly reviewed by the NCN Future Development Team and Hydro with recommended changes to be made to the draft. It should be noted that studies are on going in parts of our traditional areas with local people being employed. Further studies on the environment will be initiated.

Open Houses:

An open house was held in our community in April of this year to show what has happened in the past and what could happen with respect to Hydro Development. Storyboards were provided so that people could see the effects and to ask questions. Further open houses are being planned for July and September and we invite everyone to come and join us.

Financial Assessment for Equity

Some NCN Team members have been involved in meetings to assess possible participation in an equity position. It is further proposed that an independent consultant will be jointly hired to check the assumptions to give NCN and Hydro confidence in financial forecasts.

Report submitted by:
Norman Linklater: Co-Manager
Future Development Working Group



COMMUNITY CONSULTANTS UPDATE

The Opinion Survey started on May 22nd and will go on over a three or four-week period. The Survey is geared to the opinions of all NCN members 16 years and over who live here in NCN or in other locations.

The main focus of this survey is to find out how NCN membership views NCN as a community, whether good or bad. Also to find out what changes would have to be made to make NCN a better place to live and raise children. And if these changes are made would it realize a better future for them.

The other information the Future Development Group would like to see come from the survey is how the membership feels about present NCN business ventures such as: O. T. Gas, Lucky Dollar, Wapisu Air, Notigi Outfitters, and if these business ventures are benefiting NCN membership. Information is also sought as to whether these operations need to be changed.

The importance of this survey is very clea and the Future Development Group woul like to see the people give their support b taking time and doing the survey when th consultants come to their homes. 2 additional consultants who were hired jus for this survey are assisting the full tim consultants. The survey is going well, but no without problems. The consultation team i working out these problems.

To date, approximately 471 surveys hav been done and it is the wish of th consultants that more surveys are done. S we ask the people to make an effort to d this survey because it is for NCN and it is to:

ENSURE THE VISION OF OUR CHILDREN..... AND OUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN.

Ekosani!
Jimmy D. Spence
Office Manager
Future Development.

NORTHERN FLOOD AGREEMENT (NFA) IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT

ATRICLE 8 – FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

- The NFA Implementation Agreement signed by NCN, Canada, Manitoba, and Manitoba Hydro in 1996 contains an Article (Article 8) dealing with Future Development – the construction of hydro dams and related projects in Northern Manitoba in the future.

- In Article 8, Hydro makes several commitments to NCN. Before Hydro makes its final selections for future development projects, it must provide detailed information to NCN. This includes maps and a summary of the positive and negative effects that the projects will likely have in the NCN Resource Management Area.

- Hydro must also consult with NCN in advance, and identify issues of concern to NCN.

- Hydro must also consult with NCN about practical ways in which NCN could benefit from Future Development. (This includes things like jobs for NCN members)

- Hydro must also consult with NCN in advance about compensation for NCN for any Negative effects of future Development.

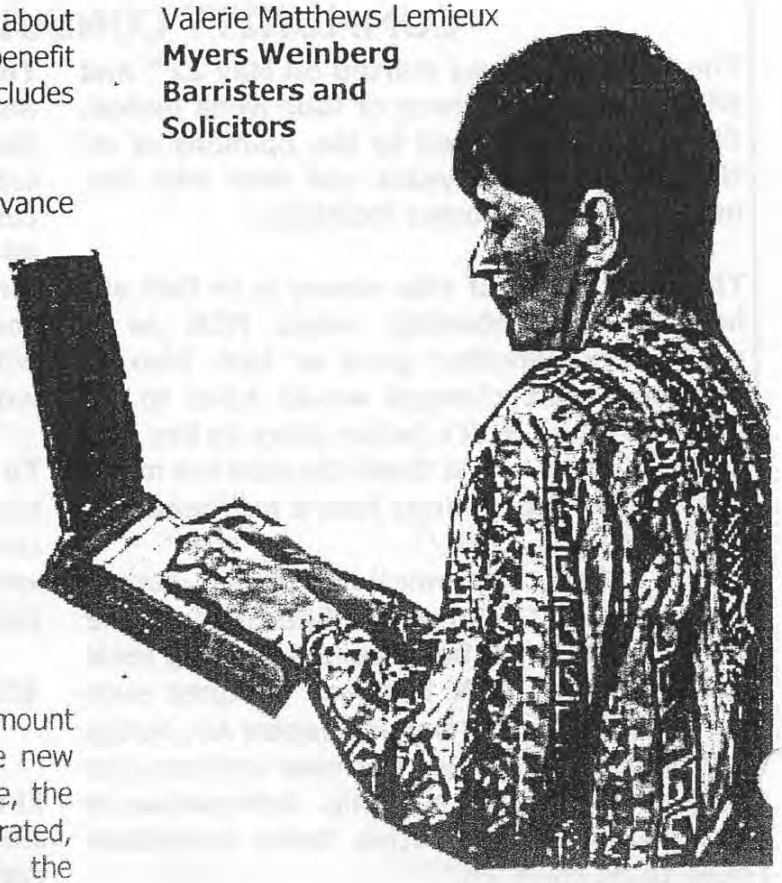
- Hydro and NCN together will prepare annual work plans. These will cover the studies, meetings, etc that will have to be done to deal with NCN concerns about Future Development. After a budget is prepared, generally Hydro will pay the costs of the studies, meetings, etc.

- Hydro and NCN must agree on the amount and details of compensation before the new project can be built. If they can't agree, the compensation dispute can be arbitrated, under the arbitration Article of the Implementation Agreement. Meanwhile, Hydro can't build the new project.

- In short, Article 8 gives NCN the right to detailed advance information about Future Development. It forces Hydro to consult with NCN in advance about how Future Development might affect NCN. Most important of all, Article 8 says that Hydro is not allowed to build any new dams or projects that will affect NCN, until either NCN agrees to a compensation plan, or an arbitrator approves a compensation plan.

- Article 8, and the Implementation Agreement as a whole, cannot be amended without NCN's consent.

Submitted By:
Valerie Matthews Lemieux
Myers Weinberg
Barristers and
Solicitors



THE NOTIGI AND WUSKWATIM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Misisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) and Manitoba Hydro have selected a team of environmental consultants who are now working on an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed future developments at Notigi and Taskinigup Falls (Wuskwatim). This article describes what an EIS is and how it fits into the planning for the proposed developments.

The information collected before development takes place will also be compared with information collected after development, to see if the predictions in the EIS were right, and to make sure that there are no effects from the development that were not identified in the EIS.

There are many things to be studied when preparing an EIS for a hydroelectric development (see picture).



These studies include:

- plants and animals that live in the water and on the land;
- uses of the environment (land and water) by people for activities such as trapping, hunting, and recreation;
- access to the land (which may change if roads or transmission line corridors are built);
- other effects on people, including their health and safety, job opportunities, and their day-to-day way of life; and,
- identification of historic and cultural sites (to make sure that they are protected from negative effects).

WHAT IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT?

An Environmental Impact Statement is a written report that describes how a development (such as a hydroelectric generating station or dam) will change the environment - both good and bad changes are described in the report. The assessment looks at everything that may be changed by the project, including effects on the land, water, plants and animals, as well as the community and people.

The EIS uses information from studies that are done before the development is built. These studies are done to:

- describe what the environment is like before the proposed developments;
- help predict what effect the developments may have on the environment, including the community and people;
- help identify positive effects of the developments so that the benefit can be as great as possible; and,
- help identify negative effects and try to find ways to make any negative effects as small as possible.

After all the information has been collected and examined (which generally takes a couple of years), the EIS is written. The EIS is then given to NCN and Manitoba Hydro for review and comments. The EIS would then be submitted to the governments of Manitoba and Canada to get approval to build the proposed development(s). The EIS is reviewed by the government agencies to make sure that it was done properly. The government also asks for comments about the proposed developments from other groups interested in the developments. Hearings by an environmental panel are likely to be held.

Once the review has been completed, the governments will decide whether the project should be approved, based on whether the effects of the development are acceptable. If the effects of the projects are not acceptable, then the projects will not be approved. If this happens, it is possible that the projects may be accepted at a later time if they can be changed to reduce their negative effects on the environment.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE FOR THE NOTIGI AND WUSKWATIM EIS SO FAR?

CONTINUED.....

.....CONTIUED

So far, information has been collected on the following:

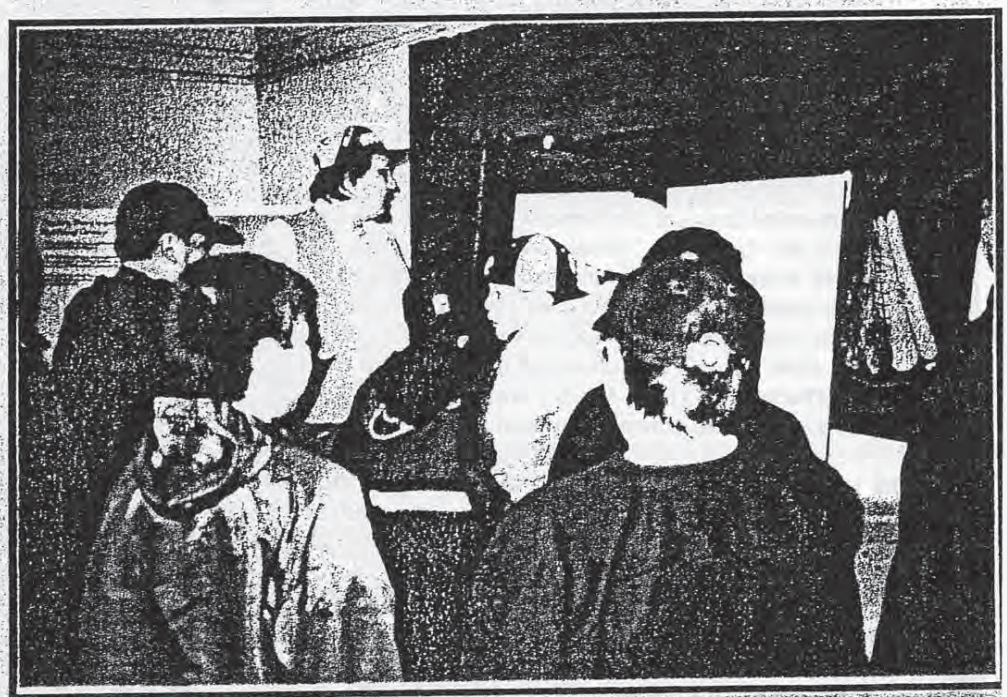
- water chemistry, fish habitat, invertebrate animals (such as bugs), and fish from Notigi, Wapisu, Threepoint, Footprint, Leftrook, and Wuskwatim lakes and their connecting river reaches;
- shoreline conditions, plants, and wildlife - including moose, muskrat, bears, ducks, and geese;
- cultural sites and important harvesting areas have been identified by NCN and are currently being studied; and,
- important historical areas (sites of old camps or settlements) have been studied by the Manitoba Historic Resources Branch and NCN since 1990.

The results of the studies have been presented to NCN in several reports. Additional studies are being done this year and will be used to complete the EIS.

WHAT WILL BE STUDIED BEFORE THE EIS IS WRITTEN?

The people of NCN have a large role to play in the creation of the EIS for these Projects because they know much about the area and will be the people who will be affected both positively and negatively by the projects. NCN has asked that the following possible effects from the projects be studied:

- water level changes;
- erosion and debris;
- ice conditions;
- medicinal plants and water plants;
- fish (particularly pickerel, whitefish, tullibee, and jackfish);
- ducks and geese;
- eagles;
- fur-bearing animals such as beaver, muskrat, and otter;
- large animals such as moose and woodland caribou;
- mercury levels (in fish and other animals);
- effects on people, including NCN's goals and plans, jobs and business opportunities, education and training, transportation, safety and health, recreation, infrastructure (such as roads), culture, and day-to-day way of life; and,
- traditional sites, such as grave sites and ceremonial sites.



These studies will involve input from many people including members of NCN, the environmental consultants, and Manitoba Hydro. NCN members have provided input to the studies by participating in community meetings and talking to the environmental consultants (for instance, at the Open House presentation).

WHAT IS YOUR ROLE IN THE EIS?

The EIS process is one of co-operation between NCN, Manitoba Hydro, and the environmental consultants. You do have a say in the EIS process. If you have any concerns that you want to make sure are looked at in the EIS studies, please talk to your community consultants or NCN representatives on the Future Development Committee.

NCN HUMAN RESOURCES – FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

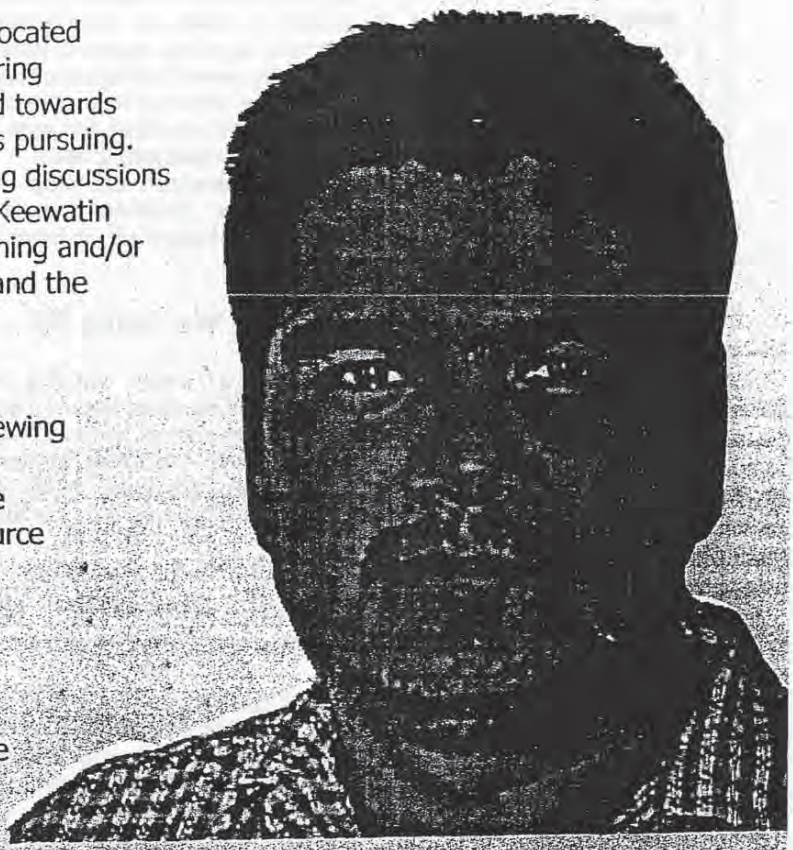
Current activities and developments of Training and Employment regarding the anticipated Future Development Hydro projects

Needs assessment

One of the first actions being conducted for the purpose of Future Development is a community human resource assessment of NCN. This is currently being done and most community members have filled out the survey being done by the community consultants. From this information, a training plan will be put into affect with the intention of providing skills and work experience for NCN members, so that they can compete for various jobs within the two projects at Notigi and Taskinigup.

Training Center

A Training Center is being proposed to be located in the community for the purpose of delivering community based training programs geared towards the projects and other ventures that NCN is pursuing. Along with the training center we are having discussions with both: Anokiiwin Training Centers and Keewatin Community College to explore possible training and/or business type partnerships between NCN and the training institutes.



Funding

The Future Development Team is also reviewing the funding that is required for training. We have had preliminary meetings with the Province, Apprenticeship and Human Resource Development Canada.

Unions

We are trying to established a working relationship with the Unions associated with the projects. These unions will become very significant as the project goes along.

Please feel free to come in and talk about these directions with me. My office is located upstairs in th Development Corporation offices. I feel it is important to hear from community members and have yo share your concerns and opinions with me.

Submitted by: Jeff Hunter
Program Manager
HRDA

NCN's Opinion Survey To Guide Discussions About Future Development

Since May 23, 2000, a team of community people has been busy training for and conducting an NCN Opinion Survey to hear your views about potential future hydroelectric development in the area.

The NCN Opinion Survey Team

Permanent Consultants
Charlie Joe Hart
Mark Linklater
Lisa McDonald
Donna Moore/Linklater
Jimmy D. Spence
Ryan Spence
Alvin Yetman

Temporary Consultants

Interviewers
Harold Dumas
Earl Hart
Muriel Hart
Jason Linklater
Curtis McDonald
Dwight Moody
Farrell Spence
Marcel Spence
Ronnie Spence
Stanley W. Spence
Larson Tait
Ryan Tait

Elders Interviewers
Samson Hunter
Ella Moose
Hilda Spence
Stanley Spence

Coding Team
Aaron Hart
Frederica Prince
Leslie Spence
Vanessa Spence

The leadership of NCN and the Future Development Working Group developed the survey for the people of NCN. This is not just another survey – it will help guide NCN's leaders in discussions with Manitoba Hydro.

Your voices and opinions need to be reflected in the decisions that will affect NCN in the future. The NCN Opinion Survey is designed to help fill that role. In addition to asking for your opinions, priorities and concerns regarding proposed future developments, the survey covers the following topics:

- the future of Nelson House;
- social, education and recreation issues;
- past agreements; and
- information to help plan for the developments (business opportunities, unions, training and employment, in-migration, country food use).

How Are We Doing It?

A team of 27 people including the 7 permanent community consultants has been going door-to-door conducting interviews. Some interviewers are working specifically with the Elders. Others are working on 'coding' the interviews, which means they are interpreting and categorizing the answers.

What is the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Study Team and What is its Role?

The EIS Team is made up of four consulting firms and other specialists who are assisting NCN and Manitoba Hydro in assessing future development. Our role in the Opinion Survey is to help support NCN in the survey process through ongoing training and skills-building, developing information tracking systems, being available for troubleshooting and answering questions.

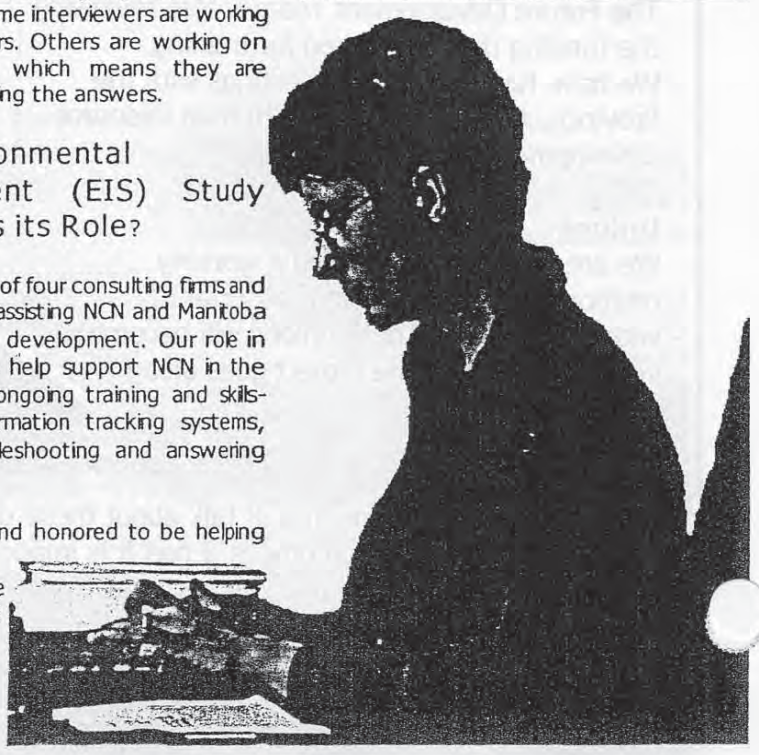
We feel very privileged and honored to be helping NCN in this important work. Our hope is that the skills-building and training we share with the survey team will be a valuable building block for the future. But this is a two-way learning process: we are also learning a great deal from the dynamic team assembled to complete the survey.

What will happen to the Information Once the Survey is Completed?

Once the Opinion Survey is completed, the information will be summarized and analyzed. It will go to the Future Development Working Group and Chief and Council and will inform their discussions with Manitoba Hydro. The results will also be shared with everyone in the community.

By Viviane Weitzner,
InterGroup Consultants

"This survey will help guide NCN's leaders in its discussions with Manitoba Hydro. Your voices and opinions need to be reflected in the decisions that will affect NCN in the future."

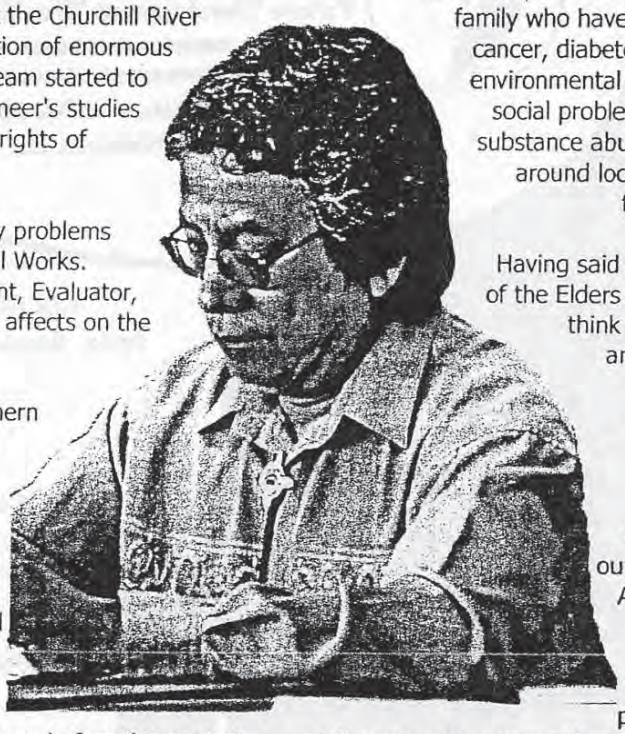


Chief & Council's CORNER

Tansi, Nitotemuk!

Before 1977, for more than half a century, Hydro planners knew the potential of the Nelson River. These Engineers dreamt of an awesome plan to divert the Churchill River into the Nelson River, for the production of enormous amounts of Hydro Electricity. This dream started to take shape in 1964, when these engineer's studies were destined to affect the lives and rights of NCN people.

It was the governments view that any problems would be dealt with through Remedial Works. Manitoba Hydro became the Proponent, Evaluator, Judge and Jury of the Project, and its affects on the land and our people.



In 1977, NCN people signed the Northern Flood Agreement, which promised to eradicate massive poverty and unemployment. It was not till twenty years later that this NFA was partially implemented, with NCN signing the 1996 Implementation Agreement, but still there were outstanding issues and obligations. At that time little was known of the biology of the region by Hydro Planners. At that time there were no real biological assessments done, before this project.

Article 8.0, of the 1996 Implementation Agreement contains a well defined process that provides meaningful consultation to take place, prior to any new construction of a dam or Generation station, within the NCN Resource area. Today, once again we are asked to give up our resources in exchange for material wealth, and disruption of our lands. As a Leader, I am faced with the dilemma between environmental protection, and economic development, and the Sacred Responsibility I have for the yet unborn.

Hydro development is only one component of many which have negatively impacted and undermined NCN people. Other negative impacts such as: Legislative Control, The Indian Act, and other Resource Developments which include forestry and mining operations, have extended into all areas of our being. These oppressive Developments result in that NCN membership cannot exist at a socio-economic level that is comparable with that of the balance of Canadian society. This is even though we posses Legal and Constitutionally protected rights to our Treaty lands, and the resources that the Creator has provided to us. We have also signed the Treaty Land Entitlement Agreement, but it is still business as usual for Manitoba Hydro and the two levels of Government, with respect to resource exploitation.

Since 1971 I have watched our people suffer greatly; some have lost parents and children; some have friends o family who have committed suicide; some died o cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure and othe environmental related illnesses. Today I still see social problems such as: alcoholism, drug and substance abuse. I also still see people walking around looking for employment, and two o three families living in one house

Having said all this, the patience and wisdom of the Elders tells us that we must continue to think of the future. Future generations and the environment must both be considered in our decisions and actions. We must work with the tools the Creator has provided for us

On March 15th, 1996 NCN signed our Northern Flood Implementation Agreement. That day was a day considered as a stepping stone moving forward as we continue to fight for the Rights of our people. This day was very special as it represents our continual fight to protect our people and the lands which the Creator has put in our care.

In our present deliberations amongst ourselves, I am impressed when I hear of the many opportunities that would result from Future Development, which includes Equity participation, Training and Employment Opportunities, and also business contract opportunities for our people.

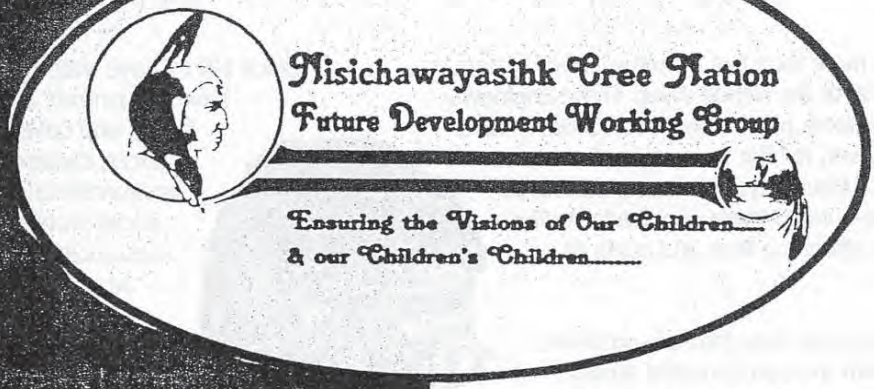
Herein lies the dilemma that I am faced with as your leader, the balance between environmental protection and economic growth. I am looking at questions like: What is Hydro's judgment as to the future of our culture and how many years will it take before our culture completely disappears or will a crisis occur; Is our culture capable of handling the consequences of this proposed development; Will the bio-accumulation of Mercury exceed acceptable limits or not and how many years will this take to correct itself; and what are the solutions.

Having considered these pros and cons I often wonder at the sanity of those who propose another dam or maybe its my own sanity that is in question. The fundamental question lies within all of us as individuals.

Ekosi, I will continue to look for that balance and work for your best interests.

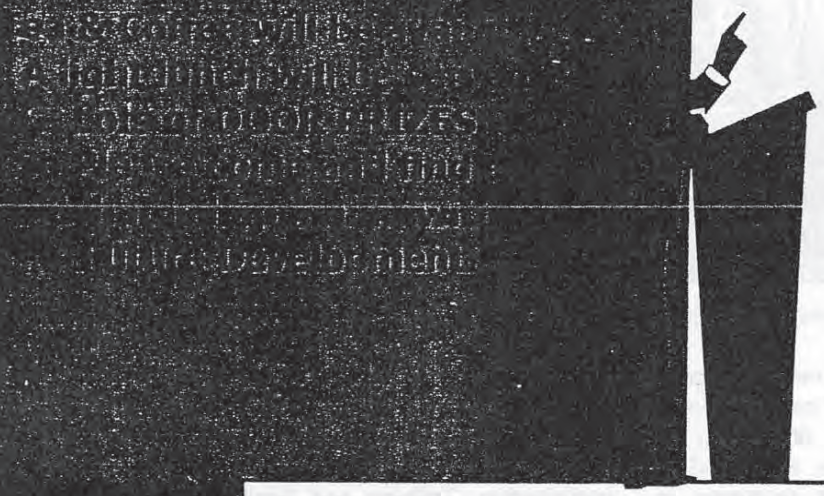
Councillor D'arcy Linklater

Second Future Development Open House



You are invited to our Second Open House about Future Development.

Th Future Development Working Group, Community Consultants, Environmental Consultants and Manitoba Hydro will be there to answer any questions or listen to concerns regarding Future Development.



Date: July 12 - 13, 2000
Time: 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm
OK School Gym

Your Participation will be greatly appreciated and Acknowledged

Nisichawayasihk Future Development NEWSLETTER



Future Development Office Staff with Survey Consultants



People Gathering at Wuskwatim Camp Site

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
Future Development Working Group

Ensuring the Visions of Our Children.....
& our Children's Children.....

August 2000

Open House Presentations

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Chief and Council, along with the NCN Future Development Team, Manitoba Hydro, and the environmental consultants, have held three Open House presentations in Nelson House. The purpose of these Open Houses is to inform community members about the Future Developments, and get their feedback.

The **First Open House** was held on April 4-5. It introduced members to the proposed hydroelectric developments at Notigi and Wuskwatim, and described what the NCN Future Development Team, Manitoba Hydro, and the Environmental Study Team have been doing. More than 200 people (including about 100 students) came to look at the displays.



At the Third Open House about 80 people attended on August 2nd, and 50 people attended on August 3

The **Second Open** House, on July 12-13, gave more information about the Future Developments, and also described some of the studies that are happening now. Again, more than 200 people came to see the presentation.

The **Third Open House** was held on August 2-3. This presentation described the different options that are being looked at for locating the access road and transmission lines. Also shown were optional locations for a camp to house workers during construction. The possibility of NCN using some of the camp buildings after construction was also raised. NCN members had the opportunity to discuss the pros and cons that they see with the various options. About 80 people came out the first day to look at the displays about the access road and construction camp, and 50 people came the next day to see the transmission line display.

For more information about the process by which the options for the access road, construction camp, and transmission facilities are being evaluated, please see the article "Options for the Access Road, Construction Camp, and Transmission Facilities".

At each of the Open Houses, the Community Consultants took people through the presentation, explaining the displays and answering their questions. People from the Future Development Team, Manitoba Hydro, and the environmental consultants were also there to help answer questions and talk to community members about the developments.

The arena canteen catered food for each of the presentations. All people attending the Open House presentations were entered into a draw for door prizes.

More Open House presentations are being planned for this fall. The times and locations will be advertised on radio and TV, and in posters in the community.

A work area for the general contractor (the company hired to manage the construction project overall) would also be located at the construction site. It would include a concrete batch plant, rock processing plant, maintenance and equipment storage areas, offices, etc.
After construction is complete, certain parts of the project support facilities, such as the stores area (including buildings) would be left in place for Manitoba Hydro to use in operating the station. Where buildings and construction areas would no longer be required (including possible future uses by NCN of some facilities), material would be removed and the area would be reclaimed to promote natural re-vegetation, where appropriate.



NCN members and Guests
listen to opening presentations

What You Told Us at the August Open House

During the Open House held on August 2 and 3, community members were invited to give their views about the benefits and drawbacks of the alternatives. Some people filled out questionnaires, while others spoke in person to Community Consultants, Manitoba Hydro staff and members of the Environmental Study Team on hand during these two days.

Although not very many people filled out questionnaires, the following highlights what was said.



Future Development Co-Manager Norman Linklater with Manitoba Hydro's Ryan Kustra

Access Road

Travel safety and maintenance of the access road were raised often at the Open House, no matter which location is chosen for the access road. Concern was raised that a new access road would allow non-NCN members to travel into the NCN Resource Management Area. People wondered if it would be possible to adequately police the RMA with this new access route.

If the access road were to run via Nelson House (one of the options being considered), members felt that NCN could make use of the road in the future. They also felt that such a road could provide easier access to traditional gathering places, trap lines and for sightseeing in the RMA. Finally, they thought it may help with expansion of the community in the future.
At the next Open House, members wanted to compare the costs of the alternative roads being considered. They want to know who is responsible for maintaining the road after the construction project is over and who will have control of the road.

Construction Camp



ATCO Trailers at 1999 Borrow Site Camp

While many members would like to see the construction camp located on reserve parcel 170B on the south side of the lake (one of the options being considered), several members were also concerned about a large construction camp being located so near to the community. The felt that there would be "too many men near the community" and were concerned about the safety of children who might visit the camp. A few people wanted to see the camp at the Wuskwatim work site so that workers would be closer to the construction work and so that it would be more economical, and safer because workers would not have two hours of travel each day.
Many members saw benefits in NCN using the camp facilities after the project is over, although they did not specify where those facilities would best be located (e.g., at the Wuskwatim site, at reserve 170B, at a possible site at the junction of the Split Lake road and PR 391, or at another location).
At a future open house, members want to understand the cost of the options being considered, who is responsible for paying for the camp, who would pay for relocating the camp (if this option were chosen) and the types of jobs and business contracts that would be available at the camp.
The responses to the various concepts for the transmission facilities will be reported in the next newsletter, as part of the article describing the options for the transmission facilities.



Drilling Rig at 1999 Borrow Site

What's Ahead

A Committee will consider what was heard from members with representatives from the NCN advisor group (Charlie Joe Hart, Bill Yetman, Ron Spence, Ed Vystrcil, Cam MacInnes and Tim Nykolyk), Manitoba Hydro, and the Environmental Study Team. Their job is to collect information to help compare the alternatives for the access road, camp and transmission facilities. This information will be presented to the NCN Future Development Team and Manitoba Hydro. Community members will also have the opportunity to provide further input before the Future Development Team and Manitoba Hydro make any final decisions are made about which options to choose.

Future Development hires 2 Elder's Consultants

Tansi,



My name is Earl Hart. I was born and raised in Nelson House and I'm proud to say that I am here. After being away from home for 10 years, it's good to be back home. I was recently hired as one of the consultants, who go around the community conducting opinion surveys. I have received a lot of good and interesting information from the people in our community. By conducting these surveys I've come to realise how serious people are about developing a good community.

After working as a part-time consultant, I've just recently gained full-time employment at the Future Development offices. My duties as an Elder's Consultant will be working and visiting with the Elders in the community, interpreting information on behalf of upcoming Future Development projects. In my opinion, I feel that interpreting this information is a crucial part of my job, so that Elders get a better understanding of what is going on in our community. This is a big challenge for me because the Elders are so wise, but at the same time it is a learning experience. Therefore, I am looking forward to visiting with them. I would also like to thank the elders who came to the Open Houses. The most recent Open House covered topics such as, access roads, camps and the transmission lines. It was said the I gave the Elders such accurate interpretation that they couldn't believe how well I spoke my Cree language. I'm also looking forward to seeing the Elders at the next Open Houses that are being planned. Remember that the people in our community are important to us; also I should emphasize that we cannot build a strong Nation without your help.

Ekosani,
Earl Hart
Kinanaskomitinawow.

Tansi - Elders, Brothers, Sisters, & Friends



My name is Henry Wood. I was recently hired by NCN to work as one of the Community Consultants. In 1996, the agreement was signed by the four parties to implement the NFA. I've been involved with NFA negotiations for at least 14 years. Article 8 is today's backbone from the Implementation Agreement pertaining to the Future Development. And as a Community Consultant I believe that my job is to relay all the information to the NCN membership in regards to future development, as the process continues on. It is an intention to give you the opportunity to express your views and concerns in regards to alternative future development options that have been presented and the ones that will be presented. You will have to determine the pros and cons, the short-term affects, long-term impacts and the short term and long-term benefits also. In closing, I'm looking forward to working with you for the betterment of NCN as a whole.

Ekosi Ma Ka,

Henry Wood



Wuskwatim Site Ceremony

What began, as a direction to take NCN Elders to visit Wuskwatim Lake area and have a ceremony at the Dancing Circle site, ended as a week celebration for the whole community. This took place from June 19 – 23, 2000. 200 – 300 people were transported from NCN to Wuskwatim Lake by boat, helicopter and airplane. Manitoba Hydro, the Future Development office and Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation sponsored and arranged this event. Heading up the committee and making the arrangements were: Joe Moose, Joyce Yetman – Linklater, Ron Linklater and Darlene Mason. During the week many special events took place.

Monday was a travel day with tours of the Dancing Circle and graveyard sites. On Tuesday honorary and memorial services were held in respect of the late: Frankie Spence, William Moose and Tommy Spence. Sweat Lodge Ceremonies and singing were held in the evening. On Wednesday the Land was blessed, a special Ceremony was held at the Wuskwatim site, and there was a Give Away with a Traditional Feast. Also there were special healing Ceremonies held. In the evening, again there were Sweat Lodge Ceremonies and fireside singing. Also on Wednesday the dignitaries arrived from Hydro and other businesses associated with the proposed future developments. A special Ceremony was held at the Dancing Circle site, a site that has been in continual use by NCN ancestors for 10,000 years or more. Again boats, planes and helicopters transported people to the site across the lake from the Wuskwatim campsite. A feast followed. Sweat Lodge Ceremonies, fireside singing took place in the evening as usual. On Friday most made their way back home.



L-R: Hydro President - Bob Brennan, Councillor Thomas, Hydro Chairman- Vic Schroeder, Councilor Moore, and Chief Primrose



Wuskwatim Site Boat Landing



The Camp



Chief Primrose introduces NCN Band member to Hydro's Chairman

You asked....

At the Open Houses, community members were encouraged to ask questions about Future Development. Questions that couldn't be answered right at the Open House, or ones that were written down on questionnaires, were recorded. This column will be a regular feature of the Future Development Newsletter, and will answer these questions about the Future Developments.



This first instalment includes several questions about Future Development asked at the first three Open Houses. Others will be answered in future newsletters. Some questions that are not related to Future Development will be answered through the Community Newsletter or other means.

When will the EIS be ready?

The EIS or 'Environmental Impact Statement' is a written document that describes what effect a proposed project is expected to have on the environment, including the people who depend on it. If NCN and Manitoba Hydro decide to proceed with the Projects, the EIS is expected to be ready in about January 2002. The EIS is required as part of a Project's application for an environmental licence.

What are the potential risks of adverse effects from the Projects?

Studies are being done right now to look at ways in which the proposed Notigi and Wuskwatim projects could affect the environment, including what adverse effects there might be on plants and animals, as well as on the people who depend on them. These studies will also look at the possible benefits from these projects for NCN. The results of this analysis will be presented to NCN and Manitoba Hydro, to help them to make decisions about the proposed Future Developments.

What effect could the proposed Future Developments have on the environment?

Community members are concerned about how the proposed Wuskwatim and Notigi projects will affect the animals, land, and water. Some of the questions were:

How will the environment be affected?

As described above, studies are going on right now to find out how the proposed Future Developments might affect the environment. These studies will take some time to finish and, if one or more of the projects goes ahead, would be completed in early 2002. Manitoba Hydro has already made certain decisions which will minimize environmental affects - the main decision being to plan projects which will cause no flooding at Notigi and minimal (less than one square kilometre) flooding at Wuskwatim.

Is there any way to reduce the negative effects? We don't see any animals like moose or bear anymore along the shoreline because they are scared to jump in the water because of the stumps.

The proposed project at Notigi will not cause any new flooding, while the Wuskwatim project would cause less than one square kilometre of flooding between Taskinigup Falls and Wuskwatim Lake. Therefore, the negative effects due to flooding would be much, much less than after CRD.

Will the pickerel spawning creeks be affected?

Studies are going on right now to look at pickerel spawning creeks to see if they could be affected. In particular, creeks around Wuskwatim Lake are being looked at. If the Wuskwatim Project is built, the water level on the lake will remain within its present range, but mostly at the higher end of this range.

What will the effects be on the environmental aspects (mercury, acid rain, trace minerals)?

These topics are being looked at now and will be discussed in the EIS (Environmental Impact Statement).

Will areas with medicinal plants be affected?



Areas that would be affected by the proposed developments - including the shoreline of Wuskwatim Lake, the sites of the generating stations, and the Rat River downstream of the Notigi Control Structure - are being surveyed to find out where medicinal plant are growing. Other areas that would be affected by the proposed developments, such as the access roads, transmission line rights-of-way, construction camp sites, and borrow areas will be looked at (probably next year). The Environmental Consulting Team will depend on both field surveys and the traditional knowledge of individuals in Nelson House to find out whether medicinal plants grow in the affected areas.



Will ducks, beaver and fish be destroyed?

The ducks, beaver, and fish living in areas that may be affected by the proposed Developments are being studied to find out how many there are and where they live. This information, along with information about how the water levels and shoreline could change with the Projects, will be used to make predictions about how these and other types of animals could be affected.

What about pollution?

Plans will be in place to deal with possible pollution issues. For example, during construction of the generating stations, there is a possibility that there might be spills of oils or gasoline, which could cause a temporary, small amount of pollution. There will be plans in place to deal with spills, if they happen. The construction camp will have a sewage treatment plant, so the wastewater will be treated. Once construction is over, there could be small changes in water quality, such as effects on the amount of dirt suspended in the water. All these potential changes in the water quality will be looked at and described in the EIS.

In future newsletters...

In upcoming newsletters, more of your questions will be answered, including questions about the Agreement in Principle, mercury levels in fish and wildlife, possible effects of the proposed Future Developments on trappers and fishermen, and more...

Options for the Access Road, Construction Camp, and Transmission Facilities

NCN is considering whether to become a partner with Manitoba Hydro in a new generating station at Notigi or Wuskwatim or both. Manitoba Hydro is also considering whether to pursue these projects. NCN's objectives for the proposed Future Developments are to maximize economic development and minimize environmental impact.

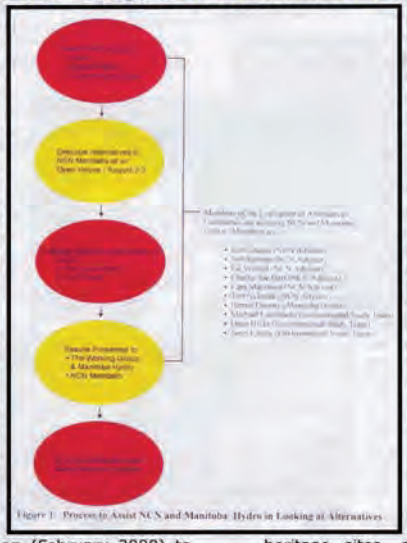


Figure 1: Process to Assist NCN and Manitoba Hydro in Looking at Alternatives

A new generating station at Wuskwatim (Taskinigup Falls) would need an access road, camp site and work areas, and transmission facilities (including transmission lines and transformer stations). Members of NCN's Future Development Team identified the need early on (February 2000) to consider a range of options for these facilities, including those proposed by NCN. Although the location of the Wuskwatim Generating Station is fixed, several options are currently being considered for: the route of the access road to the Wuskwatim site and borrow pits (for sand and gravel);

- the location of a camp to house workers during construction and possible uses for these buildings once construction is over; and,
- the transmission concepts in NCN's RMA.

Options are also being considered for transmission lines to serve the Notigi Generating Station.

NCN, Manitoba Hydro, and the Environmental Study Team discussed how best to identify and evaluate these options. A joint process between Manitoba Hydro and NCN as mapped out and is shown in Figure 1. An Alternatives Committee, with representatives from NCN, NCN Advisors, Manitoba Hydro, and the Environmental Study Team, is currently gathering information to help the parties compare the options before them. This information will help NCN and Manitoba Hydro make decisions about which alternative best meets the needs of both. They will look at many things, including:

- the effect on NCN, including both the positive and negative effects on the community;
- the effect on the environment, including potential disturbance of heritage sites, sensitive wildlife habitat, hunting pressure on game animals due to increased access, etc.; and,
- effects on the Project, including differences in costs to build and operate the generating stations, effects on schedule for building the projects, safety, and other considerations.

On August 2 and 3, an Open House was held in the arena at Nelson House to give community members a chance to see the alternatives that had been identified, and to tell the Alternatives Committee what they saw as the pros and cons of each. The next part of this article describes the locations being considered for the access road and for the construction camp. The options for the transmission facilities in the NCN RMA will be described in the next newsletter. What community members had to say at the Open House is summarized in the final part of the article.

The Access Road

Five different routes are being looked at for the access road for the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station:

- Nelson House Road with 170B Spur (option added by NCN);
- Nelson House Road;
- Mile 20 Road (option added by NCN);
- Mile 5 Road.
- Taylor River Road

With any of these alternatives, the route would be adjusted in relation to important areas such as:

- burial sites;
- ceremonial sites; and,
- sensitive environmental areas, such as important wildlife habitat.

The purpose of the road would be to provide access to the construction site and borrow areas (for sand and gravel) during the building of the camp and then the generating station. While the camp and generating station are being constructed, the road would be used to move workers, materials, and equipment. Traffic would include:

- mostly semi-trailer traffic;
- heavy equipment for moving construction aggregate (sand and gravel);
- various smaller passenger and service vehicles;
- bus passenger traffic; and,
- road maintenance equipment.

Preliminary estimates suggest that there would be approximately 10-20 trucks per hour coming off the nearest main highway during the peak times of construction.

If and when the Project is built, Manitoba Hydro would need the road to operate and maintain the generating station.

Camp and Project Support Facilities

Five approaches to the camp and project support facilities are being considered:

- full camp at Wuskwatim, dismantled and removed;
- full camp at Wuskwatim, not removed (possibly retained for NCN use after construction);
- full camp at Wuskwatim, dismantled, removed, and relocated (possible for NCN use after construction);
- partial camp at 170B (retained for NCN use after construction), with project support facilities at Wuskwatim; and,
- partial camp at the intersection of Provincial Roads 391 and 280 near the potential NCN TLE selection (retained for NCN use after construction), with project support facilities at Wuskwatim.



Community Consultants were on hand to discuss Alternatives with NCN members

The purpose of the construction camp would be to provide overnight accommodation for each worker that is employed in the construction of the generating station. The camp would be designed to accommodate a maximum of 600 workers, with an average number of 225 workers. There would be separate accommodations for male and female workers, but no facilities for families. The number of workers would vary during the year, but most of the work is seasonal, occurring mainly in the summer. Work shifts would typically be 6 days long, at 10 hours per day.

The general features of a typical construction camp would be:

- buildings are usually portable ATCO-type trailers (similar to the Pathfinders Lab in the community);
- each employee is provided with a single room, consisting of a bed, table with lamp, and closet, with communal washroom/showers and laundry facilities;
- all meals are supplied from a central dining room/kitchen facility;
- there are also recreation areas, training rooms, a beverage room, first aid facilities, and chapel buildings; and,
- the camp has complete sewer and water systems.

In addition to facilities for workers, there would be facilities to support the actual construction activity. This would include several office buildings, a maintenance garage, a material testing laboratory, stores materials building and storage areas, a construction power substation, and sewer and water systems. These facilities are needed at the construction site, no matter where the construction worker camp is located.

WUSKWATIM SITE CEREMONY PICTURES


Group of Children at Wuskwatim Camp


Ron Spence ground crew for chopper landing


Councilor Hunter/Spence waiting for Smoked Fish


Consultant Mark Linklater with Bill Yetman


Fish being smoked


Wuskwatim Café


Wuskwatim Lake


Boat Landing at the trail to the Dancing Circle

NOTICE
Of upcoming Events

Next Newsletter - Late September
OK School Career Day Open House - November
Second 'Alternatives'* Open House - Late Fall
Agreement in Principle Vote - Date TBA

* "Alternatives" are options for the access road, camp, and transmission facilities.

More information about Future Development will be aired on local Radio and TV in the weeks and months to come.

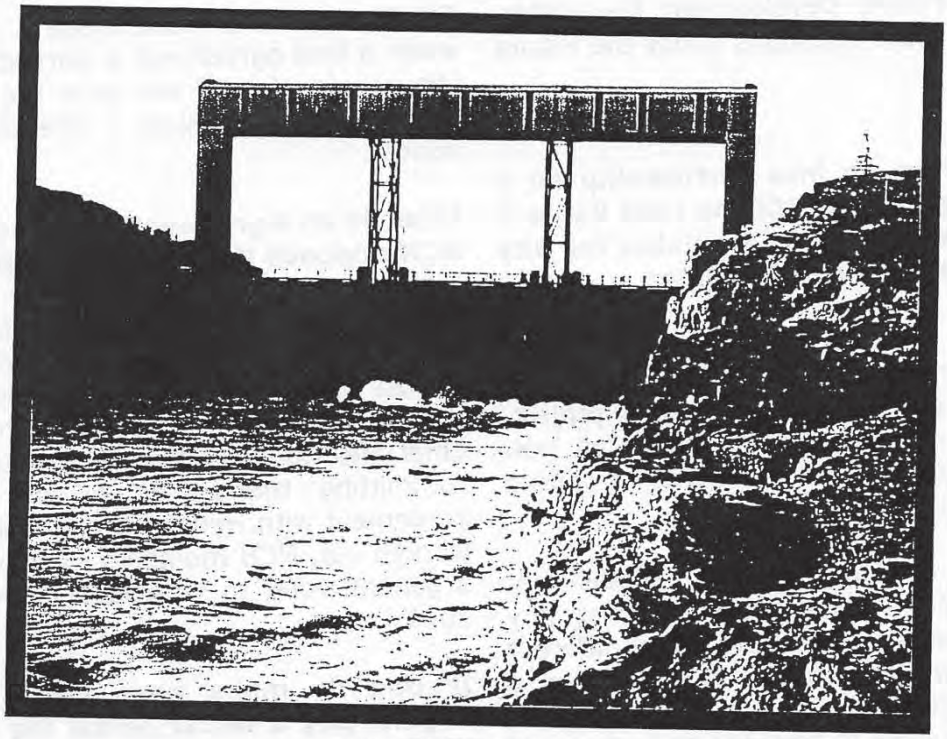








Nisichawayasihk Future Development NEWSLETTER



Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
Future Development Working Group

Ensuring the Visions of Our Children.....
& our Children's Children.....

October 2000

You Asked.....

At the Open Houses, community members were encouraged to ask questions about Future Development. Questions that couldn't be answered right at the Open House, or ones that were written down on questionnaires, were recorded. The community consultants have also written down questions from their conversations with members. This column will be a regular feature of the Future Development Newsletter, and will answer these questions about the Future Developments.

If NCN and Hydro go into partnership on a generating station, will NCN be held liable if flooding occurs? Will NCN be liable for any accidents that might happen during construction?

First of all, it is projected that no new flooding will occur upstream of the proposed Notigi project, and less than one square kilometre of new flooding will be caused by the proposed Wuskwatim project.

Legal liability is one of the many details that would have to be worked out in drafting any partnership agreement. There are many different ways in which two or more parties can own a facility or share profits from a facility. The parties do not necessarily have to have the same types of legal liability. It will depend on the exact wording of any agreement between the parties. Also, it is anticipated that some form of liability insurance will be purchased.

Needless to say, NCN will obtain detailed legal advice before agreeing to any sort of arrangements with Hydro. Furthermore, the people of NCN will have the final say through a general referendum.

Can NCN terminate the new agreement if there are too many adverse effects from the Future Development Project?

Whatever agreement NCN and Hydro may agree to will contain rules about how the agreement could be amended. Furthermore, there is general legal principle that any contract can be amended at any time by mutual agreement. If and when Hydro and NCN sit down to work out the wo[illegible] of a specific contract, both parties will keep in mind the possibility that they may want to change the agreement at some time in the future.

Will there be a referendum after all of the information is given out to the community?

Chief and Council have made it clear that if and when a final agreement is worked out with Hydro, the people of NCN will have the final say about the agreement through a referendum or general vote.

What is an Agreement in Principle (AIP)? If NCN opposes the AIP, will it still go through?

In some ways, an AIP is like a detailed agenda for future discussions. It has no binding legal effect. It just lists the issues and questions that the parties to the AIP will be discussing. If and when Chief and Council agree to an AIP, they are not committing themselves to any type of agreement with Hydro. If and when a final AIP is worked out, NCN members will have a final say in a general vote, to be held in the winter of 2000-2001.

If one or more new dams is built, will anyone pay a water rental fee for the water passing through those dams?

In general, the provincial government owns "water power" in Manitoba. Manitoba Hydro pays the provincial government when it uses the water of rivers and lakes to generate electricity. If and when one or more new dams are built, and if and when NCN and Hydro enter into some sort of power development agreement, all financial issues will be dealt with in that agreement. Many different financial arrangements and options are possible. The issues of who pays which expenses and who shares which profits will all be spelled out in this agreement.

What is a confidentiality agreement? W[illegible] does NCN have to make any type [illegible] confidentiality agreement with Hydro?

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In general, a confidentiality agreement is a contract between two or more parties that they will share certain types of information with each other, but that the information won't go any further. It is a matter of public knowledge that Hydro is looking at the possibility of building one or more new dams. (Anyone can look at some of this information on Hydro's website at www.hydo.mb.ca). A lot of information about these potential projects is not confidential, and Hydro is pleased to share it with NCN and with the public in general. However, there is some confidential information that Hydro is not willing to share with the world at large just yet. In order to build trust with NCN, Hydro is prepared to share this information with NCN right now. However, Hydro has asked NCN to agree not to spread this confidential information any further as of today. Some of today's confidential information may be tomorrow's public information, and Hydro may be happy to share it with everyone at some future date.

Will the new projects change the Water Regime arrangements that now exist?

Article 2 of the 1996 Implementation Agreement deals with water levels and flows. If levels recorded at the Nelson House Gauge on Footprint Lake go outside of the ranges set out in the Agreement, additional compensation is paid to NCN, according to a formula in the Agreement. That formula can be amended if a new project will alter the water level regime (any amendments to Article 2 would require the unanimous consent of NCN, Hydro, Canada, and Manitoba). Based on the proposed design of the Wuskwatim Generating Station, there will be no effect to water levels on Footprint or Threepoint Lakes. The planned mode of operation for the proposed generating station at Notigi will cause small changes in water levels on Wapisu Lake, but these changes are not expected to be detectable on Footprint and Threepoint lakes. Therefore, it should not be necessary to amend the existing water regime arrangements in order to build the proposed projects.

How will the fishermen be affected?

Part of the environmental studies is looking at potential effects to the fishermen - this includes how the proposed projects might affect the number and quality of fish that can be caught, as well as whether fishing would be easier or harder with the proposed projects (for example, the construction of an access road might make it easier to get to some lakes). Fishermen will be consulted as part of the environmental studies that are happening now.

What trapping areas may be affected, and will the trappers be consulted?

Part of the environmental studies is looking at potential effects to the trappers - this includes how the proposed projects might affect the numbers of animals that can be trapped, as well as whether it will be easier or harder to trap (for example, the proposed projects might make it easier or harder to get to specific traplines). Members of the environmental study team are talking to NCN resource managers to decide how best to consult with the trappers.

Will trappers be compensated for their trap lines?

It has not been decided what routes the new access road, hydro transmission lines, etc. will take, if they are built. The parties are now looking at different routes, and the pros and cons of each route. If it appears that any of the work may have a negative effect on some trap lines, compensation will have to be agreed upon in advance. Under the 1996 Implementation Agreement, Hydro cannot build any new facilities that would adversely affect NCN, until it has resolved the compensation issue in advance. The form and details of the compensation would have to be discussed and worked out, if and when the need arises.

In future newsletters...

In upcoming newsletters, more of your questions will be answered, including questions about how a generating station at Wuskwatim would affect water levels in Wuskwatim Lake, how the generating station would be built and more...

The Regulatory Approval Process

NCN and Manitoba Hydro are considering whether to become partners in new generating station(s) at Notigi and/or Wuskwatim. Both NCN and Hydro are studying the potential pros and cons of these projects, but neither party has yet decided to build these stations.

If NCN and Hydro decide to go ahead, they would need approval from agencies in the governments of Manitoba and Canada that regulate the environment. The process to get this approval is long and complex, and begins with environmental studies that are done even before it is decided to build the projects. This article describes the "regulatory approval process".

NCN and Manitoba Hydro are Working Together

In 1996, the NCN Implementation Agreement was signed by NCN, Manitoba Hydro, Canada, and Manitoba to implement and resolve most outstanding claims and obligations under the NFA. The Agreement laid out a process for Hydro to involve NCN in planning Future Development(s).

As described in the Agreement, NCN and Hydro have been working together to plan for future development:

- NCN Chief and Council and Hydro meet every year to discuss future planning.
- In 1997, an NCN-Hydro Future Development Working Group was appointed to provide more frequent exchange of information between NCN and Hydro.
- In 1999, the NCN Future Development team was established. This group represents NCN in discussions with Hydro about Future Development.
- In late 1999, NCN and Hydro selected a team of environmental consultants (the environmental study team) to carry out environmental studies.
- NCN and Hydro have continued their discussions about Future Development this year.

The Joint Environmental Studies

The Joint Environmental Studies are an impor...t part of the studies that NCN and Hydro are now doing. These studies will give both parties information about the environment as it is now, and how the proposed projects might affect the environment. These studies will form the basis of an application to the governments of Manitoba and Canada for environmental approvals, if NCN and Hydro decide to build the projects. The environmental study team jointly selected by NCN and Hydro has planned environmental studies to:

- give NCN and Hydro the information about the environment that they need to make decisions about the projects; and
- provide enough information to apply to the governments of Manitoba and Canada for approval to build the project(s). The application will be based on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which describes how the proposed proj... are expected to affect the environme... the land, water, plants, and animals - and the people that depend on these natural resources.

Planning the Joint Study Program Members of the NCN Future Development Team met with the environmental study team at several workshops in February 2000 to identify issues and concerns for NCN. The projects were also discussed with Manitoba Hydro staff and specialists such as research scientists to help decide what should be included in the studies.

The study team prepared a detailed report describing what kinds of studies needed bo be done, as well as why and how. This study plan was reviewed by NCN and Hydro in April 2000. A summary of the study plan was available to community members at the July Open House presentation. A revised study plan was prepared in August to include issues raised by community members at the Open Houses, as well ... comments from the Future Development T... and Hydro.

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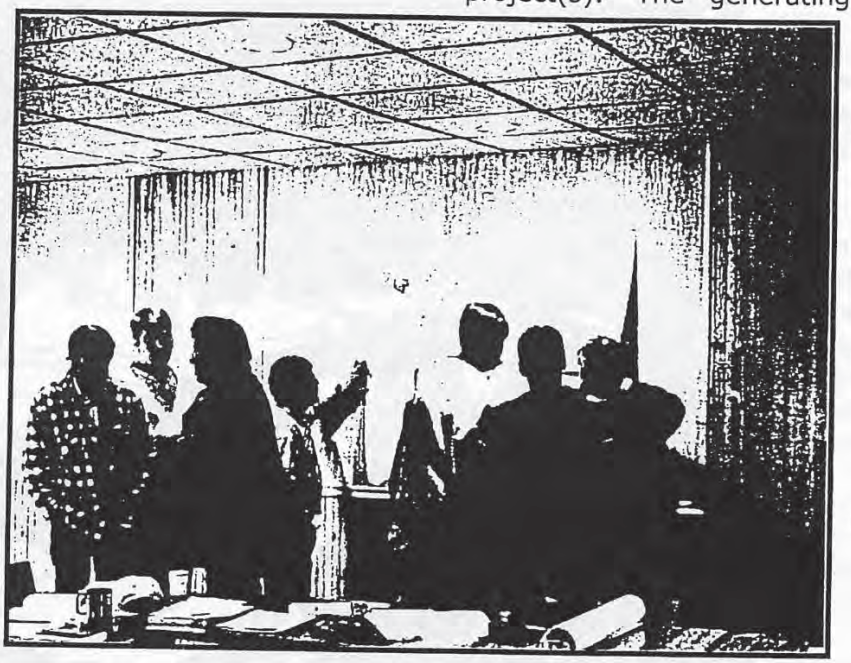
Participating in the Field Studies

studies of the environment planned for 2000 an in May and have continued since that time. NCN members are participating actively in the studies, and their knowledge of the local environment is very important to making the studies successful.

Reporting Study Results

Members of the NCN Future Development Team are updated on the studies at meetings held every month. Special meetings are also held from time to time with Chief & Council and community ltants, so t. , can help provide information to other NCN members. NCN members have the opportunity to learn about the studies at Open Houses. A summary of important findings is being prepared now for NCN to help members make decisions about the projects.



Next Steps in the Studies

The study plan will be updated before the end of March 2001 to include additional work that needs to be done to prepare an EIS, if it is decided to apply for an environmental approval for Notigi, Wuskwatim, or both. This updated study plan would be reviewed by NCN and Hydro to make sure that it covers the important issues for both parties. Officials from the governments of Ma ba and Canada would also review the study pla. to make sure that it meets their requirements.

Application for Environmental Approvals

A decision will be made in 2001 whether to apply for environmental approvals to build a generating Station at Notigi, Wuskwatim or both.

NCN's Role in the Environmental Approval Process

NCN has an important role in the approval process for several reasons:

- NCN may become a partner in the project(s). The generating stations would be built in the NCN Resource Management Area, so NCN members want to make sure that these projects do not cause unacceptable impacts to the natural environment.
- NCN members have knowledge about the area that is very important for planning and carrying out the environmental studies.

The NCN Future Development Team has an active role in the approval process through the work of the regulatory sub-committee. This committee includes Norman Linklater, Marcel Moody, D'Arcy Linklater, Charlie Joe Hart, Valerie Matthews-Lemieux, and Cam MacInnes, as well as representatives of Manitoba Hydro and the environmental study team. The committee is working on regulatory issues, such as discussions with regulators about the review process, the review of submissions to the regulators, etc.

The Roles of Manitoba and Canada in the Environmental Approval Process

There are agencies in the governments of both Canada and Manitoba that regulate the environment (officials in these agencies are often

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environment (officials in these agencies are often referred to as regulators). The roles of Manitoba and Canada are based mainly on two laws: the Manitoba Environment Act and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, and the recent federal-provincial agreements on how to conduct environmental reviews to comply with the laws.

Manitoba Environment Act

The goal of the Manitoba Environment Act is to prevent environmental damage, and to make sure that Manitoba's environment is protected for future generations. The Act requires that all developments that may significantly affect the environment be carefully examined before construction. In this way, the proposed development can be planned to reduce negative impacts to the environment as much as possible.



The public has the opportunity to provide input into decisions that may affect the environment. Once a proposal has been officially filed, the public can review and comment on the proposal, the assessment process and schedule, and the assessment report. Public meetings hosted by those who wish to build the development, or public hearings by the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission, or both, may be part of the review process.

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act was passed to support the goal of sustainable development in Canada. It applies to projects that involve federal departments. Like the Manitoba Environment Act, it makes sure that the effects of a project on the environment are considered as early as possible in the planning stages. The Act also allows for public input into the decision-making process.

The Act says that environmental assessments must look at how a proposed project may change the land, air and water environment, including the plants and animals that live in the environment, **and** the effect that these changes in the environment may have on health and socio-economic conditions, physical and cultural heritage, traditional aboriginal land and resource use, and historical and archaeological sites.

Canada-Manitoba Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation

Approval for new generating stations at Notigi and Wuskwatim would have to be obtained from both the governments of Canada and Manitoba. However, NCN and Hydro would be able to satisfy the requirements of both governments in one process, because Canada and Manitoba have an agreement that they would work together w[illegible] one project requires approval from bo[illegible] governments.

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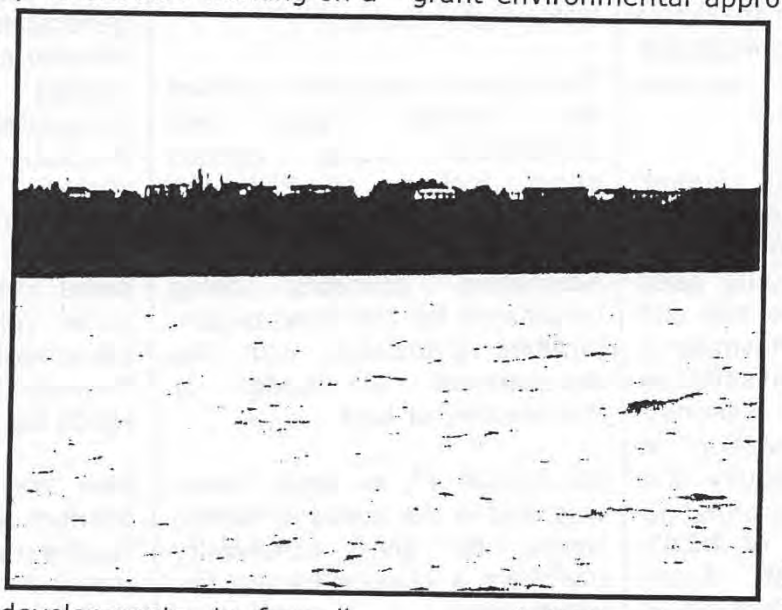
Steps in the Approval Process for the Proposed Notigi and Wuskwatim Projects

Initial discussions with regulators: NCN and Hydro have contacted the regulators in the governments of Manitoba and Canada to informally discuss the approval process for these projects, and an initial meeting has been held. The regulators have established a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) made up of officials from different government departments and agencies. NCN and Hydro are now working on a draft document that will outline what should be included in the EIS. This document will be discussed with the TAC, and provide the basis for draft guidelines for the EIS.



Filing an Environment Act Proposal Form: NCN and Hydro would file this proposal, which provides details about the proposed developments, to formally start the approval process. The Environment Act Proposal Form is placed on the public registry so that the public can provide their comments. (The public registry is a file that contains all the official documents about a particular project, and is usually kept in a major public building where anyone that is interested in a project can look at the documents.)

Prepare guidelines for the EIS: The regulators will place the draft guidelines of what should be looked at in the environmental studies and described in the EIS on the public registry so that the public can provide their comments. A final version of these guidelines will then be prepared.

EIS submitted: The EIS is submitted for review to the governments of Manitoba and Canada. It is also placed on the public registry.

Public hearings are held: Hearings are held in front of a panel, which is appointed by Manitoba and Canada. Various witnesses are called to testify at the hearings. At the conclusion of the hearings, the panel writes a report and makes recommendations about granting a licence and any suggested terms and conditions that should be met by NCN and Hydro.

Decisions about issuing environmental approvals: The governments of Manitoba and Canada each make decisions about whether to grant environmental approvals for the proposed projects.

What Agreements are Needed Before the Projects can Proceed?

NCN and Hydro are now working on a non-binding agreement-in-principle (AIP), which will be the subject of a community information program and ratification vote. If the AIP is approved, NCN and Hydro will begin discussing a Project Development Agreement (PDA). The PDA is a legally binding agreement that would describe the relationship between NCN and Hydro for the proposed projects. The PDA would need to be approved by NCN membership before Chief and Council would sign this agreement with Hydro. Before the project was built, Hydro would also have to decide to proceed. NCN and Hydro may also decide to enter into various other agreements about matters of mutual interest.

If it is decided to build the project, and the necessary environmental approvals are obtained from the governments of Canada and Manitoba, construction would start. The environmental studies would continue during and after the construction period, to make sure that there are no unexpected effects of the project. Such monitoring studies are usually a condition of the environmental approval that is issued by the regulators.

OPTIONS FOR TRANSMISSION FACILITIES

NCN is considering whether to become a partner with Manitoba Hydro in a new generating station at Notigi or Wuskwatim or both. Manitoba Hydro is also considering whether to pursue these projects. NCN's objectives for the proposed Future Developments are to maximize economic development opportunities and minimize environmental impact.

As indicated in the August newsletter, a new generating station at Wuskwatim (Taskinigup Falls) would need an access road, camp site and work areas, and transmission facilities (including transmission lines and transformer stations). A new generating station at Notigi would also require the construction of transmission facilities. Members of NCN's Future Development Team identified the need early on to consider a range of alternative concepts for these facilities, including concepts identified by NCN.

An Alternatives Committee, with representatives from NCN, NCN advisors, Manitoba Hydro and the Environmental Study Team, is currently gathering information to help the parties compare the alternatives. This information will help NCN and Manitoba Hydro make decisions about which alternatives best meet the needs of both. The committee will look at many things, including:

- effects on NCN, including both positive and negative effects on the community;
- effects on the environment, including wildlife and wildlife habitat; and
- effects on the Project, including differences in cost to build the various alternatives and, in the case of transmission facilities, differences in the dependability of the transmission system.

The August newsletter outlined the access road and construction camp options being looked at for the Wuskwatim Generating Station. This article will outline alternative concepts being considered for the transmission facilities associated with the development of Notigi or Wuskwatim, or both.

On August 3rd, an Open House was held in the arena at Nelson House to give community members a chance to see the alternative transmission concepts identified, and to tell the Alternatives Committee what they saw as the pros and cons of each. The next part of this article describes the transmission alternatives within the NCN Resource Management Area. What community members had to say at the Open House on August 3rd is summarized in the final part of the article.

Transmission Facilities

Construction of generating stations at either Notigi or Wuskwatim would require construction of new transmission facilities to deliver electricity from the generating stations to the people and businesses that would buy and use it. New transformer/switching stations would be required at both Notigi and Wuskwatim as part of the generating station site developments. These transformer stations would take the electricity from the generating stations and transform it to the higher voltage necessary for transmission to the existing Manitoba Hydro transmission system. The new facilities would be operated at 230,000 volts (or 230 kilovolts) or, in some cases, at 138 kV (the same voltage as the existing transmission line between Thompson and Laurie River which serves Nelson House)

New transmission lines would connect either the Notigi or Wuskwatim transformer stations to existing transformer/switching stations on the Manitoba Hydro system. The points of connection would be at Thompson (a proposed new transformer/switching station on the south side of the city to be called Birch tree Station) and at Snow Lake (an existing transformer station on the northeast side of the community called Herblet Lake Station). Birch tree Station, and a transmission line connecting it to Herblet Lake Station, would be required (to improve the existing Manitoba Hydro transmission system) even if the Notigi or Wuskwatim generating stations were developed.

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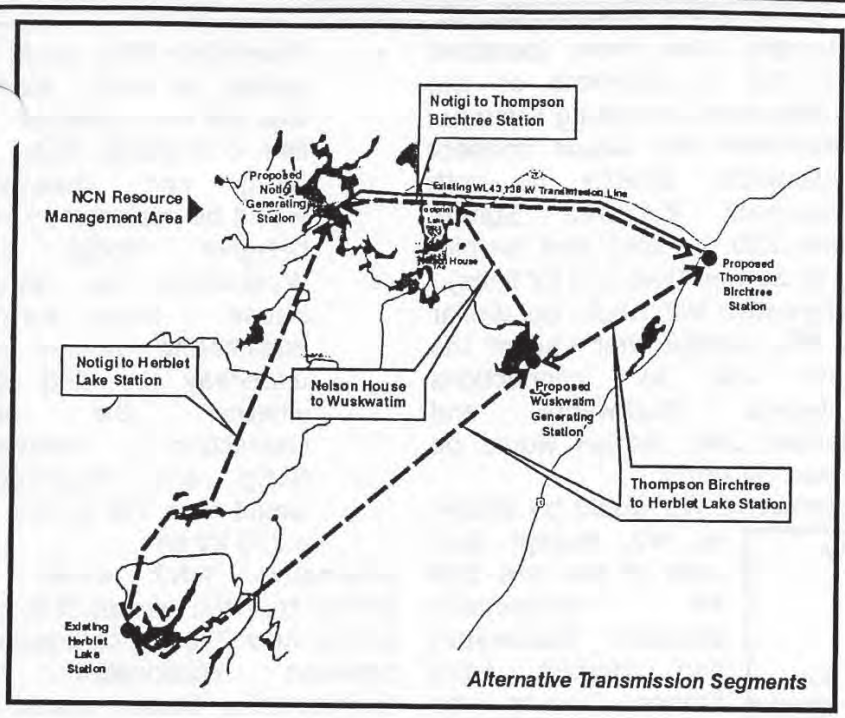


Alternative Transmission Segments

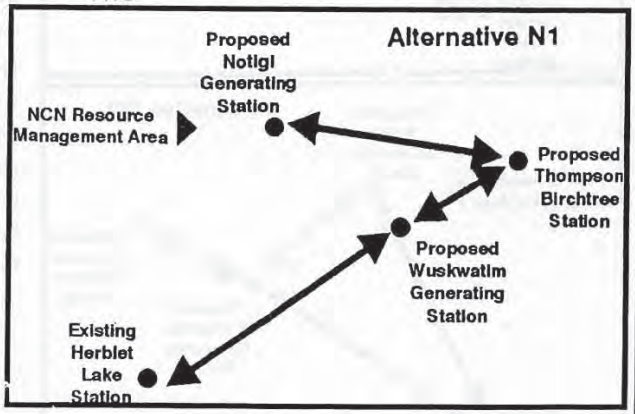
The new transformer/switching stations at Notigi and Wuskwatim would be within the NCN Resource Management Area, as would portions of the new transmission lines. Other portions of the lines, and their connection to the existing system, would be outside the NCN area.

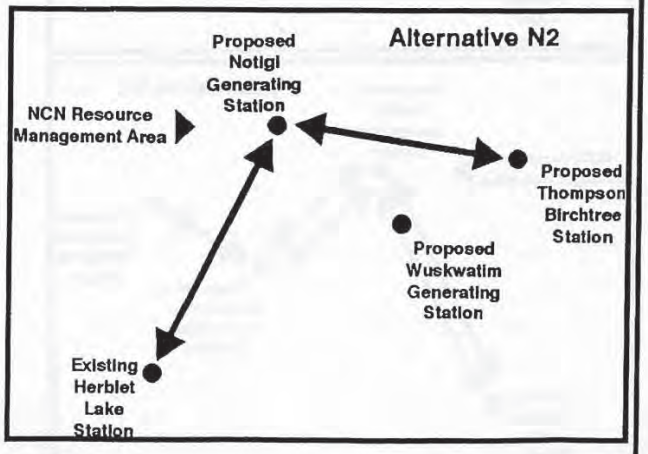
The alternative transmission concepts for either Notigi, Wuskwatim, or both generating stations combined, would involve some combination of transmission line segments providing links between the two generating station sites (Notigi and Wuskwatim) and the two points of connection to the existing Manitoba Hydro system (the proposed Birchtree Station at Thompson and the existing Herblet Lake Station at Snow Lake).

There are four major transmission line segments under consideration. These, as shown on Figure 1, include Thompson Birchtree to Herblet Lake Station, Notigi to Herblet Lake Station, Notigi to Thompson and Nelson House to Wuskwatim. The Thompson Birchtree to Herblet Lake Station segment consists of two sub-segments; from Thompson to Wuskwatim, and from Wuskwatim to Herblet Lake Station. The Notigi to Thompson segment also consists of two sub-segments from Notigi to the Nelson House transformer station (on the existing 138 kV transmission line between Thompson and Laurie River), and from Nelson House transformer station to Thompson. The various segments and sub-segments identified are not routes, but simply represent the shortest straight-line distance (avoiding lakes) between the various generating station and transformer station sites. These transmission line segments and sub-segments could be combined to provide transmission facilities for either Notigi or Wuskwatim, or for both projects combined, as follows:

Notigi Only

Two alternative transmission concepts have been identified for the development of the Notigi Generating Station: Alternative N1 would provide a direct 138 kV connection between Notigi and Thompson. Thompson Birchtree Station





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- would be connected to Herblet Lake Station via a 230 kV transmission line.

Alternative N2 would deliver the electricity directly from Notigi to Herblet Lake Station via a 230 kV transmission line. Some further engineering studies are underway to find out whether an additional 138 kV line from Notigi to Thompson might be required (as for Alternative N1)

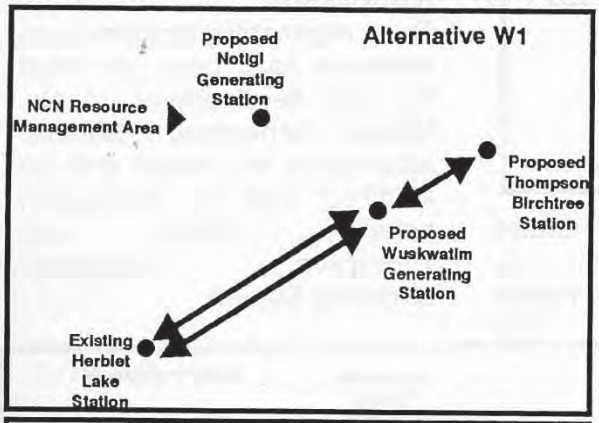
Wuskwatim Only:

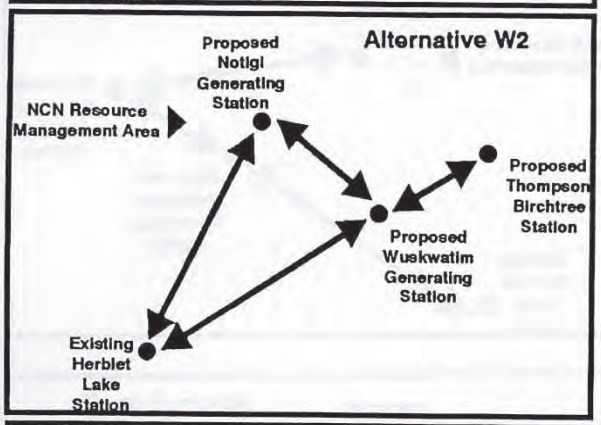
Three alternative transmission concepts have been identified for the development of the Wuskwatim Generating Station:

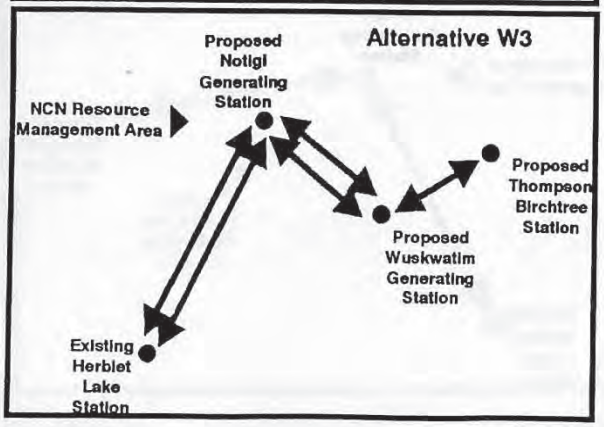
Alternative W1 would connect Wuskwatim directly to both Thompson Birchtree Station (one 230 kV line) and Herblet Lake Station (two 230 kV lines).

Alternative W2 would be similar to W1, except that one of the new 230 kV connections between Wuskwatim and Herblet Lake Station would be made via Notigi.

Alternative W3 would be similar to W2, except that both of the new 230 kV connections between Wuskwatim and Herblet Lake Station would be made via Notigi.







Notigi and Wuskwatim Combined:

Three alternative transmission concepts have been identified for the combined development of both the Notigi and Wuskwatim Generating Stations:

- Alternative WN1 would connect Notigi directly to Thompson, and Thompson directly to Herblet Lake Station via Wuskwatim (one 230 kV line between Wuskwatim and Thompson; two 230 kV lines between Wuskwatim and Herblet Lake Station).
- Alternative WN2 would be similar to WN1, except that the new transmission line connection between Notigi and Thompson would be replaced by one between Notigi and Wuskwatim via Nelson House. Some further engineering studies are underway to find out whether the new connection between Notigi and Wuskwatim would be a 138 kV line or a 230 kV line.

Alternative WN3 would be similar to WN2, except that one of the new 230 kV connections between Wuskwatim and Herblet Lake Station would be made via Notigi.

Thompson to Wuskwatim Segment:

In the segment between Thompson and Herblet Lake Station (involved in all of the alternative concepts except N2), three alternative ways of providing a connection between Thompson and Wuskwatim have been identified (i.e., north of the Burntwood River, south of the Burntwood River, or along the existing 138 kV transmission line right-of-way to Nelson House and then south to Wuskwatim).

Final Route Selection

The alternative transmission concepts under consideration are not transmission line routes. Following community comments and comparison of the alternative transmission concepts, transmission line routes will be selected. The selection of specific routes be adjusted to avoid important

.....continued

areas such as burial sites, ceremonial sites, and sensitive environmental areas.

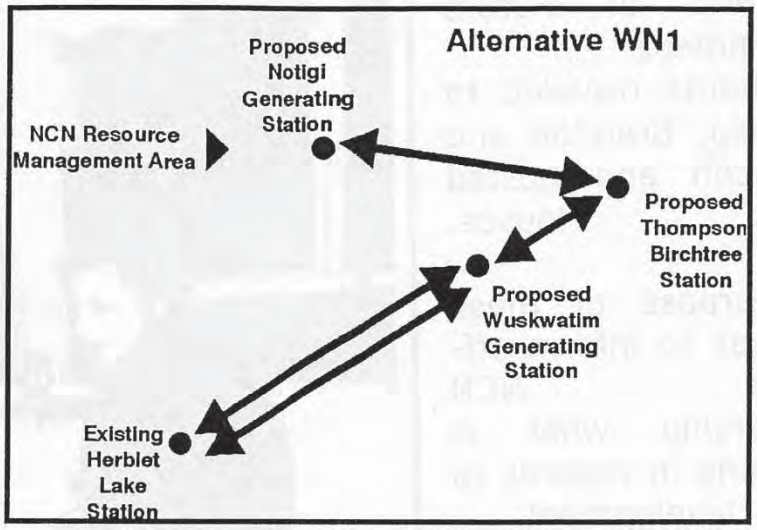
What You Told Us about Transmission Facilities at the August Open House

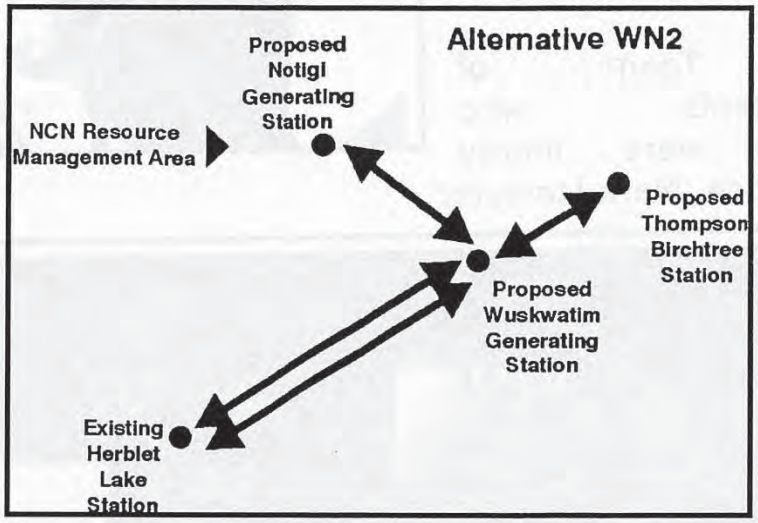
During the Open House held on August 3, community members were invited to give their views about the benefits and drawbacks of the transmission alternatives. Some people filled out questionnaires, while others spoke in person to Community Consultants, Manitoba Hydro staff and members of the Environmental Study Team on hand for the Open House. Although not many people filled out questionnaires, the following highlights what was said about transmission alternatives.

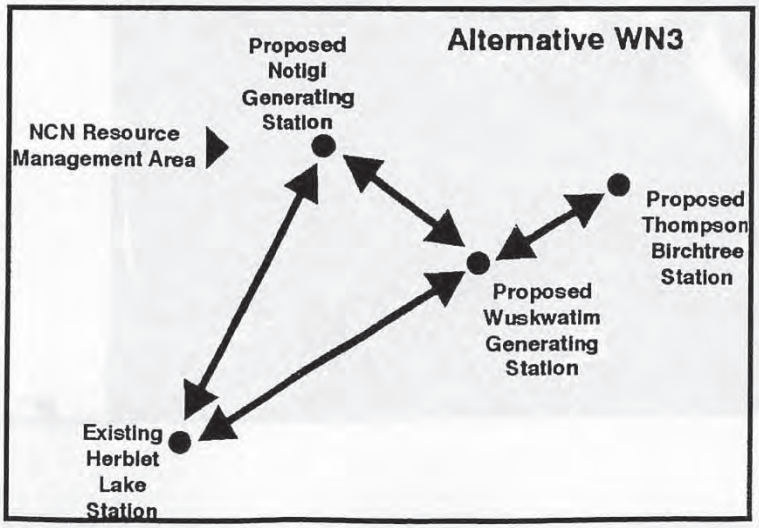
Some community members expressed concern about the possible effects of transmission lines on wildlife and trapping, and wondered what could be done to offset these effects. It was also felt that the community could benefit from jobs and business opportunities associated with the construction of the transmission lines. At the next Open House, members wanted to see information on the types of transmission line structures (wood or steel), possible training opportunities, and electric and magnetic fields.

What's Ahead

The Alternatives Committee is collecting the information required to help compare the alternatives for the access road, camp and transmission facilities. This information will be presented to the NCN Future Development Team and Manitoba Hydro. Open Houses are also planned to give community members the opportunity to provide further input into the alternatives.







FUTURE DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS INFORM OFF-RESERVE MEMBERSHIP

A group of Future Development Consultants traveled to Winnipeg, Brandon and Thompson and hosted Open Houses.



The purpose of these trips was to inform off-reserve NCN membership what is happening in regards to Future Development.

The Team of Consultants who traveled were: Jimmy D. Spence, Mark Linklater,



Earl Hart, Terry Linklater, Donna Moore/Linklater, Lisa McDonald, Henry Wood and Ryan Spence. The trip took place: October 16 & 17 in Winnipeg, October 19 & 20 in Brandon, and October 25, 26, 27 at Thompson.

Jimmy D. Spence says the meeting held in Winnipeg, Brandon and Thompson were well attended. A great deal the information focused

on Training and Employment, Partnership and the Environmental dies.



Some of the questions asked were:

- When is the training going to start?
- Where is NCN going to get its equity to enter into a Partnership?
- Where are the environmental studies going to be done and made available?



of housing at NCN.

- NCN memberships who live in Thompson expressed that they would like a meeting with Chief and Council, Hydro officials and the Consultants so they can discuss their concerns with them.

Many of NCN's off-reserve membership had opinions that they expressed. Some of these opinions were:

- We need to look towards the future and make sure our youth are looked after in regards to the training and job opportunities.
- The 1996 Implementation agreement fell short for off-reserve members who had to relocate because of the lack



NCN Speaks

Highlights from the NCN Opinion Survey

Special Edition — Winter 2000

NCN Vision Statement: *To exercise sovereignty that sustains a prosperous socio-economic future for the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation*

Message from the Future Development Team:

Thank you for guiding us

Tansi. Between May and July 2000, many of you participated in the NCN Opinion Survey. This survey was developed by the leadership of NCN to gain a better understanding of our membership's views, hopes and concerns regarding potential future hydroelectric development in the area. We also wanted to hear your views on a range of social, education and recreation issues.

The results of this survey will not simply sit on a shelf to collect dust. They are already being used to guide our discussions with Manitoba Hydro and to shape community development planning. They are already being used in decisions affecting our children and our children's children.

So from the start, we give a heartfelt thanks to all of you who took the time to participate in this very important survey.

We are pleased to outline the survey process and share some of the main results in this newsletter. If you would like more detailed information on the survey results, we invite you to come to the Future Development Office to consult copies of an analysis report.

Ekasoni.

Chief Jerry Primrose; Councillors Elvis Thomas, D'Arcy Linklater, Jim Moore, David Spence, Agnes Spence and Jimmy Hunter-Spence; Elder Sam Dysart; Co-managers Norman Linklater and Marcel Moody; Cam MacInnes, Bruce Hickey, Tim Nykoluk, Ron Spence, Ed Vystrcil, Bill Yetman, Bob Lederman and Valerie Matthews-Lemieux

The Survey Process

Who conducted the survey?

The survey team consisted of 27 NCN members, including the seven permanent community consultants and 20 temporary consultants. Five of these focussed primarily on interviewing Elders in Cree, and three worked on coding answers for analysis. InterGroup Consultants of Winnipeg provided advice and onsite organizational support.

How was it done, and what was all that about 'most recent birthdays'?

The NCN Opinion Survey was designed in two stages or 'passes', and participation was voluntary.

Process continued on p. 2

NCN Chief and Council have not made any commitments to Manitoba Hydro to build any projects. Chief and Council is involved in preliminary discussions only and will make commitments only if the projects are feasible and if the NCN membership agrees after review of all the information.

– Chief and Council

Inside this Special Edition...

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Highlights of what you told us about...

NOTE: The results reported in this newsletter are based on the total number of people who answered the particular question, rather than the 813 people interviewed for the survey.

Process continued from p. 1

For the first pass, the survey team went to each household and asked to speak first with the person who had 'the most recent birthday'. This approach was used to ensure that at least one person in each of the approximately 400 households in Nelson House participated in the survey, and that there was good representation of all different age groups (16 years of age and older), both male and female.

For the second pass, the surveyors went back to each household to speak with whomever else (16 years of age and older) wanted to complete the survey. The hope was to have as many people participate as possible during the survey timeframe.

In total, approximately 377 households were surveyed for the first pass, with 436 people interviewed for the second pass, for a total of 813 responses (68% of the 1,200 NCN members in Nelson House). There is only a 1-2% difference in the survey results between the first and second passes, which underscores that it is possible to get very good survey results by using random sample methods (scientific methods that enable gathering accurate and representative data without speaking to every person in a community).

Confidentiality: Where are the surveys now, and what will happen to them?

The individual survey results are strictly confidential. People were asked for their names and Treaty numbers only to keep track of who had participated. No names or Treaty numbers were ever used in the data analysis, and the surveys have since been assigned random numbers.

The survey forms will be kept in sealed boxes at Myers Weinberg's law offices in Winnipeg, and will be destroyed after one year, in keeping with the process followed for votes and elections.

...Awareness of potential future hydro projects

At the time of the survey, there was little awareness of the possible hydro projects at Taskinigup Falls and Notigi. Most said they had heard 'nothing' (44%) or 'a little' (46%), with more people recalling something about Taskinigup than Notigi. People said they heard about the projects through friends and neighbours (54%), newsletters (51%), community consultants (41%), radio (23%), Chief and Council (24%) and the April public open house (19%).

NCN members also indicated they prefer to get information through meetings and workshops. In response, since the survey was completed a number of consultations and meetings have taken place, as well as a second and third public open house.

...Priorities for potential hydro development

NCN members identified several issues as very important in future hydro development:

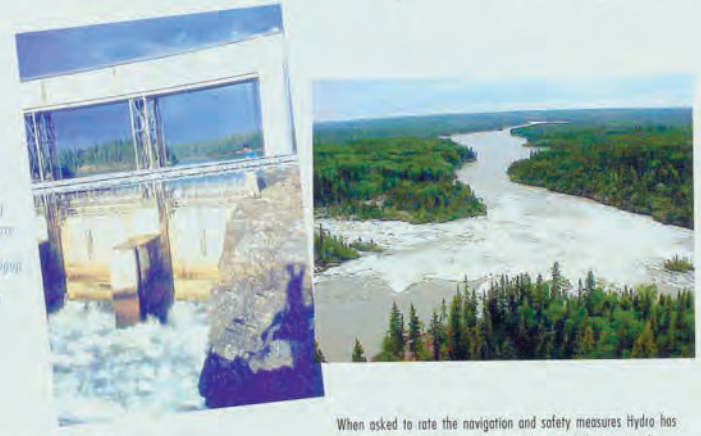
- More than 90% felt it was very important to train local residents; create employment opportunities for local residents; protect human health and safety; protect their way of life and culture; protect important sites; protect water quality, big game animals and plants; maintain the beauty of the area; develop the community; and create business opportunities for local residents.
- More than 80% felt it was very important to minimize flooding; protect fish and furbearing animals; address navigation and safety; compensate for damages; involve the community in hydro-related decisions; and monitor effects.
- More than 70% felt it was very important for NCN to own part of the project and to improve access for NCN to its Resource Management Area.
- More than 50% felt it was very important to control access by non-residents to the NCN RMA and to the community.

Manitoba Hydro and NCN will review these matters and try to find measures to address them.



The NCN Opinion Survey team consisted of 27 NCN members.

...Potential Future Hydro Development



Notigi control structure (left), Taskinigup Falls (right)

...Concerns and benefits

People were asked to identify their concerns about the potential hydro development at Taskinigup and Notigi, and the benefits the projects might generate

The top concerns were:

- Flooding (30% for Taskinigup; 28% for Notigi)
- Negative environmental impacts (29% for Taskinigup; 28% for Notigi)
- Ensuring jobs go to NCN members (12% for Taskinigup; 7% for Notigi).

The major benefits identified were:

- Job creation
- Training opportunities
- NCN would benefit economically.

The individual survey results are strictly confidential... The survey forms will be kept in sealed boxes at Myers Weinberg's law offices in Winnipeg, and will be destroyed after one year, in keeping with the process followed for votes and elections.

... Navigation and safety

Just over half of NCN members surveyed (52%) had traveled on lakes and rivers in the NCN Resource Management Area (RMA) in the past year. Of these, approximately half (49%) said they had encountered navigational difficulties such as debris (49%), slush (17%) and stumps (12%).

When asked to rate the navigation and safety measures Hydro has implemented in the RMA, most said they were effective. People identified additional measures that would be helpful, including:

- More easily visible signs for hazardous areas (14%)
- Experienced guides (8%)
- Removing all debris from the water and shorelines (6%).

...Support/interest in potential future hydro development

Based on what they know now, many NCN members surveyed said they would definitely support (21%) or probably support (34%) potential future hydro development. Reasons included increased employment opportunities (50%) and that it seemed beneficial to the community (18%).

However, a significant number were not sure (34%), and a smaller number said they would probably not (5%) or definitely not (6%) support potential future hydro development. Reasons given for this view included not enough information (31%), the unpredictability of the future (8%), environmental impacts (7%) and distrust of Manitoba Hydro (6%).

Potential Development continued on p. 5

Highlights of what you told us about...





...'96 Implementation Agreement

Overall, NCN members felt they were not familiar with the existing '96 Implementation Agreement. Only 7% said they were 'very familiar', with 41% 'somewhat familiar' and 52% 'not at all familiar'.

People seemed more familiar with particular components of the Agreement and offered opinions with regards to their satisfaction with these. In general they expressed moderate satisfaction, with highest satisfaction for the Country Food Program, the Elder Subsidy Program, the Cultural and Traditional Program and the future development planning process.

...Venture Investments

Most people felt proud of the ventures in which Trust funds have been invested, including:

- OT Gas
- Mystery Lake Hotel
- Gaming Commission
- Lucky Dollar Store
- Footprint Engineering
- Nelson House Forest Products
- Wapisu Air
- Meetah Building Supplies.

Most felt these ventures had benefited NCN, although many people said they needed more information on the profits and how they are being used in order to comment further.



Bay road (above left), Open House (above right), Survey Team member gazes up at OT Gas (left).

...Input in Decision-Making about the Use of Funds for Investments

Most people surveyed (82%) felt NCN members should participate in determining how profits should be used.

The most frequent suggestion for how this participation should take place was 'meetings and workshops to provide information and get people's opinions' (47%). Other suggestions included 'voting' (18%) and 'participation in decisions by all NCN members' (11%). A number of people (11%) also stated they 'need more information about how money is spent', but did not specify how this information should be disseminated.

Many NCN members (67%) said they had not attended the Community Approval Process meetings. Several reasons were given, including:

- 'never heard of them' (18%)
- 'not interested' (12%)
- 'out of town' (12%)
- 'too busy to attend' (11%).

...Past Agreements, Investments and Experience with Limestone Project Training and Employment

...Limestone Project Training and Employment

Only a small number of people (6%) had experience with training and employment with Manitoba Hydro through the Limestone project. While a range of answers was given regarding the amount of time spent training and in employment, the most frequent amount of time spent training was two months (17%) with two months of employment (23%). The top three jobs were in security, carpentry and other manual labour.

...Business Opportunities

Around two-thirds of NCN members surveyed (64%) said they would be interested in contracts and business opportunities related to new hydro development.

People mentioned a variety of different types of opportunities, with the top three being catering (19%), security (21%) and equipment rental (6%). They also identified barriers to fulfilling these opportunities, including 'access to financial resources' (19%), 'lack of business training' (7%) and 'other competition' (7%).

Of those people interested in pursuing business opportunities, 82% had not previously owned or operated a business and 74% had no training in operating a business. However, almost all of them (88%) expressed interest in business training.



Cafe at Wuskwatim Construction, June 20-23, 2000. NCN members, Manitoba Hydro representatives and other interested parties came together to conduct consultations at the potential hydro development site, Taskinigup Falls.

...Unions

Only 13% of NCN members surveyed had experience with unions. Many did not know what a union was.

Potential Development continued from p. 3

...Partnering with other First Nations

There was a split in answers with regards to partnering with other First Nations on hydro development. On partnering on projects *within* the NCN RMA, 41% were in favour, 41% were opposed and 19% did not know. On partnering on projects *outside* the NCN RMA, 42% were in favour, 37% were opposed and 21% did not know.

There was more openness to partnering with other First Nations on other types of economic ventures within the NCN RMA.

...Trust in Manitoba Hydro

Asked about their level of trust in Manitoba Hydro, 25% of NCN members surveyed said they trust Manitoba Hydro somewhat or completely, while 46% said they distrust Manitoba Hydro either somewhat or completely. Among the top reasons given for distrust were 'past history' (39%), 'broken promises' (42%) and 'lack of commitment to past agreements' (9%).

The most frequent answers to the question of what it would take to regain trust in Manitoba Hydro were 'keep promises to NCN and other First Nations peoples' (18%) and 'honesty from government and Hydro' (15%). However, 11% of NCN members surveyed said nothing could be done to regain their trust.

Highlights of what you told us about...

...Nelson House's present situation and how things look for the future

When asked to identify the good things about Nelson House, the most frequent answers involved social relations, including:

- 'lots of family and friends' (38%)
- 'it's home' (14%)
- 'people are friendly' (11%)
- 'close-knit community' (7%).

Several people tied the good things about Nelson House to economic factors, such as 'employment opportunities' (15%) and 'new economic development opportunities' (6%).

With regards to the negative aspects of Nelson House, people identified 'substance abuse' (59%), 'unemployment' (17%), 'the state of the roads' (18%) and 'lack of landscaping' (12%).





The Wellness Centre (left) and the Medicine Lodge (right)

Many different answers were given to the question of what shouldn't change in Nelson House, although the most frequent answer (18%) was 'our culture and way of life'.

Asked to name one change that would benefit Nelson House the most in the next five years, NCN members said:

- Higher employment (22%)
- Infrastructure (e.g., paved roads and sidewalks) (14%)
- More housing (8%)
- Better education (8%).

Most NCN members surveyed (71%) said they felt good about the future of Nelson House. The reasons for this positive outlook were mostly economic, such as 'job opportunities' (32%), 'right now it looks positive' (25%) and 'economic development' (23%).

...What you think might happen to Nelson House's population

Three-quarters of people who commented on this question said they had immediate family members living off-reserve. About half of these expected some family members (between 1 to 3) to move back to Nelson House if hydro development proceeded.

Considering there are approximately 400 families and a total population of 1,200 in Nelson House, this means NCN members expect there would be an additional 150 to 450 NCN members returning, representing between a 12 and 22% population increase. In addition, about one-third of NCN members surveyed also expected members of other First Nations or communities to try to settle in Nelson House.

...Impacts of In-Migration

People were very concerned about the negative social impacts of this in-migration. While a wide variety of impacts were identified, the most common concern was a housing shortage (36%). Additional concerns were:

- More unemployment and welfare (9%)
- The creation of community tension and jealousy (8%)
- Increased crime and violence (7%)
- Overpopulation (6%)
- Fear that non-NCN members will get jobs (5%).

...Social, Education and Recreation Issues

...Social Issues

Social issues are a big concern to all NCN members surveyed:

- Over 90% said they were *very concerned* about unemployment, vandalism, theft, assault and sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse and fetal alcohol syndrome.
- Between 80-90% said they were *very concerned* about housing shortage, setting fires, sniffing and illegal drug use, alcohol abuse, spousal abuse, suicide, poverty, poor parenting and teenage pregnancy.
- Between 70-80% said they were *very concerned* about family breakdown and lack of volunteers.

...Education

In general, NCN members did not feel the education system is doing as well as they would like.

They would like to see the Nursery to Grade 8 school system 'teach Cree language' (15%), 'encourage students to stay in school' (14%) and 'teach Cree culture' (10%).

NCN members want the Grade 9 to Grade 12 school system to 'encourage students to stay in school' (11%), 'have more graduates' (11%) and 'offer more courses' (9%). They would also like to 'return to the old school system' (9%).

The Nelson House Education Authority has already taken some first steps to address these concerns. This year, Grade 9 students will have more direct contact with teachers and less time in the computer lab. Teachers will be assigned to teach core subjects, including English, Math, Science and Social Studies at specified times.

Grades 10, 11 and 12 and those in adult education will continue to complete their core courses through the Odyssey learning system on the computer. However, these students – together with those from Grade 9 – will also be able to enroll in 12 new elective courses taught by teachers.

Finally, a Senior High School Council of parents, students and teachers is being created to encourage more involvement with upcoming changes.

These are only the first in a series of changes that will take place to strengthen our school system and pave the way for brighter futures for our children.

...Recreation

Over half of NCN members surveyed felt there were *enough* summer recreation programs, winter festivals and summer festivals.

However, more than half said there were *not enough* volunteers, funding, facilities, traditional dancing, sweats, drum groups or winter, spring and fall recreation programs.

People were asked what other programs or facilities are needed. The top answers were 'an indoor swimming pool' (14%), 'more funding' (14%) and 'greater interest and participation by NCN members' (15%).





Members of the future generation (above) and commercial fisher (right).

As a community we fought hard to gain control of our education system and it is as a community that we will be able to create an education system that meets the needs of our children and our children's children.

– Nelson House Education Authority

...Country Food Use

NCN members gave detailed information about their country food use. They were also asked about their satisfaction with the Country Food Program. In general, there was high satisfaction; most (78%) said they would use more country food if it were available through the Program, particularly moose meat, caribou, ducks, geese, fish and rabbits.



Message from the Future Development Team:

You Spoke and We've Heard...

You Spoke...

Overall, the NCN Opinion Survey shows that our membership is quite positive about the future of our community.

While at the time of the survey there was a relatively low awareness about the potential hydro projects at Taskinigup and Notigi, many felt they would probably support these projects because of the positive economic possibilities they might bring. However, a significant number of people are still undecided.

In addition, some very important concerns emerged regarding environmental and social impacts. And aside from potential future development, opinions were given on a variety of important social, recreation and educational issues.

We've Heard...

Already we are working towards addressing some of your concerns. With regards to potential future hydro development, information from the Opinion Survey has been woven into the draft Agreement In Principle (AIP) with Manitoba Hydro, which is the framework we will use for future discussions. Ratification of the AIP will provide Chief and Council with its mandate to negotiate a Project Development Agreement. The entire NCN membership will have the opportunity to vote on the AIP in February, 2001. The vote will occur in Nelson House, South Indian Lake, Winnipeg, Thompson and Brandon.

With regards to needing more information on the potential future hydro developments, we held a second Open House in July and a third in August, and we continue to highlight the projects in the Future Development Newsletter. More Open Houses are planned for January and February. We invite you to stop by the Future Development Office to speak with our community consultants about any questions you might have.

On the issues you raised about our school system, we have started an educational review process and have already instituted some changes. Again, we ask anyone who is interested to participate in this review by contacting Nelson House Education Authority Board members, the Principal or the Vice-Principal of the school.

As we look to the future, we will continue to consult the results of the Opinion Survey in our community development planning processes.

You have raised some critical issues that we will all have to weigh very carefully as we make decisions that will affect our community for generations to come.

You have raised some critical issues that we will all have to weigh very carefully as we make decisions that will affect our community for generations to come. We encourage you to keep thinking about these issues, and to keep asking the tough questions, so that as a community we approach our decisions with foresight, integrity and balance.



Some of the things we will be thinking about in future discussions and decisions.

What Next?

- Working sessions were held in November to finish the first draft of the AIP. A community vote has been scheduled for February 22nd and 28th, 2001.
- The January and February Open Houses and newsletter will continue to provide up-to-date information about future development.

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Elders' Views

Highlights of Elders' Opinions from the NCN Opinion Survey

Special Insert in the NCN Opinion Survey Newsletter **Winter 2000**

Interviewing Elders: The Special Elders' Team

During the NCN Opinion Survey, a special team of five interviewers was established to survey elders in the community. The elders' team consisted of Jimmy D. Spence, Ella Moose, Hilda Spence, Stanley H. Spence and Samson Hunter.

All members of the elders' team were fluent in Cree and English. This allowed them to translate the survey questions into Cree and to translate the answers given by elders into English.



Jimmy D. Spence speaks with Elders at a Future Development Open House

During the NCN Opinion Survey, elders were considered to be members over the age of 60. In total, 80 of the 103 elders living in the NCN RMA, or 78%, were interviewed.

This special insert in the NCN Opinion Survey newsletter highlights what elders had to say about Future Development and other issues in Nelson House.

Complete survey results can be seen at the Future Development Office.

Highlights of what Elders told us about...

Potential Future Hydro Development

...Awareness of potential future hydro projects

At the time of the survey (between May and July 2000), very few elders (6%) had heard a lot about the possible hydro projects at Taskinigup Falls and Notigi. Most said they had heard 'nothing' (60%) or 'a little' (34%). Since that time, a lot of effort has gone into telling people about the possible projects.

...Priorities for potential hydro development

NCN elders indicated that the following should be priorities for future hydro development:

- More than 90% felt it was very important to create employment, training and business opportunities for local residents; involve the community in hydro-related decisions; minimize flooding; compensate for damages; protect important sites; protect NCN way of life and culture; develop the community; protect water quality, fish, plants, big-game animals and fur-bearing animals; address navigation and safety; protect human health and safety; maintain the beauty of the area; and clear the shoreline and manage debris.
- More than 80% felt it was very important to have NCN own part of the project; improve NCN access to its RMA; monitor effects; and control access by non-residents to the community.
- More than 70% felt it was very important to restrict access for others to the NCN RMA.

Continued on Page 2

Potential Development continued from Page 1

...Support/interest in potential future hydro development

Based on what they knew at the time of the survey (May to July 2000), many elders said they would definitely support (29%) or probably support (14%) potential future hydro development. The main reasons for their support were 'increased employment opportunities' and 'it seems beneficial to the community'.

At the time of the survey (May to July 2000), some said they would definitely not support (18%) or would probably not support (11%) future hydro development. Reasons included 'distrust of Hydro' and 'lack of information about the projects'.

Approximately 28% of NCN elders were not sure whether they would support future development.

...Concerns and Benefits

Elders identified their concerns and what they saw as potential benefits from the proposed hydro developments at Taskinigup Falls and Notigi. Their top concerns were negative environmental impacts, flooding, debris in waterways, water levels and navigational safety. The main benefits they identified were job creation/employment, training opportunities and compensation.

...Partnering with other First Nations

In general, NCN elders were in favour of partnering with other First Nations on hydro developments. On partnering in projects within the NCN RMA, 61% were in favour, 28% were opposed and 11% did not know. On partnering on projects outside the NCN RMA, 58% were in favour, 30% were opposed and 13% did not know.

A greater proportion of elders favoured partnering with other First Nations on other economic ventures (71%) in the NCN RMA.

...Trust in Manitoba Hydro

The majority of NCN elders indicated that they completely distrust (59%) or somewhat distrust (13%) Manitoba Hydro. Reasons included 'past promises broken by Manitoba Hydro' and 'past history'.

About 10% of elders completely trusted Manitoba Hydro and some trust was indicated by 14% of elders. Their trust was based mostly on new hydro developments benefitting NCN.



Camp site at the Wuskwatim ceremonies. June 20-23, 2000.

Life in Nelson House

...Nelson House's present situation

When asked to identify the good things about living in Nelson House, most elders responded by saying 'its home' (29%) or 'lots of family and friends' (15%).

Elders said the bad things about living in Nelson House were 'substance abuse' (46%), 'needing better roads' (14%), 'violence' (11%) and 'poor quality of drinking water' (11%).

...How elders think things look for the future

Regarding the future of Nelson House, 63% of elders said they feel good about the future and 16% said they do not feel good. The main reasons for feeling good about the future were:

- 'job opportunities' (36%)
- 'right now the future looks positive' (24%)
- 'economic development' (16%).

When asked what would improve Nelson House the most in the next five years, elders said 'higher employment' (20%), 'paved roads and sidewalks' (14%) and 'less alcoholism' (8%).

Most elders felt that, whatever else happens in the future, NCN culture and way of life (23%) and Aboriginal rights (20%) should not change.

...Social Issues

Social issues were a big concern to NCN elders:

- Over 90% were very concerned about unemployment, vandalism, theft, sexual assault, setting fires, sniffing and illegal drug use, alcohol abuse, spousal abuse, child abuse, elder abuse, suicide, poverty, family breakdowns, fetal alcohol syndrome and teenage pregnancy.
- Over 80% were very concerned about poor parenting and a lack of volunteers.

...Country Food Use

Most elders said they are very satisfied (83%) with the Country Food Program and 75% said they would use more food if it was available. Country foods elders asked for more of included rabbit (61%), moose meat (48%), goose (44%), duck (39%), beaver (37%), fish (34%) and caribou (27%).

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Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
Future Development Working Group

Ensuring the Visions of Our Children.....
& our Children's Children.....

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2001



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AIP Ratification NOTICE

WHAT IS THE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE (AIP)?

The AIP is an agreement between NCN and Hydro, which is not legally binding. In some ways, it is like an expanded agenda for future discussions between NCN and Hydro. The AIP discusses the *proposed hydro projects at Wuskwatim and Notigi*. No decision has yet been made about whether these projects will be built. The AIP describes the two proposed projects, including how they will affect water levels and changes both upstream and downstream of the proposed projects. A generating station on Wuskwatim would cause less than one half square kilometre of new flooding, and one at Notigi would cause no new flooding at all. The AIP also discusses the possibility that NCN and Hydro will become partners in Wuskwatim and Notigi. NCN could own up to 33% of the generating station facilities. Many details would have to be negotiated, and NCN members would have the final say through a referendum.



This is not to be confused with the vote on the AIP itself, which will be held in May 2001. If members approve the AIP, NCN will continue discussions with hydro about the proposed projects., Two of NCN's highest priorities are protecting the environment, and creating new jobs and business opportunities for NCN members.

WHAT ELSE IS IN THE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE (AIP)?

The AIP outlines the important issues which NCN and Hydro will have to discuss. Some of the issues are discussed below:

Jobs

The AIP contains information about job and business opportunities for NCN members. If the projects go ahead, NCN and Hydro will keep looking for ways to create as many opportunities as possible. One important part of this will be training NCN members for the types of jobs that may be available. Many details will have to be negotiated and worked out in the future.

Partnership

The AIP also discusses the proposed partnership between NCN and Hydro. NCN is hoping that profit from the two new facilities will be a big asset for NCN for many years to come. Many things still have to be calculated, including the final costs of building the projects and the profits that the projects might projects may never be built. Neither NCN nor Hydro would want to invest in a money-loser. If all goes well, NCN and Hydro will try to negotiate a Project Development Agreement (PDA) and a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). NCN members would get to vote before NCN signs any final agreements.

Treaty Rights

The AIP clearly stays that it is not intended to alter treaty or aboriginal rights. The AIP between NCN and Hydro is only the first step in a long process. Firstly, it has not yet been decided whether Wuskwatim and Notigi will be built. Even if they are built, it will take a few years to get approval for the projects. Then it will take several more years to actually build the work camps, generating stations, roads, transmission lines, and to clean up after construction.

Licence

Before projects like these can be built, a government licence is needed. First, whoever wants to build the projects must apply for a licence. The one who applies is called the "proponent". If NCN and Hydro agree on the details, they will form a "Project Entity" (a form of partnership) to be the proponent. If the Project Entity is not ready, Hydro itself may be the proponent. By law, there has to be an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS will include information about how the proposed projects would affect water, plants, fish, animals and other parts of the environment, as well as the people that depend on the environment. The EIS becomes a public document. Anyone can read it. If all details can be worked out, NCN and Hydro will prepare the EIS together. Before a licence can be issued, there will be public hearings, run by the provincial and federal governments working together. Any individual or group (including First Nations), can arrange to speak at these hearings, or to comment in writing if they prefer. Working together, the federal and provincial governments will consider the EIS and everything said by everyone at the public hearings. They will then decide whether or not to issue a licence. The licence will probably have terms and conditions. The Project Entity or Hydro will have to obey these terms and conditions as long as the projects operate.



Chief Primrose: "While we can never change the past impacts of Hydro and other development of 25 years ago, we can and are preparing to move forward. Our Legal processes have worked for us."

Camps, Roads, and Lines

No final decisions have yet been made about the locations of the work camps or the routes of the new roads and transmission lines that would have to be built. Among other things, environmental factors will be considered. Protecting the environment is one of NCN's highest priorities. New roads and lines may also have positive effects. For example, new corridors may make it easier for some NCN trappers to access some of their traplines. It has not yet been decided what will happen to the work camps when construction is over. NCN may want to use some of the buildings or equipment for its own purposes. The AIP says that NCN will get the first chance, before anyone else, to acquire buildings, equipment and similar things which are no longer needed, at the end of construction. Details would have to be worked out.

Special Sites

Some sites in the NCN Resource Management Area (RMA) have special cultural or spiritual meaning for NCN members. Examples are the Footprints, Dancing Circles, Wesakechak's chair, vision quest sites, stone people's boat, grave sites, Manitou Island, artifacts, and medicinal plants and herbs. Of course, NCN wants to protect these sites as much as possible. The AIP says that the parties will work to identify these sites, and will discuss ways to address NCN's concerns.

Resource Management

NCN's 1996 NFA Implementation Agreement created a Resource Management Board (RMB), with representatives from NCN and Manitoba, to discuss resource issues in the RMA. The AIP says that NCN will refer the proposed Wuskwatim and Notigi projects to the RMB for recommendations.

Navigation

Past hydro development has created navigation problems in some bodies of water used by NCN members. The 1996 Agreement deals with some of these problems. The AIP says that NCN and Hydro will continue to implement annual shoreline and debris management programs, to clean up targeted areas. Also, they will review the safety measures in the 1996 Agreement, and see if any changes are needed. The AIP says that NCN and Hydro will also look at things like debris and ice conditions. Could Wuskwatim and Notigi have any effect? If so, NCN and Hydro will look at ways to avoid or minimize any potential problems.

Vote

The AIP discusses how NCN members (over 18) will vote to accept or reject the AIP. First there will be open meetings in Nelson House, Thompson, Brandon, South Indian Lake (SIL), and Winnipeg, to explain the AIP. Then there will be a secret ballot vote. Polls will be at Duncan Wood Memorial Hall in Nelson House, Community Hall in SIL, Army & Navy Hall in Thompson, Canadian Inn in Brandon, and Place Louis Riel in Winnipeg. There will also be a travelling poll for elders and the disabled in Nelson House. To pass, the AIP needs a majority of those voting.

What Next?

If the AIP is approved, NCN and Manitoba would continue to discuss the issues outlined in the AIP. Decisions will have to be made about whether the projects will go ahead or not. If they go ahead, NCN and Hydro will continue to discuss how NCN can be a partner and own part of the projects. Agreements would have to be negotiated. NCN members would get to vote. The licensing process would continue. There would be an EIS. There would ultimately be public hearings. The federal and provincial governments would have to decide whether to issue a licence, and what conditions to include in the licence. Finally, if everything else is finished, construction could actually start. The generating station(s) would not likely begin to produce power before 2009 or later.

NCN ACTIVITY IN MINNESOTA & WISCONSIN

Chief Jerry Primrose and other NCN representatives have been active in protecting NCN's interests in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Manitoba Hydro is proposing to sell electricity to Xcel Energy (formerly Northern States Power) in Minnesota. Also a new transmission line (the Arrowhead line) is being proposed for Minnesota and Wisconsin. If the Arrowhead line is built, some of the electricity which it would carry would originate in Manitoba.



Chairman Gregory Scott
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

I spent 12 years as a Trial Lawyer and then 3 ½ on the Commission. I don't know that I've ever heard testimony more effective than Chief Primrose's testimony was today. It was about as direct and relevant and simple as a person can speak, and it was powerful .
(November 30, 2000)

Before Hydro can sell power to Xcel, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) must approve the sale. Before the Arrowhead line can be built, the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) and the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) must approve.

The Pimicikamak Cree Nation (PCN) is currently fighting Manitoba Hydro on many fronts. Like NCN, PCN suffered adverse effects from Hydro development in the 1970s. Like NCN, PCN was a party to the Northern Flood Agreement (NFA), signed in 1977. Unlike NCN, PCN has decided not to sign an NFA Implementation Agreement, like the one which NCN signed in 1996. (Split Lake, York Factory and Norway House have all signed Implementation Agreements.)

One of the ways PCN is fighting against Hydro is by opposing the power sale to Xcel and opposing the Arrowhead line. Unfortunately, PCN and some of its American allies have provided incorrect information about Hydro development in northern Manitoba. For example, they have suggested that more land was flooded by Hydro than was actually the case. Also, some Americans may think that PCN was the only Cree Nation affected by Hydro, that PCN lands were more adversely affected than lands of other Cree Nations, or that PCN speaks for all the Cree peoples of Manitoba.

NCN respects the right of PCN to make its own decisions, and to speak for itself about Hydro or other issues, as long as its actions don't harm the interests of NCN. But NCN doesn't want anyone to think that PCN somehow speaks for NCN.

Therefore, Chief Primrose and NCN representatives have appeared before the Minnesota PUC and EQB and the Wisconsin PSC, to speak for NCN. Representatives of Split Lake have also appeared before American tribunals to discuss Split Lake's perspective.

Chief Primrose has informed the Americans that NCN actually suffered more severe adverse effects from past Hydro development than PCN. However, NCN wants to look to the future. That's why NCN signed its 1996 Agreement. That's why NCN is now talking to Hydro about the possibility of NCN becoming a partner with Hydro in the proposed Wuskwatim and Notigi developments.

NCN also wants the Americans to understand that the NFA has its own arbitration provisions. If PCN has a dispute with Hydro about the NFA, it can go to arbitration. PCN has done so many times in the past, and it just recently filed a new NFA Claim against Hydro for one hundred million dollars.

To date, NCN's position has been protected in Minnesota and Wisconsin. The process of approving the Arrowhead line is moving forward. The Minnesota PUC has declined to delay the process of approving the power sale to Xcel. NCN's representations to the PUC, the EQB and the PSC on November 30, 2000, February 22, 2001 and in writing, have been an important part of the equation.

It is unfortunate that NCN has to spend so much time and trouble educating Americans about northern Manitoba and about Hydro development in the north. But as long as PCN is speaking out in Minnesota and Wisconsin, NCN has to make sure that the Americans have accurate information, and that NCN's interests are protected.

NCN Members will be kept up to date on future events in Minnesota and Wisconsin, in future newsletters.

The Proposed Notig Generating Station

The construction of generating stations is being considered at two sites in the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) Resource Management Area (RMA) - at Taskinigup Falls, just downstream of Wuskwatim Lake (the Wuskwatim Project) and near the existing Notigi Control Structure, at the outlet of Notigi Lake (the Notigi Project). NCN members have already heard quite a lot about the Wuskwatim Project - where it would be built and how it could affect water levels - in previous newsletter articles and at Open House presentations. Up to now, though, there was not as much information about the Notigi Project, since the generating station and how it would affect water levels was still being studied by engineers at Manitoba Hydro. These studies have now been completed, and this article gives some information about the proposed generating station and how it would affect the water levels, if it is built.

Planning Process

Under Article 8 of the 1996 Implementation Agreement, which was signed by both the NCN and Manitoba Hydro, a process was established to discuss future development that could affect the RMA. This process was initiated in 1997 for the Notigi Project when a joint Working Group was established to facilitate an exchange of information. Much has taken place since that time including several planning workshops, open houses, and the selection of an environmental study team to begin a joint environmental study program.

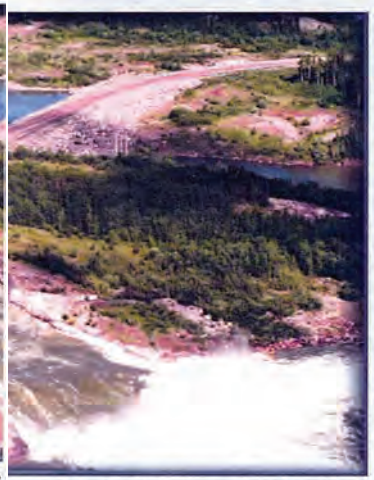
The Notigi Project

The Notigi Project would involve construction of a 100-megawatt generating station just north of the existing Notigi Control Structure, which is located between Wapisu and Notigi Lakes, on PR 391. The Notigi Control Structure consists of the control structure (gate) itself, as well as a main dam. At present, the Notigi Control Structure helps to control flow along the Rat River as part of the Churchill River Diversion. With construction of the Notigi Project, however, the Control Structure would act as a spillway - in other words, it would only pass flows during times when all flow can not pass through the generating station turbines. To construct the generating station, a channel would be excavated through bedrock 150 metres north of the Notigi Control Structure to connect Notigi Lake to the Rat River. A powerhouse containing turbines would be constructed in this channel. Water flowing from Notigi Lake to the Rat River would then go through the powerhouse and turbines to generate electricity, rather than spilling through the Control Structure, as it does now. PR 391 will pass on top of the new powerhouse, as well as the existing Control Structure.



New transmission facilities would also need to be constructed to deliver the electricity from the Notigi Generating Station to the people and businesses that would buy and use it. These facilities would include transmission lines and a transformer station at Notigi. The transformer station at Notigi would be part of the generating station site development and would transform the electricity from the generating station to the higher voltage necessary for transmission to the existing transmission system. The transmission lines would connect and distribute the power to existing transformer stations on the Manitoba Hydro system.. Transitional facilities would be required during the construction phase of the project. These would include a construction camp, construction for power services, work areas, service roads, storage areas and other structures.

The construction camp would include sewer and water services, a pumphouse, and a sewage treatment plant. It would be a temporary facility made of portable buildings to provide accommodations, dining facilities and recreation areas, and project support facilities allowing for site engineering and administrative services.



Effect of the Notigi Project on Water Levels and Ice Conditions

The proposed new generating station would not result in any additional flooding to the area. Asa result, additional shoreline protection and shoreline clearing is not expected to be necessary. The debris management program designed after construction of the Churchill River Diversion will remain in place to mitigate ongoing erosion problems.

The monthly water level and flow changes that occur now, as a result of the operation of CRD, will continue unchanged. However, there will be additional water level and flow changes that occur within the day, as flow through the turbines is adjusted to generate electricity during times of the day when the most electricity is needed. These daily changes will be most noticeable immediately downstream of the generating station where the water exits the powerhouse, where average changes will be 0.4 m (1.3 ft) up to a maximum of 0.7 m (2.3 ft). By Wapisu Lake, these changes within the day will have decreased to 0.15 m (0.5 ft) up to a maximum of 0.2 m (0.7 ft). Changes within the day on Notigi, Threepoint, and Footprint lakes will not be noticeable (less than 0.05 m or 2 inches). Ice conditions both upstream and downstream of the Notigi Project are expected to remain unchanged from current conditions. In other words, areas that remain open at present will continue to do so, and areas that form solid ice cover will continue to freeze over. Engineers at Manitoba Hydro are doing further investigations to better describe conditions during the winter.

What Happens Next?

As with the Wuskwatim Project, both NCN and Manitoba Hydro are currently collecting information to decide whether to continue planning the Notigi Project. This project is part of the AIP that NCN members will vote on in May. If it is decided to proceed further with planning this project, the next step (after the AIP vote) will be to negotiate a more detailed Project Development Agreement between NCN and Hydro. As well, before a project can proceed, environmental approval will be required from the governments of Canada and Manitoba. For this, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will have to be prepared. An EIS is a document that will describe in detail both the positive and negative effects of the Notigi Project on the land, water, resources, people and community. If it is decided to build the project, and the governments of Manitoba and Canada approve an environmental licence, then the earliest construction could begin is 2004. Right now, the financial assessment done by Hydro shows that the Wuskwatim Project would be favoured over the Notigi Project at this time. However, Notigi does have some favourable conditions associated with it, and the environmental and engineering studies are proceeding so the necessary information is available if and when it is required. NCN has its own engineers (at Footprint Engineering and Unies Ltd.) who are independent from Hydro. They provide NCN with engineering advice.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS FROM OPEN HOUSES

At recent open houses, NCN Members had more questions about Wuskwatim, Notigi and other issues. Here are a few questions with brief answers. More will be included in future newsletters and other publications.

Will there be employment opportunities for residents of South Indian Lake (SIL)?
Yes. Though many details still have to be discussed and worked out, if Wuskwatim and/or Notigi are built, there will be new job opportunities for NCN Members, wherever they live. This includes Members at SIL.



What if some environmental impacts are unforeseen?
If the Projects are built, there will be ongoing monitoring of environmental effects. This will probably be a condition of any licences issued to the Projects by the government. If NCN Members vote to approve the Agreement in Principle (AIP) in May, NCN and Hydro will go on to discuss a Project Development Agreement (PDA). The PDA may include ways of dealing with unforeseen effects.

Is 33% NCN ownership enough? Can we go for more?
Hydro has agreed in principle to allow NCN to be a partner in Notigi and/or Wuskwatim, if they are built, and to allow NCN to own up to 33% of these stations. By law, Hydro can't allow any other party to own more than half of a generating station. Therefore, Hydro couldn't let NCN own more than 50%, even if Hydro wanted to. Before NCN decides to own any part of the stations, much information must be gathered and many details must be negotiated. NCN Members will be consulted and kept informed as the process continues.

Where will NCN get the money to be a partner? If we borrow the money, will we be able to pay it back?
Both NCN and Hydro will have to gather more financial information before any decisions are made to build the projects. Neither party will want to participate, if there is too much risk. If NCN does decide to participate, it may borrow money and may pay back the money from the profits it will make by co-owning the stations. NCN won't take any risks without getting good financial advice first.

Will the cost of the projects inflate every year?
Sometimes cost estimates do go up as a building project goes along. Before NCN agrees to participate as a partner in the projects, it will get advice about how to protect itself from the possibility of cost increases. NCN won't sign any deals if there is too much risk involved.

Will the new projects affect existing programs?
There may be some indirect, long-term effects. For example, if the projects are built, and NCN decides to become a partner, NCN will be able to use some of its profit in future years for NCN programs and services. Meanwhile, there will be no effect on the normal programs that Canada and Manitoba provide to NCN.

What is the happening with NFA Claims 46 and 47?
These are 1984 claims by the SIL Housing Association and the SIL Community Association against Canada, Manitoba and Hydro. There were hearings and awards issued on these claims in the 1980s and early 1990s. Over the years, Manitoba Hydro has made various payments to South Indian Lake organizations.

Are there laws in place to prevent the government from altering treaty or aboriginal rights?
The Constitution protects existing treaty and aboriginal rights. The federal and provincial governments can pass laws that limit these rights, but the laws must first pass strict tests. The governments must consult with aboriginal peoples. The laws must have a very important purpose. For example, there may be treaty and aboriginal rights to fish. If the fish are in danger of extinction, the governments may pass laws aimed at conservation of the fish stock. These laws may limit aboriginal fishing rights. In recent years, the courts have stepped in several times to stop governments from violating aboriginal and treaty rights.

NOTICE

The NCN/Manitoba Hydro Agreement In Principle Ratification Vote will be held:

May 3, 2001
&
May 10, 2001

Polling Stations will be held in
Nelson House, South Indian Lake,
Thompson,
Brandon and Winnipeg.

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
Future Development Working Group
"Ensuring the Visions of Our Children & our Children's Children....."

Contact the FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION
484-2414

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Future Development Working Group

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& our Children's Children.....

NEWSLETTER

July 2001



The Future Development Team

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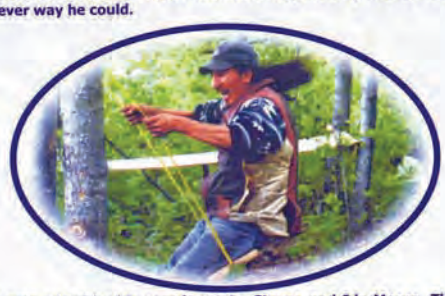
In Honor and Memory

Keith Allan Spence was born in The Pas Manitoba on the 23rd day of September, in the year of 1963. He was known as "Hoser" to his friends, a nickname he was given by his co-workers when working with the Water Delivery System. These people did not only know him by this name, but to all people he knew and worked with throughout the years of his life knew him as "Hoser." He was always willing to help others in whatever way he could.



Keith was raised by his grandparents: Steven and Ida Moose. They all lived in his parent's house in South Indian Lake. Keith received his education here in Nelson House. After his schooling he met and lived with his common-law wife: Sheila Linklater.

Keith started working as soon as he was old enough. He spent his whole life trapping, hunting and fishing. Being involved with trapping, hunting and fishing Hoser learned a great deal about the land and had great respect for traditional activities and the land.

In his younger days Keith and his father Stanley, who he called "Partner" not 'dad', trapped up in the Old Man River Area, which is located in the South Indian Lake Resource area.

At the time of his unfortunate accident Keith was employed by North/South Consultants. Keith was employed with them for two years, assisting in biological studies in the NCN Resource Management area where the two proposed generating stations are planned to be located.

Keith will always be remembered and missed by all his friends, remaining brothers, sisters and especially by his parents and common-law wife.

"Hoser" we will always remember you, we will never forget your smile and your outgoing enthusiasm of life.

"Rest in Peace"

New Office Manager



Hello, Tansi Elders, Brothers, Sisters and the youth, especially the children of the future. As you all know my name is Dennis Darwin Linklater (Lob).

For the past nine years I was your Community Health Representative. I got to know the members of this community very well and must say I have gained and learned a tremendous amount of experience through you, the people.

As you may be aware I was recently hired as the Future Development Office Manager. I will be responsible for the overall implementation of directives from the Co-Managers of Future Development.

My duties are to provide day-to-day supervision of the Community Consultants and Support staff, provide the leadership to Future Development staff on all work related issues, in consultation with the Co-Managers. My office will ensure that Community meetings are organized and conducted to discuss issues and obtain feedback from the NCN membership and ensure that all directives provided by the Co-Managers are properly addressed and implemented, provide progress reports and ensure that administrative matters are properly implemented. As directed, this office will make arrangements for meetings with NCN members both on and off reserve.

In conclusion, I strongly encourage all community members to attend all public meetings in the future, so we will be aware and understand necessary information regarding Wuskwatim and Notigi.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT: WHAT HAS ALREADY HAPPENED?

- In 1977, the Northern Flood Agreement (NFA) was signed by Hydro, Canada, Manitoba, and the Northern Flood Committee (representing 5 Cree Nations, including NCN).
- In 1996, NCN signed an NFA Implementation Agreement, which included a new chapter on Future Development. Among other things, Hydro would have to consult with NCN and provide detailed information to NCN about future hydro projects that might affect NCN. The 1996 Agreement also created a Trust for the benefit of NCN members.



- Since 1996, through the Community Approval Process, NCN has used annual income from the Trust for many important projects and programs in the community.
- Since 1999, NCN and Hydro have been discussing two possible new generating stations in the NCN Resource Management Area (RMA)
- Wuskwatim and Notigi. NO decisions have yet been made about whether either or both of these stations will be built.
- NCN and Hydro jointly drafted an Agreement in Principle (AIP) dealing with Wuskwatim and Notigi. The AIP is not a legally binding document. It is a framework for future discussions between NCN and Hydro. Among other things, it discusses the idea that NCN would be a partner (a co-owner) with Hydro of the two proposed stations.
- Information about the AIP was given to NCN members at open houses, through the media and in newsletters.
- On May 3 and 10, 2001, NCN members voted on the AIP. Voter turnout was very high. A good majority (83% on-reserve) of those who voted approved the AIP.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT: WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- NCN and Hydro will soon hold a formal AIP signing ceremony. They will then continue negotiations and discussions about all the issues outlined in the AIP.
- If decisions are made to build one or both of the 2 stations, NCN and Hydro will negotiate a Project Development Agreement (PDA). The PDA will be a legally binding contract dealing with many of the business aspects of the projects, including the partnership between NCN and Hydro. It is too early to say exactly what will be in the PDA. Many details must still be negotiated.
- Some of the important things to be negotiated are training, job and business opportunities for NCN members, both on and off the reserve. NCN will negotiate hard to ensure as many opportunities as possible for its members.
- In order to build the projects, NCN and Hydro would need environmental approvals from the Regulators (representatives of the federal and provincial governments). An environmental assessment (studies about how the projects would affect the environment) has to be done. Many studies have already been done (see below).
- When the assessment is done, the Proponent (NCN and Hydro) would write an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - a detailed report about the assessment. The EIS would be a public document. Work on the EIS is already underway.
- After the EIS is done, the Regulators would hold public hearings. Anyone could get up and speak for or against the projects. After the hearings, the Regulators would write a report.
- The Regulators would either recommend that approvals for the projects be issued, or that they not be issued. They would also recommend what conditions should be attached to those approvals.
- If and when licenses are issued, construction could start. The stations might be ready to generate electricity in about 2009, though this is just an estimate.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT JUMBLE

WIUSMWTAK _ _ O _ O _ _

PSAPIHRNETR _ _ _ O _ O _ _

IUYETQ _ _ _ _ O

ARDO NOSPITO _ O _ _ _ O _ _

A MESSAGE FROM THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE TO ALL THOSE WHO VOTED ON MAY 3 AND MAY 10, 2001

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UNSCRAMBLE THE FOUR SCRAMBLED WORDS, THEN USE THE CIRCLED LETTERS TO SPELL OUT THE MESSAGE AT THE BOTTOM.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

- In November 1999, NCN and Manitoba Hydro and NCN together selected a team of environmental consultants to assist in developing and carrying out an environmental study program.
- In February 2000, the NCN Future Development Team attended a series of workshops with the environment consultants to discuss concerns that NCN members have about the proposed projects.
- In May 2000, the environmental study team presented a draft joint study program to NCN and Manitoba Hydro. The purposes of this program were to:
  - address concerns that community members have about the proposed projects;
  - give NCN and Hydro information about the possible effects of the project to assist in planning, and,
  - collect information to complete an environmental assessment and meet the requirements to obtain licenses and approvals from regulatory authorities in the governments of Canada and Manitoba.
- Field studies in the NCN Resource Management Area (RMA) began in May 2000. The first year of most studies was completed by fall 2000, but some work continued through the winter.
- The environmental studies were presented to community members at an Open House in July 2000. The studies have also been described in articles in the Future Development newsletter.
- The NCN Future Development Team, Manitoba Hydro, and the environmental study team meet regularly to discuss the environmental studies. In March 2001, the study team presented an updated study program to NCN and Manitoba Hydro - the update was based on information that had been brought forward during the past year.
- Intensive field studies began again In May 2001 and will continue through fall and into winter.
- Additional information about the environment and the potential effects of the proposed projects will be gathered through interviews with selected community members that will be done by the community consultants during summer and fall 2001. Other types of surveys will also be done.
- The study team will use the information from NCN members (including information about Traditional Ecological Knowledge) and the field studies to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This report will describe how the proposed projects will change the environment
  - both positive and negative changes will be described, including effects on the community and people. The EIS will also describe consultation with NCN members and issued raised by members. It is expected that a draft of the EIS will be given to NCN and Hydro for review in spring 2002.
- If it is decided to apply for approvals from the governments of Canada and Manitoba to build the projects, the EIS could be submitted to the Regulators in mid 2002.
- More information will be given to NCN members in future open houses, newsletters and through other channels.

EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVES



- At the workshops in February 2000, the NCN Future Development Team requested a formal evaluation of options for the construction camp, access road, and transmission facilities, with the evaluation to consider a range of criteria, including those important to NCN.
- In Spring 2000, a joint process between NCN and Manitoba Hydro was mapped out.
- An Alternatives Committee, with representatives from NCN, NCN Advisors, Manitoba Hydro, and the Environmental Study Team, gathered information to help the parties compare the options before them.
- In early August 2000, an Open House was held in the arena at Nelson House to give NCN members a chance to see the alternatives that had been identified, and to tell the Alternatives Committee what they saw as the pros and cons of each.
- The Alternatives Committee completed its work in fall 2000 and presented the results to the NCN Future Development Team and Manitoba Hydro.
- Results, including some additional information, were presented to Chief and Council in March 2001.
- Chief and Council have reached some preliminary conclusions pertaining to the preferred camp and access road locations. These conclusions will be presented to NCN members in due course. Final decisions have not yet been made. More information will be given to NCN members in future newsletters.
- Further discussions between NCN and Manitoba Hydro will be required to complete the alternatives selection process.

Pictures from Alternatives Meeting August 1st, Duncan Wood Memorial Hall



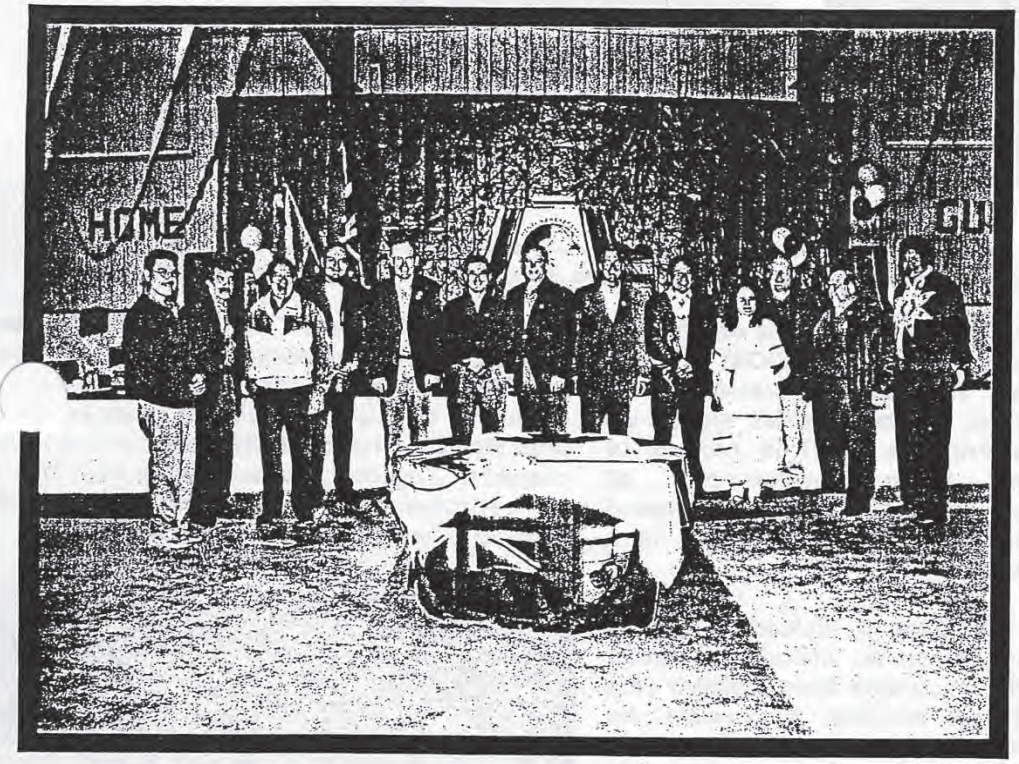
Contact the FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION
484-2414

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
Future Development Working Group

Ensuring the Visions of Our Children.....
& our Children's Children.....

Wayslater

October 2001



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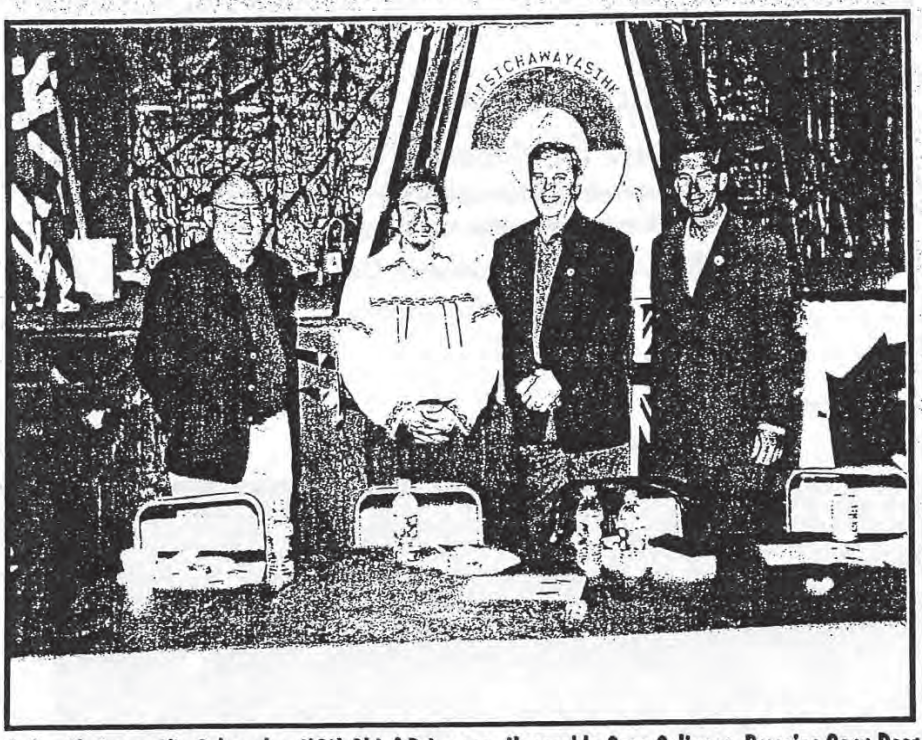
NCN and Hydro Sign Agreement in Principle



Hydro Chairman Vic Schroeder, NCN Chief Primrose, Honorable Greg Selinger, Premier Gary Doer

September 25, 2001 was a historic day for the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) and for Manitoba Hydro. In an exciting ceremony held at Nelson House, the two parties signed an Agreement in Principle (AIP) in respect of possible new hydro developments at Wuskwatim and Notigi. The AIP was approved by a large majority of NCN Members, in a secret ballot vote.

NCN's Chief and Council welcomed several guests to the ceremony, including Premier Gary Doer, the Honourable Greg Selinger (the Provincial Cabinet Minister responsible for Manitoba Hydro), the Honourable Steve Ashton (MLA from Thompson), the Honourable Eric Robinson (MLA from Rupertsland), Hydro Chairman Vic Schroeder, Hydro President and CEO Bob Brennan, Grand Chief Whitebird (AMC) and Frances Flett (MKO).

The focus is now on the proposed Wuskwatim development. The proposed Notigi project is on hold until future years. No decisions have yet been made about whether to build it or not. Before it could be built, it would have to obtain the necessary environmental approvals, under Canadian and Manitoba environmental laws. There would be public hearings.

Environmental studies have already been conducted in the Wuskwatim area. More studies are still to come. Chief Jerry Primrose cited the environmental studies as an example of how NCN and Manitoba Hydro are cooperating: "As people with such a close relationship with the environment d resources of this area, we can work to er with Manitoba Hydro to plan and market these projects. Together, we will make sure this is an environmentally sustainable project with long-term benefits for everyone involved."



The Honorable Eric Robinson

The Honorable Eric Robertson echoed Chie Primrose's comment: "This agreem clear example of how Manitoba First N on and Manitoba Hydro can work together t realize viable economic opportunities for bot First Nation communities and the province as whole. I congratulate NCN and Manitoba



Councilor David Spence, Honorable Steve Ashton, Councilor Elvis Thomas, Honorable Eric Robinson, Honorable Greg Selinger, Premier Gary Doer, Councilor James Moore

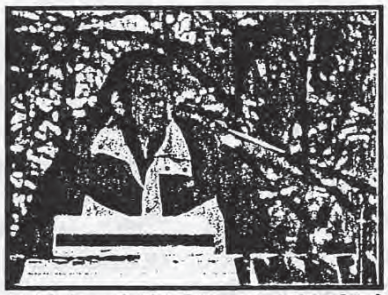
Hydro for their work in forging a new relationship."

The AIP contains provisions that a proposed partnership between NCN and Hydro. The two parties propose to negotiate a Project Development Agreement (PDA). If a PDA is finalized, Members of NCN will have the opportunity to vote upon it by secret ballot. Many issues and details must be discussed and negotiated before any partnership arrangements are finalized.



Hydro Chairman Vic Schroeder

Premier Doer was clearly excited about the AIP signing: "Today's historic signing is another indication of the new, innovative model of partnership that is being created between First Nation people and Manitoba Hydro. This agreement benefits all Manitobans, not only by providing the people of the North with more economic opportunities, but also by providing clean, affordable and renewable electrical energy....."



AMC Grand Chief Dennis Whitebird

The signing ceremony was attended by a diverse cross-section of NCN Members, from school children to elders. The ceremony was followed by an enjoyable lunch, which gave everyone present an opportunity to share their excitement about this special ceremony.



MKO Grand Chief Francis Flett



Honorable Steve Ashton



Hydro CEO/President Bob Brennan

Recent Developments

The Agreement in Principle (AIP) was signed by NCN and Hydro on September 25, 2001. Discussions between NCN and Hydro on the Project Development Agreement (PDA) are continuing. Many issues and details still have to be negotiated in the months to come.



NCN's Chief and Council are still committed to letting NCN members make the final decision about the PDA. Before the PDA could be signed, there would have to be a secret ballot vote for all NCN members.

NCN and Hydro are focussing on the proposed Wuskwatim (Taskinigup Falls) generating station. At this time the proposed Notigi project is on hold until future years.

It would be necessary to build a new road to the Wuskwatim site. Several road options were being considered and were presented to NCN Members. NCN and Hydro carefully examined the cost of the various options, and all other relevant factors. A decision was finally made to choose the "short route" option. (see article on page.) Further studies still have to be done. There will be further consultation with the community.

If Wuskwatim is constructed, it will be necessary to build new transmission lines from Wuskwatim to at least one other point on the existing Hydro grid system. The new line or lines could take several different routes. NCN and Hydro are still discussing these options. NCN is looking at the best way to maximize benefits for NCN members. More information will be provided in future newsletters.

Before Wuskwatim could be built, environmental approval would be needed by the Regulators (representatives of the federal and provincial government). There would have to be public h gs The first step in thi environmenta approval process i for the Proponen (NCN and Hydr working together) t file an Environmenta Act Proposal Form This is a brie document describin the propose Wuskwatim project NCN and Hydro wil file this Environmental Act Proposal Form, likely in late October or early November 2001.

The Environmental Act Proposal Form is just the first step in the assessment process. **It does not mean that either NCN or Hydro has made a final decision about Wuskwatim.** Even if NCN and Hydro decide that they v o go ahead with Wuskwatim, there wou ll have to public hearings and environmental approval by the Regulators.

NCN representatives continue to meet with various groups in Canada and the United States, to discuss NCN's views about northern hydro development. Meetings with the Mennonite Central Committee in Winnipeg, the St. Paul Area Council of Churches in Minnesota and the Twin City Friends group in Minnesota, have been held or are planned. Chief Primrose and other NCN representatives will make sure that these groups understand NCN's perspective. There will be more information in future newsletters.

In recent months, NCN/Hydro have conducted a Public Involvement Plan (P.I.P) process. There have been a series of informational meetings held with various groups, including First Nations and municipalities, which may be affected by the Wuskwatim project, particularly b e transmission-line route. A newsletter ha been distributed. These P.I.P. meetings will continue in the months ahead.

Wuskwatim Access Road Update

NCN and Manitoba Hydro have now started to work on the selection of a proposed route for an access road that would lead to the Taskinigup Falls area from P.R. 391 within the geographical vicinity of the Mile 5 and Mile 20 access road route concepts. The Chief and Council of NCN, following consultations with the NCN membership, had earlier finished evaluating the various road route concepts and informed Manitoba Hydro that NCN would support the geographical vicinity of the Mile 5 and Mile 20 access road route option, subject to regulatory approval.

The present work is being done to provide more detailed cost estimates and extensive analysis of the environmental, cultural, and social aspects of the completion of a new road in this area in order to select the best route. There is a quite a variety of terrain along the way, ranging from low, flat wetlands with a number of smaller streams to areas of slightly rolling, higher ground composed of granular deposits placed there during glacial times. There are areas of unique moss vegetation and areas possibly being used by woodland caribou. There are also some locations nearby which are being used often for gatherings/ceremonies by NCN members.

Once a fairly close idea of where the road's centre line would best be located has been determined through consideration of all of the above factors, field work will be undertaken to obtain more detailed geo-technical data to assist in the planning and estimating for the future road, and to determine more precisely where the centre line of the road would be. The fieldwork would include soils and rock information obtained by test drilling along the route, together with land surveying to determine more accurately the shape of the terrain over which the road would need to go.

At the same time, more detailed environmental data would be gathered along the centre line route. This work would involve the clearing of a line along the length of the route in order to enable the test drilling equipment to be moved in and to access all the locations where the testing would take place. Lines of sight would also be hand-cleared off to either side at frequent intervals along the route as part of the land surface surveying.

To ensure that all potential issues regarding centre line selection are addressed, the Alternatives Working Group, which is made up of NCN technical and engineering advisors, environmental specialists working under the direction of North/South Consultants, and representatives from Manitoba Hydro, is continuing to meet and to inform and consult with NCN Chief and Council and the Future Development Team about progress and issues. NCN and Manitoba Hydro will require a work permit from the Province of Manitoba in order to do the field portion of the work that is expected to take place this winter.

Similar types of activities are also planned for this fall to define locations for work camp structures and facilities at the future Wuskwatim development site.

At the same time, work has been initiated to address the serious issues of future access within the Nelson House Resource Management Area that would result from the completion of a road and transmission lines in to the Taskinigup Falls and Wuskwatim Lake area.

NCN GETTING READY FOR WUSKWATIM TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Planning is now underway to establish educational upgrading and job training program prepare NCN members to become qualified for construction jobs on the proposed Wuskwatim generating station. This article describes the type and nature of jobs that Wuskwatim construction will generate and the activities being carried out by NCN's Future Development Team to prepare interested community members for these jobs.

Employment Opportunities during Construction of the Wuskwatim Generating Station

Construction of the Wuskwatim Generating Station will generate a significant number of largely seasonal jobs in apprenticable trades, non-apprenticable trades and construction support services. Under the current schedule, construction of the generating station would begin in December 2003 and last for about six years, until 2009. The access road, construction camp, and other construction infrastructure would be built during the first two years. This sets the stage for the following four years of work when the powerhouse, dykes and other parts of the generating station would be built. The December 2003 start date is not firm and could shift to a later start date if delays occur in the planning process or in securing environmental approvals. The rest of the schedule would also move forward if there were a later start date.

Hiring for most of the jobs would be done through a referral agency. An office of the referral agency may be located in Nelson House; this office would be asked first to identify qualified candidates to fill requests made by Manitoba Hydro and its contractors for generating station construction jobs. Contractors engaged by Manitoba Hydro would undertake most of the construction work. Consequently, the employer for nearly all construction jobs would be by contractors. A few positions may be available directly with Manitoba Hydro.

The bulk of the construction jobs would be seasonal occurring between May and October. Many would last more than one year and could provide 12 to 24 months of work over a two to four year period.

The total number of jobs available through the job referral system during the main construction seasons is estimated to be between 150 and 350 (see Figure). This is an estimate based on the best information currently available. When construction takes place, the actual number is likely to be different; it could be larger or smaller. Anyone interested in filling construct jobs must have the qualifications ne for the positions. Over 80% Wuskwatim construction jobs would require from six months to five years of previous construction or related experience. Fifteen per cent to 20 per cent of the jobs may not require related previous experience and could be filled by people who meet the educational requirements (could be up to Grade 12) and have successfully completed an appropriate pre-project training program (typically lasting from three months to a year).

The types of jobs fall into three broad categories: apprenticable (called indentured) trades that require three to four years of formal apprenticeship training and experience to become a journeyman tradesperson, non-apprenticable trades and construction support. Occupations that will be required in each category for Wuskwatim construction are listed i table on the next page.

OCCUPATIONS REQUIRED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION

APPRENTICABLE TRADES	NON- APPRENTICABLE TRADES	CONSTRUCTION SUPPORT
Over 80% journeymen; 10-20% apprentices. Mainly required in the third to sixth year of construction	Over 80% require related experience; 15-20% need pre-project training, but may require no related experience. Mainly required in the first two years of construction	Over 80% require related experience; 15-20% require pre-project training, but no related experience. Mainly required in the third to sixth year of construction
• Carpenter • Electrician • Heavy Duty Mechanic • Millwright • Pipe fitter umber • Iron and Rebar worker • Sheet Metal Worker • Roofer • Bricklayer • Boilermaker • Cook	• Construction Laborer General inexperienced, General experienced Concrete worker, Jackhammer operator • Mobile Equipment Operator dozer, Scraper, Grader, Loader, Packer, Backhoe, Crane, Dragline • Stationary Equipment Operator • Vehicle Driver (Teamster) Haul Truck Tandem, Water truck, Bus, Semi-trailer • Serviceman • Rodman (Rebar) • Cement Masons • Floor Coverers	• Catering General help, Salad/sandwich maker Snack bar attendant, Cook, Baker, Janitor • Security • Clerical Workers • Administrative Workers

Training Requirements

Jobs with higher skill levels need more extensive training. Entry-level positions require minimum credentials and experience. Emphasis for both is on physical fitness and on aptitude, interest and willingness to work in a heavy construction environment. A three to six month pre-employment job readiness and skill-training program may be sufficient to qualify for a job of this type. Semi-skilled, skilled and highly skilled positions require successively more experience and education or training to be job qualified. Members should be aware that Manitoba Education and Training is proposing to change the educational requirements for apprenticeship programs. If these are enacted, people interested in becoming apprentices will r Grade 12 math and science to enter a program.

If construction begins in December 2003, the community has about two and one-half years to prepare its members to take advantage of the largely non-apprenticable trade jobs required for building the construction infrastructure. An additional two years is available to prepare for the higher skilled apprenticable trades that will be needed for construction of the major project structures. This should be sufficient time to plan, organize and carry out needed educational upgrading and training programs. Construction related upgrading and training is projected to begin in the fall of 2002.

Efforts to Prepare NCN for Wuskwatim Jobs

The NCN Future Development Team is working hard to ensure that NCN members are prepared to access employment opportunities arising from the construction of Wuskwatim project. Since February 2001, its Labor Sub-committee has been meeting regularly to plan and organize NCN's involvement in project training and employment. The Sub-committee identified a community based training facility (referred to A-TEC center) as a priority for helping meet immediate and long-term training needs of members. It set a target of September 2002 for the facility to be open and offering training programs and established the A-TEC Steering Committee to oversee planning, financing and construction of the facility and related training programs.

The A-TEC Steering Committee started meeting in April and is currently developing concepts, budgets and action plans for the facility and training programs. Initial concepts and cost estimates for the training facility were presented the Labor Sub-committee in June. It is anticipated a draft plan will be available in late August for review and approval by Chief and Council. Once the plan is approved, the A-TEC Steering Committee will approach potential funders to obtain the money needed to develop and operate the facility and training programs. Construction of the facility will get underway once funding is in place. The A-TEC Steering Committee consists of representatives of NCN organizations whose support is needed to advance the project and that have specialized knowledge to contribute. Members are Jeff Hunter (Human Resources - Chairperson), Marcel Moody and Norman Linklater (NCN Future Development), Elvis Thomas and Jim Moore (NCN Government), Tim Nykoluk (Footprint Engineering) and Matthias White (Nelson House Education Authority). Bruce Hickey, Bob Lederman, Val Matthews Lemieux, Cam MacInnes and Trevor Ray (NCN Advisors) and youth representatives will participate as needed.

Following are other things that the Labor Committee is doing regarding project-related train... and employment:

- Decided that training to prepare for Wuskwatim jobs should focus on occupations that will be needed in the community and in the North after construction is over e.g. heavy equipment operator, carpenter and electrician.
- Began discussions recently with the Governments of Canada and Manitoba and Manitoba Hydro regarding roles and responsibilities for planning, funding and delivery of pre-project training to NCN members.
- Is reviewing and beginning to distribute information provided by Manitoba Hydro about training and employment opportunities for the Wuskwatim generating station. Some of this information is presented above in this article. Plans are underway to hold an open house in the community in the near future on Wuskwatim training and employment opportunities.
- Is developing proposals to discuss with Manitoba Hydro about what should included in the collective agreement applies to Wuskwatim construction.

WUSKWATIM PROJECT POSSIBLE NCN BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

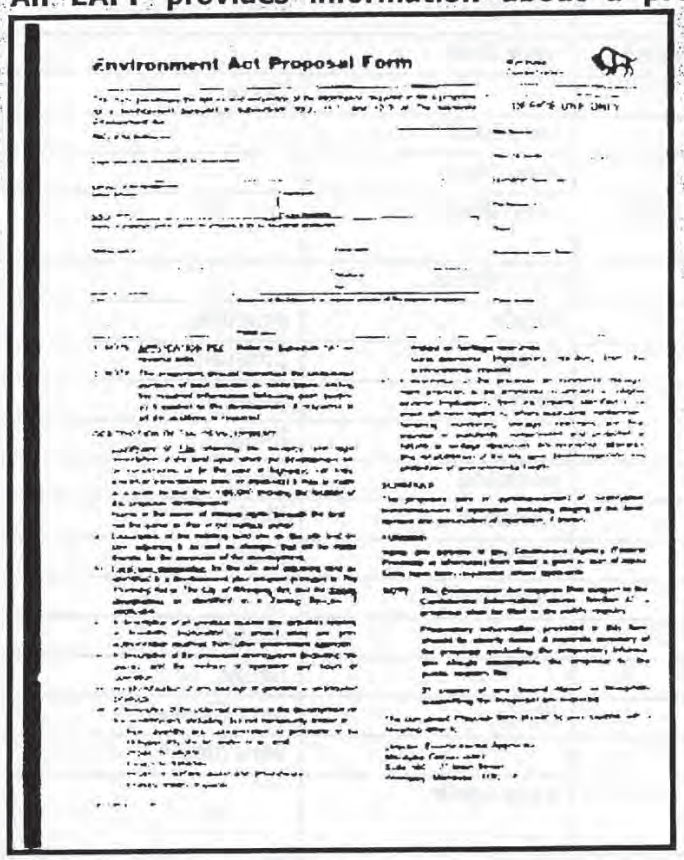
Potential Contracts	Can be done by existing NCN business	Possible Opportunity for new NCN business
Camp-Worksite 1. Foundation for work camp building	very likely	
2. Camp & worksite cleaning	very likely	
3. Engineering services	very likely	likely
4. Sewer & water for camp	very likely	
5. Grading & preparation for camp	very likely	
6. Install camp buildings	Likely	
7. Supply camp furniture	very likely	
8. Supply & install mechanical equipment	very likely	likely
9. Crushing & stockpiling aggregate (gravel)	very likely	
10. Supply & install loading docks		likely
11. Supply timber blocking	very likely	
12. Supply & install chain link fencing	very likely	
13. Supply & install parking lot fencing & car plug posts	very likely	
14. Decommissioning camps	very likely	
15. Operation of beverage room	likely	possible
16. Operation of store-snack bar	likely	possible
17. Recreation services	likely	possible
18. Security services		likely
19. Transportation	possible	likely
20. Courier services	possible	likely
21. Garbage removal services	possible	likely
22. Snow removal	very likely	
23. Maintenance services		likely
24. Laundry services		likely
25. Janitorial services	likely	very likely
26. Documentary filming		very likely
Road 27. Access road clearing	very likely	
28. Road construction		likely
29. Crushing aggregate	very likely	
30. Garbage removal	likely	
31. Fuel supply and delivery	likely	likely
32. Road maintenance	very likely	very likely
Generating Station 33. Minor forebay clearing	very likely	
34. Bulk fuel & lubricants	likely	likely
35. Operation of sanitary facilities	very likely	
36. Garbage collection	very likely	
37. Other trucking	very likely	very likely
38. Material storage		likely

The above are some example of some contracts that will likely be involved in the Wuskwatim project. There may be other contracts as well.

Environment Form May be Filed Soon

NCN and Hydro will likely file an Environment Act Proposal Form (EAPF) in the near future. This is a standard form required under Manitoba law for a project like Wuskwatim. The EAPF would deal with Wuskwatim only.

An EAPF provides information about a proposed project that will require approval by the Regulators (officials of the provincial and federal governments working together). It says who the Proponent (the person or persons proposing the project) is. In the case of Wuskwatim, NCN and Hydro would likely be the Proponent.


Environment Act Proposal Form

The EAPF describes the proposed project - where it is and what it involves. Filing an EAPF would not commit NCN and Hyd o proceeding with Wuskwatim.

The EAPF would describe the potential impact of the proposed project on the environment, including water, fish, wildlife, heritage resources, and socio-economic implications of the proposed project.

Once filed, the EAPF becomes a public document. Anyone can inspect it at a public registry.

The EAPF in respect of Wuskwatim has not been finalized yet. It will likely be finalized soon.

If and when the EAPF is filed, the Regulators can start to develop guidelines for an Environmental Impact Statement - a detailed report about the environmental effects of Wuskwatim. The EIS may be completed next year. The whole environmental process might take about two years.

Neither NCN nor Hydro has made any final decisions about Wusk m. Furthermore, public hearings would have to be held about Wuskwatim. The Regulators would consider what the public says, before making any final decisions.

Harvest Calender Participant Contest Winners



Dennis Linklater/Alex Francios



Earl Hart/Leonard Spence



Earl Hart/Charlie J. Hart



Jimmy D Spence/Mathew Wood/Dennis Linklater



Dollie Hart/Donna Linklater/Moore



Conrad Moore/Norman Spence



Ken Brightnose, Reggie/Conrad Moore



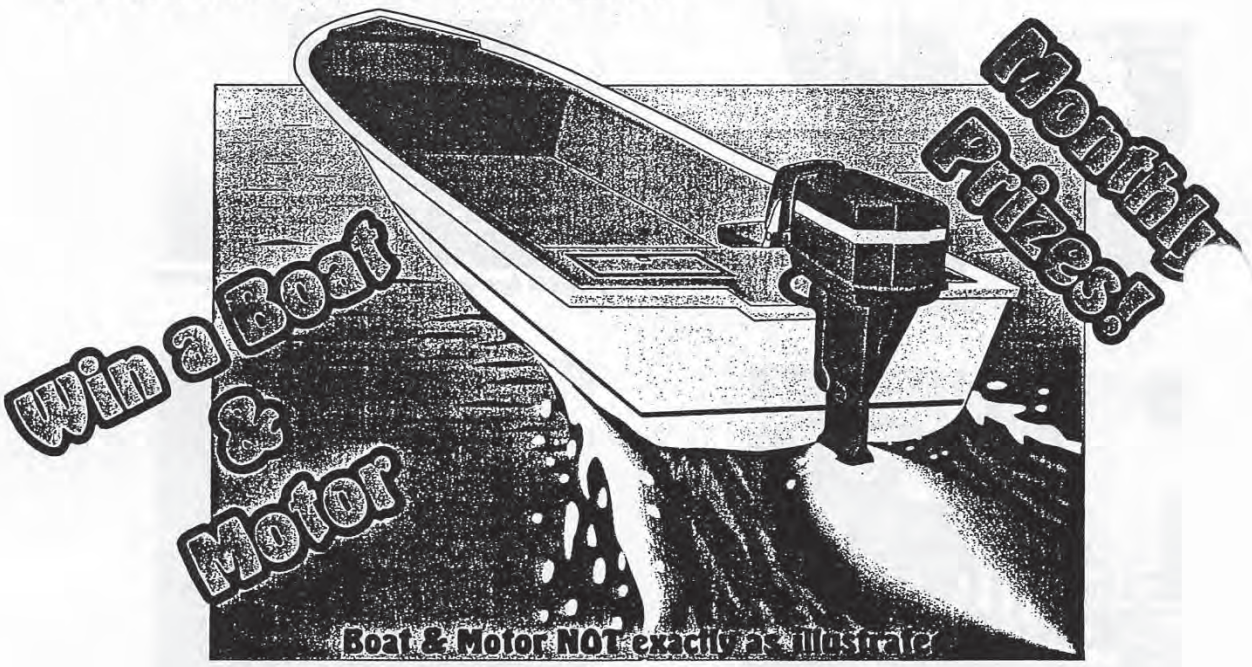
Conrad Moore/Rodrick Spence

DOMESTIC HARVEST STUDY

The NCN Future Development Team is conducting a study to determ. resource-harvesting activity (including fishing, hunting trapping, berry picking and medicinal plants) in the Nelson House Resource Management Area. Participants are recording harvesting activities on a calendar from August 2001 to July 2002.

The information will be used to help NCN manage resources in the NCN Resource Management Area and to determine how harvesting may be affected by the proposed Future Development at Taskinigup Falls (the Wuskwatim project).

Participating NCN members are eligible for monthly prizes and the Grand Prize: a 16-foot boat equipped a 25-horse motor.



The draw for the months of August 2001 and September 2001 were: Leonard Spence, Matthew Wood, Charlie J. Hart, Dollie Hart, Alex François, Roderick Spence, Norman Spence and Ken Brightnose.

CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYONE AND THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
Future Development Working Group

Ensuring the Visions of Our Children.....
& our Children's Children.....



Seasons Greetings

Newsletter

December 2001

Community Meeting Concerning the Wuskwatim Access Road

A committee consisting of NCN advisors, engineers from Manitoba Hydro, and members of the environmental study team has been looking at different options for the route of the access road to the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station. The results of these studies were described in a newsletter distributed in the community in early December. A community meeting was held on December 3 to present the results of these studies to members, and obtain comments from the community.



NCN Chief and Council and Manitoba Hydro are now discussing the results of these studies so that a final route can be selected. Once a route has been chosen, field work will be required to obtain more detailed information about the land and soils. This information will assist in the engineering for the road, and determining more precisely where the road would be.

Update on Environmental Studies

The fieldwork for most of the environmental studies was completed in October but some work is continuing. A winter tracking survey is currently being done to look at animal movements along the winter access trail, the transmission line and part of PR 391. NCN Chief and Council and Manitoba Hydro have approved a proposal to do a radio-collaring study on woodland caribou in the NCN Resource Management Area (RMA). An application for a permit to do the work has been submitted to Manitoba Conservation, and the study would begin in winter 2002 (if a permit is received) and continue for several years.

Members of the environmental study team are analysing the data they have collected over the past year. This information is being used to help predict how the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station might affect the environment. The results of the biologists' work will be presented to NCN members at an Open House, planned for early 2002. This Open House will give NCN members the opportunity to ask questions about the studies, as well as providing the study team with an opportunity to speak with NCN members to obtain valuable feedback and additional information about the plants and animals in the RMA.

WHAT IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT?

An Environmental Impact Statement is a written report that describes how a development (such as the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station) will change the environment - both good and bad changes are described in the report. The assessment looks at everything that may be changed by the project, including effects on the land, water, plants and animals, as well as the community and people. The EIS uses information from studies that are done before the development is built. These studies are done to:

- describe what the environment is like before the proposed development;
- help predict what effect the development may have on the environment;
- help identify positive effects of the development so that the benefit can be as great as possible; and,
- help identify negative effects, and try to find ways to make any negative effects as small as possible.

The information collected before the proposed generating station is built will also be compared with information collected afterwards, to see if the predictions in the EIS were right, and to make sure that there are no effects that were not identified in the EIS. Many of the environmental studies for the Wuskwatim Generating Station Project have been completed, though some are still continuing. The studies have looked at:

- plants and animals that live in the water and on the land;
- uses of the environment (land and water) by people for activities such as trapping, hunting, and recreation;
- access to the land (which may change if roads or transmission line corridors are built);
- other effects on people, including their health and safety, job opportunities, and their day-to-day way of life; and,
- identification of historic and cultural sites (to make sure that they are protected from negative effects).

The environmental study team is currently writing the EIS, and NCN and Hydro will start receiving sections for review and comment in early 2002.

After the EIS has been completed, and both NCN and Hydro agree with its contents, it will be submitted to the governments of Manitoba and Canada. The EIS will be reviewed by the government agencies to make sure that it was done properly. The government will also ask for comments about the proposed development from other groups interested in the development (such as environmental groups). Once the review has been completed, the governments will decide whether the generating station should be approved, based on whether the effects are acceptable. If the effects of the project are not acceptable, then the project will not be approved. If this happens, it is possible that the project may be accepted at a later time, if it can be changed to reduce its negative effects on the environment. Even if the governments approve the construction of the Wuskwatim Generating Station, NCN and Manitoba Hydro may decide not to build it for other reasons (e.g., economic).

MORE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT ACRONYMS

A.I.P	Agreement in Principle
A.T.E.C.	Atoskiwin Employment & Training Centre
B.N.A.	Burntwood Nelson Agreement
C.R.D.	Churchill River Diversion
E.A.P.F.	Environment Act Proposal Form
E.I.A.	Environmental Impact Assessment
E.I.S.	Environmental Impact Study
G.S.	Generating Station
N.F.A.	Northern Flood Agreement
P.I.P.	Public Involvement Plan
P.D.A.	Project Development Agreement

Unscramble the letters and use the letter in the boxes to form a word.

EERNLTSTWE _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

CTEERSLBTOLA _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

HERBIETCR _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

NNSTIMAISOSR _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

An Important Animal For Cree People

Domestic Harvest Study

The resource harvest calendar study is in full swing. So far about 150 members are involved in the study. Participants are doing an excellent job filling in the calendars and providing valuable information.



Monthly prizes have included a wide variety of outdoor items - sleeping bags, coolers, Coleman stoves, and even a camping love seat. The winners of the second draw (held in November) were Johnnie Bonner, Ross Francois, Alpheus Moody and Darcy Spence.



Winners of December's Draw were: Catherine Moore, Moses Hartie, Frank Moore and Henry Ward Spence.



CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYONE AND THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING





Clean Environment Commission Meeting in Nelson House

On the Wuskwatim Project

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation **February 2002**

What is the Clean Environment Commission (CEC)?

The CEC is a provincial body created by a Manitoba law called The Environment Act. The Chair of the CEC is now Mr. Terry Duguid.



Terry Duguid, Chair of the CEC

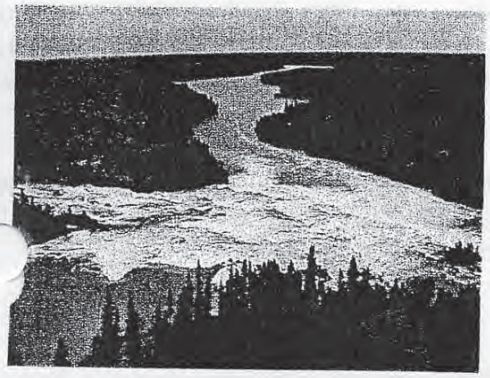
At the request of the Province, the CEC conducts public hearings about major projects that may affect the environment, then writes a report about its findings. It can make recommendations to the provincial government about the subject that it has been asked to review, but the government has the final say.

The officials from the provincial and federal governments who make decisions about environmental issues are sometimes called "the Regulators". Federal and provincial Regulators will work together in cooperation, in assessing the proposed Wuskwatim project.

What is the Status of the Wuskwatim Project?

NCN and Hydro have not yet made any final decisions about the proposed Wuskwatim project.

For one thing, NCN and Hydro are still discussing a Project Development Agreement (PDA). The PDA would contain details about Wuskwatim and about NCN and Hydro's partnership - including how they would own Wuskwatim together. Many details have to be discussed and decided.



Taskinigup Falls - site of the Proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station

Secondly, even after NCN and Hydro finalize a PDA, NCN members still have to vote on the proposed PDA by secret ballot.

Thirdly, many details about Wuskwatim are still being discussed by NCN and Hydro. For example, they are still discussing the best route for the transmission lines that would connect to the Wuskwatim generating station. No final decisions have been made.

Fourthly, NCN and Hydro are still working on an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - a report about how Wuskwatim would affect the environment and other things. They hope the EIS can be finished by summer.

Why is the CEC Coming to Nelson House at this Time?

Even though no one knows yet whether the proposed Wuskwatim project will actually go ahead, NCN and Manit Hydro wanted governments to begin the process of looking at the environmental impacts of the proposed project. T process was started when NCN and Manitoba Hydro submitted simple descriptions of the Wuskwatim Generating Station project and the associated transmission facilities. These documents, called Environment Act Proposal Forms, were given to the Province of Manitoba in early December 2001.

From there, the Province has asked the CEC to review draft guidelines saying what should go into the environmental studies. The draft guidelines were issued by the Regulators in late December 2001. These guidelines will tell NCN and Manitoba Hydro what questions should be answered by the Environmental Impact Statements for the project. To do this review, the CEC will hold four meetings and listen to the views of Manitobans about what should be included in the guidelines for the environmental studies.

The CEC will hold meetings on February 11, 12, 18 and 19 in Thompson, Nelson House, Winnipeg and The Pas, respectively. Representatives from Hydro and NCN will be at all CEC meetings.

Members of the public who wish to make a presentation at any of the CEC meetings about the draft EIS Guidelines should register with the CEC by calling 1-800-597-3556 toll free.



Duncan Wood Community Hall located behind the Gilbert McDonald Arena

The Nelson House meeting will start at 1:00 p.m. in the Duncan Wood Community Hall.

Before the Nelson House meeting, the CEC will meet with NCN Chief and Council to discuss the work of the CEC. Chief and Council will introduce the CEC to NCN members. This is the first time the CEC has visited Nelson House.

All NCN members and the public at large are welcome to all meetings.

Will there be Other Meetings about the Wuskwatim Project?

This is just the first round of CEC events. Once the current meetings are over, the CEC will prepare a report for the government that will include advice and recommendations respecting final EIS Guidelines that should be prepared and issued for the project.

If NCN and Hydro decide to go ahead with the Wuskwatim project and submit the Environmental Impact Statements to governments, the CEC will hold formal CEC hearings at a later date. This would occur after the EIS documents have been submitted and released to the public for review and comment.

Once formal hearings are completed and the CEC has thought about what they heard from the public, they will write their final report to governments, including recommendations about whether to proceed with the project and, if so, under what conditions.

Even though no final decisions have been made about the project, and even though this is just a first round of public meetings, the CEC meetings will be a good opportunity for NCN members to learn more about the proposed Wuskwatim project and to share their comments.

Therefore, NCN members are urged to attend at least one CEC public meeting. The one in Nelson House is Tuesday, February 12 at 1:00 p.m.

Highlights from the NCN Opinion Survey in South Indian Lake

Future Development Newsletter
Special Edition April 2002

MESSAGE FROM THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT TEAM:

Tansi. In May of 2001, NCN members had the opportunity to vote on an Agreement-In-Principle between NCN and Manitoba Hydro about possible new hydro-electric developments at Taskinigup Falls at Wuskwatim Lake and/or close to the Notigi control structure. To follow up on the results of this vote and to get a better understanding of how NCN members living at South Indian Lake see the benefits and drawbacks of these proposals, the NCN Future Development Team undertook a survey of members living in South Indian Lake.

During July and August of last year, many of you participated in this survey. We want to thank you for taking the time to participate in this very important survey and for sharing your opinions and concerns. To accurately assess the benefits and risks of these proposed developments we require the input of all NCN members.

We would also like to thank Vanessa Tait, Jared Anderson, Maria Moose, Esther Dysart, Mike Dumas and Val Dysart for working so hard to complete the surveys in your community.

A similar survey was undertaken in August and September of 2001 with NCN members living in Thompson and Winnipeg, and another was undertaken in May, June and July of 2000 of NCN members living on-reserve at Nelson House.

The results from all of these surveys are being considered and used to guide our discussions with Manitoba Hydro. For example, a number of South Indian Lake members indicated that they are more concerned about the proposed Notigi project proceeding than the Wuskwatim project. Following consideration of this and a number of other factors, a decision was made to change the in-service date of Notigi from 2010 to 2014, at the earliest.

The survey results are also being used to find better ways of communicating with members about these proposed projects. We want to ensure that all members are fully informed about these possible projects, during every step of the process.

NCN Chief and Council have not made any commitment to Manitoba Hydro to build any projects. Chief and Council are involved in discussions only and will make commitments only if the projects are feasible and if the NCN membership agrees after review of all the information

-- Chief and Council

This newsletter outlines the survey process and shares some of the main results. If you would like more detailed information on the survey results, you are welcome to speak with Val Dysart or Mike Dumas at the NCN Future Development Office in South Indian Lake. Copies of an analysis report and complete survey results are also available for review in the Future Development Office.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact Mike or Val at the NCN Future Development Office in South Indian Lake. You can also contact the NCN Future Development Team in Nelson House at 484-2414.

Ekosani.

Chief Jerry Primrose, Councillors Elvis Thomas, D'arcy Linklater, Jim Moore, David Spence, Agnes Spence and Jimmy Hunter-Spence; Elder Sam Dysart; Co-managers Norman Linklater and Marcel Moody; Cam MacInnes, Bruce Hickey, Tim Nykoluk, Bob Lederman, Valerie Matthews-Lemieux, and Peter Ferris

Inside this Special Edition...

The survey process	2
Highlights of what you told us about...	
...potential future hydro projects in the NCN RMA	2
...employment, unions, business and training	5
...other issues and concerns	6
Responding to your concerns	6

The Survey Process

Who Conducted the Survey?

The survey team consisted of 6 NCN members living in South Indian Lake. These included the two permanent community consultants, Val Dysart and Mike Dumas, and 4 temporary consultants - Vanessa Tait, Maria Moose, Esther Dysart and Jared Anderson. Community Consultants from Nelson House who are fluent in Cree helped to conduct interviews with NCN elders living in the community. InterGroup Consultants of Winnipeg provided advice and organizational support.

How was the Survey done?

The NCN Opinion Survey in South Indian Lake was designed in two stages or 'passes' and participation was voluntary.

For the first pass, the survey team went to each household and interviewed the person who had most recently had their birthday. This random approach was used to ensure that at least one person in each of the approximately 176 households in South Indian Lake with NCN members participated in the survey, and that there was good representation of all age groups (16 years of age and older), both male and female. All NCN elders living in the community were also included in the first pass.

For the second pass, the surveyors went back to each household to speak with whomever else (16 years of age and older) wanted to complete the survey. The hope was to have as many people participate as possible during the survey timeframe.

In total, approximately 112 people were surveyed for the first pass and 25 people were interviewed for the second pass, for a total response of 137 surveys. This represented about one-third of NCN members living in South Indian Lake, 16 years of age and older.

Confidentiality: Where are the surveys now and what will happen to them?

The individual survey results are strictly confidential. People were asked for their names and Treaty numbers only to keep track of who had participated. No names or Treaty numbers were ever used in the data analysis, and the surveys have since been assigned random numbers.

The survey forms are currently in sealed boxes at Myers Weinberg's law offices in Winnipeg, and will be destroyed after one year, in keeping with the process followed for votes and elections.

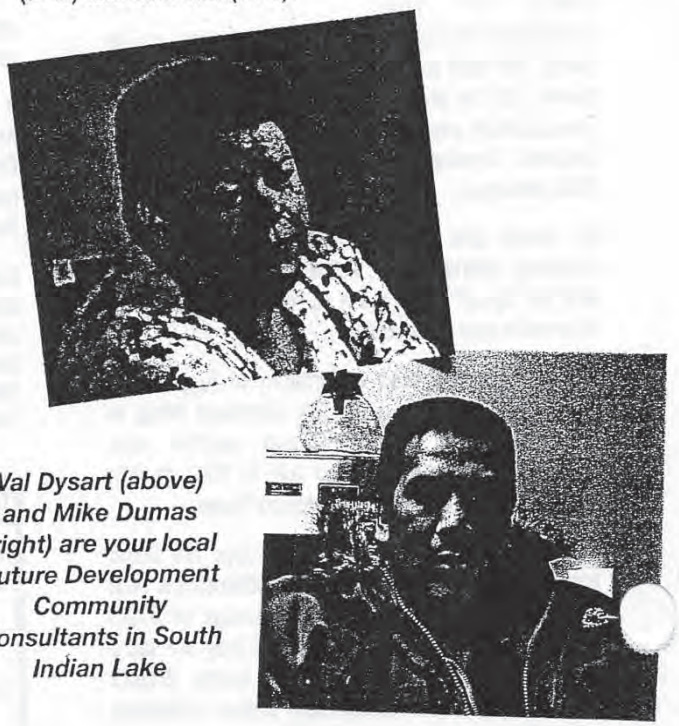
Highlights of what you told us about...

...Awareness of & Communication about Possible Future Hydro Projects in the NCN RMA

At the time of the survey, a majority of NCN members living at South Indian Lake had heard something about the proposed hydro-electric developments at Notigi and Taskinigup Falls. Of these, most (67%) said they had heard 'a little' about the projects. Only a few (4%) said they had heard 'a lot', and just over one-quarter of respondents (28%) said they had heard 'nothing' about these proposed developments.

People said they heard about the projects through friends, neighbours and relatives (44%), a public open house (42%), community consultants (29%), the AIP booklet (28%), and Future Development newsletters and brochures (24%).

Most NCN members living in South Indian Lake (76%) indicated that they do not feel they are getting information about future development. When asked what the best ways are for the Future Development Team to distribute informati to South Indian Lake residents, people said public meetings (71%), letters to their homes (53%), Community Consultant visits (52%), newsletters and brochures (45%), open houses (37%) and radio ads (37%).



Val Dysart (above) and Mike Dumas (right) are your local Future Development Community Consultants in South Indian Lake

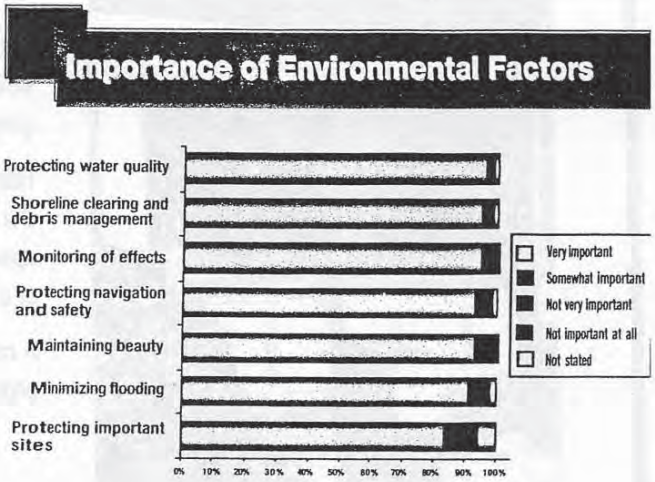
...Potential Future Hydro Development

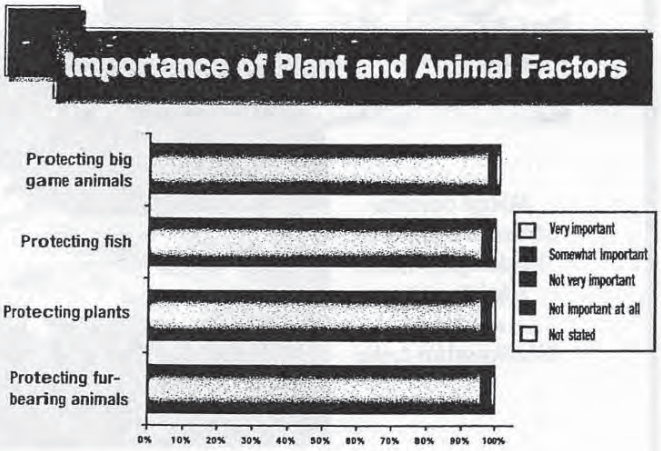
...Priorities for Potential Hydro Development

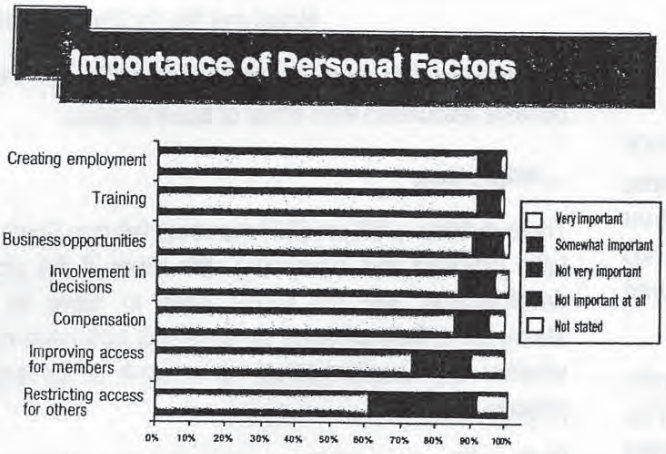
NCN members living in South Indian Lake identified several issues as very important in future hydro development:

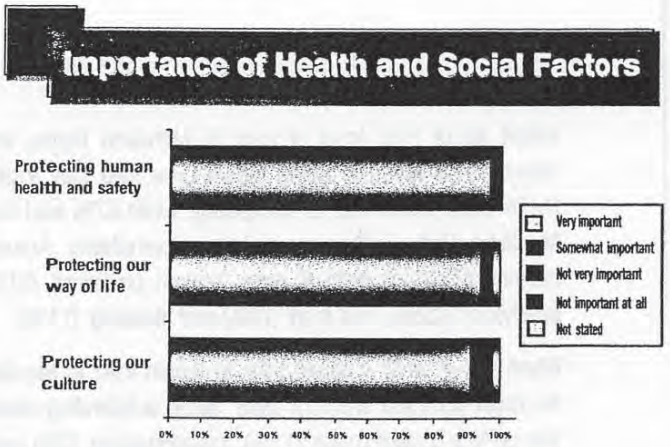
- More than 90% felt it was very important to protect big game animals, fish, plants and fur-bearing animals; protect water quality; protect human health and safety; undertake shoreline clearing and debris management; monitor effects; address navigation and safety; maintain the beauty of the area; minimize flooding; protect their way of life and culture; and, create employment, training and business opportunities for NCN members.
- More than 80% felt it was very important to protect important sites; involve local NCN members in hydro-related decisions; and, compensate for damages.
- More than 70% felt it was very important to improve access for NCN members to the Nelson House Resource Management Area (RMA).
- More than 50% felt it was very important to restrict access by non NCN members to the Nelson House RMA.

Regarding the importance of NCN owning part of the proposed projects, 41% said this was 'very important' and 20% said this was 'somewhat important'.





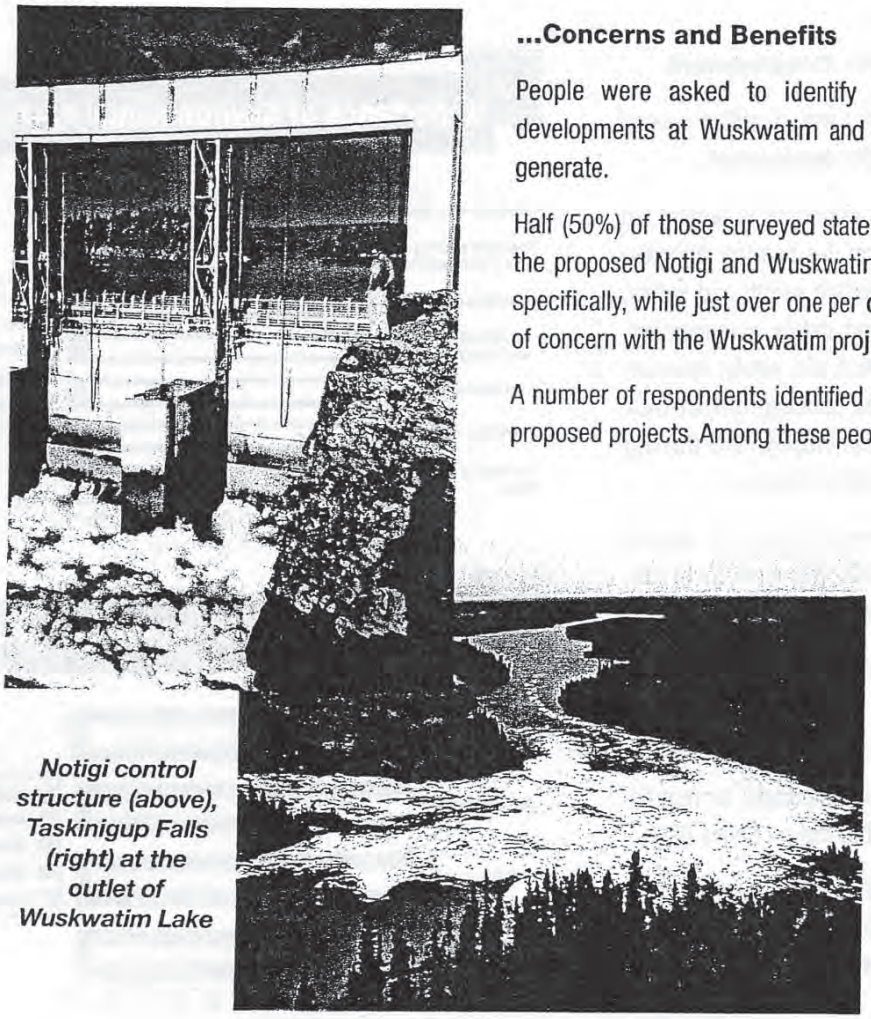




Charts of the survey results (shown above) indicate the importance NCN members living in South Indian Lake place on a variety of issues related to future development.

Highlights of what you told us about...

...Potential Future Hydro Development (co.)



Notigi control structure (above), Taskinigup Falls (right) at the outlet of Wuskwatim Lake

...Concerns and Benefits

People were asked to identify their concerns about the potential hydro developments at Wuskwatim and Notigi, and the benefits the projects might generate.

Half (50%) of those surveyed stated that they are equally concerned about both the proposed Notigi and Wuskwatim projects. Nineteen per cent identified Notigi specifically, while just over one per cent (2 respondents) associated a greater level of concern with the Wuskwatim project.

A number of respondents identified specific concerns associated with each of the proposed projects. Among these people, the top concerns were:

- Impacts on fishing (38% for Notigi and 12% for Wuskwatim)
- Flooding (31% for Notigi and 16% for Wuskwatim), and
- Rising water levels (26% for Notigi and 12% for Wuskwatim).

Only 19% of those surveyed associated benefits with the proposed hydro developments. Among these people, the main benefits identified were:

- Job creation (69% for Notigi and 73% for Wuskwatim), and
- Monetary compensation (15% for Notigi and 8% for Wuskwatim).

Seventy-one per cent of respondents did not see any benefits associated with either of these projects.

...Trust in Manitoba Hydro

Asked about their level of trust in Manitoba Hydro, 9% of NCN members surveyed in South Indian Lake said they trust Manitoba Hydro either somewhat or completely, while 67% said they distrust Manitoba Hydro either somewhat or completely. Among the top reasons given for distrust were 'broken promises' (51%), 'ruined livelihoods' (22%), 'lost land' (13%) and 'flooding' (11%).

When asked what it would take to regain trust in Manitoba Hydro, the most common answers were 'settle outstanding claims' (11%), 'live up to promises made' (11%), 'compensation' (5%) and 'listening and communicating with South Indian Lake residents' (5%). Fully 40%, however, said nothing could be done to regain their trust.

...Migration

Three-quarters (75%) of NCN members living in South Indian Lake indicated that proceeding with either of the proposed developments will not cause them to move to either Thompson or Nelson House. An additional 15% were not sure whether they would relocate as a result of the proposed projects.

Of the 10% who said they would relocate to Nelson H (4%) or Thompson (6%) as a result of the projects, the single largest reason provided for moving would be to get a job.

Highlights of what you told us about...
...Employment, Unions, Business & Training

...Employment Opportunities

As part of the survey, NCN members living in South Indian Lake were asked whether they are interested in employment opportunities associated with the construction of the proposed developments, as well as post-construction, operations jobs with Manitoba Hydro.

Of those surveyed, 37% said they would be interested in working on the construction phase of the possible new hydro developments. Asked what type of job they would like to receive, the most frequent answers were 'any job' (37%), 'heavy equipment operator' (16%), 'labourer' (12%) and 'cook' (12%).

NCN Chief and Council are in the process of negotiating a preference policy with Manitoba Hydro for project-related jobs. We would like to see a policy that gives preference to all NCN members, regardless of where they live in Manitoba.

-- Chief and Council

Fewer people (31%) said they would be interested in pursuing employment with Manitoba Hydro once construction is over and the possible new hydro developments are operating. The most common types of jobs people said they would like were 'any job' (24%), 'labourer' (12%), 'heavy equipment operator' (10%), 'cleaning' (10%) and 'cooking' (10%).

...Unions

Manitoba Hydro has collective agreements with several unions and NCN members working on the Wuskwatim or Notigi projects would need to become part of these unions as a condition of employment. Although fewer than one-quarter (23%) of South Indian Lake respondents had experience with unions, most people provided generally positive comments about unions, saying that they are 'good' (26%), 'benefit employees' (23%) and 'protect jobs' (11%).

...Business Opportunities

About one-quarter (26%) of those surveyed said they are interested in pursuing business opportunities associated with the proposed projects. Many potential types of businesses were mentioned, the top three being 'anything' (23%), 'contractor' (11%), and 'convenience store' (9%).

Of those people interested in pursuing business opportunities, only 3% had ever owned a business and 9% had had business training. However, the majority of these respondents (83%) indicated that they are interested in receiving business training.

...Training Opportunities

If the proposed Wuskwatim and/or Notigi developments go ahead, NCN may establish a company called Atoskiwin Training and Employment Centre (A-TEC) in Nelson House to carry out training and do job referrals for the projects.

When asked, nearly half (47%) of those surveyed indicated that they would be interested in taking training at A-TEC. The types of training people were interested in receiving included 'anything' (28%), 'heavy equipment operation' (26%), 'electrical' (11%), and 'carpentry' (11%) training.

...Past Manitoba Hydro Training and Employment

Of those surveyed, 6% said they received training at the Limestone Training and Employment Agency, 3% said they had worked on the Limestone construction project and 19% said they had worked on the construction of another hydro project. Most of those who had worked on another hydro project indicated that they had done shoreline clearing (35%), worked on the South Bay Project (15%) and/or worked on the development at Missi Falls (15%).

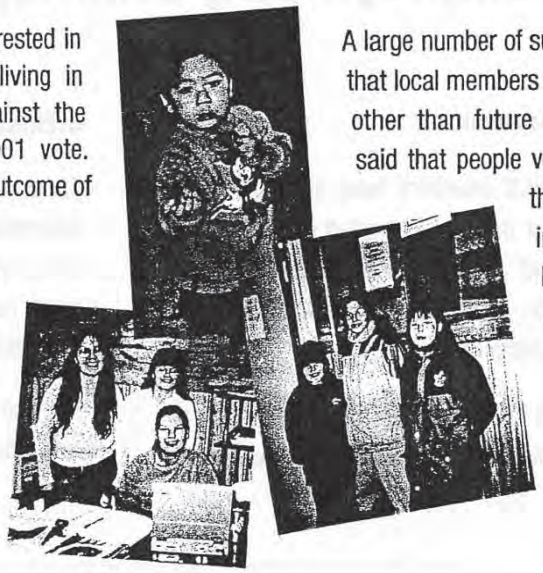
Highlights of what you told us about...

...Other Issues and Concer

The NCN Future Development Team was interested in trying to understand why NCN members living in South Indian Lake voted so strongly against the Agreement-in-Principle during the May 2001 vote. When asked, the main reasons cited for the outcome of the vote were:

* NCN members living in South Indian Lake will see no benefits from the proposed projects (26%)
* New flooding (14%), and
* The impacts of past flooding (12%).

A small number of those surveyed (5%) said local members were directed to vote against the AIP.



A large number of survey respondents (39%) thought that local members voted against the AIP for reasons other than future development. These individuals said that people voted against the AIP because of the impacts of past hydro projects, including flooding, erosion, broken promises, lake damage, and fluctuating water levels. A small number said that people were concerned over the lack of South Indian Lake input into the process (6%) and so few Chief and Council visits to their community (6%).

RESPONDING TO YOUR CONCERNS...

A Message from the Future Development Team

The input of NCN members in South Indian Lake (SIL) is very important to the Future Development Team.

Since the AIP vote, there has ben a major change in Future Development plans. The focus has shifted away from the proposed Notigi project, and on to the proposed Wuskwatim project. As of today, only Wuskwatim is under active consideration.

In the 1970s, when the CRD was planned, NCN had to rely on Hydro's engineers for predictions about the effects of CRD. Things are different today. Today NCN has its own engineers. NCN gets an independent analysis of engineering issues related to Wuskwatim. NCN also has its own, independent lawyers and consultants.

It is not anticipated that Wuskwatim will have any effect on the water levels or fluctuations in SIL.

Another thing that has changed since the 1970s is that NCN and Hydro are cooperating very closely in looking for ways to ensure that Wuskwatim provides job & business opportunities for NCN members.

Plans are now underway to do training assessments for NCN members in SIL.

NCN has two community consultants in SIL. SIL's headman has been present at numerous Future Development meetings. There will be more public meetings and newsletters in SIL, in the future.

SIL members have asked several questions about Wuskwatim. These questions will be answered in future newsletters, open houses, and other formats.

The Future Development Team is listening to SIL concerns. Whatever your views may be about Wuskwatim, we hope you will keep an open mind and carefully consider all relevar information about the proposed project.

NISICHAWAYASIHK
CREE NATION

PARTNERING IN FUTURE HYDRO - ELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT

A NEW APPROACH TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

In This Presentation

The partnering initiative

How this began

About the Wuskwatim Generating Station

Planning Process

Status and upcoming milestones

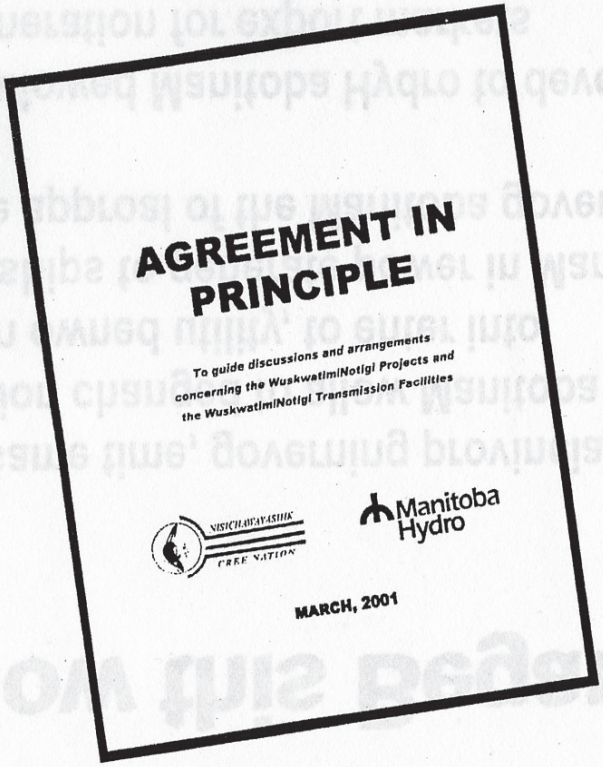
Economic development results

Factors contributing to sucess

The Partnering Initiative

- NCN and Manitoba Hydro have been working hard to develop a partnership arrangement for future hydro-electric projects within the Nelson House RMA
- Emphasis is being placed on the first of these projects, the Wuskwatim Generating Station
- No decisions have been made, yet, to proceed.

Agreement-in-Principle:



This interim, non-binding agreement received significant support of NCN members in May 2001 referendum

How this Began

- In 1977, Northern Flood Agreement (NFA) signed
- In 1996, NFA Implementation Agreement for NCN was signed, and included Section 8 on approach to future development within the Nelson House RMA

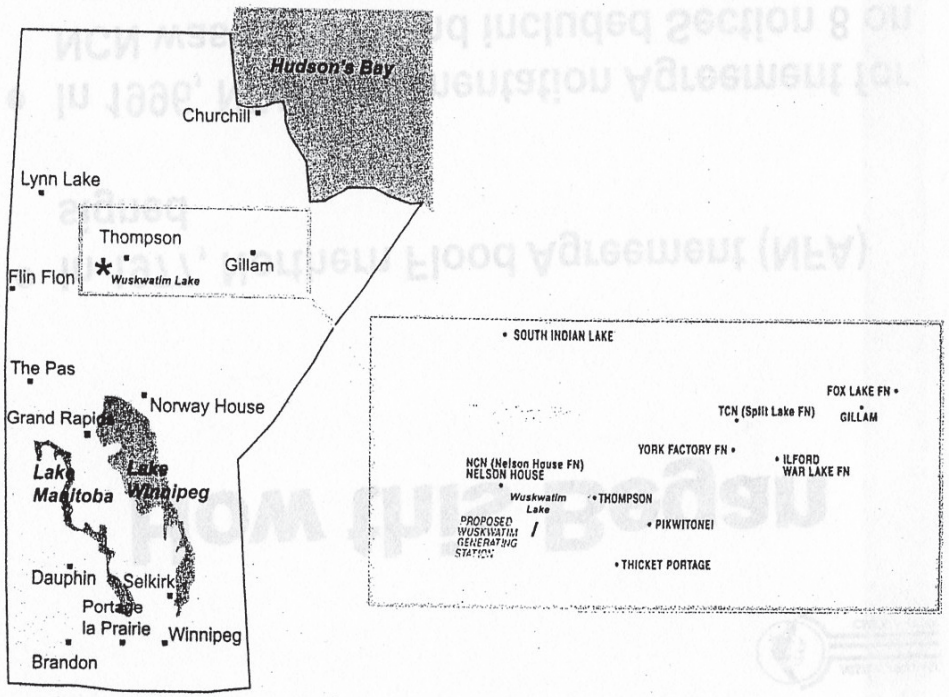
How this Began

At the same time, governing provincial
egislation changed to allow Manitoba Hydro,
a Crown owned utility, to enter into
partnerships to generate power in Manitoba,
with the approal of the Manitoba government

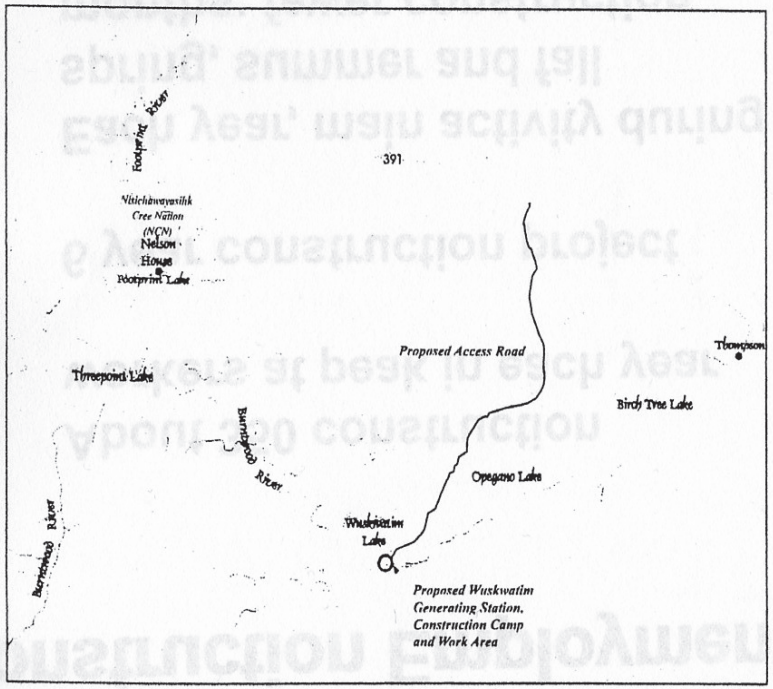
t also allowed Manitoba Hydro to develop
new generation for export markets

This presented the opportunity to develop
new electricity for export before it is required
o meet domestic needs of Manitobans in
about 2018

Where is the Proposed Generating Station?

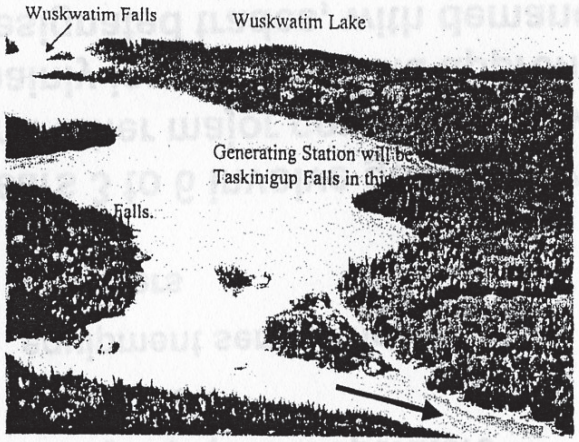


Where is the Proposed Generating Station?

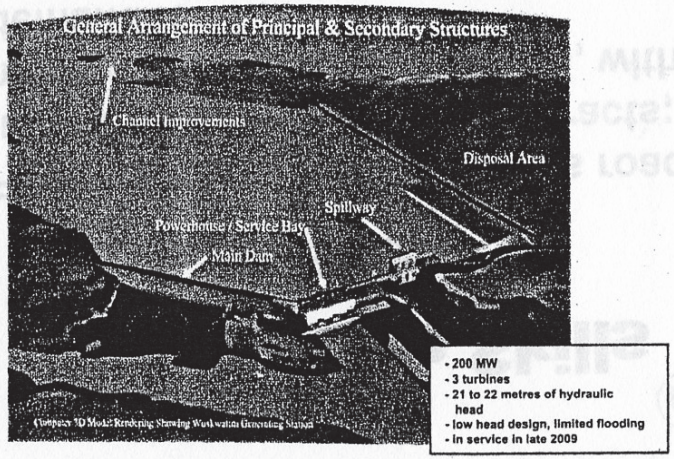


The Wuskwatim Generating Station

Wuskwatim Now



Proposed Project



Construction Employment

- About 350 construction workers at peak in each year
- 6 year construction project
- Each year, main activity during spring, summer and fall months; fewer construction workers needed during winter months

Construction Skills Needed

- First two years involve access road, infrastructure and camp contracts; mainly non-designated trades, with high demand for:
  - heavy equipment operators
  - teamsters
  - equipment servicemen
  - labourers
- Years 3 to 6 involve general civil contract and other major construction works; mainly journeymen and apprentices in designated trades, with demand for:
  - carpenters
  - rebar workers
  - millwrights and electricians

Also need for heavy equipment operators, teamsters, labourers, clerks and catering

Construction Contracts

Total capital cost of almost $1 billion (generating station and associated transmission facilities)

Organized into series of contracts over the construction phase

Manitoba Hydro and NCN are working together to see which work packages can be achieved through negotiated contracts

Employment Preference

- Hiring for construction jobs for the generating station will be governed by a collective agreement between the construction unions for the project and Manitoba Hydro
- NCN is seeking preference in the collective agreement for qualified NCN members

Planning Process

NCN and Manitoba Hydro are working toward a binding Project Development Agreement (PDA) that will set out the basis for their partnership

PDA will need to be approved through referendum of NCN members, by Manitoba Hydro Board and by the Manitoba Cabinet

Before it proceeds, Project also will need environmental and other approvals from Governments of Manitoba and Canada

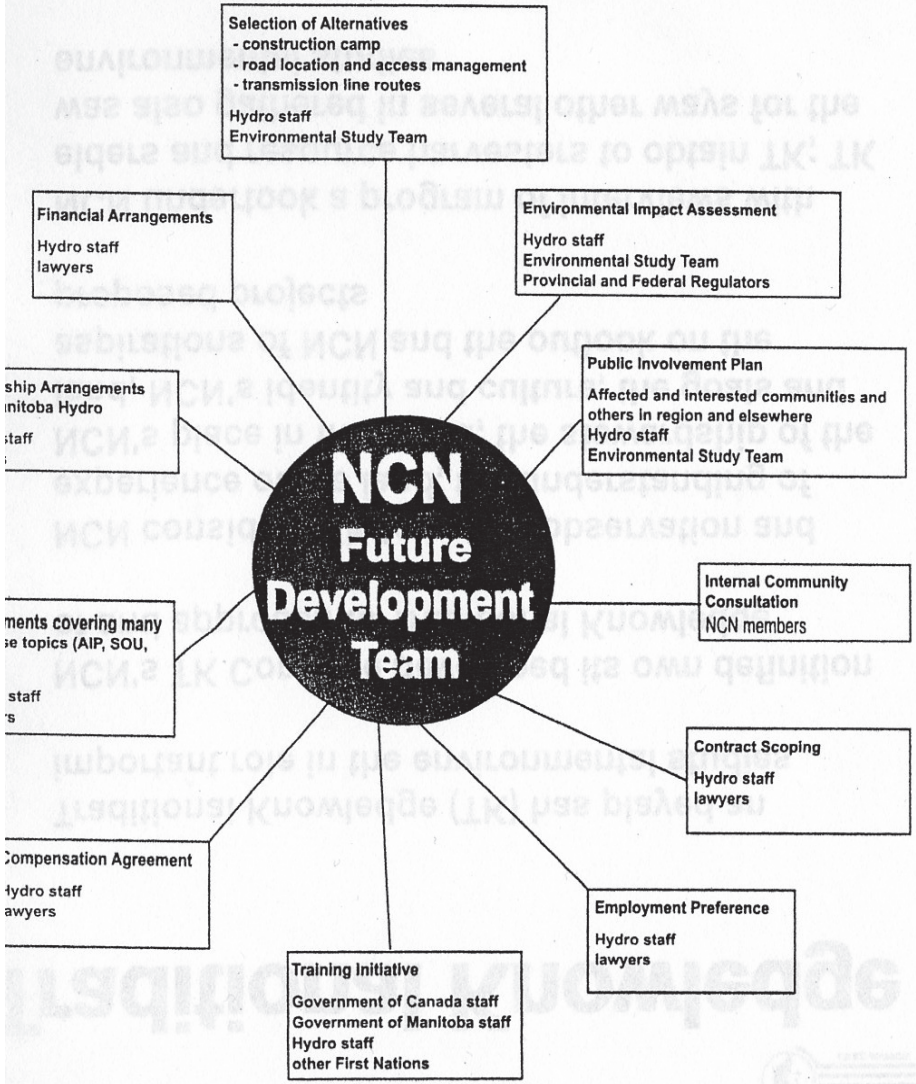
NCN Future Development Team: Working Toward Partnership



Missing from photo:

- Conrad Moore
- Dennis Linklater
- Aaron Hart

Complex Planning Process



Joint Environmental Studies

- Comprehensive environmental impact assessment studies are guided jointly by NCN and Manitoba Hydro
- Study Team jointly selected
- NCN members -- elders and other community members --have played an inportant role in the studies

Traditional Knowledge

Traditional Knowledge (TK) has played an important role in the environmental studies

NCN's TK Comittee developed its own definition of and approach to Traditional Knowledge

NCN considers TK to be the observation and experience of the land, the understanding of NCN's place in the world, the stewardship of the land, NCN's identity and culture, the goals and aspirations of NCN and the outlook on the proposed projects

NCN undertook a program of interviews with elders and resource harvesters to obtain TK; TK was also gathered in several other ways for the environmental studies

Where are We Now?

- Agreement-in-Principle approved
- Summary of Understandings between Manitoba Hydro and NCN being developed and discussed -- summarizes what has been agreed between the parties to date
- Environmental Impact Assessment studies being developed and reviewed -- documents being prepared for filing with regulators

What's Ahead?

- Complete summary of understandings
- Environmental Impact Statement filing
- Public Utilities Board process
- EIS review and hearing process
- PDA and referendum
- Decision to construct
- If approved, launch of 6 - year construction phase
- Operate generating station

Economic Development Results for NCN



- Construction employment for NCN members

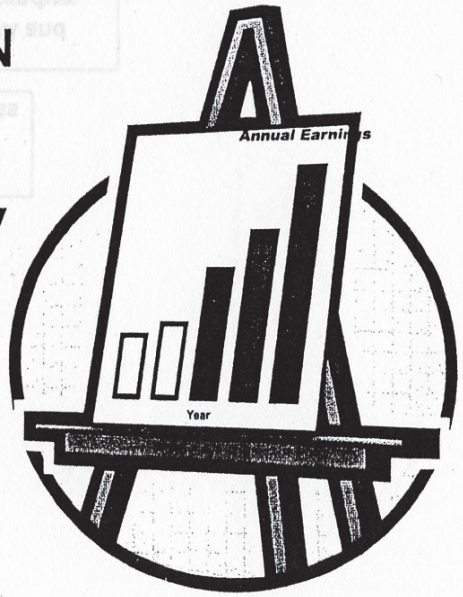


- Training for NCN members and initiative to train others

conomic Development Results for NCN

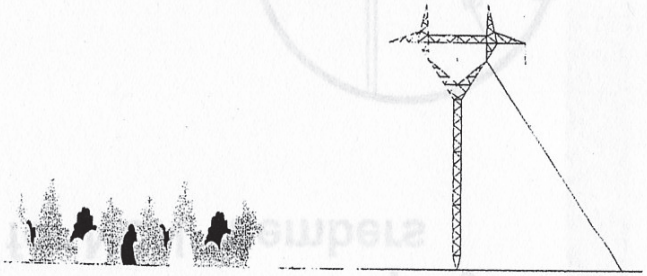
Benefits for NCN businesses

Return on equity investment



Economic Development Results for NCN

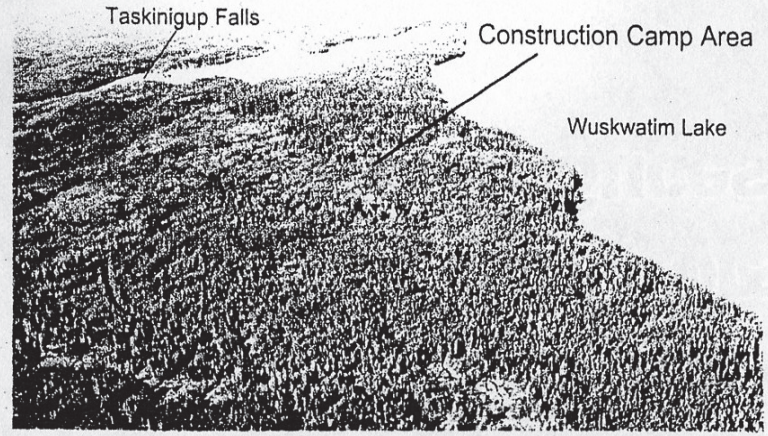
- Potential participation of some kind in transmission project



- Influence over the way that the project is unfolding to maximize benefits for NCN members (for example, policies affecting contracting, employment and training).

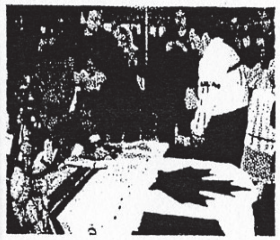
conomic Development Results for NCN

- Influence over the way that the project is unfolding to minimize adverse effects on the environment and NCN (for example, choice of "low head" design, road access route, construction camp location, transmision line route).



Economic Development Results for NCN

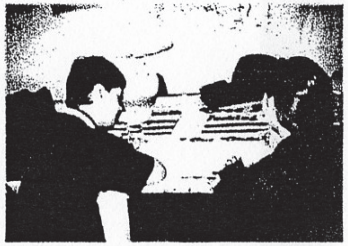
- Capacity-building for NCN Future Development Team - valuable experience in dealing with a project of this kind and scale



Signing the Agreement in Principle in September 2001



Consulting with local members at a community open house



Conducting a survey for the 2000 NCN Opinion Survey on Future Development

Conclusion – Factors Contributing to Sucess

NCN - driven approach

Extensive involvement of NCN members in the process

Respectful attitude of both parties in negotiations

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
Future Development Working Group

Ensuring the Visions of Our Children.....
& our Children's Children.....

What's New At Future Development

This month's issue contains:

Pg. 2- 3 In memoriam
Pg. 4 New Community Liaison Person
Pg.5-6 Recent Developments
Pg. 7-8 Open House June 5-6
Pg. 9-10 HRDA Training
Pg. 11 Unity Run 2002
Pg. 12 Harvest Calendar Winners

July 2002

In Memory Of

Desmond Grant Spence

September 29, 1977 - May 24th 2002



"Peace Keeper"
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

The honor that has been conferred upon NCN people by the commitment of this young man, is a great and high distinction of his character. It arouses us with mixed emotions of humility and profound gratitude. The enthusiastic dedication of Desmond's was very inspiring and the warmth of his friendship will never be forgotten.

Desmond worked as a Peace Keeper for the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation. The people realize the grave duties and responsibilities that Peace Makers endure in the course of their duty. In this dangerous task, he dedicated to the community: "to love justice, to do mercy and to walk humbly with the Creator and with all Creation." He discharged his duties always to the best of his abilities. His every effort will forever be remembered, justifying the expressions of his service to NCN people.

The weight of the responsibility as a Peace Keeper that he placed upon himself will never be forgotten and will forever be in our hearts. The people of NCN recognize that his Spirit will always be in their hearts. Relying on this Spirit, it is hoped that we continue our journey with balance and harmony towards a "Peaceful Future."

NISICHAWAYASIHK CREE NATION
POLICE

In Loving Memory of Our Dad,
Grandfather, Great Grand Father
and Friend



Isaac Hartie
June 3, 1913 - June 9, 2002

New Community Laision Person

Hello, Tansi Elders, Youth, and all of NCN' members. As you all know my name is Crystal Wood. I was born in Thompson and raised here in Nelson House. I left the community after graduating from High School to obtain Post Secondary Education, and returned back home after completing my studies.

Since graduating from High School in 1996, I've attending Keewatin Community College in Nelson House, Thompson and The Pas. I have been employed by the Nisichawaysihk Cree Nation for the past 2 Years. I encourage everyone, especially the youth to continue their education. Remember after graduating from High School education doesn't stop there, you will have to continue on to Post Secondary education. With a lot of support from family members, determination, and the willingness to succeed, you will find yourself where you want to be in the future.

As some of you may be aware, I was recently hired by the Nelson House Future Development as Community Liasion Person. Some of my duties will include monthly Newsletters, Video & Editing, attending Community Open Houses and General Band Meetings.

In closing, I look forward to providing you the community members monthly Newsletters regarding Future Development and other related issues. I also encourage all the band members to participate in all open houses and general band meetings, for it is important to get everyone's opinions regarding Future Development and community issues.

Ekosi



Crystal Wood
Community Liaison Person
Nelson House Future Development

Exploration Program for the Wuskwatim Access Road

After carefully considering all options, NCN Chief and Council and Manitoba Hydro decided to select the Mile ›ption for the access road to the proposed \ ‹watim Generating Station. As exploration program along this route was started in mid January and continued for several months. Nelson House Forest Industries had the contract for setting up the temporary worker's camp and clearing the centerline along the road route and other areas where surveying will be done. The Department of Highways surveyed the route, and sampled the soils, to get a better estimate of what the road would cost to construct.

Before the exploration program began, Manitoba Conservation issued a permit. The Nelson House Resource Management Board reviewed this permit, and one of the conditions was to do wildlife tracking surveys along the route.

No decisions have been made yet to construct either the Wuskwatim Generating Station or a permanent access road. Before a final decision is made, NCN members will be able to vote on a Project Development Agreement (PDA), which will be include the construction of the generating station and the p ‹anent access road.

Meeting with Commercial Fishermen and Trappers

A meeting attended by the commercial fishermen and trappers, NCN Resource Managers, community consultants, and members of the environmental study team was held on January 28 at the Duncan Wood Memorial Hall. At the meeting, resource users provided information to study team members to assist in doing the Environmental Impact Assessment. Topics that were discussed included current resource use in the Wuskwatim Lake area, important issues for resource users, and how construction of the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station could effect resource harvesting in the future.

Caribou Radio-Collaring Study

NCN and Manitoba Hydro are proceeding with a study hat will include putting radio-collars on 20 woodland caribou. Capturing of caribou began in early February, nd targeted animals that might use the areas around W vatim Lake and the proposed access road. Signals ro. .e collars will be transmitted to a satellite so that he movements of the animals can be followed. This tudy will provide valuable information about the umber of caribou that use the area where the proposed roject would be built, and help develop appropriate

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Guidelines

Under environmental laws, there have to be public hearings held by the Clean Environmental Commission (CEC) before the proposed Wuskwatim project can be approved. These hearings may be held in the summer of 2003, although this timing may change.

Before there can be hearings, Hydro and NCN must write an EIS. This is a large, detailed report about all the studies done in respect of Wuskwatim, and all the positive and negative effects that the project may have. The EIS is being written now, and may be ready in the Winter of 2002.

Before there can be an EIS, Manitoba Conservation must issue Guidelines to the EIS. Earlier this year, the CEC did something it had never done before: it held four public meetings (in Nelson House, Thompson, The Pas, and Winnipeg) to hear public comments about the proposed Guidelines. Representatives from NCN, other First Nations, environmental groups, and private citizens all spoke at these public meetings. Afterwards, the CEC wrote a report about the meetings, and Manitoba Conservation issued the final Guidelines.

These guidelines will guide NCN and Hydro in writing the EIS.

Training

One of the advantages to the Wuskwatim project will be the creation of short and long term jobs for NCN members. To qualify for some of these jobs, some members require training, including high school upgrading.

NCN is now talking to Hydro, Canada and Manitoba about training. NCN is trying to secure funding from all three sources. In June, Chief Primrose went to Ottawa to meet with federal government officials, in order to advocate for NCN's position.

It is hoped that training will be done in Nelson House at the Atoskiwin Training and Employment Centre (ATEC). Blueprints for a new ATEC building at Nelson House have been drawn up. Soil testing on the proposed building site has been done. It is not certain exactly when construction will start.

Meanwhile, several dozen NCN members have begun high school upgrading courses in Nelson House. This will make it easier for them to get into various apprenticeship programs in the future. There will be more information about training in the next newsletter.

Future Development Open House
June 5th & 6th
Duncan Wood Memorial Hall

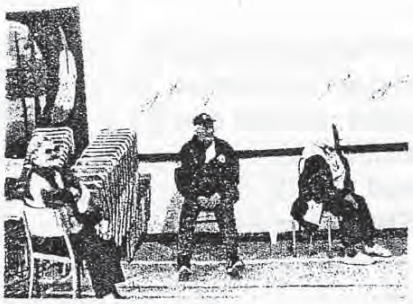
Additional Open Houses, along with helicopter overflights and interviews, were held in Nelson House on June 5th and 6th, 2002. At the Open House, an analysis of effects on the community, effects on the environment and effects on the project (technical and cost factors) for alternatives for the Wuskwatim and Herblet Lake Station 230 kV transmission lines were presented. A potential route for the proposed 230 kV transmission line between Wuskwatim and Thompson Birchtree Station was also presented at the Open Houses.

The purpose of the Open Houses, overflights and interviews was to share information with the NCN members about the route and solicit input about the options from elders, resource users and other individuals identified by NCN. NCN community consultants conducted the Public Open House on June 5th and 6th, organized the helicopter overflights and conducted interviews regarding the potential route for the Wuskwatim to Thompson 230 kV transmission line, and the alternative routes for the Wuskwatim to Herblet Lake Station 230 kV transmission lines.

The Open Houses were held at the Duncan Wood Memorial Hall (Nelson House) from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Helicopter overflights for community consultants, elders, resource users, councillors and other individuals occurred between 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on June 5th and from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on June 6th. Due to the interest levels, the overflights of the alternative routes could not be completed on June 5th and 6th, and were extended and completed on June 18th and 19th. The community consultants interviewed all interested parties who participated in the helicopter overflights.

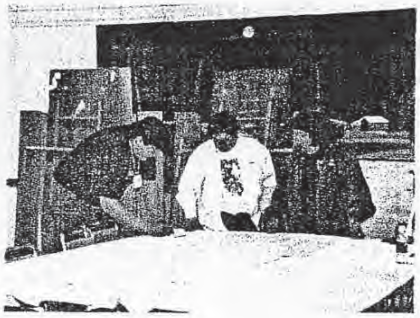


Pictures from the June 5th and 6th Open House









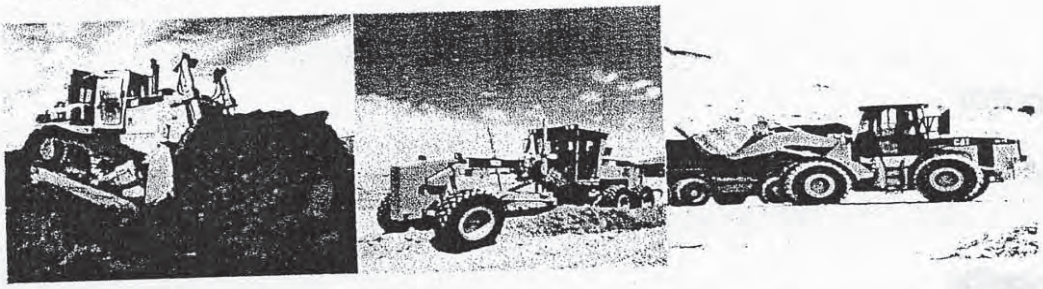





The Next Open House will be after the Chief & Council Elections

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
Human Resource Development Authority

Heavy Equipment Training Program



Course Delivered by:
Heavy Equipment Practical Development Training School
C/o Brian Tischynski Phone 204-954-2040 Fax 204-954-2046
#21-1865 Sargent Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3H OE4

Equipment Provided & Serviced By:
Nelson House Forest
Industries
C/o Greg Bunn
Nelson House, Manitoba

Duration of Training Program:
July 15,2002 to Sept 20,2002

Equipment to by Training on:

Backhoe/Escavator	*100 Hours*
Crawler	70 Hours
Motor Grader	90 Hours
Front End Loader	60 Hours

Number of Trainees:
12 students with some and no experience.
10 NCN
Residence
2 SIL Residence

Work Projects:
Driveway repairs within community
Repairing Base-ball field in different areas of the community
Build new Road to Reserve Lake.
Other Projects as they transpire.

Truck Driving Training & Work Experience Program
July, August & September 2002



Course Delivered by:
Professional Transport Driving School
300 Oak Point Hwy
Winnipeg Manitoba R2R 1V1
204-925-1580

Equipment Provided & Serviced By:
Professional Transport Driving School & Gardewine North
Winnipeg Manitoba

Duration of Training Program
July 15, 2002 to September 6, 2002

"All People interested in Training & Employment"

Phyllis Wiscombe from Manitoba Education & Training and Youth Services (METY) will be in the community on a regular basis to interview, document and register for training and Employment in the community or Hydro site.

Only people that are registered can be considered for Training and Employment. Call Maggie linklater at 484-2225 to book an appointment.

When scheduled for an appointment please bring the following: Drivers License, Educational Documents, Blue book, Sin # and Resume.

All information provided will be utilized for Training and employment purposes.

All applications will be received until July 12, 2002, please see Alvin Yetman or Maggie Linklater for applications.

For all other training programs future or current we encourage all members to visit the employment counselor Maggie Linklater to get registered for Training & Employment.

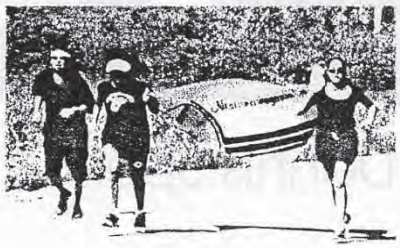
Jeff Hunter
Program Manager
Human Resources NCN

Unity Run 2002











Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Unity Runners

Brian Flett	Chris Kobliski	Alexandria Moodie
Sammy Hall	DavidKobliski	Natashia Moodie
Robert Hart	Billy Linklater	Brian Spence
Cynthia Hunter	Darcy Linklater	Justin Thomas
Malcom Hunter	Jeff Linklater	Terrance Thomas
,.eston Hunter	Tyson Linklater	Danielle Yetman
Tiara Hunter	Faith Mcdonald	

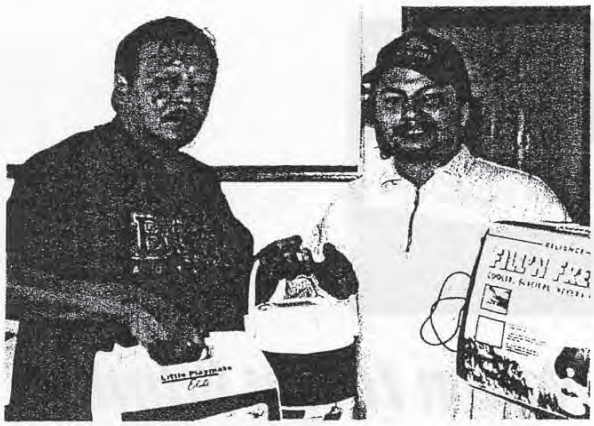
Harvest Calendar Winners



Dennis Spence



Fred Hart



Stewart Spence



Evelyn Moody

Congratulations To This Month's Winners

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
Future Development Working Group

Ensuring the Visions of Our Children
& our Children's Children

Summary of Understandings

For the Wuskwatim Project

August 2002

Tansi,

As the **Councillor with the Future Development Portfolio**, I am pleased to inform all NCN members that the **Future Development Team** has arrived at another milestone in our on-going discussions/negotiations on the **Wuskwatim Project.** The milestone that I am referring to is a **Summary of Understandings** between **NCN** and **Manitoba Hydro.**



As many of you already know, **NCN** approved the **1996 Northern Flood Agreement Implementation Agreement** by way of a referendum. **Article 8** of the **1996 Agreement** requires all compensation arrangements to be finalized before Hydro can start building.

Using the provisions of **Article 8**, I worked very hard to ensure that **NCN** gets the best possible deal from the proposed **Wuskwatim Project.** I have focused on a partnership where NCN could own 33% of the project. At the request of the **NCN** membership, I have kept in mind that we are trying to minimize any environmental impacts by taking the position that Manitoba Hydro build a ***low-head dam*** that would cause much less flooding than a ***high-head dam.***

The **Future Development Team** has taken a **Community-Driven Process** approach to addressing the many issues pertaining to the development of the **Wuskwatim Project.** By using this approach, **NCN** puts itself in a better position to ensure that our best interests are looked after properly. The key areas of focus are the Limited Partnership (33% equity participation), employment and training, and business opportunities. These areas of focus will result in **NCN** being in a better position to address our Community Development needs as our community grows into the future.

As a Future Development Portfolio holder, I have tried to focus discussions/negotiations on an **NCN** hiring preference whereby NCN members would be the first ones considered for various employment opportunities on the **Wuskwatim Project.** As such, we have guided our discussions/negotiations on having the **Atoskiwin Training and Employment Center** (ATEC) in Nisichawayasihk that would focus on training as many of our people as possible for the construction-related jobs that will be available on the **Wuskwatim Project.** The ATEC center would also provide us with an opportunity to capitalize on training as many of our people as possible on the business opportunities that will be available on the **Wuskwatim Project.**

Business opportunities is another key area of focus that I included in our discussions/negotiations because of the tremendous amount of business potential that exists with the **Wuskwatim Project.** In this area, I am making it a priority for **NCN** to develop and enhance **NCN**-owned businesses by focusing on contracts that **NCN** can do. The success of **NCN** businesses - both private and public - would assist in the creation and sustenance of an **NCN** economic base.

As everyone can imagine, there are many complex issues that have to be dealt with during the course of our discussions/negotiations, that will eventually lead to the completion of the **Wuskwatim Project**. It is because of all the complexities involved and the limited time frame that is available that both **NCN** and Manitoba Hydro decided to provide a **Summary of Understandings** as we strive to move issues forward from the time we signed the **Agreement-In-Principle** in September, 2001 to the time we finish negotiating a **Project Development Agreement.**

A **Summary of Understandings** is not a legally-binding document. It is a document that summarizes the understandings that exist between NCN and Manitoba Hydro and should result in greater clarity as to where we are at in terms of our discussions/negotiations on the Wuskwatim Project. In this newsletter, the Future Development Team and Manitoba Hydro will provide an explanation of what a Summary of Understandings is and the contents contained therein.

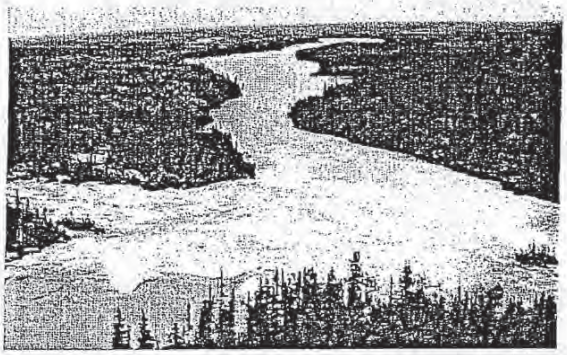
In closing, I want to thank **Chief and Council**, the **Future Development Team** and **staff**, and all **Nisichawayasihk** members for their support and input throughout our discussions/negotiations on the **Wuskwatim Project** to date.

- Councillor Elvis Thomas

SUMMARY OF UNDERSTANDINGS (SOU)

NCN and Hydro are pleased to announce their agreement upon an SOU for the Wuskwatim project.

Last year, NCN and Hydro signed an Agreement in Principle (AIP) about Wuskwatim. The AIP contained some very general principles about the project. The SOU is based on the AIP, and it expands on the different parts of the AIP. It is anticipated that Hydro's Board of Directors will officially approve the SOU in September.



Taskinigup Falls is the site of the proposed Wuskwatim Generation Station.

NCN and Hydro hope to sign a Project Development Agreement (PDA), which will be a legally-binding agreement about the project. A PDA may be completed during the winter of 2002-2003. NCN members will have a chance to vote on the PDA in a secret ballot vote.

Meanwhile, the SOU is an intermediate agreement - more detailed than the AIP was, but less detailed than the PDA will be. The SOU is not legally binding, but is an important step in the Wuskwatim planning process and a ***framework*** for the PDA.

NCN and Hydro are now writing an Environme. Impact Statement (EIS). This will be a lengthy report about the impacts of the proposed Wuskwatim project. It may be ready in late 2002. NCN and Hydro wanted to finish the SOU before filing the EIS with Manitoba Conservation and Manitoba's Clean Environment Commission (CEC).

The proposed project would cause less than one half square kilometre of new flooding, between Wuskwatim Falls and Taskinigup Falls. There would be no new flooding at Nelson House or upstream from Wuskwatim. After Wuskwatim is finished, the Churchill River Diversion (CRD) will continue to operate in the same way that it operates today.

The Wuskwatim construction camp will be on north shore (or the east shore, depending on your perspective) of the Burntwood River, near Taskinigup Falls.

Partners

The SOU explains how NCN and Hydro will be partners in the Wuskwatim project. There will be a limited partnership. This is a legal structure that allows two or more investors to work together in a business venture. Both NCN and Hydro will have to contribute money up front. In return, both will be limited partners in the business of owning the Wuskwatim generating station.

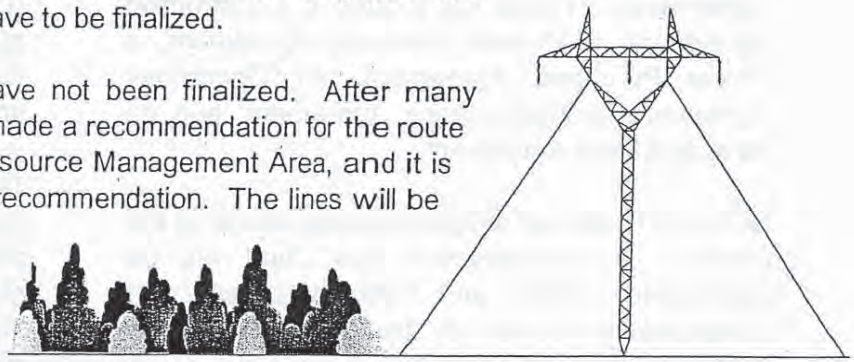
Wuskwatim may cost roughly one billion dollars to build. This is only a very rough estimate. Hydro has agreed that NCN may own up to 33% of the station. The amount of money that NCN will have to put up will depend on how large a share it wants to own. NCN will have to borrow some money. This will be repaid from NCN's share of the profits in the future. As soon as the project starts generating power, NCN will get an annual dividend. Once NCN's loan is paid off, NCN will get a larger amount of money every year.

The partnership will sell the power from Wuskwatim to Hydro. There will be a separate agreement dealing with these arrangements. The price that Hydro will pay will be linked to market prices for electricity.

The business arrangements are complicated. However, NCN members should know that NCN has had its own experts look at the legal and financial issues. If a PDA is signed, there will be public meetings, newsletters and other information for NCN members before voting on the PDA.

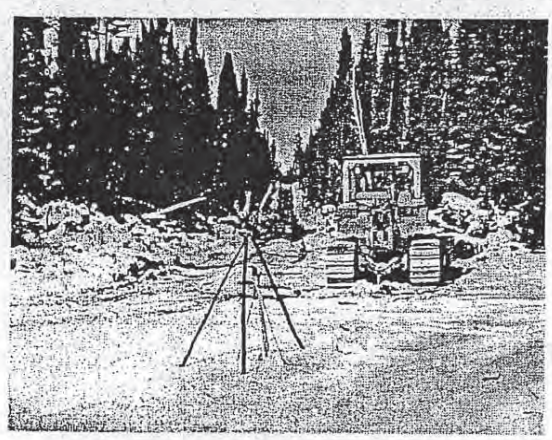
Transmission Lines

The SOU also discusses the Wuskwatim transmission facilities which will be owned by Hydro. The new transmission lines will run through the traditional territories of NCN and other First Nations. There will be a Transmission Development Fund. There will be payments from the Fund to NCN and other First Nations in the future. Many details have to be finalized.



The routes for the transmission lines have not been finalized. After many studies and thorough consultation, NCN made a recommendation for the route the lines will take in the Nelson House Resource Management Area, and it is anticipated that Hydro will agree with this recommendation. The lines will be both inside and outside of the Nelson House Resource Management Area. Other First Nations and communities that will be affected will also have input.





Construction of the centreline for the proposed Mile 17 access road in Winter 2001

Jobs

The SOU discusses training and jobs for NCN members. NCN is currently talking to Canada and Manitoba about funding for job training for NCN members. It is anticipated that Canada and Manitoba will both contribute funding. Meanwhile, Hydro has agreed to commit some Project funds to training of NCN members, residents of the Nelson House Northern Affairs Community, and other northern Aboriginals. It is hoped that training arrangements will be finalized in the near future.

During construction, about 150-350 workers will be needed during the busy summer months, and about 50-180 workers will be needed during the slower months. Accessing those jobs and business opportunities for NCN members is one of NCN's priorities.

NCN businesses will be able to participate in many aspects of the project, either alone or through joint ventures. Discussions between NCN and Hydro about business opportunities are continuing.

Other Matters

Nothing in the SOU will change any of NCN's treaty or Aboriginal rights.

Before the Wuskwatim project is complete, NCN and Hydro will have to discuss several other agreements. These will include a Construction Agreement, a Project Financing Agreement, a Power Purchase Agreement, an Operations Agreement, a Maintenance Agreement, and an Adverse Effects Agreement.

NCN and Hydro will mitigate adverse effects of the project. A compensation trust fund will be established. NCN and Hydro will deal with compensation issues in the Adverse Effects Agreement.

The generating station will be operated in a safe and efficient way. It will be well maintained. About six maintenance staff will be needed for the generating station. The details will be spelled out in the Operations Agreement and the Maintenance Agreement.

Though NCN and Hydro have worked closely together, NCN has also obtained its own advice from its own experts, about engineering, business, financial and legal issues.

Not a "Done Deal"

Wuskwatim is not a "done deal" yet. NCN a Hydro have to sign a PDA. NCN members ha to vote on the PDA. There has to be an environmental approval process, including public hearings by the Clean Environment Commission (CEC). The hearings might take place in the fall of 2003. Afterwards, Manitoba and Canada will have to decide whether to approve the project, and under what conditions.

The Manitoba government has also announced that members of the Public Utilities Board will hold public hearings to consider Manitoba's long-term electricity situation. These hearings will deal with the Wuskwatim project and other electricity issues. The hearings will likely be held in 2003.

So far, NCN and Hydro have worked in close cooperation. NCN has been a part of all decision-making. NCN members have been involved in field studies. NCN representatives have been members of many committees. NCN elders and resource users have contributed their Traditional Knowledge (TK) to the planning process. This all continue.

Even if there are no unexpected delays, the earliest in-service date (the date on which the station can start generating power) will be 2009. All the turbines at Wuskwatim may be ready to generate power in 2010.

Again, the SOU is not legally binding. It will help NCN and Hydro by setting the stage for the PDA (which will be legally binding if approved by NCN members in a secret ballot vote).

SOME ABBREVIATIONS USED

A.I.P. Agreement in Principle

C.E.C. Clean Environment Commission

E.I.S. Environmental Impact Statement

P.D.A. Project Development Agreement

S.O.U. Summary of Understandings

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

A comprehensive multi-year training proposal for training and employment opportunities related to Wuskwatim was presented to the Provincial and Federal Governments and to Manitoba Hydro in June with hopes of obtaining funding for training initiatives. The proposal also requests funding for programs related to science, environmental science and computer courses, as well as funding for office space, business opportunities, and modern classrooms to enhance learning for adults. A request for funding related to housing for students and instructors is also incorporated into the training proposal.

The Future Development Team also intends to develop the capacity within NCN to allow Members to enter into a variety of direct contracts and business opportunities. Over the longer term, NCN is developing training proposals for science-based education as part of the university and community college systems.

The NCN Future development team has recently acquired advances from Manitoba Hydro for development of the interim Atoskiwin Training and Employment Center (ATEC). NCN expects ground to be broken by the week of August 26th and construction of the interim ATEC to follow immediately thereafter! The first step will be to develop a temporary training facility so that training and education programs can commence as quickly as possible in better facilities than those currently available. The temporary facility will eventually become part of the ATEC once construction of the permanent facility begins.

Training opportunities continue to be available for NCN members. There are currently 50 NCN Members participating in academic upgrading. More upgrading will start after the September long weekend. Financial assistance may be available for people who are interested in participating in the upgrading programs.

There are currently 23 people enrolled in Heavy Equipment Operator Training and Truck Driver Training courses. The Heavy Equipment course will take place in and around Nelson House and individuals will be trained to operate Front End Loaders, Crawlers, Motor Graders, Excavators and Rock Trucks. The Truck Driver Training will take place in Winnipeg. Individuals will be trained for their Class 1 Licence with Air Brake Certification to operate large hauling vehicles.



A number of NCN members are currently enrolled in Heavy Equipment Operator Training and Truck Driver Training courses in Nelson House.

Approximately 151 people have been academically tested and are currently being provided employment counseling to assist in determining career goals. NCN offers continuous intakes for people interested in any training and employment activity related to Wuskwatim. NCN Members who are interested in participating in future education and training programs should immediately contact the NCN Human Resource Department and ask to speak with Jeff Hunter ((204) 484-2332, extension 240 or (204) 679-0568 (cell phone)) or Maggie Linklater in Nelson House or Fred Moose in South Indian Lake. It is important that Members come forward as soon as possible so that they can be assessed!

Thanks to Marcel Moody, Jeff Hunter and his staff at Human Resources and the rest of the Future Development Team for all their efforts in this area.

How to Contact the NCN Future Development Team

If you have further questions about the Wuskwatim project or the Summary of Understandings, please contact the NCN Future Development Team:

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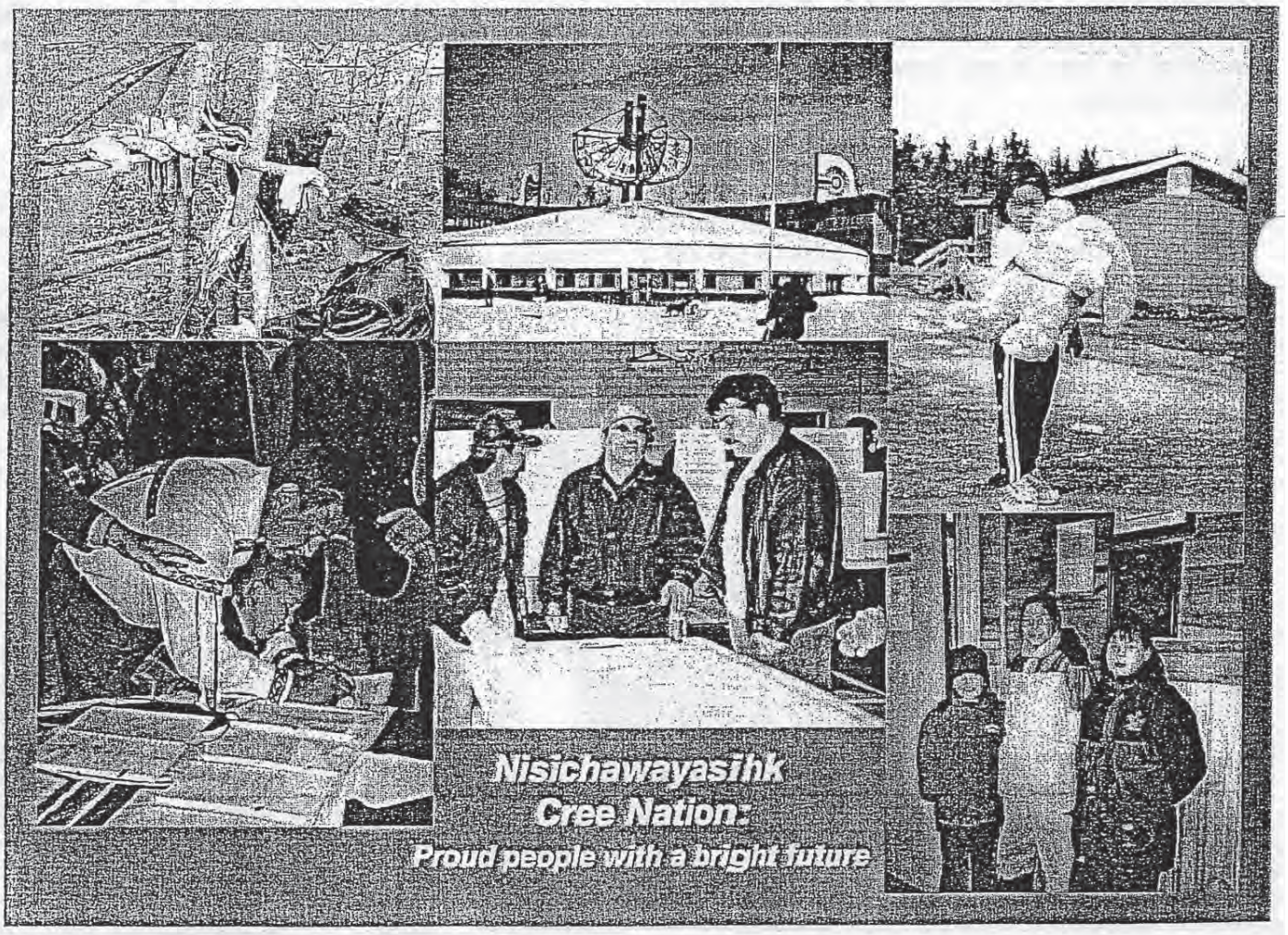

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