

Appendix 4
Consultation and Involvement
Materials, Beyond NCN:
September – November 2001

Outline of Appendix 4

Appendix 4 provides copies of consultation and involvement materials used during Round One of public involvement and consultation, and during meetings held with the Tataskweyak Cree Nation. This includes detailed reporting on numbers of meetings, attendance, and records of what was presented to and heard from the public. This appendix includes a copy of the Round One Newsletter, as well as various materials used in meetings with elected officials in the Project Region. In order to reduce the volume of materials included in this appendix, representative samples of letters and presentations are provided. In some cases there were minor differences in the materials used at different events.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Round One Newsletter

2. Meeting Materials

- 2.1 Summary: Consultation and Involvement Activities (September – November 2001)
- 2.2 Sample Letter of Confirmation and Distribution List
- 2.3 Sample Letter of Invitation and Distribution List
- 2.4 Sample Round One Presentation
- 2.5 Meeting Notes
- 2.6 Correspondence with Other Communities

3. Correspondence with Other Parties

4. Press Releases

1. Round One Newsletter

POSSIBLE WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION AND ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES

- First Round of Public Involvement -

If approved, the Wuskwatim Generating Station Project (the Project) would be built about 45 km southwest of Thompson (35 kilometres southeast of Nelson House) at Taskinigup Falls at the outlet of Wuskwatim Lake. Associated transmission facilities would connect the Wuskwatim Generating Station to the existing transmission network via a new Birchtree Station in the LGD of Mystery Lake to the existing Herblet Lake Station at Snow Lake; further connections would be required from Herblet Lake Station to the existing Rall's Island Station in The Pas. No decisions have been made as to whether to proceed with the Project.

If developed, the earliest that the Wuskwatim Project could bring new electricity to market is in late 2009. Since Manitoba customers would not need this power until about 2018, energy from Wuskwatim would be initially sold to export markets outside Manitoba.

This first round of public involvement, designed primarily for elected officials in First Nations, Northern Affairs communities and Incorporated Municipalities in the region (see map on page 2), is intended to begin dialogue about the proposed Project. In particular, the aim is to provide information and to learn about any initial issues or concerns regarding the Project.

Feedback is also sought regarding the way that the public involvement process is proposed to be carried out over the next year. These comments will be taken into consideration as the Project is examined in more detail and as plans are made for future rounds of consultation.

Provincial and federal approvals are required before the Project could proceed. Environmental studies are currently underway and would lead to submission of Environmental Impact Statements for the generating station and associated transmission facilities if the decision is made to proceed to seek environmental approval. A joint provincial-federal environmental review of the Project would include additional opportunities for public involvement.

Manitoba Hydro and the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) have ratified an Agreement-in-Principle regarding possible future development of two separate new northern hydro-electric generating station projects - the Wuskwatim Generating Station and the Notigi Generating Station. Each project would require new transmission facilities to carry the electricity to the existing transmission network. The Notigi Generating Station is not expected to be completed before 2014.

Inside ...

Communities highlighted
2 in Round 1 Public
Involvement Plan



What's involved in
the Wuskwatim
Generating Station? 2

What's Involved in
the Wuskwatim
Transmission Facilities? 4

6 What Regulatory
Approvals Will be
Needed Before the
Project Goes Ahead?

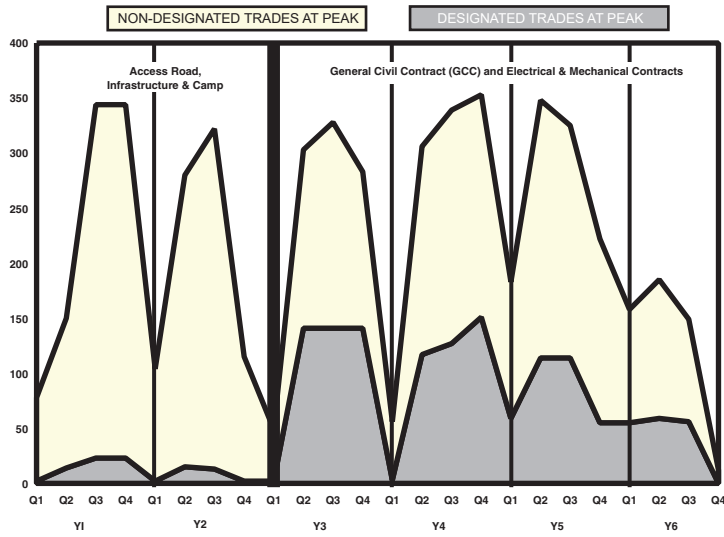
What is the Regulatory
and Decision
Schedule? 6

7 Where Are We
Today?

What is the
Agreement-in-Principle
Between NCN and
Manitoba Hydro? 8

8 What's Ahead?
How to Contact Us 8

Timing of Demand for Non-Designated Trades/Construction Support and Designated Trades* - Proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station

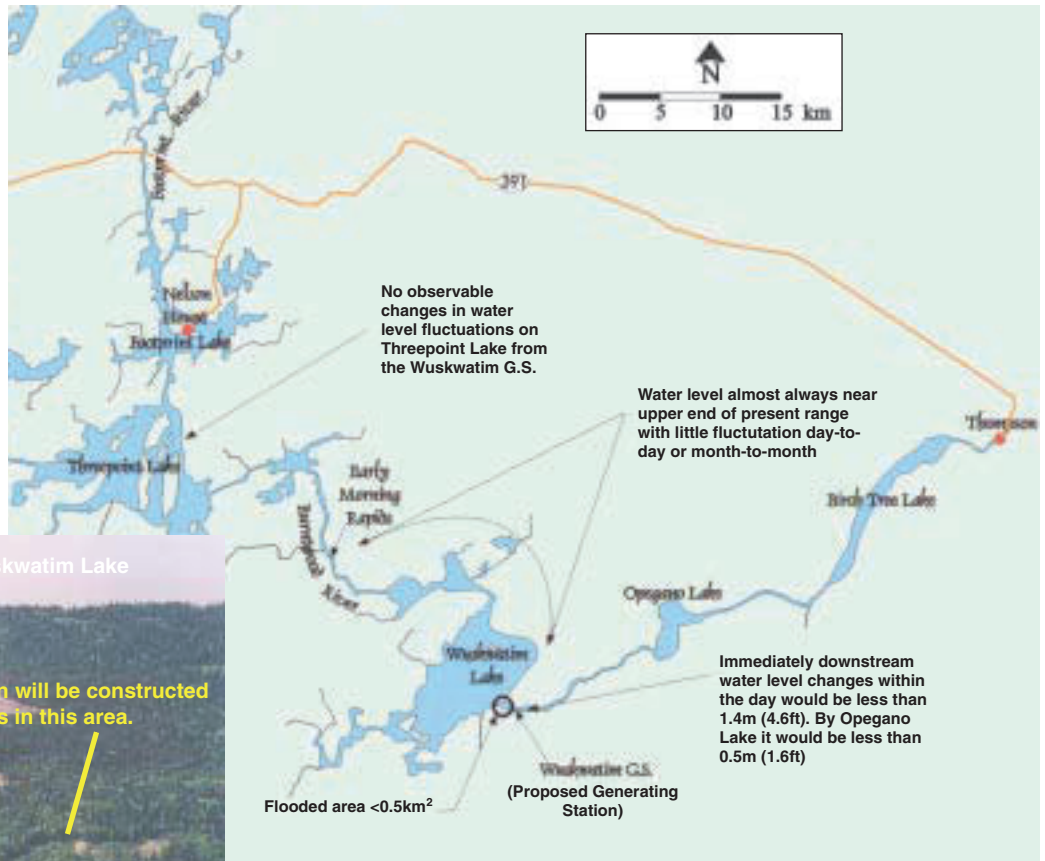


Caution: The above information represents an estimate. Actual employment requirements will vary from the estimate presented above.
 Note: Illustrates jobs potentially filled by job orders. Excludes Manitoba Hydro staff and contractor supervisory and management positions.
 * Designated trades are those in which individuals train to become certified journeymen.

CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THE POTENTIAL GENERATING STATION

The construction workforce for the possible Wuskwatim Generating Station is expected to peak at approximately 350 jobs and to extend over six years. Minimal construction work will take place during the winter, so construction jobs will primarily be available during early spring to late fall.

The Wuskwatim Generating Station would be located at Taskinigup Falls (shown below) where Wuskwatim Lake flows into the Burntwood River.



What's Involved in the Wuskwatim Transmission Facilities?

Development of Wuskwatim generating station at Taskinigup Falls would require the development of new transmission lines and transformer/switching stations to deliver the electricity into the existing transmission system.

A new transmission sub-station would be required at the Wuskwatim Generating Station site for voltage transformation and switching. The sub-station would take the electricity from the generating station and transform it to the higher voltages necessary for transmission to the existing Manitoba Hydro transmission system.

New transmission lines would connect the Wuskwatim Sub Station to other stations on the Manitoba Hydro transmission system. The points of connection to the existing system would be at Thompson (at a proposed new station south of the City to be called Birchtree Station), at Snow Lake (at the existing Herblet Lake Station on the north side of the community), and at The Pas (at the existing Rall's Island Station). Even if the Wuskwatim Generating Station was not developed, the proposed Thompson Birchtree Station and transmission line connections between Thompson, Herblet Lake Station and Rall's Island Station would be required in the future to improve the existing regional transmission system.

Manitoba Hydro is currently in the process of initiating discussions with potentially affected communities and interested parties for the portions of the transmission lines which would be outside the Nelson House RMA. Since opportunities for connection to the system are through established existing stations (i.e., Herblet Lake and Rall's Island stations), the connections will be subject to a Site Selection and Environmental Assessment process which will identify and compare alternative routes.

Fewer employment opportunities will be available for construction of the transmission facilities, than for construction of the generating station (see page 3). For example, transmission facilities construction jobs associated with the Wuskwatim Generating Station tend, in most years, to be only in a few winter months, ranging from between 25 and peaking possibly at 200 jobs in other years.

Transmission Line Routing Process

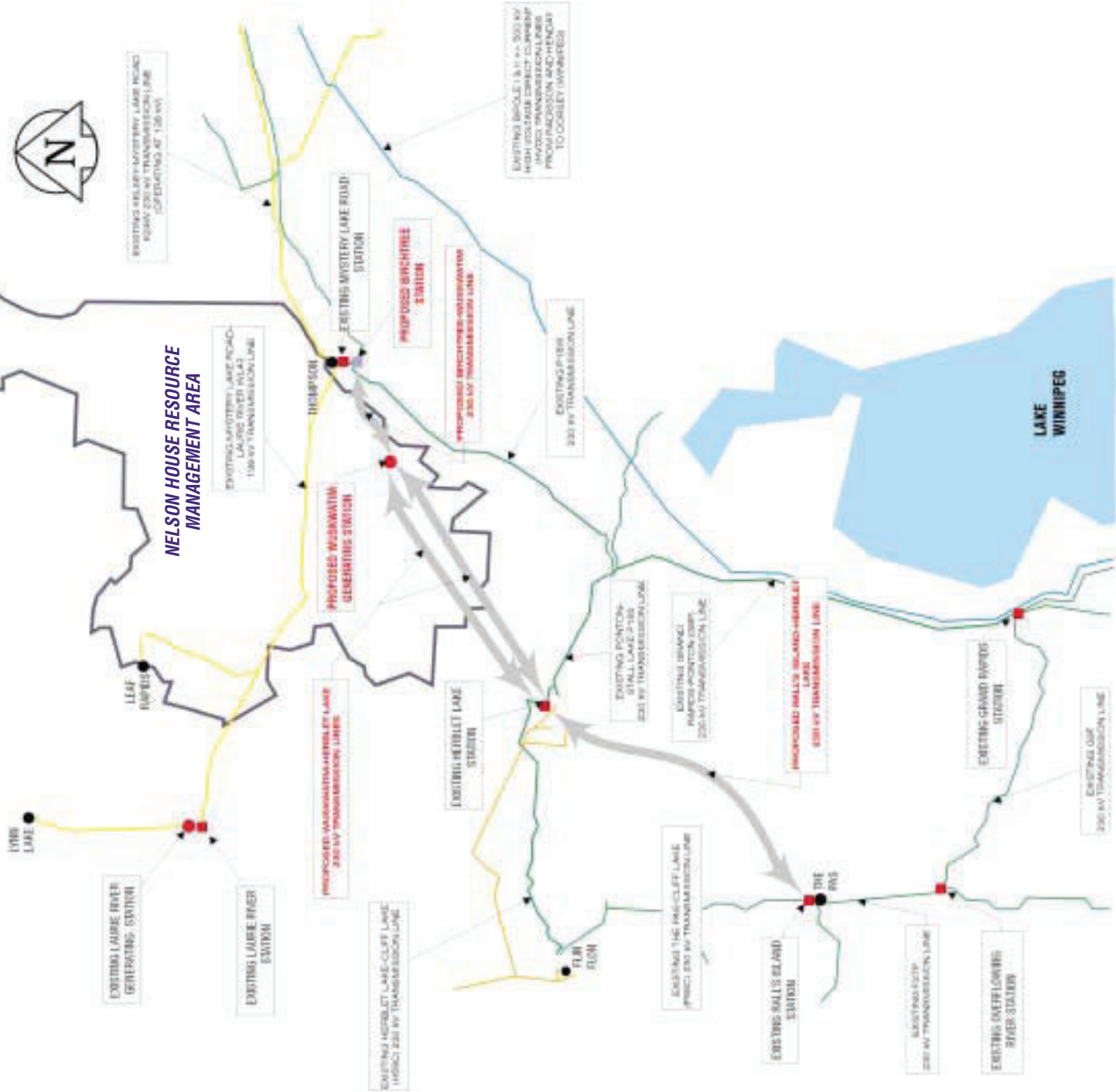
In order to identify the preferred routes for transmission lines, Manitoba Hydro typically conducts Site Selection and Environmental Assessment (SSEA) studies.

The SSEA studies commence with the definition of a study area which is large enough to identify several alternative routes. Features of the study area that may be affected by a transmission line are identified (for example, animals, plants, culturally sensitive sites, resource harvesting areas, river and stream crossings) and described. Alternative transmission line routes are selected and compared based on the avoidance of sensitive areas, and how well they balance cost and technical considerations. A preferred route is chosen which, wherever possible and practical, minimizes the effects on regional and locally sensitive features, and maximizes benefits. Possible effects are studied in detail for the preferred route and, where needed, special methods are developed to reduce negative effects and enhance opportunities.

The SSEA process includes discussions with affected communities, resource users, interest groups and government at key junctures of the process. Information obtained during the discussions are built into the planning process to assist in identifying the preferred route(s) and in assessing the potential impacts and mitigative measures associated with those choices.

The SSEA process is documented through an Environmental Impact Statement, which then accompanies the application for environmental

Schematic of Manitoba Hydro's Existing Transmission System and New Connections That Would Be Required if the Wuskwatim Generating Station is Developed



What Regulatory Approvals will be Needed before the Project Goes Ahead?

If Manitoba Hydro and NCN decide to develop the Wuskwatim Generating Station Project, regulatory requirements and licensing would be required before it could proceed. Similarly, approvals and licensing would be required before associated transmission facilities could be built.

Approval would be required by both federal and provincial regulators under their respective legislation (*The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, The Environment Act (Manitoba)* and others). Manitoba Hydro also anticipates that the Manitoba Government will arrange for a separate

public review process to deal with need for the project, alternatives to the project and related matters.

A joint Manitoba/Canada Environmental Review Process is anticipated for the Wuskwatim Generating Station project (for which Manitoba Hydro and NCN would be the proponent) and for the associated transmission facilities (for which Manitoba Hydro would be the proponent). This joint process will provide for meaningful public involvement, both before and during any formal public hearing process.

What is the Regulatory and Decision Schedule?

In anticipation of these environmental review requirements, NCN and Manitoba Hydro jointly selected an Environmental Study Team to assess the effects of the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station Project on the environment and people. Field work and analyses have been underway for the past year, and in some areas such as aquatic studies, for the past two years. Analyses undertaken by the Environmental Study Team have contributed to planning of the proposed Project and, if the Project proceeds, will form the foundation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the generating station. The Environmental Study Team is also assessing the effects of associated transmission facilities.

Manitoba Hydro and NCN have not yet decided to develop the project. Further, no application has yet been made to seek license approvals. However, on an informal basis, Manitoba Hydro and NCN to date have:

- Provided initial information to provincial and federal regulators about the possible Project.
- Met with the federal/provincial Project Administration Team that would be overseeing the process.
- Met with the Technical Advisory Committee, made up of representatives from relevant federal and provincial departments, established to review the Project.

(continued on page 7)

Manitoba Hydro and NCN intend to discuss the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station with those potentially affected by the developments and with other people and communities who have an interest in the Project. The same process is intended with

respect to the Wuskwatim transmission facilities. Early and meaningful consultation is the goal. The intent is to provide opportunities for dialogue at key stages during the process of planning for and assessing environmental effects of the project.

From here the environmental review and licensing process would include the following main pre-construction steps for each project that is to be licensed:

- 1. EAPF filing:** In order to initiate formal federal and provincial regulatory reviews on a project, an Environment Act Proposal Form (EAPF) would be submitted to the Provincial government for the generating project; an EAPF would also be submitted for the associated transmission facilities. These EAPFs would be filed on the government's public registry. In order to meet a late 2009 in service date for the Wuskwatim Generating Station, Manitoba Hydro and NCN may consider filing an EAPF in fall 2001 for this project (along with an EAPF for associated transmission facilities). This is one of several milestone actions before a decision would be made to proceed with development -- that is, to begin construction. That final decision would not be taken until the environmental approval process is completed in about two years time.
- 2. EIS Guidelines:** After an EAPF is filed, the governments would develop, with public input, project-specific guidelines for preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) about the effects of the Wuskwatim Generating Station Project. It is anticipated that separate project-specific guidelines will be developed, with public input, for preparing an EIS for the associated transmission facilities. The regulatory authorities would likely also finalize the review procedures that would apply after an EIS is filed, including any panel review process. These EIS guidelines and review procedures will allow Manitoba Hydro and NCN to ensure that the environmental studies can be finalized to meet regulatory requirements. During this period, Manitoba Hydro and NCN would continue with the public involvement program related to these projects.
- 3. Formal commitment to develop:** Before any EIS is filed on a generating station project Manitoba Hydro and NCN would need to make a formal commitment to develop that Project based on all relevant considerations. The earliest time for any such formal commitment is currently anticipated for April 2002.
- 4. Panel process implemented and EIS filed:** After a formal commitment is made to develop the Wuskwatim Generating Station Project, it is expected that the government regulatory authorities would implement a panel review process to review the EIS's. The EIS documents may be submitted, in mid-2002 for the Wuskwatim Project and its associated transmission facilities.
- 5. EIS Public Review Process:** The Public Review process involves a number of steps with considerable opportunities for public involvement. These include establishing the topics that must be studied and addressed in the environmental impact statement (EIS) When the EIS is submitted, it is reviewed to determine if these topics have been adequately covered. Public hearings could then be held.. After the public hearings are completed, the Panel would prepare a report and recommendations about the proposed Project.
- 6. Final Licensing Decisions:** After review of the Panel report on the Project, provincial and federal regulators would make decisions about whether the Project would proceed under their respective legislation, and what terms and conditions will apply with respect to any such approvals and licenses.
- 7. Final decision to start construction:** After receipt of all necessary licenses and approvals, Manitoba Hydro and NCN would make final decisions about starting construction. The earliest possible date that this might occur for the Wuskwatim Project is currently expected to be late 2003.

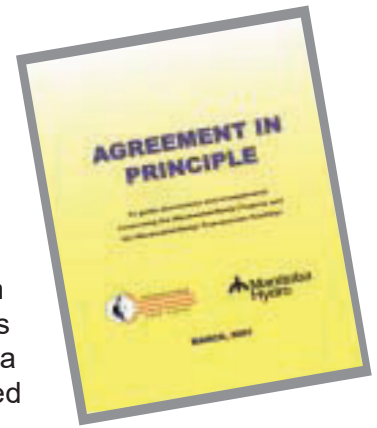
Wuskwatim Project Among Options Being Considered

Along with the Wuskwatim Project, Manitoba Hydro is also studying other generation options and efforts to encourage customers to conserve more energy through Power Smart.

Current financial and economic information and the results of the environmental approval process will be evaluated before any decision is made to develop a project and begin construction which, in the case of Wuskwatim, could be in the latter part of 2003.

What is the Agreement-in-Principle between NCN and Manitoba Hydro?

NCN and Manitoba Hydro have developed an Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) between them that addresses an array of topics relating to the Wuskwatim and Notigi projects stemming from the 1996 Comprehensive Implementation Agreement as well as the opportunity for NCN to invest in the generating stations to obtain an equity position. The agreement is not legally binding, but sets out a series of topics to be discussed between the parties.



Ratification Vote Results

A ratification vote regarding the Agreement-in-Principle was held for NCN members in May 2001. Members living in Nelson House, South Indian Lake, Thompson, Winnipeg and Brandon were invited to vote for or against the AIP. Turnout for the vote was high, with 71.3 per cent of eligible voters casting a ballot. Of those, 65.5 per cent voted in favour of the AIP; at Nelson House, the figure was higher, with 82.4 per cent voting in favour.

Strong approval by NCN members for the Agreement-in-Principle in a May 2001 secret ballot ratification vote, as well as its approval by the Manitoba Hydro Board and the Minister Responsible for Manitoba Hydro, means that Manitoba Hydro and NCN will now move to the next stage of discussion and joint studies regarding the potential generating station. Discussions will aim to develop a binding Project Development Agreement between the parties; this document will also be taken to a ratification vote of NCN members.

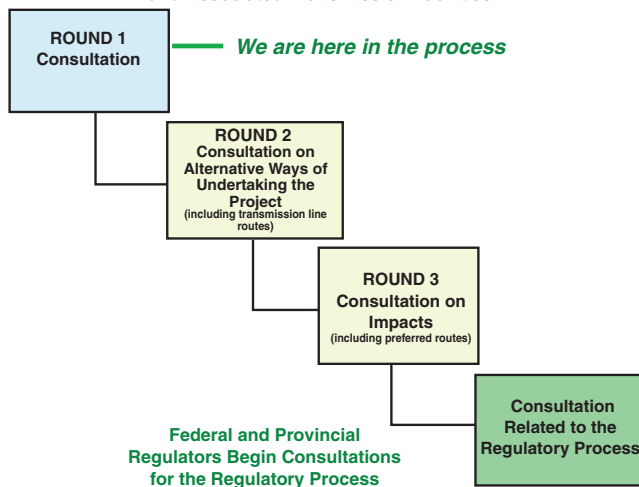
What's Ahead?

Environmental studies are underway on the Wuskwatim Generating Station project and of associated transmission facilities. These studies include field work on fish, birds, mammals, water quality, forests, plants, people and the local economy. If a decision is made to proceed with the project, results would be documented in Environmental Impact Statements to be submitted to governments for environmental licensing. Round 1 of the Public Involvement Plan is intended to introduce the Project to elected leaders in communities in the region, to hear about issues or concerns that they may have about the Project and to hear their perspectives about further rounds of consultation.

A second round of consultation – likely to be held in the late fall of 2001 – is intended to look at alternative ways of carrying out the project. Alternative routes which could be used to make transmission line connections between the generating station and the existing transmission network will be identified and discussed. Opportunities for elected leaders and members of the public to learn about the proposed Project and provide input will be announced.

A third round of consultation – likely to be held before the spring of 2002 – will look at anticipated specific impacts of the projects and ways to manage those impacts. The public will have more opportunities to be involved in reviewing the project during the federal and provincial regulatory process.

Public Consultation Process for the Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities



How to Contact Us

If you have further questions about the Wuskwatim project or what's ahead in the public involvement program, please contact us:

Nick Barnes (Manitoba Hydro; generating station project)
(204) 474-3999 (phone) 474-4543 (fax)

Ron Rawluk (Manitoba Hydro; transmission facilities)
(204) 474-3119 (phone) 474-4974 (fax)

Norman Linklater (NCN future development)
(204) 484-3003 (phone) 484-2392 (fax)

Marcel Moody (NCN future development)
(204) 484-2604 (phone) 484-2588 (fax)

2. Meeting Materials

**2.1 Summary:
Consultation and Involvement Activities
(September – November 2001)**

Table 1

Summary of Round One Public Consultation and Involvement Activities

Community or Interest¹	Date of Meeting	Location of Meeting	Community Attendance
GENERATION STATION PROJECT – Potentially Affected Communities in Project Region			
Within 45 km – Transmission Project also			
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation	Through NCN's joint planning activities with Manitoba Hydro and the Environmental Study Team, there has been substantial communication with members via open houses, meetings, local access broadcasts and other means.		
Nelson House (NA)	October 4	Council Chambers Thompson	14
LGD of Mystery Lake			
City of Thompson			
Gillam			
Other Within 80 Kilometres			
Wabowden (NA)	September 21	St. Joseph's Hall Thompson	7
Thicket Portage (NA)			
Pikwitonei			
Other Upstream or Downstream			
South Indian Lake (NA and through NCN)	September 17 (meeting with elected officials and community)		
War Lake First Nation	October 2	Place Louis Riel Winnipeg	8
York Factory First Nation	September 27 ⁵	Place Louis Riel Winnipeg	14
Fox Lake Cree Nation			
Ilford (NA)	Invitation letter and newsletter ³	-	-
Other Nelson River			
Cross Lake First Nation (Pimicikamak Cree Nation)	Invitation letter and newsletter ⁴	-	-
Norway House Cree Nation	December 13	Norway House Cree Nation's Winnipeg Office	6
Cross Lake (NA)	Invitation letter and newsletter ³	-	-

Community or Interest¹	Date of Meeting	Location of Meeting	Community Attendance
Norway House (NA)	Invitation letter and newsletter ³	-	-
Other			
Manitoba Eco-Network	<i>Letter inviting a meeting sent – Newsletters sent for display in Resource Center</i>		

1. Does not include individual members of the public
2. NA = Northern Affairs community
3. N/R = No meeting requested in response to letter of invitation (newsletter enclosed)
4. Discussions between Manitoba Hydro and PCN relating to Article 9 of the NFA have been ongoing since May, 2002.
5. York Factory First Nation later indicated that they did not feel that this meeting should be considered as a formal public involvement meeting.

Table 2
Consultation and Involvement Activities with Tataskweyak Cree Nation

Date of Meeting	Location of Meeting	Community Attendance
October 2	Place Louis Riel	6

2.2 Sample Letter of Confirmation and Dist. List

Table
Distribution List: Letter of Confirmation

Recipient	Community
Mayor Bill Comaskey and Councillors	City of Thompson
Mr. Don Taylor (Administrator)	LGD of Thompson
Mayor Bella Leonard and Councillors	Nelson House (NA)
Mayor Dennis Soloway and Councillors	Town of Gillam
Mayor Warren Pagee and Councillors	Pikwitonei (NA)
Mayor Pete Braun and Councillors	Wabowden (NA)
Mayor Stanley Mercredi and Councillors	Thicket Portage (NA)
Chief Ron Evans and Councillors	Norway House Cree Nation
Chief Roy Redhead and Councillors	York Factory First Nation
Chief Ralph Beardy and Councillors	Fox Lake Cree Nation
Chief Alex Ouskan	War Lake First Nation
Chief Duke Beardy and Councillors	Tataskweyak Cree Nation



August 23, 2001

FAX: 204-677-7981

Mayor Comaskey and Councillors
City of Thompson
226 Mystery Lake Road
Thompson, MB R8N 1S6

Dear Mayor Comaskey and Councillors:

**RE: CONFIRMATION OF MEETING ABOUT POSSIBLE WUSKWATIM
GENERATING STATION PROJECT AND ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION
FACILITIES**

This letter confirms our invitation to you to attend a meeting to discuss a possible new northern hydro-electric generating station at the Wuskwatim site as well as associated transmission facilities. This is a meeting of elected officials from incorporated municipalities in the region, to be held in **Thompson on September 11, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at Thompson City Hall**. We appreciate your offer of Council Chambers for the meeting. We are inviting elected representatives from the City of Thompson, LGD of Mystery Lake and Town of Gillam to learn more about this possible future project.

This meeting is part of the first round of consultation and is intended to introduce the Wuskwatim Project and its associated transmission facilities to elected officials in First Nations, Northern Affairs communities and incorporated municipalities in the region. We are interested in your feedback regarding any issues or concerns that you may have about the possible project, as well as the public involvement program itself.

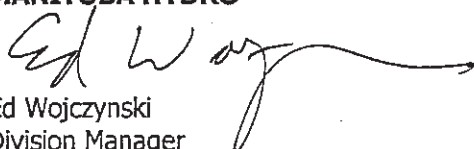
Manitoba Hydro and the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) have ratified an Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) to guide discussions pertaining to possible future development of the Wuskwatim Generating Station project.

With any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to call:

- Ron Rawluk (204) 474-3119 (transmission facilities)
- Nick Barnes (204) 474-3999 (generation project)
- Marcel Moody (204) 484-2604 or Norman Linklater (204) 484-3003 (Co-Managers of Future Development for NCN)

We look forward to meeting with you.

Sincerely,
MANITOBA HYDRO


Ed Wojczynski
Division Manager
Power Planning and Operations

NCN


Elvis Thomas
Councillor
Future Development Portfolio

for

2.3 Sample Letter of Invitation and Dist. List

Table
Distribution List: Round One Letter of Invitation

Recipient	Community
Mayor Clarence Smith and Councillors	Cross Lake (NA)
Mayor Elizabeth Isbister and Councillors	Norway House (NA)
Mayor James Chornoby and Councillors	Ilford (NA)



October 18, 2001

Mayor Elizabeth Isbister and Councillors
Community of Norway House
Norway House, MB R0B 1B0

Dear Mayor Isbister and Councillors:

**RE: INFORMATION REGARDING POSSIBLE WUSKWATIM GENERATING
STATION PROJECT AND ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES**

For your information, enclosed please find copies of a newsletter regarding a possible new northern hydro-electric generating station at the Wuskwatim site 45 km southwest of Thompson as well as associated transmission facilities.

This is part of the first round of consultation that is intended to introduce the Wuskwatim Project and its associated transmission facilities to elected officials in First Nations, Northern Affairs communities and incorporated municipalities in the region. We are interested in your feedback regarding any issues or concerns that you may have about the possible project, as well as the public involvement program itself.

Manitoba Hydro and the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) have ratified an Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) to guide discussions pertaining to possible future development of the Wuskwatim Generating Station project.

With any questions or comments about the project, please don't hesitate to call:

- Nick Barnes (204) 474-3999 (generation project)
- Ron Rawluk (204) 474-3119 (transmission facilities)
- Marcel Moody (204) 484-2604 or Norman Linkater (204) 484-3003 (Co-Managers of Future Development for NCN).

If you would like to meet with representatives of Manitoba Hydro and NCN regarding this proposed project, please call Janet Kinley at (204) 942-0654.

We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,
MANITOBA HYDRO

Ed Wojczynski
Division Manager
Power Planning and Operations

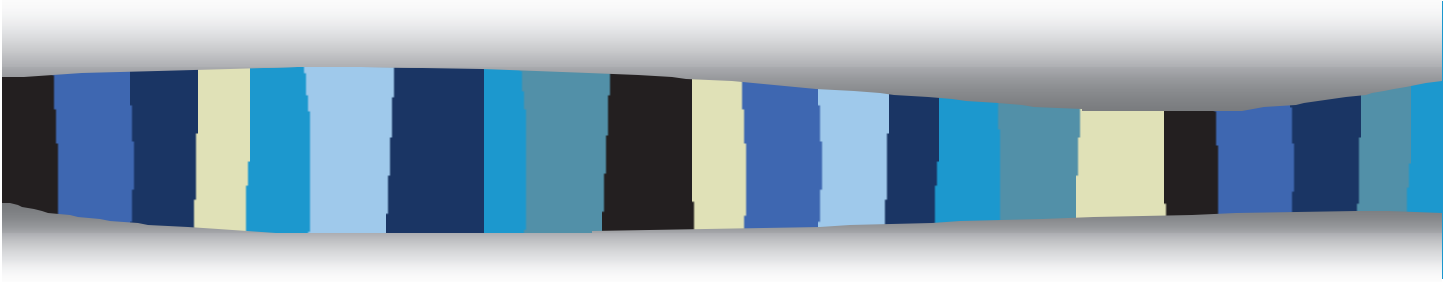
NCN

Elvis Thomas
Councillor
Future Development Portfolio

2.4 Sample Round One Presentation

*The sample presentation attached is representative of the information presented to elected officials during meetings that took place as part of Round One of public involvement. Minor modifications were made to each individual presentation, as necessary.

Proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities



Presentation to
York Factory First Nation and
Fox Lake First Nation

September 27th, 2001



Agenda

- ▶ Opening
- ▶ Presentation on the Wuskwatim Project
- ▶ Questions and Discussion about Projects and Process
- ▶ Closing Comments - Next Steps

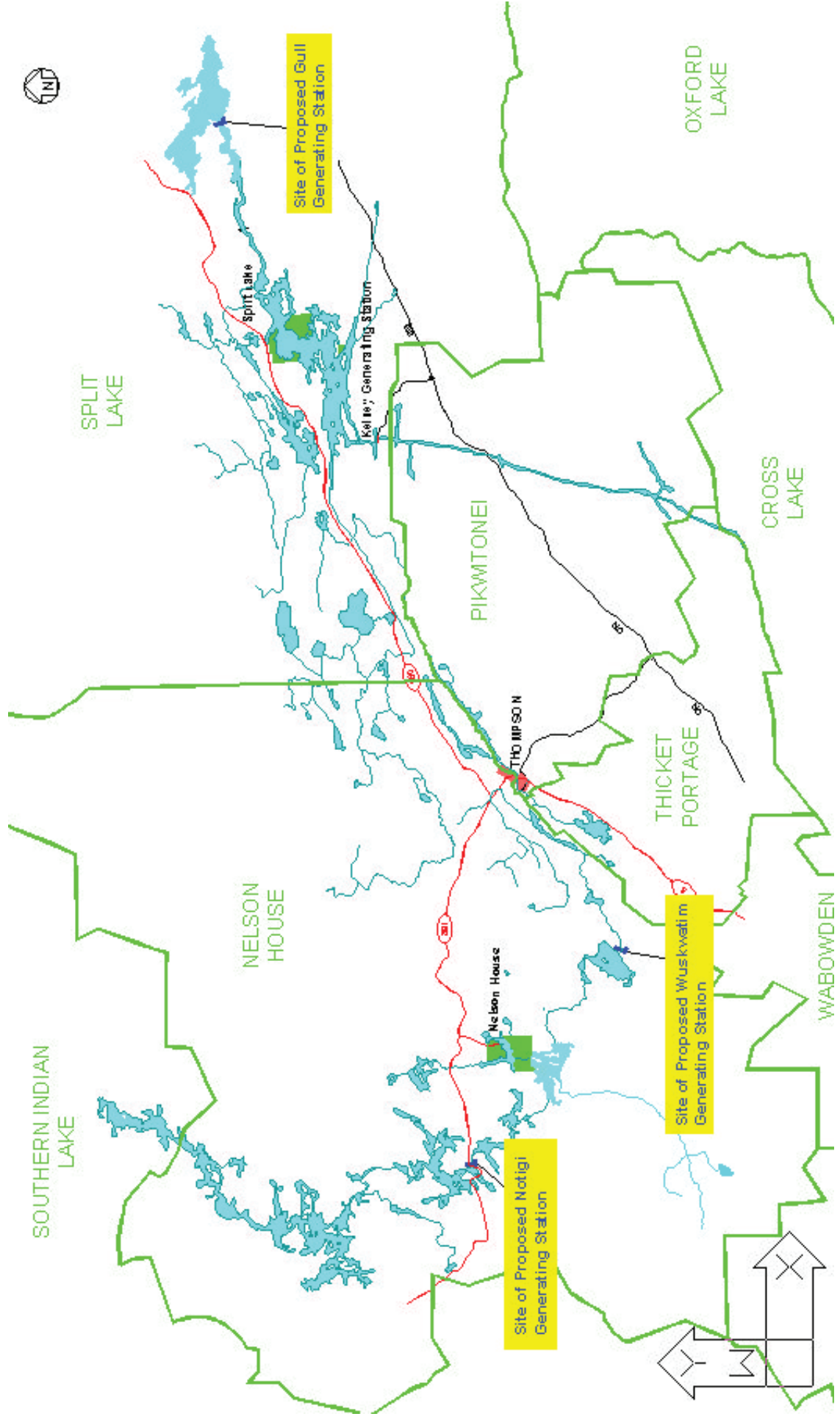


Background

- ▶ Manitoba Hydro's planning shows that new power to meet the needs of Manitobans is not required before about 2018
- ▶ However, Manitoba Hydro is looking at the opportunity for developing new power generation before that time, for export, in association with potential partners

Three projects being considered:

- ▶ Generating Station at Wuskwatim
- ▶ Generating Station at Notigi
- ▶ Generating Station at Gull Rapids
- ▶ No decisions have been made



SOUTHERN INDIAN LAKE

SPLIT LAKE

NELSON HOUSE

PIKAWITONI

Nelson House

THOMPSON

THICKET PORTAGE

Site of Proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station

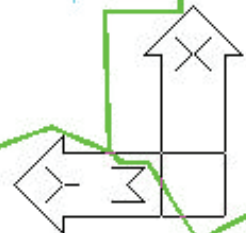
Site of Proposed Gull Generating Station

Kelley Generating Station

OXFORD LAKE

CROSS LAKE

WABOWDEN





Overview

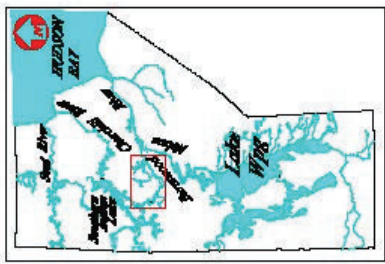
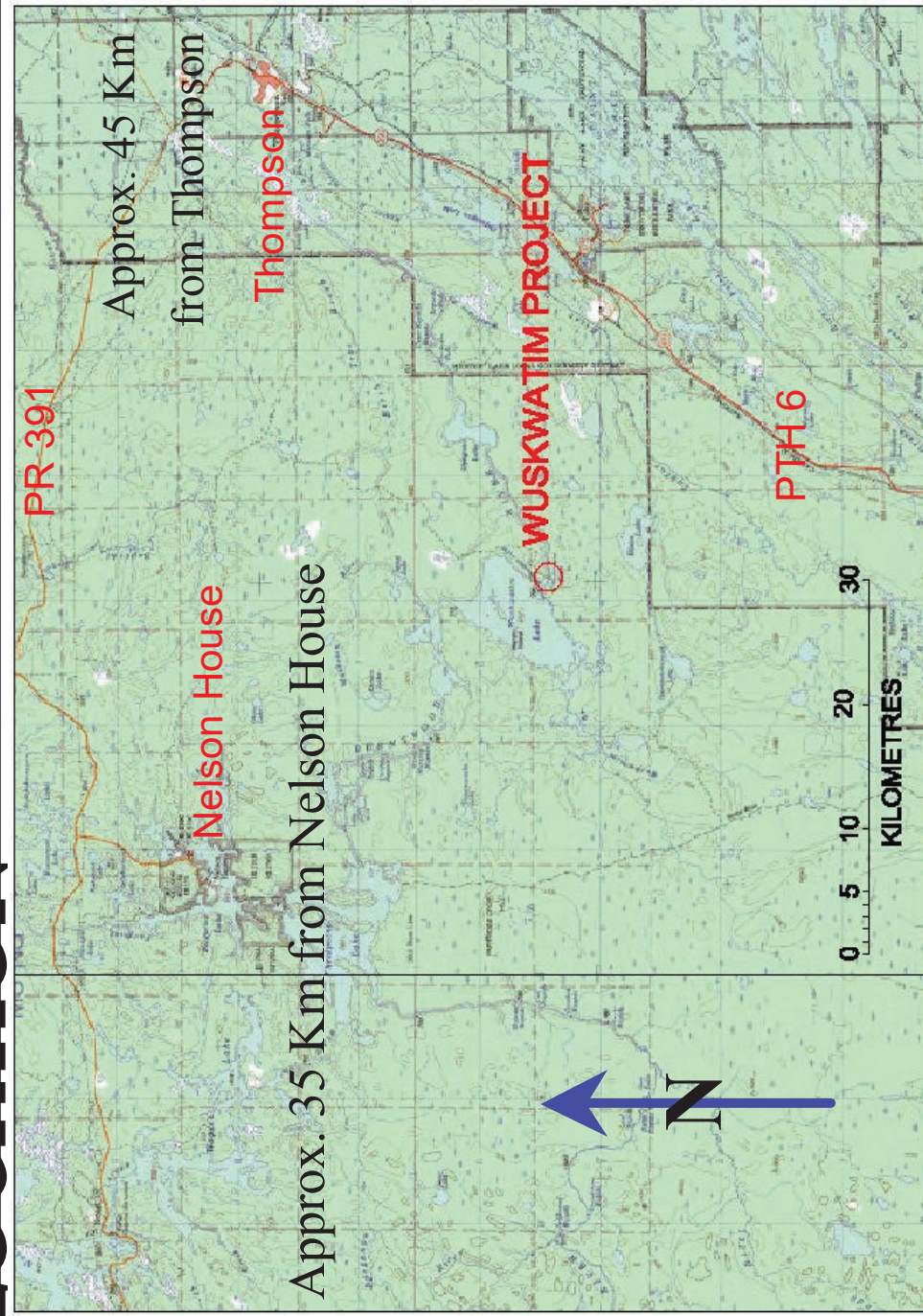
- ▶ The Wuskwatim Generating Station Project
 - ▶ Timing and Rationale of Project
 - ▶ Location of Project
 - ▶ Key Features of Project
 - ▶ Project Timeline
 - ▶ Potential Partnership with NCN
- ▶ Associated Transmission Facilities
- ▶ Joint Studies
- ▶ Ongoing Regulatory Review and Public Involvement Process
 - ▶ Where we are at in this process



Wuskwatim Generating Station Project

- ▶ Location
- ▶ Fundamental Design Assumptions
- ▶ Project Timeline
- ▶ Estimated Manpower Requirements

LOCATION



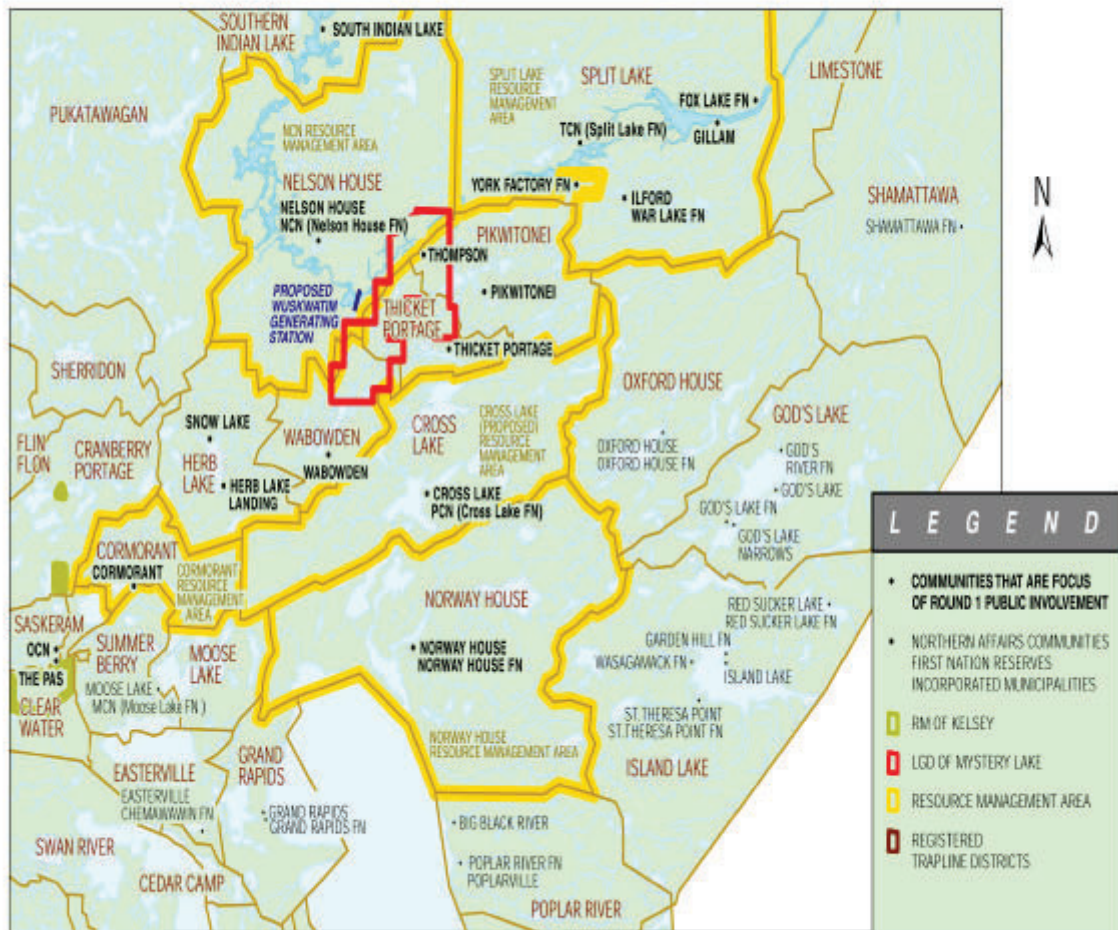
KEYMAP

MANITOBA HYDRO POWER SUPPLY - POWER PLANNING & OPERATIONS		SHT.		REV.	
WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION		00184-10010-0012_00		01 00	
WUSKWATIM PROJECT REGIONAL LOCATION PLAN					
DRAWN	DSM	DATE	001221	SCALE	AS SHOWN
CHECK	GMC	BY	RD.	APP.	
REVISIONS					
FOR MICROFILM USE ONLY					

SCHEDULE 4.1

Location of Proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station

COMMUNITIES HIGHLIGHTED IN ROUND 1 OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN



Wuskwatim Lake

Wuskwatim Falls.

Generating Station will be constructed at Taskinigup Falls in this area.



General Arrangement of Primary & Secondary Structures





Fundamental Design Assumption

- ▶ The design and planning for Wuskwatim assumes that the CRD will continue to operate as it is operated today.
- ▶ CRD will remain unchanged
- ▶ Operation of CRD
 - ▶ “The primary purpose of the **CRD** is to divert water from the Churchill River to the Nelson River to supply the generating stations on the lower Nelson River. Natural inflows to the Rat, Footprint and Burntwood River system combine with the **CRD** regulated flows to move downstream along the Burntwood River towards Wuskwatim Lake and further downstream toward Split Lake. It is anticipated that the typical seasonal and monthly regulation pattern that has been experienced historically since the **CRD** was fully commissioned in September of 1977 will remain unaltered. Therefore, it is also anticipated by the **Parties** that the constraints imposed by the **CRD** 1973 Interim Water Licence, the Augmented Flow Program, the 1976 City of Thompson Agreement, the **NFA**, and the **1996 Implementation Agreement** will continue unaffected by the **Wuskwatim Project**.”

- **Approximately 21-22 m of Hydraulic Head**
- **Produce about 200 MW of power
(this is similar to Kelsey G.S.).**
- **Three Fixed Blade Vertical Shaft Turbines**
- **Rated Discharge of 1,100
cms (38, 850 cfs)**

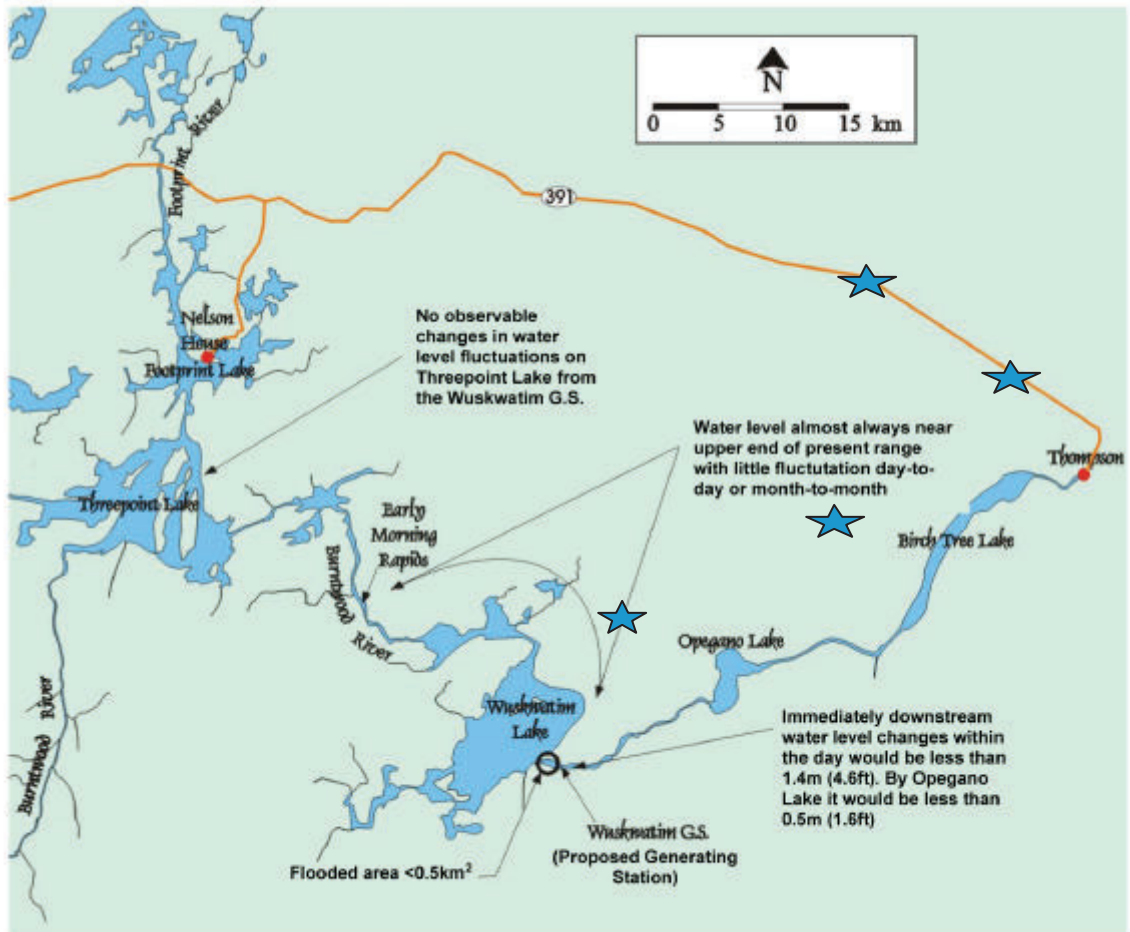




Generating Station Project (cont'd)

- ▶ Water Regime Impacts
 - ▶ Less than one-half square kilometre of new land would be flooded
 - ▶ Water levels on Wuskwatim Lake would normally stabilize at upper range of current water levels (approximately 234 m above sea level)
 - ▶ Water level effects would extend upstream to near Early Morning Rapids, but Early Morning Rapids not expected to be affected
 - ▶ Downstream effects would end at Opegano Lake under most flow conditions
- ▶ Infrastructure Requirements
 - ▶ A camp for construction workers (NCN Chief and Council support Wuskwatim as possible location)
 - ▶ Access road to the site (Chief and Council support the vicinity of mile 5 or mile 20)
 - ▶ Construction power

Effects on Water Regime

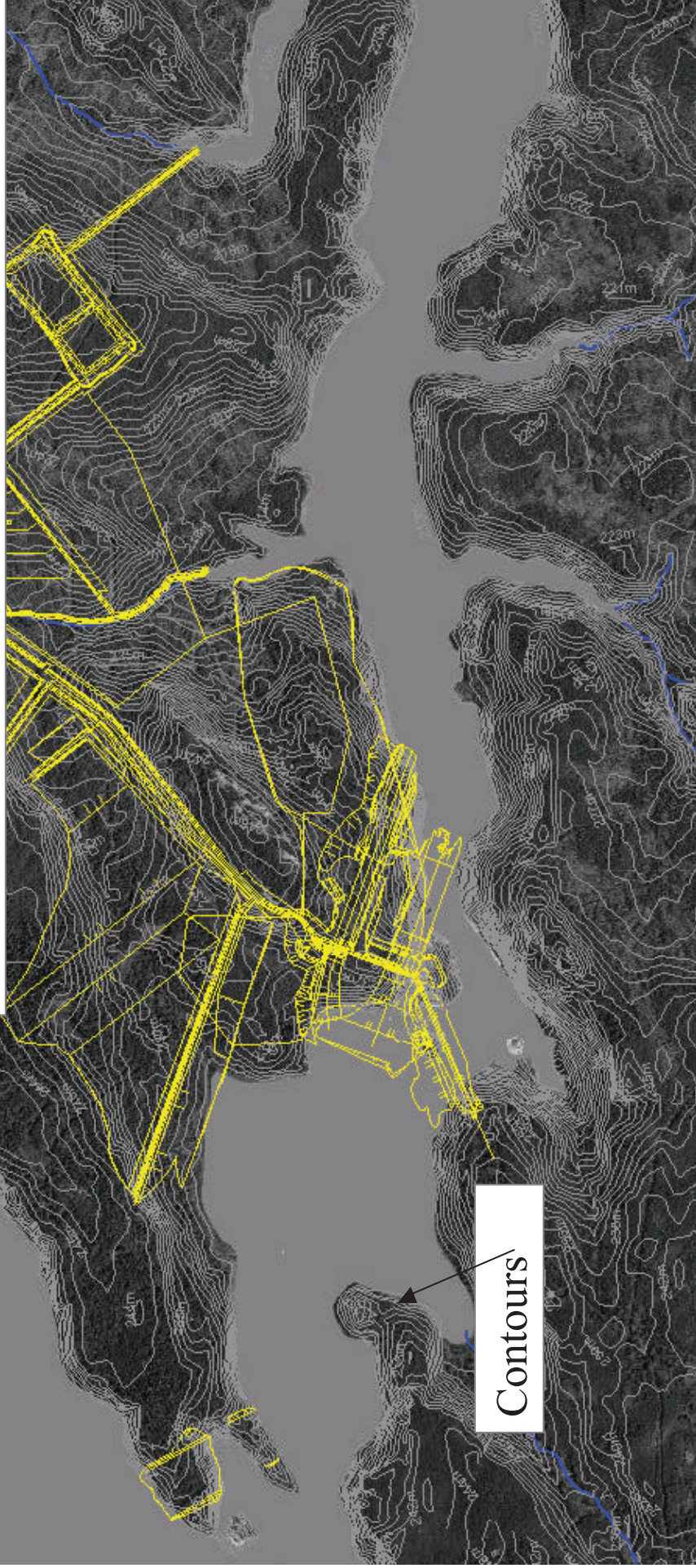


★ Indicate possibilities for road construction

By looking at the elevations in the area - a "low head" design was chosen by Hydro to minimize the effect on the environment.

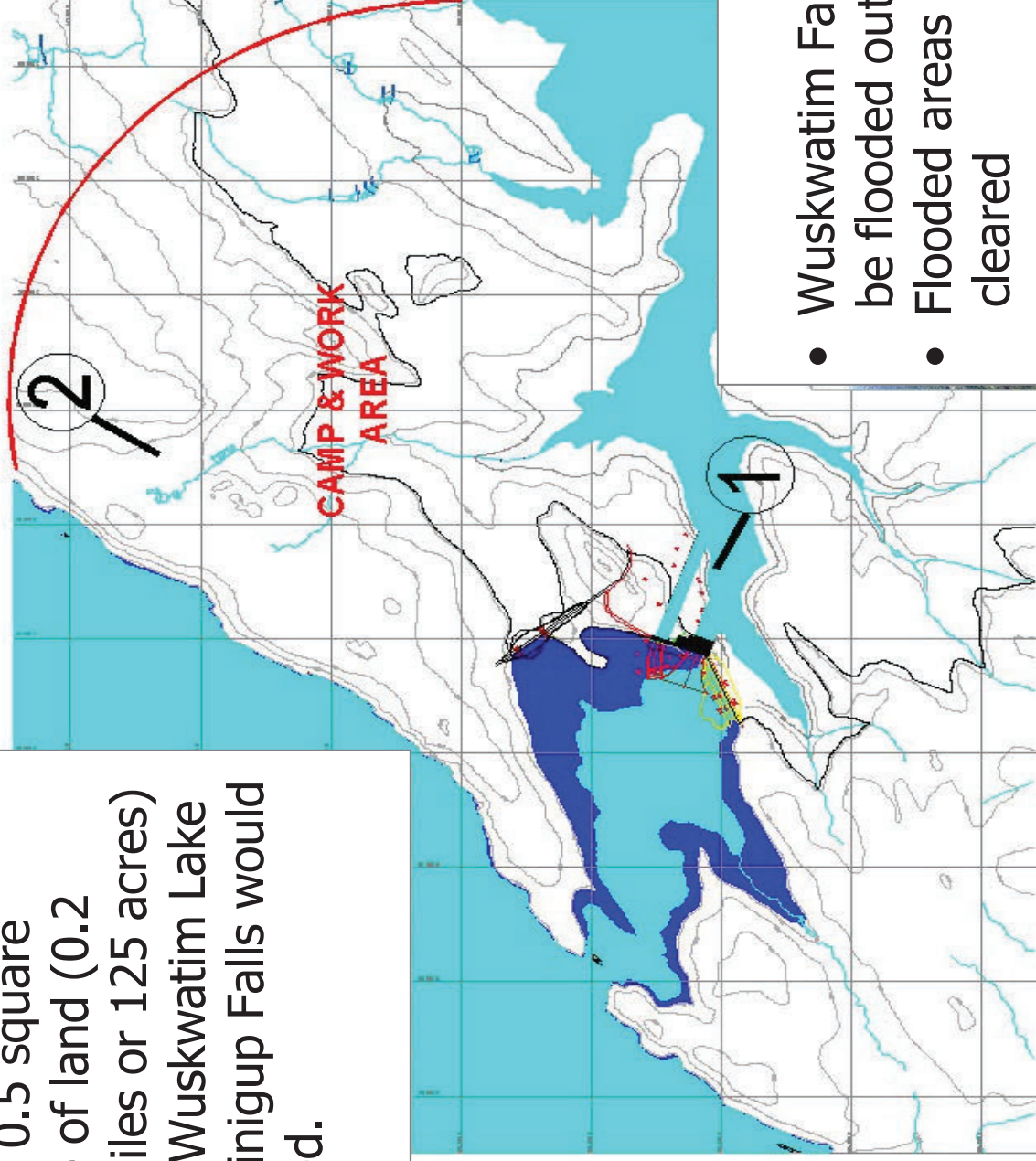
Forebay will be 234.0 m

Contours



- Less than 0.5 square kilometre of land (0.2 square miles or 125 acres) between Wuskwatim Lake and Taskinigup Falls would be flooded.

1



2

- Wuskwatim Falls would be flooded out.
- Flooded areas would be cleared



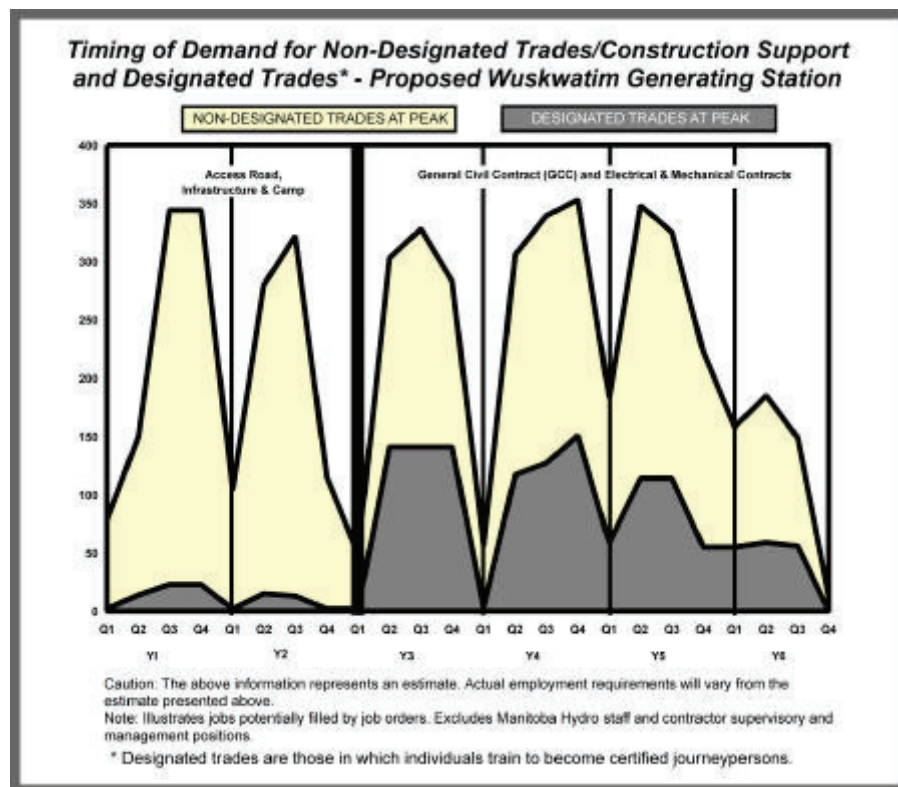
Project Timeline

- ▶ If developed, the earliest In Service Date would be in late 2009
- ▶ Earliest Start for infrastructure work would be in 2003/4
- ▶ Formal commitment to develop, April 2002

Generating Station Project (cont'd)

▶ Employment Opportunities

- ▶ Construction workforce for the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station would peak at approximately 350 jobs
- ▶ Some jobs would extend over 6 years
- ▶ Jobs mainly early spring to late autumn; little winter work





Wuskwatim Transmission Facilities

- ▶ Development of a generating station at Wuskwatim would require the development of new transmission lines and transformer/switching stations
- ▶ These transmission facilities will deliver the electricity to the existing Manitoba Hydro system.



Wuskwatim Transformer Station

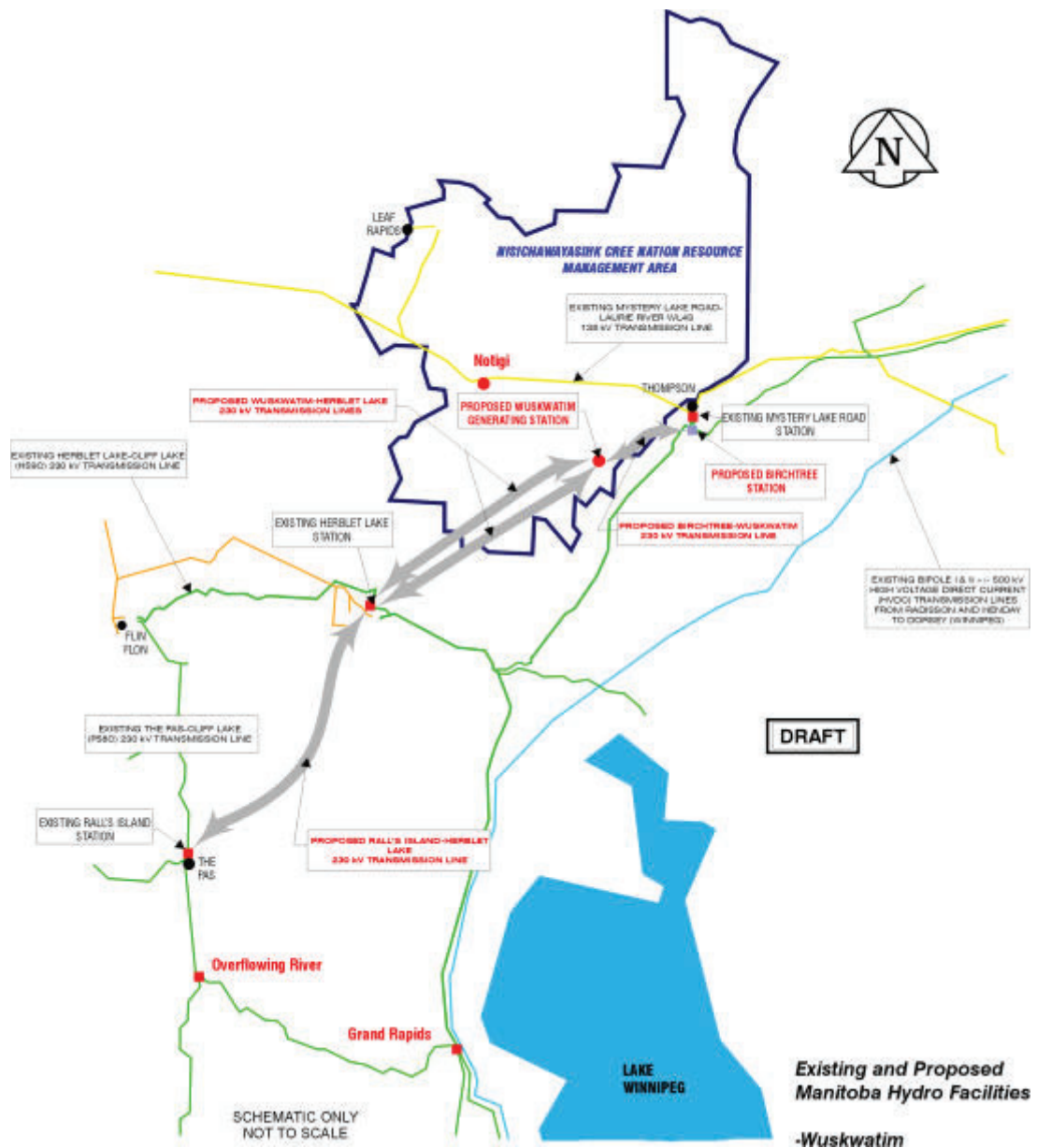
- ▶ A new transformer station would be required at the Wuskwatim Generating Station site.
- ▶ The transformer station would take the electricity from the generating station and transform it to the higher voltages necessary for transmission to the existing system.



Other Transmission Facilities

- ▶ New transmission lines would connect the Wuskwatim Transformer Station to other stations on the Manitoba Hydro system.
- ▶ The points of connection would be at Thompson (at a proposed new station south of the City to be called Birchtree Station); and the existing Herblet Lake Station (at Snow Lake) and Rall's Island Station (at The Pas).

Schematic of Wuskwatim Transmission Lines





NCN/Manitoba Hydro Joint Study Program

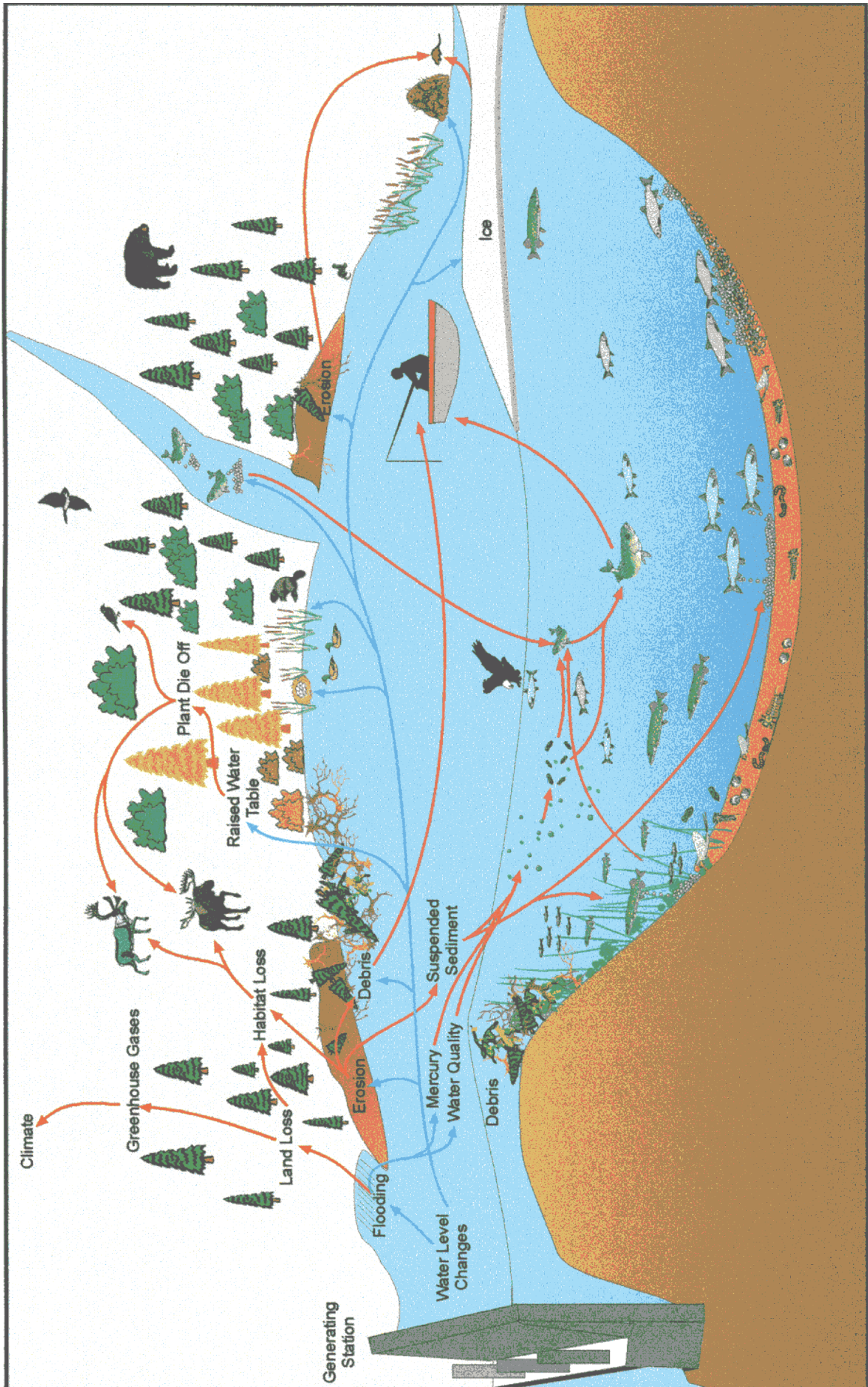
- ▶ the Environmental Study Team (which was jointly selected by Manitoba Hydro and NCN) has been working with the Parties to design and implement the environmental studies for the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station and associated facilities.
- ▶ the studies, which are collectively referred to as the Joint Study Program, have been 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, and external experts.
- ▶ the Study Program is also receiving information from interested Parties through the PIP. The Study Program has been, and will continue to be, modified as the information is received from these Parties.
- ▶ the Study Program was initiated in 2000 with 2001 being the second full year of study. Additional information was also collected in 1998 and 1999 as part of monitoring studies.



NCN/Manitoba Hydro Joint Study Program

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 environmental information that can be used in the project planning phase to avoid or minimize impacts;
- ▶ to provide the information required to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement; and
- ▶ to provide baseline information on the physical, aquatic, terrestrial, and socio-economic environments in enough detail to allow for future monitoring studies.
- ▶ Both aboriginal knowledge and information from science based studies will be key components of the EIS and the future monitoring studies.





Physical Environment

- ▶ Information is being collected to determine the following:
 - ▶ *Climate and Air Quality*
 - ▶ short-term effects on air quality from dust due to hauling, crushing, blasting, and project-induced fires; and
 - ▶ the significance of project related greenhouse gas emissions to global climate change also will be assessed.
 - ▶ *Geology, soils, and groundwater*
 - ▶ collection of soil permeability data to assess risks associated with spills; and
 - ▶ information on leachates from blasted rock and fill materials.
 - ▶ *Water levels and flows*
 - ▶ a description of daily and seasonal flows, including “typical” as well as extreme conditions is being assembled; and
 - ▶ this information will be used to determine effects on navigation, ice, erosion, debris, fish habitat, and shorelines.



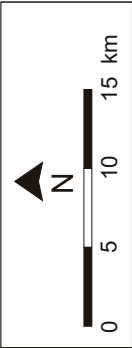
Physical Environment

- ▶ *Ice conditions*
 - ▶ information from long-term ice monitoring studies and modeling work will be used to predict post-project ice conditions.
- ▶ *Erosion*
 - ▶ the effects of project-related erosion on lake and river shorelines are being studied.
- ▶ *Debris*
 - ▶ the effects of the project on debris are being studied.

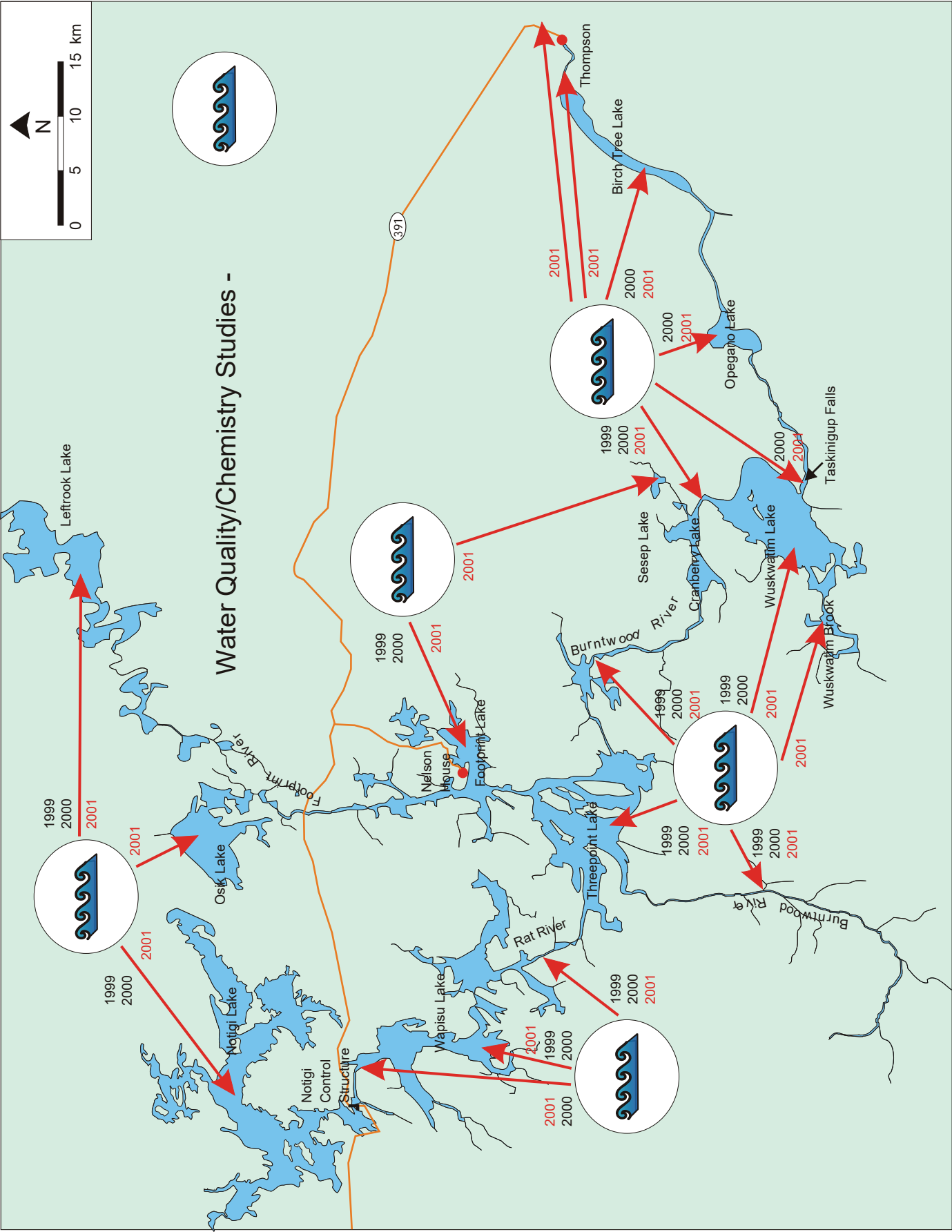


Water Quality/Water Chemistry

- ▶ Water quality studies are being conducted:
- ▶ to predict effects of potential changes in water quality on aquatic life; and
- ▶ to predict effects of potential changes in water quality in relation to drinking water and recreation (e.g., swimming).
- ▶ The information will be used to predict how the projects might affect water quality through:
 - ▶ the input of sediments and other substances during construction;
 - ▶ the input of substances due to flooding (small area);
 - ▶ the introduction of sediments and other substances due to erosion; and
 - ▶ increased water residence time in Wuskwatim Lake.



Water Quality/Chemistry Studies -





Aquatic Environment

- ▶ *Aquatic Invertebrates*
 - ▶ zooplankton (small swimming animals) and benthic invertebrates, which are an important food source for fish, are being studied in each lake potentially affected by the project.
- ▶ *Fish Habitat*
 - ▶ fish habitat is being mapped for all major lakes and river reaches potentially affected by the project;
 - ▶ the following information is being mapped:
 - ▶ water depth;
 - ▶ bottom type (mud, sand, gravel, or rock);
 - ▶ vegetation (presence/absence, type, amount); and
 - ▶ use of the habitat types by fish.



Fish Populations

- ▶ The following information is being gathered on fish populations for all major lakes and rivers potentially affected by the project:
 - ▶ fish species presence and relative abundance;
 - ▶ a description of the fish populations (where they're found, the age of the fish, growth rates, diet, etc.);
 - ▶ spawning sites, movements, and migrations; and
 - ▶ fish quality including mercury, fish health, and taste/texture.
 - ▶ all fish species are being studied but more attention is being given to key domestic and commercial fish species such as lake whitefish, pickerel, jackfish, and tullibee.



Fish Movement and Fish Quality Studies

- ▶ *Fish movement and migration studies are being conducted to:*
 - ▶ determine when and where key species spawn in the study area;
 - ▶ identify other important habitats such as overwintering areas;
 - ▶ determine fish movements within and between the study area lakes; and
 - ▶ confirm that fish do not move upstream over Taskinigup Falls.
- ▶ Studies are being conducted using a number of different methodologies including radio-telemetry studies and tagging studies.
- ▶ *Fish quality studies are also being conducted:*
 - ▶ to determine the present level of mercury in fish harvested by the domestic and commercial fisheries;
 - ▶ to determine the current “health” of important fish species; and
 - ▶ to determine the current “palatability” of fish in areas potentially affected by the projects.



Terrestrial Environment Vegetation and Commercial Forestry

- ▶ Vegetation and commercial forestry studies are being conducted to provide information on:
 - ▶ medicinal plants which have been identified as an important component by NCN;
 - ▶ the presence/absence of rare and endangered species in areas potentially affected by the project;
 - ▶ vegetation that would be lost by clearing areas such as the camp site, generating station site, and associated infrastructure;
 - ▶ vegetation that could be affected by increased water tables;
 - ▶ the amount of merchantable timber that would be lost; and
 - ▶ information on vegetation for use in the wildlife assessments.



Wildlife Studies

- ▶ *Wildlife and wildlife habitat studies are being conducted to provide information on:*
 - ▶ aquatic furbearer populations such as muskrat, beaver, otter, and mink in areas that could potentially be affected by the project;
 - ▶ mercury levels in aquatic furbearers such as muskrat and otter;
 - ▶ terrestrial furbearers (including pine martin, wolf, snowshoe hares, lynx, weasel, etc.), moose, and woodland caribou; and
 - ▶ small mammals (such as mice, voles, etc.) that support other mammal populations.
- ▶ *Studies on birds and bird habitat are being conducted to provide information on:*
 - ▶ populations and distribution of waterfowl, raptors, upland game birds, shorebirds, and songbirds in the study area;
 - ▶ bird habitat availability and quality in areas potentially affected by the project and at control sites; and
 - ▶ the presence of any rare or sensitive species or habitats.



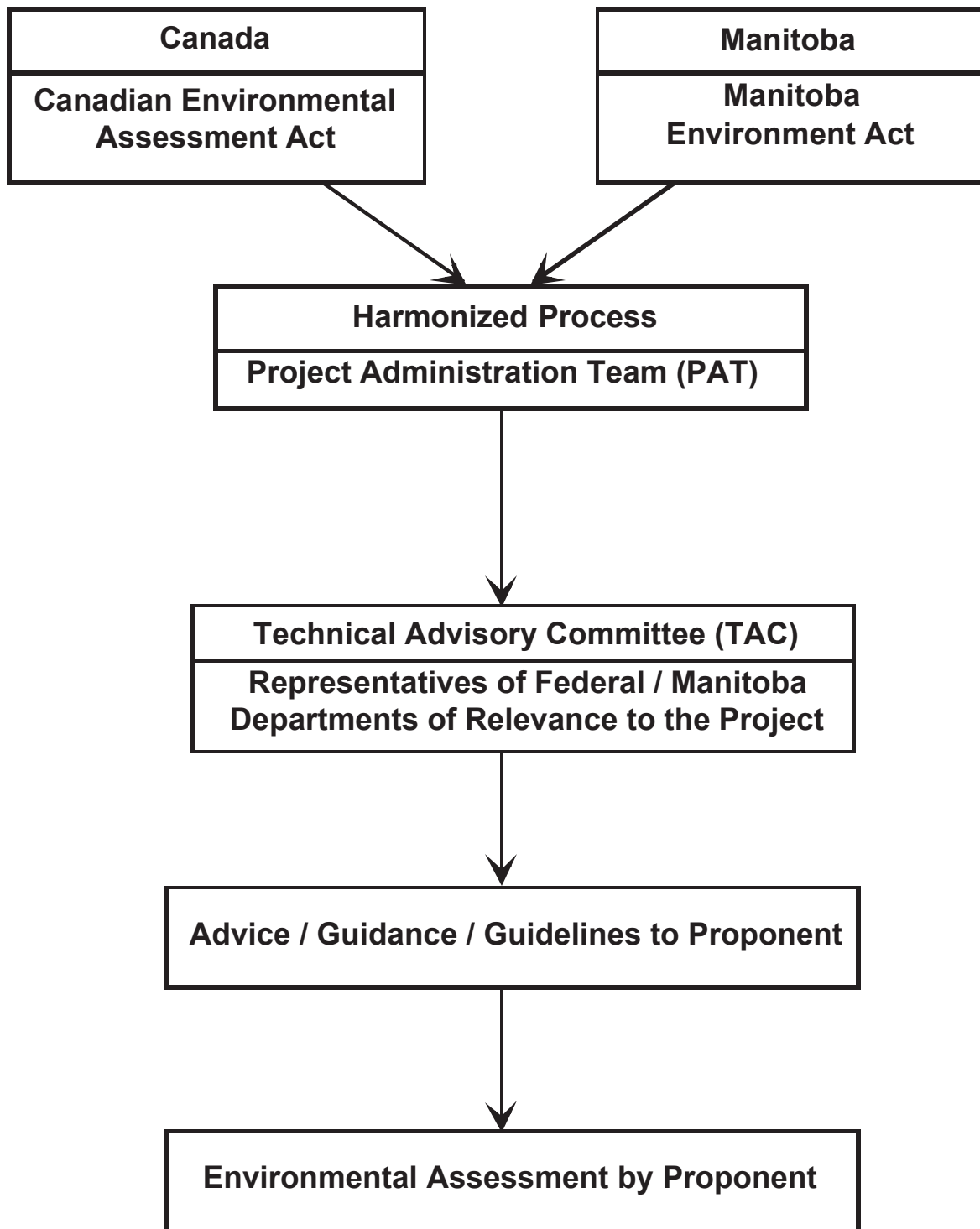
Resource Use Studies

- ▶ the potential effects of the project on resource use have been identified by NCN as a key area of study.
- ▶ resource use studies are focusing on the following:
 - ▶ domestic and commercial fishing;
 - ▶ domestic hunting and gathering;
 - ▶ domestic and commercial trapping;
 - ▶ domestic and commercial forest use; and
 - ▶ hunting and fishing lodges.



Ongoing Regulatory Review and Public Involvement Process

- ▶ There are necessary regulatory, licensing and approval requirements
- ▶ Approval would be required by both the provincial and federal regulators
- ▶ Although no decision to develop has been made, Manitoba Hydro and NCC have:
 - ▶ Provided initial information to provincial/federal regulators
 - ▶ Met with the provincial/federal Project Administration Team
 - ▶ Met with the Technical Advisory Committee, made up of representatives from relevant provincial and federal departments





Process (cont'd)

Main Steps in the Environmental Review and Decision Schedule:

- 1) The Environment Act Proposal Form
- 2) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Guidelines
- 3) Formal Commitment to Develop
- 4) Panel Process Implemented and EIS Filed
- 5) EIS Public Review Process
- 6) Final Licensing Decisions
- 7) Final Decision to Start Construction

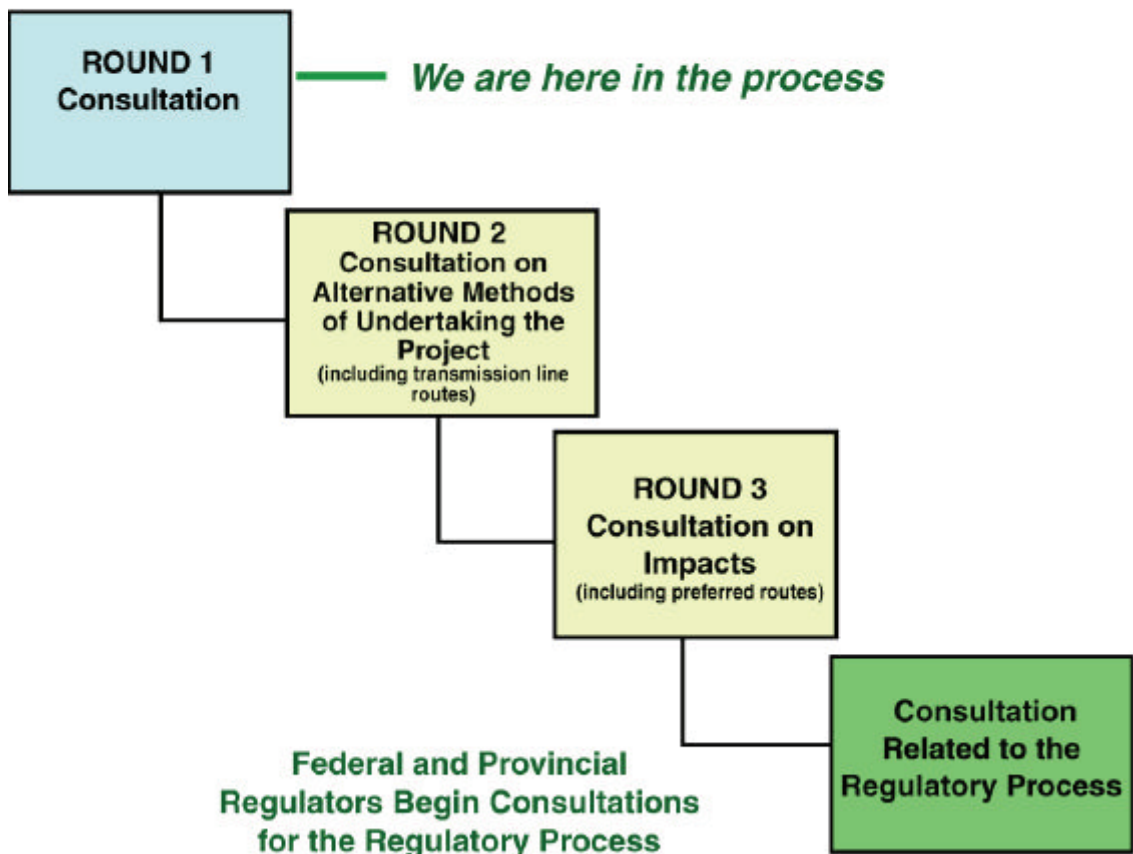


Where are We Today?

- ▶ Manitoba Hydro is assessing key factors
- ▶ NCN is also assessing a range of key factors
- ▶ Environmental studies are underway on the Project
- ▶ Starting Round 1 of Public Involvement Plan to introduce the Project and proposed future public involvement to elected leaders in communities in the region

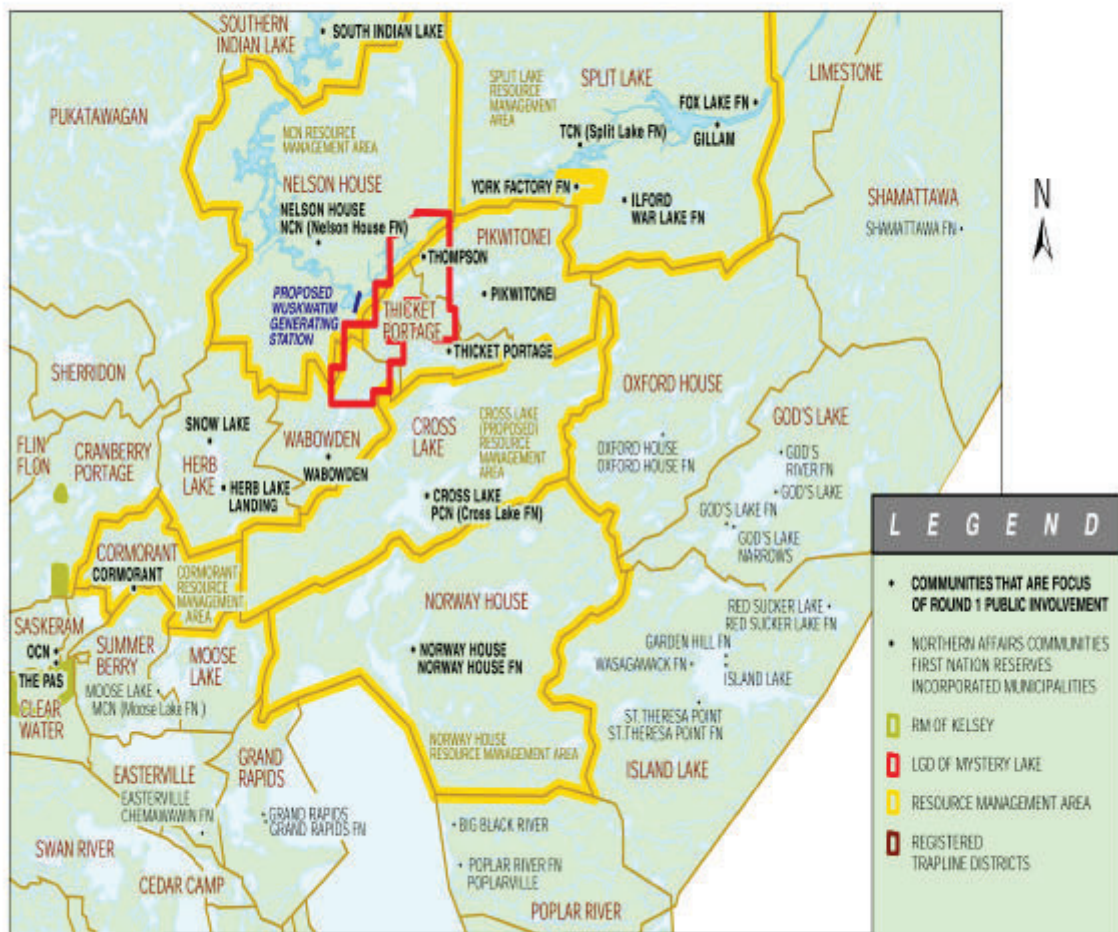
The Public Involvement Plan Process

Public Consultation Process for the Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities



Communities in Round 1 Public Involvement

COMMUNITIES HIGHLIGHTED IN ROUND 1 OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN





Next Steps

- ▶ Continued environmental studies
- ▶ A second round of consultation planned for late fall of 2001
- ▶ A third round of consultation to be held before the spring of 2002
- ▶ More opportunities for the public to be involved in reviewing the project during provincial/federal regulatory process



Questions:

- ▶ What concerns or issues do you see with this proposed project?
- ▶ Would your community be interested in further consultation? If so, what methods work best?



What Happens Next...

- ▶ Follow up from meeting
 - ▶ Draft meeting notes returned to participants for review
 - ▶ Ongoing contact
 - ▶ Opportunity for further consultation in Round 2 of PIP



For More Information:

Nick Barnes
Manitoba Hydro
Generating Station Project
(204) 474-3999

Ron Rawluk
Manitoba Hydro
Transmission Facilities
(204) 474-3119

Norman Linklater
NCN Future Development
(204) 484-3003

Marcel Moody
NCN Future Development
(204) 484-2604



Thank You

2.5 Meeting Notes

*All meeting notes were mailed to community representatives for distribution within the community, and for review and comment. This appendix includes only finalized versions of the meeting notes from Round One of public involvement. Supplemental notes, responding to concerns/questions that could not be addressed during particular meetings, have been included as necessary. This appendix does not include documentation of all follow-up activities resulting from Round One community meetings.



InterGroup

CONSULTANTS

Suite 604-283 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 2B5
tel: (204) 942-0654
fax: (204) 943-3922
e-mail: intergroup@intergroup.ca

October 15, 2001

Mayor Warren Pagee, Deputy Mayor Wayne Laubmann, Councillors Martha Chartrand and Hilliard
Brightnose
Community of Pikwitonei
Pikwitonei Post Office
Pikwitonei, MB R0B 1E0

Dear Mayor Pagee, Deputy Mayor Laubmann and Councillors:

RE: DRAFT MEETING NOTES AND PRESENTATION OVERHEADS FROM SEPTEMBER 21ST MEETING REGARDING PROPOSED WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION AND ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES

This letter is in follow up to the meeting of elected officials held on September 21st, 2001 in Thompson, Manitoba regarding the possible Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities. Enclosed for your review are draft meeting notes. Please let me know by October 26th if there are any errors or omissions in the notes.

We have included extra copies of the draft meeting notes and presentation overheads for distribution to Councillors who were not able to attend the meeting.

Beyond meeting note changes, if you have any questions or comments about the project or the public involvement process, please do not hesitate to call:

- Nick Barnes (204) 474-3999 (generation project)
- Ron Rawluk (204) 474-3119 (transmission facilities)
- Marcel Moody (204) 484-2604 or Norman Linklater (204) 484-3003 (Co-managers of Future Development for NCN).

It was a pleasure to meet you. We look forward to meeting you again during future rounds of public involvement regarding the possible Wuskwatim Generating Station.

Yours truly,

INTERGROUP CONSULTANTS LTD.

Andrea Lambro
Researcher

enclosure



Suite 604-283 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 2B5
tel: (204) 942-0654
fax: (204) 943-3922
e-mail: intergroup@intergroup.ca

October 15, 2001

Ms. Diana Delaronde-Colombe
Community of Wabowden
Wabowden Post Office
Wabowden, MB R0B 1S0

Dear Ms. Delaronde-Colombe:

RE: DRAFT MEETING NOTES AND PRESENTATION OVERHEADS FROM SEPTEMBER 21ST MEETING REGARDING PROPOSED WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION AND ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES

This letter is in follow up to the meeting of elected officials held on September 21st, 2001 in Thompson, Manitoba regarding the possible Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities. Enclosed for your review are draft meeting notes. Please let me know by October 26th if there are any errors or omissions in the notes.

We have also included copies of the draft meeting notes and presentation overheads for distribution to Mayor Meade and Councillors.

Beyond meeting note changes, if you have any questions or comments about the project or the public involvement process, please do not hesitate to call:

- Nick Barnes (204) 474-3999 (generation project)
- Ron Rawluk (204) 474-3119 (transmission facilities)
- Marcel Moody (204) 484-2604 or Norman Linklater (204) 484-3003 (Co-managers of Future Development for NCN).

It was a pleasure to meet you. We look forward to meeting you again during future rounds of public involvement regarding the possible Wuskwatim Generating Station.

Yours truly,
INTERGROUP CONSULTANTS LTD.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Andrea Lamboo'.

Andrea Lamboo
Researcher

enclosure



Suite 604-283 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 2B5
tel: (204) 942-0654
fax: (204) 943-3922
e-mail: intergroup@intergroup.ca

October 15, 2001

Councillors Ricky Pronteau and Natalie Bittern
Community of Thicket Portage
Thicket Portage Post Office
Thicket Portage, MB R0B 1R0

Dear Councillors Pronteau and Bittern:

RE: DRAFT MEETING NOTES AND PRESENTATION OVERHEADS FROM SEPTEMBER 21ST MEETING REGARDING PROPOSED WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION AND ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES

This letter is in follow up to the meeting of elected officials held on September 21st, 2001 in Thompson, Manitoba regarding the possible Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities. Enclosed for your review are draft meeting notes. Please let me know by October 26th if there are any errors or omissions in the notes.

We have included extra copies of the draft meeting notes and presentation overheads for distribution to Mayor McCleverty and Councillors who were not able to attend the meeting.

Beyond meeting note changes, if you have any questions or comments about the project or the public involvement process, please do not hesitate to call:

- Nick Barnes (204) 474-3999 (generation project)
- Ron Rawluk (204) 474-3119 (transmission facilities)
- Marcel Moody (204) 484-2604 or Norman Linklater (204) 484-3003 (Co-managers of Future Development for NCN).

It was a pleasure to meet you. We look forward to meeting you again during future rounds of public involvement regarding the possible Wuskwatim Generating Station.

Yours truly,
INTERGROUP CONSULTANTS LTD.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Andrea Lamboo'.

Andrea Lamboo
Researcher

enclosure



**WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION AND
ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES
MEETING OF ELECTED OFFICIALS**

***Community of Pikwitonei, Community of
Wabowden, and Community of Thicket Portage***

Date of Meeting: September 21, 2001
Location: St. Joseph's Hall, Ukrainian Catholic Church of St. Joseph, Thompson, MB

In Attendance: Warren Pagee Mayor, Pikwitonei
Martha Chartrand Councillor, Pikwitonei
Hilliard Brightnose Councillor, Pikwitonei
Wayne Laubmann Councillor, Pikwitonei
Natalie Bittern Councillor, Thicket Portage
Ricky Pronteau Councillor, Thicket Portage
Diana Delaronde-Colombe Wabowden Community Council
John Markowsky Manitoba Hydro, Winnipeg
Nick Barnes Manitoba Hydro, Winnipeg
Chief Jerry Primrose NCN
Bruce Hickey NCN
Stuart Davies North/South Consultants
George Rempel TetrES Consultants
Janet Kinley InterGroup Consultants
Andrea Lamboo InterGroup Consultants

Presenters: George Rempel TetrES Consultants
John Markowsky Manitoba Hydro
Stuart Davies North/South Consultants
Chief Jerry Primrose NCN
Janet Kinley InterGroup Consultants

Purpose: To introduce the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities to elected leaders in the Communities of Pikwitonei, Wabowden and Thicket Portage. To learn from elected leaders about any initial issues and concerns, as well as input regarding future public involvement in their communities.

MEETING NOTES

Introductions, Opening Remarks, Agenda, Background and Overview

- George Rempel, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting, described the purposes of the meeting and asked all participants to introduce themselves.

- Bruce Hickey, representing NCN, gave opening remarks on behalf of NCN. He welcomed everyone and informed everyone of the Agreement in Principle between NCN and Manitoba Hydro, which will be signed on September 25th, 2001.
- John Markowsky gave opening remarks on behalf of Manitoba Hydro. John reiterated that there have not been any decisions to proceed to date, but that Manitoba Hydro is working along with NCN in planning for the project. The first step is the Agreement in Principle, now completed, and then a potential partnership.
- At this point, George Rempel indicated that copies of draft meeting notes and presentation material would be made available to those participants present.
- George then reviewed the agenda (see presentation attached), gave a brief background and overview of the presentation. He encouraged questions throughout the presentation. George indicated that the project is much smaller in scale as compared to the most recent hydro-electric projects in Manitoba, for example, the Limestone Generating Station.

Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities

- John Markowsky presented the location for the potential project, the fundamental design assumptions, the project schedule and the manpower expectations (see presentation).
- He discussed the proximity of the projects to Nelson House and Thompson.
- John stated that the actual powerhouse would be a 3-unit powerhouse located at Taskinigup Falls. He said that there would be a minimum amount of flooding (<0.5 km²) between Taskinigup Falls and Wuskwatim Falls (see presentation).
- John indicated that the Churchill River Diversion would operate as usual.
- John discussed the decision of NCN and Manitoba Hydro to choose a "low head" design because it would cause less flooding than a higher dam at this location.
- John Markowsky compared the employment opportunities associated with the potential Wuskwatim Generating Station with those of the Limestone Generating Station. The Wuskwatim Generating Station would be substantially smaller, providing approximately 200 megawatts of energy versus the Limestone Generating Station, which provides approximately 1200 megawatts of energy. There would be correspondingly fewer employment opportunities associated with this project.
- The jobs available would be seasonal, the type of jobs and job skills required would vary over the construction period, depending upon the stage of construction of the project.
- The Project would operate under similar conditions as the Burntwood Nelson Collective Agreement, which provides a no strike clause as well as the opportunity for preferential hiring. NCN and other northern communities would then benefit from this preferential hiring clause. Details of these arrangements have not been finalized as yet.

George Rempel asked participants if there were any questions at this time and there were not. Presentation proceeded with a description of the Joint Studies that have been accomplished to date as well as those underway and what is to come.

Joint Studies

- Stuart Davies of North/South Consultants presented information on the Joint Environmental Studies, what the objectives of the Joint Studies are, how they have been designed and what parts have been implemented and are currently being implemented (see presentation).

- Chief Jerry Primrose inquired how many fish tags have actually been returned. Stuart indicated that quite a few have been returned, the majority of which are provided by community fishers.
- Chief Primrose asked what was the furthest distance a fish had travelled from their recorded information. Stuart Davies said that fish from some areas (such as the Limestone River) have travelled hundreds of miles.
- Once the presentation was complete, Stuart Davies asked if there were any questions. No questions were asked at this point.

Remarks from Chief Jerry Primrose

- In 1996, NCN, Manitoba Hydro and Canada settled the Northern Flood Agreement. Under Article 8 of this 1996 Implementation Agreement, NCN is to be included in future development and the planning process for future development.
- NCN has been engaged in discussion with Manitoba Hydro about the potential Wuskwatim Generating Station.
- NCN is concerned with accurately assessing the benefits and risks of the Project. They are gathering input from community members and others.
- Chief Primrose indicated that people need to share their views about the future and their vision for the future.
- In 1996, NCN did not anticipate any new hydro-electric development in their area until 2015.
- The international markets are changing, however, and need for electricity will arise sooner than anticipated.
- Chief Primrose talked about the Churchill River Diversion. The legal system at that time allowed for the expropriation of lands. First Nations argued against taking these lands. In 1996, the Implementation Agreement indicated that Manitoba Hydro would not build any new developments in their area without involving NCN. NCN and Hydro have now entered into an Agreement in Principle regarding the Wuskwatim Generating Station. He emphasized that the key word is in "principle".
- Chief Primrose wants NCN to work with others to share benefits from such projects. When Manitoba Hydro first approached NCN they were proposing to build a "high head" dam. With high head dams, there is the potential for a great deal of flooding. NCN did not agree with this proposal.
- Hydro re-designed their proposal, and instead proposed a "low head" dam, which was more appealing to NCN.
- Chief Primrose also mentioned that Manitoba Hydro is taking a new more positive approach to transmission lines with respect to benefit sharing.
- Chief Primrose emphasized that they have to move on, after the Churchill River Diversion. They have lived with the Churchill River Diversion for 26 years. They are looking for new development opportunities.
- Chief Primrose stated that the goals are to have people participate in the process and share in the prosperity.
- The current population in NCN will have a large number of people entering the workforce in the next few years, so the need is great for new opportunities. Most people in NCN are between 15-30 years of age and there is a need to do something to build jobs and employment or there is the potential for social problems.
- They are looking into developing socio-economic programs for their community.

- Chief Primrose thanked the participants for attending and for getting accurate information on the proposed Project.
- Chief Primrose asked if there were any questions for him before he had to leave.
- Diana Delaronde-Colombe, Wabowden Community Council, said, "Hats off to NCN. We are proud of you." She stated that this approach to development makes people want to learn more about it.
- Chief Primrose thanked Diana. He stated that future development is a tremendous opportunity. In the next 25 years there will be more demands for power and the Government of Manitoba wants affected communities to be part of the planning process. This is a new and historic initiative.
- Warren Pagee, Mayor of Pikwitonei, thanked the group for coming and asked about the employment opportunities and training programs for other communities. He wanted to know if other communities would be involved. He stated that employment is of great concern. He asked if Pikwitonei would get a certain number of jobs proportional to the population.
- Bruce Hickey, NCN, responded to this question and indicated that there would be an allocation of funds to training programs currently being discussed in response to the project; in particular, 25 per cent has been earmarked for communities other than NCN in pre-employment training being examined. He also stated that NCN is in the process of developing letters, which will be sent out to each community next month to discuss these issues.
- Warren Pagee followed with a concern. He stated that, often, they hear of all these projects with little discussion/information on how they can get involved. He suggested that they would like to be "in the picture rather than on the outside looking in" in terms of employment, training and consultation.
- In response to Mayor Pagee's concern, Chief Primrose said that, from NCN's perspective, they want them to be involved.
- Warren Pagee stated that, during the development and planning for the Limestone Generating Station, they were not involved.
- John Markowsky added that, as a result of discussions with NCN, job training arose as a big issue. In the past, "Manitoba Hydro has not been in the training business" but they are working with NCN, the Province and the federal government to try and make training more accessible. This includes "higher end" trades and not just security guards, etc. At NCN's request, they are looking at 4-year apprenticeship programs, but the responsibility is on the province and the federal government. Letters are being sent, as Bruce Hickey said, but if you would like immediate information the contact in this process is Phyllis Wiscombe of Manitoba Education and Training in Thompson. People like Chief Primrose have been instrumental in moving this forward.

Ongoing Regulatory Review and Public Involvement Process

- Janet Kinley, InterGroup Consultants, presented the components of the ongoing regulatory review and public involvement process (see presentation).
- Janet Kinley stated that the environmental review process is in place to consider, before a project is built, adverse effects on the environment and on people and to seek out ways to reduce or mitigate those effects. The process also looks for ways to make positive changes better.
- Janet indicated that both the federal and provincial governments have environmental legislation, which will apply to the proposed project. The Government of Manitoba and the Government of Canada are working together under a harmonization agreement; their respective legislation will be applied to this project in a joint process.

- A Project Administration Team and a Technical Advisory Committee have been appointed for the Project and will provide guidelines for the environmental review. Even though the formal environmental review process has not begun, information has been supplied and meetings held with the PAT and TAC.
- She also indicated that there will be a hearing process to consider the proposed project; the public would have a role in such a process.
- She stated that at this point in the process no decisions to proceed have been made and that the formal process has not yet begun.
- Janet also went through the main steps in the environmental review process, where we are today, what is next in the process, and next steps (see presentation).
- She noted that public involvement is an important part of the process and that the objectives regarding public involvement are to provide an early opportunity for dialogue with the public, as well as more than one opportunity. She presented a graphic (see presentation) that showed that three rounds of consultation are planned, of which this is Round 1. The purpose of this initial round is to provide information mainly to elected leaders in northern communities in the vicinity of the development, to hear any initial concerns and to get their advice about whether future rounds of consultation are of interest to the communities represented and, if so, what methods work best. The second round is aimed at dealing with alternative means of carrying out the project – most importantly, alternative routing of transmission lines; input by communities in the vicinity of potential routes is important information for the routing process. The third round of consultation is intended to discuss draft results of the environmental assessment studies before they are finalized.
- Janet noted which communities the Study Team has met with to date - South Indian Lake and the communities present at this meeting (Wabowden, Pikwitonei, and Thicket Portage) and other communities contacted in the region.

Questions and Comments

- George Rempel asked if there were any questions and issues of concern. He also asked if communities would be interested in further consultation and which methods of consultation would work best.
- Warren Pagee, Mayor of Pikwitonei, reiterated the importance of the employment aspect of the project as well as the environment. He said they are comfortable with the project as long as they are kept informed and possibly involved in opportunities from the project. He indicated that he appreciated being included in the process this early – so often they are left out.
- Janet asked if people would be interested in presentations in their community. The general response was yes, because they would be able to decrease community travel and more community members would be able to hear the presentation.
- George asked if the information provided was useful.
- Diana Delaronde-Colombe, Wabowden Community Council, indicated that the newsletter provided helps. She said that she could take it back to her community and share it with others. She also indicated that she feels people should be put through training now so that they are ready to take up the opportunities. She referred to the Limestone Project and the trade jobs in the community. She said that early training would give their community time to get people into programs now. She stated that people in the communities are hearing a lot of negative publicity about hydro development, for example from Cross Lake, regarding power sales to the United States. She said that this type of

information would be helpful in seeing what is really going on. She also stated that she learned a lot at the meeting and welcomed a presentation in her community.

- George Rempel concluded that the process is much different than it used to be.
- Mayor Pagee asked if it would be possible to obtain a copy of the AIP. Bruce Hickey, NCN, indicated that NCN will be sending out letters accompanied by a copy of the Agreement in Principle between NCN and Manitoba Hydro to all communities who are interested.
- George Rempel gave participants contacts at both Manitoba Hydro and NCN for further questions on the Project (see presentation and newsletter).
- Janet Kinley offered draft meeting notes to all participants along with a copy of the presentation made. She asked that participants review the notes and let her know of any errors or omissions before the notes are finalized.

George Rempel finished the presentation by looking at the next steps (see presentation). He thanked everyone for attending and indicated that Manitoba Hydro and NCN look forward to further consultation with them.

Recorded by Andrea Lamboo.



InterGroup

CONSULTANTS

Suite 604-283 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 2B5
tel: (204) 942-0654
fax: (204) 943-3922
e-mail: intergroup@intergroup.ca

October 24, 2001

Chief Roy Redhead, Councillors Jeffrey Beardy, Rebecca Beardy, Sam Cook, and Mr. Eric Saunders, Mr. Jimmy Beardy, Obediah Wastesicoot, Mr. Joe Sinclair, Mr. Raj Thethy, and Mr. Sam Saunders
York Factory First Nation
General Delivery
York Landing, MB R0B 2B0

Dear Chief Redhead, Councillors J. Beardy, R. Beardy, S. Cook, and Mr. E. Saunders, Mr. J. Beardy, Obediah Wastesicoot, Mr. Sinclair, Mr. Thethy, and Mr. S. Saunders:

RE: DRAFT MEETING NOTES AND PRESENTATION OVERHEADS FROM SEPTEMBER 27th MEETING REGARDING PROPOSED WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION AND ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES

This letter is in follow up to the meeting of elected officials held on September 27th, 2001 in Winnipeg, Manitoba regarding the possible Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities. Enclosed for your review are draft meeting notes. Please let me know by October 31st if there are any errors or omissions in the notes.

We have included extra copies of the draft meeting notes and presentation overheads for distribution to Councillors who were not able to attend the meeting.

Beyond meeting note changes, if you have any questions or comments about the project or the public involvement process, please do not hesitate to call:

- Nick Barnes (204) 474-3999 (generation project)
- Ron Rawluk (204) 474-3119 (transmission facilities)
- Marcel Moody (204) 484-2604 or Norman Linklater (204) 484-3003 (Co-managers of Future Development for NCN).

It was a pleasure to meet you. We look forward to meeting you again during future rounds of public involvement regarding the possible Wuskwatim Generating Station.

Yours truly,

INTERGROUP CONSULTANTS LTD.

Andrea Lamboo for.

Andrea Lamboo
Research Analyst

enclosure



InterGroup

CONSULTANTS

Suite 604-283 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 2B5
tel: (204) 942-0654
fax: (204) 943-3922
e-mail: intergroup@intergroup.ca

October 24, 2001

Chief Ralph Beardy, Councillor Raymond Mayham, Mr. Franklin Arthurson, and Mr. Larris Spence
Fox Lake First Nation
PO Box 369
Gillam, MB R0B 0L0

Dear Chief Beardy, Councillor Mayham, Mr. Arthurson, and Mr. Spence:

RE: DRAFT MEETING NOTES AND PRESENTATION OVERHEADS FROM SEPTEMBER 27th MEETING REGARDING PROPOSED WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION AND ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES

This letter is in follow up to the meeting of elected officials held on September 27th, 2001 in Winnipeg, Manitoba regarding the possible Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities. Enclosed for your review are draft meeting notes. Please let me know by October 31st if there are any errors or omissions in the notes.

We have included extra copies of the draft meeting notes and presentation overheads for distribution to Councillors who were not able to attend the meeting.


Beyond meeting note changes, if you have any questions or comments about the project or the public involvement process, please do not hesitate to call:

- Nick Barnes (204) 474-3999 (generation project)
- Ron Rawluk (204) 474-3119 (transmission facilities)
- Marcel Moody (204) 484-2604 or Norman Linklater (204) 484-3003 (Co-managers of Future Development for NCN).

It was a pleasure to meet you. We look forward to meeting you again during future rounds of public involvement regarding the possible Wuskwatim Generating Station.

Yours truly,

INTERGROUP CONSULTANTS LTD.


Andrea Lamboo
Research Analyst

enclosure



**WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION AND
ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES
MEETING OF ELECTED OFFICIALS**

York Factory First Nation and Fox Lake First Nation

Date of Meeting: September 27, 2001
Location: Place Louis Riel, Winnipeg

In Attendance:	Chief Roy Redhead	York Landing First Nation
	Jeffrey Beardy	York Landing First Nation
	Jimmy A. Beardy	York Landing First Nation
	Obediah Wastesicoot	York Landing First Nation
	Rebecca Beardy	York Landing First Nation
	Eric Saunders	York Landing First Nation
	Joe Sinclair	York Landing First Nation
	Sam Saunders	York Landing First Nation
	Raj Thethy	York Landing First Nation
	Sam Cook	York Landing First Nation
	Chief Ralph Beardy	Fox Lake First Nation
	Franklin Arthurson	Fox Lake First Nation
	Raymond Mayham	Fox Lake First Nation
	Larris Spence	Fox Lake First Nation
	Councillor William E. Thomas	NCN
	John Markowsky	Manitoba Hydro, Winnipeg
	Nick Barnes	Manitoba Hydro, Winnipeg
	Stuart Davies	North/South Consultants
	Cam Osler	InterGroup Consultants
	Janet Kinley	InterGroup Consultants
	Andrea Lamboo	InterGroup Consultants

Presenters:	Cam Osler	InterGroup Consultants
	William E. Thomas	NCN
	John Markowsky	Manitoba Hydro
	Stuart Davies	North/South Consultants

Purpose: To introduce the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities to elected leaders of York Factory First Nation and Fox Lake First Nation. To learn from elected leaders about any initial issues and concerns, as well as input regarding future public involvement in their communities.

MEETING NOTES

Introductions, Opening Remarks, Agenda, Background and Overview

- Cam Osler, InterGroup Consultants, invited opening remarks from John Markowsky, Manitoba Hydro and Councillor William Thomas, NCN.
- John Markowsky, Manitoba Hydro, welcomed Chiefs and Councillors and others. He described Manitoba Hydro's interest in developing the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station and the Notigi Generating Station. He stated that Manitoba Hydro and NCN are now in the process of presenting proposed projects to communities. Manitoba Hydro is excited about the new approach to these projects, because it is a new process, different from how things were done in the past. Manitoba Hydro is exploring partnerships with First Nation communities. Manitoba Hydro worked closely with NCN to develop an Agreement in Principle and is currently working towards a Project Development Agreement. He added that there has been no decision yet as to whether to proceed with the Project, and a recommendation to Manitoba Hydro's Executive Council is expected towards the end of this year. The current In-Service Date for the facility is scheduled for 2009.
- Councillor Elvis Thomas, NCN, opened by welcoming everyone. He discussed the Implementation Agreement signed in 1996, which resulted in a \$63.5 million settlement (\$40 million in a Manitoba Hydro Bond). The First Nation has established a Trust (earning 10% interest, until 2013) and makes use of the interest (\$4 Million/year) . Money is used in the community for programming, etc. Under Article 8 of this 1996 Implementation Agreement, NCN is to be included in all negotiations regarding future development and the planning process for future development. Councillor Thomas discussed how NCN is taking a community-driven approach to this development proposal, where Chief and Council will determine the outcome of the Project and not outside advisors. So far, there is overwhelming community agreement with the proposed Project. NCN and Manitoba Hydro have worked hard to come to an Agreement in Principle. He stated that NCN has made Manitoba Hydro change. At first, Manitoba Hydro had proposed a high head dam, but NCN said that this was unacceptable because of the impact it would cause (higher level of flooding). Manitoba Hydro re-approached NCN with a low head design, which was more appealing from an environmental impact perspective. NCN is also seeking equity participation in the Project. In terms of equity, Manitoba Hydro's first offer was for 10%. NCN saw flexibility through reference to a Quebec Agreement for 17.5%, and several counter offers were made. NCN is now examining a proposal for 33.3% ownership of the Wuskwatim Generating Station. In addition to equity, part of the Agreement concerns employment and training and NCN and Hydro are working toward a modified version of the Burntwood Nelson Agreement. NCN's position is that the Project is in their Resource Management Area and therefore NCN should have priority for employment opportunities followed by other northern aboriginal groups and then other aboriginal groups. He said that he can't speak for TCN, but it is likely that they will pursue the same route. Councillor Thomas indicated that there is a growing population

in Nelson House with a number of young people entering the workforce. This is an economic opportunity for NCN, with a huge investment on NCN's part. They are working on getting a training centre – not only for the (five-year) Project, but also for the next ten to twenty-five years. In a joint (Hydro-NCN) process, North/South consultants were hired to ensure that impacts are minimized if the Project proceeds. Environmental legislation is in place now that did not exist in 1977. NCN is also identifying key sites, which are considered sacred to NCN members. One example is the actual dam site, and prior to anything happening, a ceremony will be carried out at this site. He stated that this is a big opportunity. They are hopeful that this type of partnership will set an example for other areas.

- Cam Osler, InterGroup Consultants, then gave an overview of the presentation and background on the Project (see attached presentation).

Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities

John Markowsky, Manitoba Hydro, thanked Councillor Thomas for his comments, reiterating that this has been a challenging and interesting process. Manitoba Hydro respects NCN for how they are managing the Project. He reviewed the location for the potential project, the fundamental design assumptions (e.g. low head = low flooding (<0.5 km²)), the project schedule and the employment expectations (see attached presentation).

- Chief Roy Redhead, York Factory First Nation, asked what the anticipated drop in water would be with the generating station in place and what the impacts would be down to Opegano, etc. John Markowsky indicated that he anticipated no significant water level changes from the proposed generating station past Opegano Lake. He stated that this is a small plant similar to the Kelsey Generating Station. Chief Redhead then asked whether there was an agreement with Thompson regarding the 1973 Water Licences. John Markowsky responded that when the CRD was constructed Thompson had an existing water intake and had concerns about the fluctuating water levels, so an agreement was made with the Province of Manitoba and the City of Thompson. Chief Redhead indicated that there were still lots of outstanding issues regarding the NFA – people then were not as educated as now, and were given the positives, but not the negatives. He was concerned that the negative impacts were not emphasized adequately. He stated that information should be clear and factual. John Markowsky agreed and indicated that further information will be available as studies continue. Chief Redhead commented that when he flies over the Burntwood River, he could see how the area has been affected and asked how it would be possible to see how it was affected, since there was no baseline information to measure against. He said that there was still no water quality station at York Landing, as per the NFA. He was concerned that no water quality monitoring data are available for the period after CRD. Stuart Davies, North/South Consultants, agreed with Chief Redhead, there is very little baseline data, before the CRD was constructed, but since the Limestone Generating Station researchers have a much better understanding of the area.
- Chief Redhead was concerned about the quality of fish in the area. He was also

concerned that sturgeon is not considered a species at risk. Chief Redhead also had a question about regulatory issues. In terms of Lake Winnipeg and regional impacts, he said that it is wrong to say that damage is minimal – taken together with other impacts it will fundamentally alter the environment now to what it was previously. He said that he wanted to have this on the record in the First Round. Councillor Thomas responded to the concerns by reiterating that damage will not be minimal, but both parties are working hard to minimize damage. Stuart Davies added that baseline information was identified as a major issue, and they plan on conducting a really thorough baseline study.

- Franklin Arthurson, Fox Lake First Nation, asked what kind of process will be in place should damage occur in future. He encouraged the group to gather biological data early on so that if serious impacts occur, they can be mitigated before too much damage is done. He was also concerned with mercury levels in fish and fish passage. Stuart Davies replied that the baseline data would help mitigate future damage. For example, they will be able to track changes to fish quality ten years from now and be able to reduce damages in the future. The plan is to collect information early enough in the project so that damage can be mitigated before it happens.
- Raymond Mayham, Fox Lake First Nation, enquired as to whether or not there are shoreline studies being done, including trees. Stuart Davies responded that there is little flooding but water levels will be maintained at the high end of the water level range on Wuskwatim Lake and the effect of this is being examined. The water table may be higher, so researchers have examined soils, vegetation, and trees along the shoreline. The density of clay in the surrounding area will be beneficial, as water cannot permeate it. Raymond Mayham mentioned dissatisfaction with the process used for previous dam development. Stuart Davies indicated that some good reports came out after Limestone and this was presented to Fox Lake two years ago. He added that the process is significantly different at this time. NCN is conducting approximately two-thirds of the fieldwork and new standards are being set, that should carry into other projects.
- John Markowsky then returned to his presentation and discussed water regimes, possible camp location and roads (see attached presentation). Councillor Thomas noted that a lot of discussion had taken place between NCN and Manitoba Hydro regarding the location of the access road and construction camp. Support for the location of camp and roads is still under discussion. NCN was interested in constructing the road where they could monitor road access and have better control over who was using the road; cost for an access road located in the vicinity of the community was \$50 to \$100 million more than other options. They are currently reviewing all of the options.
- Chief Redhead inquired how long the road would be and what would be the cost of road construction. John Markowsky said that the road would be approximately 40 km of new construction and would cost approximately \$30-\$35 million to construct. Chief Redhead asked whether these costs would be part of the project. Councillor Thomas said that they were and stated that training will be an aspect that impacts the cost of the Project. Chief Redhead said that he was asking because of his desire to have a road at Gull. John Markowsky indicated that there was lots of work with the community and preferential hiring issues are being negotiated with NCN through the BNA.

- John Markowsky discussed the project timeline, employment opportunities and associated transmission facilities (see attached presentation).
- Jimmy Beardy, York Factory First Nation, asked what part of the capital cost is for transmission lines. Councillor Thomas indicated that this issue has not yet been discussed and at present, they are viewing the Generating Station and Transmission separately. At the present time, the equity is therefore with the generation facility only. NCN is considering whether or not they have the resources to participate in the transmission project. It will be expensive and costs are fixed. Jimmy Beardy further inquired as to what the cost will be to build Wuskwatim and Notigi. Councillor Thomas estimated the cost to be \$1 billion for Wuskwatim and was not sure of the cost for Notigi. They have just advised SIL that the in-service date for Notigi has been changed from 2008 to 2014. Cam Osler added that a small project is not necessarily as cost effective as a large project (e.g. just because Notigi is smaller, this does not mean it will be more economic to build). He further added that the best training and employment opportunities are with Wuskwatim.
- Franklin Arthurson, Fox Lake First Nation, asked why the existing transmission lines could not be upgraded and used, as this would cause less damage than creating new transmission line routes. There are a number of transmission lines that already cover the North. Cam Osler indicated that the Transmission team was not present at this meeting, and he was hesitant to reply on their behalf. However, he was aware that improving system reliability is one reason for the development of new lines. He added that transmission planners do look at existing lines and rights-of way first, but the issue is whether, in this particular case, the required connections are possible and whether they fit with Manitoba Hydro's long-term plans for the transmission system. Franklin Arthurson was concerned that Manitoba Hydro's long-term plans do not necessarily fit with conservation efforts. Cam Osler agreed that when we don't need to cut new rights-of-way, we shouldn't do it. He agreed to make some information available on this subject.
- Chief Ralph Beardy asked about resources available to other First Nations and whether or not other First Nations will benefit through employment opportunities and training, or just those in the immediate vicinity. John Markowsky discussed the current process for pre-project training and noted that Manitoba Hydro has a new policy on this issue. Manitoba Hydro is working with NCN, the Province and the federal government to try and make training more accessible. With respect to Wuskwatim, money will be made available for training, 75% of funding will go to NCN and 25% will go to other Northern communities. The fund can be accessed through an implementation committee; currently the Government of Canada, the Province of Manitoba, Manitoba Hydro and NCN are looking at committee representation from other northern communities. The first point of contact in this process is Phyllis Wiscombe of Manitoba Education and Training in Thompson if participants wished to find out more about this initiative. There are currently no specific employment targets, but Manitoba Hydro will work with NCN to maximize as many opportunities as possible.
- Larris Spence, Fox Lake First Nation, inquired if hiring policies would be determined by the southern union under the Burntwood Nelson Agreement. Councillor Thomas stated

that the Burntwood Nelson Agreement will be renegotiated. It was negotiated a long time ago and targeted northern residents, with no specific aboriginal category. Negotiations will include NCN's interest in preferences for NCN members. NCN wishes to protect against, for example, community members being hired and then replaced. Larris Spence asked again if the South will dictate hiring policy and indicated that union policies were applied in Limestone and they dictated who was hired. Councillor Thomas indicated that "that was then, this is now". It is NCN's hope that those affected by development can achieve their aims through a cooperative approach.

- Franklin Arthurson, Fox Lake First Nation, commented that the Burntwood Nelson Agreement expired in 1998 and was extended for another 2-year period that would mean that the Agreement had once again expired. John Markowsky indicated that the Agreement has been extended another year and will stay alive for the purpose of this Project. Franklin Arthurson commented that First Nations were not involved in developing the Agreement and that, from his perspective, it would be better to start over with a new Agreement with First Nation consultations. John Markowsky commented that Manitoba Hydro is working with NCN to revise the Agreement to include their concerns. Franklin Arthurson commented that the Agreement was never properly implemented on their behalf. John Markowsky stated that the whole process is being reviewed with First Nations and their needs will be addressed. Councillor Thomas commented that NCN is participating to make changes to the Agreement, but if proponents chose to design a whole new agreement, the Project timeline would be significantly delayed.

Ongoing Regulatory Review

- Cam Osler presented the Regulatory Review Process (see attached presentation). He stated that the review process could take as long as 16 months.

Joint Studies

- Stuart Davies of North/South Consultants presented information on the Joint Environmental Studies, what the objectives of the Joint Studies are, how they have been designed and what parts of the Studies have been implemented and are currently being implemented (see attached presentation). The Joint Studies have had input from elders and community members.
- Chief Roy Redhead was concerned with water quality changes from the proposed project and how you can say that there will be no downstream impacts. Stuart Davies indicated that, based on previous work and how far sediments can travel, the last seen measurable effect would be at Opegano Lake. Most settling would occur in Opegano Lake and by Birchtree Lake it would be very hard to find sediment at all. Chief Redhead then asked what the tests for these studies were based on. Stuart Davies replied that a wide range of chemicals, heavy metals, nutrients, and turbidity were being analysed in upstream and downstream locations. In selected spots (where construction occurs), oil, grease and

hydrocarbons are also tested. Based on baseline data, studies will be able to show if any increased amount of foreign materials have entered the system. Chief Redhead further asked if under Environmental Assessments, there are standards for acceptable limits of certain chemicals in the water. Stuart Davies replied that these limits are stated in the *Manitoba Surface Water Quality Guidelines* (e.g. in a river there is a limit for each chemical).

- Stuart Davies discussed fish population and fish quality studies (see attached presentation). Chief Redhead stated that the fish today are not as flavourful. Stuart Davies agreed that fish quality (including taste) is important to monitor and is being addressed in the Joint Studies.
- Chief Ralph Beardy, Fox Lake First Nation, asked how cumulative effects would be determined for things like fish, which are migratory. Stuart Davies replied that effects will be analysed separately, then analysed jointly. He also mentioned that cumulative effects assessment is a new, required component of Environmental Assessments.
- Chief Redhead stated that cumulative effects assessments need to be done for all dams. Chief Redhead commented that overall the Kelsey Generating Station is still an outstanding issue for them.
- Stuart Davies stated that in terms of environmental studies, they are examining the system as it exists at present

Public Involvement Process

- Cam Osler discussed the Public Involvement Process, what happens next in consultation, and contacts for the Project (see attached presentation).
- Chief Redhead indicated that he had expected the meeting to last all day, and was not pleased at coming all this way for a morning meeting. He asked what Cam Osler does for a living, and Cam replied that he works with InterGroup Consultants and has been hired by NCN and Manitoba Hydro. Chief Redhead inquired who is working on Bipole III. Cam Osler replied that the same Environmental Management Team is working on that project.
- Jimmy Beardy inquired if the Environmental Management Team is paid by Manitoba Hydro. Stuart Davies replied that NCN and Manitoba Hydro pay the group, and that they also work for a number of different clients, including First Nations.
- Janet Kinley of InterGroup Consultants asked if further public consultation/presentations would be useful in the future. The general response was yes. She added that she wanted to know what methods would work best for each community (e.g., open house, newsletter, etc.) and would follow up with the Chief on this issue.
- Larris Spence, Fox Lake First Nation, congratulated NCN on the Agreement and Principle.
- Chief Redhead stated that in relation to community presentations, it is important for presenters to know that they are in the community because as a leader, he is concerned with the long-term health of the community. They want to know about any effects and

that long-term health is not compromised.

- Cam Osler commented that there would be further information on employment opportunities in Round 2 of consultation as developments evolve.
- John Markowsky of Manitoba Hydro and Councillor Thomas of NCN thanked communities for attending the meeting. NCN hoped that this meeting clarified some of the larger issues associated with the Project.

Recorded by Andrea Lamboo



**SUPPLEMENTAL MEETING NOTES
WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION AND
ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES
MEETING OF ELECTED OFFICIALS**

York Factory First Nation and Fox Lake First Nation

Date of Meeting: September 27, 2001
Location: Place Louis Riel, Winnipeg

SUPPLEMENTAL MEETING NOTES

These are supplemental meeting notes to the meeting of elected officials from Fox Lake First Nation and York Factory First Nation which was held on September 27th in Winnipeg. The meeting was to share information on the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station Project, to learn about any initial issues and concerns with the proposed project and to get feedback regarding future public involvement. These notes respond to a question asked at that meeting and are provided to all participants.

Transmission Line and Facility Requirements

A Fox Lake First Nation member, Franklin Arthurson, asked why existing transmission lines could not be upgraded and used, as this would cause less damage than creating new transmission line routes. His concern was that there are a number of transmission lines that already cover the North. Cam Osler indicated that the Transmission team was not present at this meeting, and he was hesitant to reply on their behalf. However, he was aware that improving system reliability is one reason for the development of new lines. He added that transmission planners do look at existing lines and rights-of-way first, but the issue is whether, in this particular case, the required connections are possible and whether they fit with Manitoba Hydro's long-term plans for the transmission system. Franklin Arthurson was concerned that Manitoba Hydro's long-term plans do not necessarily fit with conservation efforts. Cam Osler agreed to make further information available on this subject.

Information on Need for Additional Transmission Lines and Facilities:

- Generally there is a match between the amount of power transmitted by an existing transmission line and its design capacity. Although there may be some room for an increase in the amount of power being transmitted, that unused capacity would rarely, if ever, be enough to handle the power transmission requirements of a new generating station. Accordingly, any potential for use of existing lines to transmit power from new generating stations would require the transmission capacity of the lines to be upgraded.
- Apart from the limits of its design capacity, an existing transmission line would only be suitable to transmit power from a new generating station if the line passed close by the location of the new generating station. At the least, there would be a need for a section of new transmission line to connect the new generating station to the existing line. And there would likely be a requirement to

make that connection at an existing switching station or to construct a new switching station (to enable the connection of the new line to the existing line). The station connection requirement would tend to reduce the economic feasibility of using existing lines — stations on the existing line might be a long distance away; new stations are potentially very costly.

- Although it might technically be possible to increase the operating voltage of an existing transmission line (in order to increase its capacity to transmit power), the upgrade would be costly. Higher voltage operation would generally require replacement of the existing conductors and insulators with larger, higher capacity ones. The larger size and resultant increase in weight might require strengthening or replacement of the supporting tower structures. And, because the line would have to be taken out of service while the upgrade was taking place, the function of the line would be disrupted during the construction period.
- For all of these reasons, it is unlikely that upgrading of existing transmission lines to transmit power from new generating facilities would be economically feasible.
- Although upgrading existing lines is unlikely to be economic, it is sometimes feasible to locate new transmission lines (or portions of them) on routes adjacent to existing transmission lines. This can minimize the requirement for additional right-of-way clearing. It can also help to avoid the concern that new rights-of-way will enable additional undesirable access or cause new adverse environmental impacts.
- Decisions about upgrading lines or locating new lines adjacent to existing lines are complicated by concerns about system reliability. It is preferable that back-up lines be available in the event that any one line goes out-of-service. Physically separated back-up lines maximize reliability. By comparison, multiple lines in a single right-of-way may be vulnerable to concurrent damage from accidents, severe weather, forest fire, vandalism, etc.
- If the Wuskwatim Generating Station Project were developed, transmission route planning would take into account all relevant considerations including opportunity for improved reliability in this region. As noted in the newsletter distributed at the September 27th meeting, even if the Wuskwatim Generating Station was not developed, the proposed Thompson Birchtree Station and transmission line connections between Thompson, Herblet Lake Station and Rall's Island Station would be required in future to improve the existing regional transmission system.

Recorded by A. Lamboo Miln



InterGroup

C O N S U L T A N T S

Suite 604-283 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 2B5
tel: (204) 942-0654
fax: (204) 943-3922
e-mail: intergroup@intergroup.ca

October 24, 2001

Councillor Betsy Kennedy, Mr. Phillip Morris, Mr. Thomas Henley, Ms. Esther Laliberty, Ms. Verna Flett, Mr. Art Flett, Mr. Harold Flett, and Mr. Adam Flett

War Lake First Nation

General Delivery

Ilford, MB R0B 0S0

Dear Councillor Kennedy, Mr. Morris, Mr. Henley, Ms. Laliberty, Ms. Flett, Mr. Flett, Mr. Flett, and Mr. Flett

**RE: DRAFT MEETING NOTES AND PRESENTATION OVERHEADS FROM OCTOBER 2nd
MEETING REGARDING PROPOSED WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION AND
ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES**

This letter is in follow up to the meeting of elected officials held on October 2nd, 2001 in Winnipeg, Manitoba regarding the possible Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities. Enclosed for your review are draft meeting notes. Please let me know by October 31st if there are any errors or omissions in the notes.

We have included extra copies of the draft meeting notes and presentation overheads for distribution to Councillors who were not able to attend the meeting.

Beyond meeting note changes, if you have any questions or comments about the project or the public involvement process, please do not hesitate to call:

- Nick Barnes (204) 474-3999 (generation project)
- Ron Rawluk (204) 474-3119 (transmission facilities)
- Marcel Moody (204) 484-2604 or Norman Linklater (204) 484-3003 (Co-managers of Future Development for NCN).

It was a pleasure to meet you. We look forward to meeting you again during future rounds of public involvement regarding the possible Wuskwatim Generating Station.

Yours truly,

INTERGROUP CONSULTANTS LTD.

Andrea Lamboo
Research Analyst

enclosure



InterGroup

CONSULTANTS

Suite 604-283 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 2B5
tel: (204) 942-0654
fax: (204) 943-3922
e-mail: intergroup@intergroup.ca

October 24, 2001

Councillor Douglas Spence, Mr. John Garson, Mr. Isaac Keeper, Mr. Michael P. Garson, Mr. Victor Spence, and Mr. Albert Keeper
Tataskweyak Cree Nation
General Delivery
Split Lake, MB R0B 1P0

Dear Councillor Spence, Mr. J. Garson, Mr. I. Keeper, Mr. M. Garson, Mr. V. Spence, and Mr. A. Keeper

RE: DRAFT MEETING NOTES AND PRESENTATION OVERHEADS FROM OCTOBER 2nd MEETING REGARDING PROPOSED WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION AND ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES

This letter is in follow up to the meeting of elected officials held on October 2nd, 2001 in Winnipeg, Manitoba regarding the possible Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities. Enclosed for your review are draft meeting notes. Please let me know by October 31st if there are any errors or omissions in the notes.

We have included extra copies of the draft meeting notes and presentation overheads for distribution to the Chief and Councillors who were not able to attend the meeting.

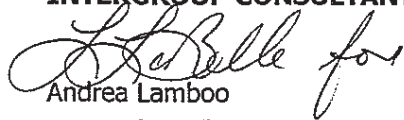
Beyond meeting note changes, if you have any questions or comments about the project or the public involvement process, please do not hesitate to call:

- Nick Barnes (204) 474-3999 (generation project)
- Ron Rawluk (204) 474-3119 (transmission facilities)
- Marcel Moody (204) 484-2604 or Norman Linklater (204) 484-3003 (Co-managers of Future Development for NCN).

It was a pleasure to meet you. We look forward to meeting you again during future rounds of public involvement regarding the possible Wuskwatim Generating Station.

Yours truly,

INTERGROUP CONSULTANTS LTD.


Andrea Lamboo
Research Analyst

enclosure



Record of Meeting
*Manitoba Hydro and NCN with
Tataskweyak Cree Nation and War Lake First Nation*

Date of Meeting: October 2, 2001
Location: Place Louis Riel, Winnipeg

In Attendance:

Douglas Spence	TCN
John Garson	TCN
Isaac Keeper	TCN
Michael P. Garson	TCN
Victor Spence	TCN
Albert Keeper	TCN
Allan Benoit	Cree Nation Partners
Adam Flett	War Lake First Nation
Harold Flett	War Lake First Nation
Art Flett	War Lake First Nation
Verna Flett	War Lake First Nation
Esther Laliberty	War Lake First Nation
Betsy Kennedy	War Lake First Nation
Philip Morris	War Lake First Nation
Thomas Henley	War Lake First Nation
William E. Thomas	NCN
John Markowsky	Manitoba Hydro, Winnipeg
Stuart Davies	North/South Consultants
George Rempel	TetrES Consultants
Cam Osler	InterGroup Consultants
Janet Kinley	InterGroup Consultants
Andrea Lamboo	InterGroup Consultants

Presenters:

George Rempel	TetrES Consultants
William E. Thomas	NCN
John Markowsky	Manitoba Hydro
Cam Osler	InterGroup Consultants
Stuart Davies	North/South Consultants

Purpose: To introduce the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities to Tataskweyak Cree Nation and War Lake First Nation. To learn about any initial issues and concerns, as well as input regarding future public involvement in their communities.

MEETING NOTES

Introductions, Opening Remarks, Agenda, Background and Overview

- The Elder gave an opening prayer. George Rempel of Tetr *ES* Consultants asked everyone around the table to introduce themselves. He asked NCN and Manitoba Hydro to give opening remarks.
- Councillor William Thomas, NCN, welcomed everyone. He discussed how NCN and Manitoba Hydro have been in discussions with regards to the Wuskwatim Project for a few years. He discussed the 1996 Implementation Agreement and in particular Article 8, where it provides for NCN to be included in future development and the planning process for future development. Manitoba Hydro and NCN have signed an Agreement in Principle and are moving towards a Partnership Agreement. They have held a referendum regarding the potential future development and overall, the community is in favour of the development opportunity. One major concern the community has is flooding -- they do not want any new flooding. NCN initially declined Manitoba Hydro's initial proposal to build a high head dam. The proposal has since been revised to a low head dam design, which would result in less flooding. Environmental Studies are underway. NCN is taking a cooperative approach to this proposed future development, and have made sure that the process is community-driven. At present, NCN has proposed 33.3% ownership of the Wuskwatim Generating Station. NCN is also negotiating for priority in employment opportunities associated with the Project.
- John Markowsky, Manitoba Hydro, welcomed elders, Councillors and other members of TCN and War Lake First Nation. Manitoba Hydro and NCN are engaged in a new process that is very different from the way things have been done in the past. Manitoba Hydro is currently looking at the Wuskwatim Generating Station and the Gull (Keeyask) Generating Station. The Executive Committee of Manitoba Hydro will review these projects and development will be based on whether or not the projects are feasible and make good business sense. John Markowsky stated that no decisions have been made with regard to this Project.
- George Rempel stated that to date, meetings have been held with elected officials from Wabowden, Pikwitonei, Thicket Portage, York Factory First Nation, and Fox Lake First Nation to introduce the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station. George reviewed the agenda for the meeting, and the Project background (see attached presentation).

Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities

- John Markowsky presented the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station, the location, fundamental design assumptions, and possibilities for camp location and road construction (see attached presentation).
- Albert Keeper, TCN, asked how much mercury would reach Split Lake once the turbines at the Generating Station started. Stuart Davies of North/South Consultants stated that there would be a small amount of flooding and it is not expected that traceable amounts will appear in fish. As part of the Joint Environmental Studies, researchers are testing a number of lakes in the study area to determine current levels of mercury as part of the baseline information to make pre/post comparisons should the proposed Station be built.

- John Markowsky presented employment opportunities associated with the potential project that would be required (see attached presentation).
- Betsy Kennedy, War Lake First Nation, asked if there would be more than one sub-station. John Markowsky replied that there would be two.
- Thomas Henley, advisor to War Lake First Nation, asked if the Transmission Project and the Generating Station Project are defined as one project. John Markowsky indicated that the partnership deals with the Wuskwatim Generating Station only. When preparing eventual materials for regulators Manitoba Hydro will make reference to the connection between the projects. George Rempel stated that in terms of the guidelines for the environmental assessment studies, the projects are being treated separately. Thomas Henley asked then if the Environmental Review Process would be a joint process and George Rempel indicated that he was unsure as to how the regulators would choose to organize the review.

Ongoing Regulatory Review

- Cam Osler, InterGroup Consultants, discussed the Regulatory Review Process (see attached presentation). Based on this process, officials will provide guidelines as to what should be included in the Environmental Impact Statement. The Transmission Lines and the Wuskwatim Generating Station will be treated as separate projects, however the same people will review them, probably at the same time.
- Thomas Henley, advisor to War Lake First Nation, asked if the preparation of an environment act proposal form means that there is a formal development agreement in place between NCN and Manitoba Hydro. Cam Osler said no, although Manitoba Hydro and NCN are looking at the Project, this does not mean there is commitment to proceed. Neither party has committed as of yet. However, they do want to start the formal process for the purposes of maintaining proposed timelines. He noted that other developers do this as well. The public review process could take approximately 16 months.
- Cam Osler discussed where we are today in this process (see attached presentation).

Joint Environmental Studies

- Stuart Davies, North/South Consultants, introduced the Joint Environmental Studies program, and its objectives (see attached presentation). He pointed out that additional water quality monitoring had now been implemented downstream of Thompson to address concerns raised by TCN.
- Phillip Morris, War Lake First Nation, asked which area the water studies cover. Stuart Davies indicated that studies are being undertaken both above and below Thompson, as well as the river system up to north of Nelson House and some off-system lakes. Monitoring studies have been ongoing for a number of years and this information will be helpful in the current studies.
- Betsy Kennedy, War Lake First Nation, asked if results gathered from sampling/studies would be shared. Stuart Davies indicated that the information is published as a series. Summaries will also be available for use. There is a 4-page handout for every report.
- Thomas Henley, advisor to War Lake First Nation, asked if any sampling would be done on the Landing River or Aiken River, as the mercury level in fish was a concern. Stuart Davies stated that

tests were not being done on the rivers but were being done on surrounding lakes as part of the Keeyask project. Thomas Henley stated for the record, that War Lake First Nation is concerned about the mercury level in fish, in particular in Split Lake and its tributaries. They are concerned about water quality, the water regime, water releases, timing and flow; cumulative effects generally are also of concern.

Public Involvement Process

- Cam Osler, InterGroup Consultants, discussed the status of the public involvement process (see attached presentation).

Questions and Comments

- Victor Spence, TCN, congratulated NCN and Manitoba Hydro on the signing of their Agreement in Principle and for their spirit of co-operation. He is confident that the leadership of NCN will maximize benefits for their people. Over the last two years, TCN has been concentrating on the proposed Gull Generating Station. However, community members (particularly elders) are asking how Wuskwatim will affect the operating regime and mercury levels in Split Lake, as well as potability of water. Victor Spence invited NCN and Manitoba Hydro to make their presentation in Split Lake. He stated that he is confident the environmental studies being done will provide answers. George Rempel asked if this type of presentation would be useful in TCN. Victor Spence responded that it would be useful.
- Cam Osler summarized that there are 2 common concerns arising at community meetings. First, communities are wary about believing results of any study given the history in the North. This is why monitoring is also important, in addition to environmental studies. Second, there is a natural concern or fear that the water regime will change everywhere. However, it is unlikely that Hydro would make changes in an operating regime to benefit a 200 MW plant, when the operating regime is designed to serve 3500 MW of capacity downstream on the Nelson River.
- Victor Spence asked what the current discharge was. Stuart Davies responded that it is approximately 35,000 cubic feet per second. George Rempel indicated that the generating station is designed to handle a bit higher flow, around 39,000 cubic feet per second. John Markowsky indicated that the CRD license would remain unchanged. Victor Spence questioned what would happen during high water, he inquired if there would be a spillway in place. Stuart Davies stated that under the water license, with high water additional water would flow through Missi vs. Notigi. John Markowsky noted that to estimate correctly one would need the hydraulic flow diagrams to properly answer the question, but the bottom line is that the CRD license won't be changed to accommodate a 200 MW plant. Victor Spence indicated that this would be a question asked by the community. George Rempel stated that the water license gives certain limits as to the amount of water that can be let out of Notigi. These current limits will stay in place.
- Victor Spence inquired whether or not NCN would offer jobs to TCN. He also stated that any development will bring about change. He recalls when he was a child the different colour of rocks. Now, the rocks are covered in algae. He questions what is doing this. He was concerned that, regardless of the amount of flooding, there will still be foreign materials in the lake and there will still

be an impact. He felt that effects will be felt all the way to the Hudson Bay coastline. He stated that when he flies over Split Lake he can see the changes. The Burntwood River is dark in colour while Kelsey water is still green. Councillor Thomas, NCN, indicated that they would be happy to do further presentations. He also stated that from NCN's perspective, he agrees that some effects may result from the Project. He understands that natural systems are very complex. Stuart Davies indicated that regulators will ask the same questions, e.g. where effects will occur and where they will end. This is why Joint Environmental Studies are being done before the project and monitoring will be done after the project to make comparisons of pre and post project data. Cam Osler added that monitoring studies are important to address issues if the studies are wrong.

- Betsy Kennedy congratulated NCN. She said that this is an important process, and there are many concerns to be examined, including effects on water and air, birds and things that people eat. War Lake First Nation has certain concerns about the potential impacts on resources since they live off the land. She felt that a holistic view of impacts was important and was different than a scientific view of impacts. She stated that the presentation was an eye-opener and a lot of the questions she had were addressed. She invited Manitoba Hydro and NCN to make the presentation in her community so that other community members and elders had the opportunity to ask questions. Councillor Thomas thanked Betsy and discussed the combined approach they are taking to data collection. Under the Joint Environmental Studies program, researchers are using a combination of both Traditional Ecological Knowledge and scientific knowledge.
- Michael Garson, TCN, indicated that there is interest to share information with NCN with regards to the Keeyask Project to help each other and keep each other abreast of what is happening as both communities are affected. Councillor Thomas indicated that this may be a possibility.
- Thomas Henley, advisor to War Lake First Nation, stated for the record, with regards to scientific knowledge, he is concerned that in the past studies have not been comprehensive and have been harmful to War Lake because they have not accurately represented the impact on War Lake. He noted that there is bitterness in the community because of how War Lake was treated in the past and they want to be treated as fairly as the other communities affected. Councillor Thomas responded that the situation is similar with NCN. The trust with Manitoba Hydro has to be rebuilt. It is important for NCN to move forward and to look for benefits for the good of the people. In the past, sacred areas have been impacted, and these are still outstanding issues. Twenty years after the fact, an agreement was undertaken to move forward for the sake of the community, particularly young people. Complaining won't solve the issue. Thomas Henley, advisor to War Lake First Nation, said that this open process has been helpful and useful. He felt that the public involvement steps laid out were good. Stuart Davies stated that it is clear that War Lake First Nation would like to reach an agreement, with Hydro on past impacts, and he indicated that scientific studies would not be used against War Lake First Nation, but to complement other information. Thomas Henley indicated that his comment was misunderstood, what was meant is that the scientific studies inadequately represented the impact on War Lake First Nation. War Lake First Nation do not receive the same opportunities, e.g. with development of transmission lines.
- Cam Osler stated that in dealing with future development, he understood that NCN closely examined their rights under Article 8 and they have intention to use rights to study impacts from all such developments in their area. Thomas Henley further stated that War Lake First Nation is appreciative of the ability to participate in the Keeyask discussions through the entire of the Split Lake Agreement,

since War Lake First Nation currently has no legal framework in place to do so.

Recorded by Andrea Lamboo



InterGroup
CONSULTANTS

Suite 604-283 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 2B5
tel: (204) 942-0654
fax: (204) 943-3922
e-mail: intergroup@intergroup.ca

October 29, 2001

Mayor Comaskey, Deputy Mayor MacLellan, Councillors Adrian de Groot, Norma Howitt, Judy Kolada, Stella Locker, Leo Landers, Mr. Wayne Morrissey and Mr. Dennis Fenske
City of Thompson
226 Mystery Lake Road
Thompson, MB R8N 1S6

Dear Mayor Comaskey, Deputy Mayor MacLellan, Councillors de Groot, Howitt, Kolada, Locker, Landers, Mr. Morrissey and Mr. Fenske

RE: DRAFT MEETING NOTES AND PRESENTATION OVERHEADS FROM OCTOBER 4TH MEETING REGARDING PROPOSED WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION AND ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES

This letter is in follow up to the meeting of elected officials held on October 4th, 2001 in Thompson, Manitoba regarding the possible Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities. Enclosed for your review are draft meeting notes. Please let me know by November 9th if there are any errors or omissions in the notes.

We have included extra copies of the draft meeting notes and presentation overheads for distribution to Mayor Comaskey and Councillors who were not able to attend the meeting.

Beyond meeting note changes, if you have any questions or comments about the project or the public involvement process, please do not hesitate to call:

- Nick Barnes (204) 474-3999 (generation project)
- Ron Rawluk (204) 474-3119 (transmission facilities)
- Marcel Moody (204) 484-2604 or Norman Linklater (204) 484-3003 (Co-managers of Future Development for NCN).

It was a pleasure to meet you. We look forward to meeting you again during future rounds of public involvement regarding the possible Wuskwatim Generating Station.

Yours truly,

INTERGROUP CONSULTANTS LTD.

Andrea Lamboo
Researcher
enclosure



Suite 604-283 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 2B5
tel: (204) 942-0654
fax: (204) 943-3922
e-mail: intergroup@intergroup.ca

October 29, 2001

Ms. Carol Taylor
LGD of Mystery Lake
Thompson Airport
Box 189
Thompson, MB R8N 1N1

Dear Ms. Taylor:

**RE: DRAFT MEETING NOTES AND PRESENTATION OVERHEADS FROM OCTOBER 4th
MEETING REGARDING PROPOSED WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION AND
ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES**

This letter is in follow up to the meeting of elected officials held on October 4th, 2001 in Thompson, Manitoba regarding the possible Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities. Enclosed for your review are draft meeting notes. Please let me know by November 9th if there are any errors or omissions in the notes.

We have included extra copies of the draft meeting notes and presentation overheads for distribution to Administrators who were not able to attend the meeting.

Beyond meeting note changes, if you have any questions or comments about the project or the public involvement process, please do not hesitate to call:

- Nick Barnes (204) 474-3999 (generation project)
- Ron Rawluk (204) 474-3119 (transmission facilities)
- Marcel Moody (204) 484-2604 or Norman Linklater (204) 484-3003 (Co-managers of Future Development for NCN).

It was a pleasure to meet you. We look forward to meeting you again during future rounds of public involvement regarding the possible Wuskwatim Generating Station.

Yours truly,
INTERGROUP CONSULTANTS LTD.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Andrea Lambro'.

Andrea Lambro
Researcher
enclosure



InterGroup

CONSULTANTS

Suite 604-283 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 2B5
tel: (204) 942-0654
fax: (204) 943-3922
e-mail: intergroup@intergroup.ca

October 29, 2001

Councillor Rob Barbe
Town of Gillam
323 Railway Avenue
Box 100
Gillam, MB R0B 0L0

Dear Councillor Barbe:

**RE: DRAFT MEETING NOTES AND PRESENTATION OVERHEADS FROM OCTOBER 4th
MEETING REGARDING PROPOSED WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION AND
ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES**

This letter is in follow up to the meeting of elected officials held on October 4th, 2001 in Thompson, Manitoba regarding the possible Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities. Enclosed for your review are draft meeting notes. Please let me know by November 9th if there are any errors or omissions in the notes.

We have included extra copies of the draft meeting notes and presentation overheads for distribution to Mayor Soloway and Councillors who were not able to attend the meeting.

Beyond meeting note changes, if you have any questions or comments about the project or the public involvement process, please do not hesitate to call:

- Nick Barnes (204) 474-3999 (generation project)
- Ron Rawluk (204) 474-3119 (transmission facilities)
- Marcel Moody (204) 484-2604 or Norman Linklater (204) 484-3003 (Co-managers of Future Development for NCN).

It was a pleasure to meet you. We look forward to meeting you again during future rounds of public involvement regarding the possible Wuskwatim Generating Station.

Yours truly,

INTERGROUP CONSULTANTS LTD.

Andrea Lamboo
Researcher
enclosure



InterGroup

CONSULTANTS

Suite 604-283 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 2B5
tel: (204) 942-0654
fax: (204) 943-3922
e-mail: intergroup@intergroup.ca

October 29, 2001

Mayor Bella Leonard and Councillors Jack Kobliski and Bertha Spence
Community of Nelson House (Northern Affairs)
Nelson House Post Office
Nelson House, MB R0B 1A0

Dear Mayor Leonard and Councillors Kobliski and Spence:

**RE: DRAFT MEETING NOTES AND PRESENTATION OVERHEADS FROM OCTOBER 4th
MEETING REGARDING PROPOSED WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION AND
ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES**

This letter is in follow up to the meeting of elected officials held on October 4th, 2001 in Thompson, Manitoba regarding the possible Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities. Enclosed for your review are draft meeting notes. Please let me know by November 9th if there are any errors or omissions in the notes.

We have included extra copies of the draft meeting notes and presentation overheads for distribution to Councillors who were not able to attend the meeting.

Beyond meeting note changes, if you have any questions or comments about the project or the public involvement process, please do not hesitate to call:

- Nick Barnes (204) 474-3999 (generation project)
- Ron Rawluk (204) 474-3119 (transmission facilities)
- Marcel Moody (204) 484-2604 or Norman Linklater (204) 484-3003 (Co-managers of Future Development for NCN).

It was a pleasure to meet you. We look forward to meeting you again during future rounds of public involvement regarding the possible Wuskwatim Generating Station.

Yours truly,
INTERGROUP CONSULTANTS LTD.

Andrea Lamboo

Andrea Lamboo
Researcher

enclosure



InterGroup

CONSULTANTS

**WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION AND
ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES**

MEETING OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

*City of Thompson, LGD of Mystery Lake, Town of
Gillam, and Community of Nelson House*

Date of Meeting: October 4, 2001

Location: Thompson, MB

In Attendance:

Adrian de Groot	City of Thompson
Norm Howitt	City of Thompson
Judy Kolada	City of Thompson
Stella Locher	City of Thompson
Wayne Morrissey	City of Thompson
Dennis Fenske	City of Thompson
Leo Landers	City of Thompson
Bill Comaskey	City of Thompson
Al Maclellan	City of Thompson
Carol Taylor	LGD of Mystery Lake
Rob Barbe	Town of Gillam
Bella Leonard	Community of Nelson House
Jack Kobliski	Community of Nelson House
Bertha J. Spence	Community of Nelson House
Chief Jerry Primrose	NCN
Pat Gmiterek	Manitoba Hydro, City of Thompson
John Markowsky	Manitoba Hydro, Winnipeg
Nick Barnes	Manitoba Hydro, Winnipeg
Stuart Davies	North/South Consultants
Dave Hicks	ND Lea Engineers and Planners Inc.
Cam Osler	InterGroup Consultants
Janet Kinley	InterGroup Consultants
Andrea Lamboo	InterGroup Consultants

Presenters:

Chief Jerry Primrose	NCN
John Markowsky	Manitoba Hydro
Cam Osler	InterGroup Consultants
Dave Hicks	ND LEA Engineers and Planners Inc.
Stuart Davies	North/South Consultants

Purpose: To introduce the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities to elected leaders of the City of Thompson, LGD of Mystery Lake, Town of Gillam and the Community of Nelson House. To learn from elected leaders about any initial issues and concerns, as well as input regarding future public involvement in their communities.

MEETING NOTES

Introductions, Opening Remarks, Agenda, Background and Overview

- Mayor Bill Comaskey, City of Thompson, gave opening remarks. He welcomed everyone to City Hall.
- Cam Osler, InterGroup Consultants, thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and asked each attendee present to introduce themselves. He then introduced the various presenters who would be speaking about the Wuskwatim Generating Station Project and then invited John Markowsky, Manitoba Hydro, to give opening remarks on behalf of Manitoba Hydro.
- John Markowsky recalled speaking with Mayor and Council two years ago in relation to future development and the Wuskwatim Project. He added that he had also spoken with several of the attendees on this subject in Leaf Rapids one year ago, and this is therefore the 3^d opportunity to speak about this Project to many of the people present. He welcomed everyone on behalf of Manitoba Hydro. He stressed that Manitoba Hydro was doing things differently for the three proposed projects than for previous projects and discussed the potential partnership with NCN. He also stated that no decisions have been made with regard to the Project, but tonight they would showcase the proposed project and the process they are following.
- Chief Jerry Primrose, NCN, gave opening remarks on behalf of NCN. He discussed the 1996 Implementation Agreement to resolve outstanding Northern Flood Agreement issues from 1977. He said that a critical part of the Implementation Agreement was Article 8, which outlined a negotiation process to ensure that Manitoba Hydro would not build any new developments in their area without involving NCN in future development. NCN did not anticipate that future hydroelectric development would occur so soon. The earliest date for new development was anticipated as 2015, but with changing markets, an opportunity has arisen. For the past two years, NCN has been in discussions with Manitoba Hydro with regards to the Wuskwatim Generating Station Project. This process has required input from their community and they need people to share their views on the future development in terms of how the new hydro can benefit them and the rest of Manitoba. Chief Primrose stated that no decisions have been made with regards to the Project to date. He said that NCN entered into an Agreement in Principle on September 26, which has been signed by both NCN and Manitoba Hydro. He stated that current population trends indicate that there will be large numbers of people in NCN entering the workforce and there will be a need to find opportunities for these young people now. At the same time, they are working hard to ensure that negative impacts are avoided or minimized and that the vision of the Cree Nation is met. NCN wants to work co-operatively with Manitoba Hydro on this venture. He indicated that NCN and Hydro had retained the EMT (Environmental Management Team of consultants) to gather information. Over the last two years, representatives from NCN have been travelling to other places (such as the US) to discuss the positive aspects of this potential partnership – not only for NCN, but for all Manitobans, and to correct misinformation about future development. NCN has met with Xcel, a power supply company from the United States. He had heard that they are anticipating rolling blackouts in the US by 2005 and there is a high demand for power. He said that the CEO of Xcel was in Nelson House and had a tour of the sites and he received a note of thanks, which stated that the experience was positive. The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has visited the community as well. Chief Primrose said that most of the contacts with public have been very positive. He indicated that he was in The Pas the previous evening and Snow Lake that morning. He said he hoped that the public will be aware of the impacts – that there have been studies of environmental impacts for the last 2-3

years. These public meetings give people information on the potential impacts of the project and share information on the extensive Joint Environmental Studies that are currently underway. NCN and Manitoba Hydro have a positive relationship with the Environmental Study Team performing the studies. He felt that those meetings and this public involvement process have been a tremendous experience. He added that all of the people involved have been very generous with their knowledge. Some communities have concerns that the consultation process will end here. He assured participants that there are at least two more rounds of community consultation to follow.

- Thompson Councillor asked what presenters hoped to gain from public meetings. Cam Osler, InterGroup Consultants, responded that these public meetings are part of the environmental review process – the planning phase.
- Thompson Councillor indicated that the CRD has occurred and makes the projects profitable, so he did not understand why they were going through these public meetings. Cam Osler replied that apart from NCN and Manitoba Hydro's interest in speaking with communities, regulators require that proponents talk about the Project with northern communities. He noted that it is prudent to undertake early public consultation for any significant development today, and this project is being undertaken in an innovative way. He added that a generation project of 200 MW or more requires a Comprehensive Study and the regulators will be looking for consultations with the public.
- Cam Osler presented the agenda, background on the proposed Project, and an overview of the presentation (see attached presentation).

Wuskwatim Generating Station

- John Markowsky provided an overview of the generation project (see attached presentation), starting with the project location.
- Thompson Councillor asked if there would be any impact on Pukatawagan's resource area (for example, aggregate supplies). Dave Hicks, ND Lea Engineers and Planners Inc., responded that there should not be any impact on that area from either the Transmission Facilities or the Wuskwatim Generating Station.
- John Markowsky further described the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station, the location for the camp area, potential locations for the access road, and employment opportunities (see attached presentation). He indicated that flooding associated with this Project would be less than 0.5 km². He also indicated that, because the Wuskwatim Generating Station is smaller in comparison to other hydroelectric developments (such as the Limestone Generating Station), there would be correspondingly fewer jobs associated with its development.
- Thompson Councillor asked about the current water license for the Burntwood River. John Markowsky responded that the current license is for up to 35,000 cubic feet per second. Thompson Councillor inquired what the maximum flow is under the current licence. John Markowsky answered that the 35,000 represents average flow over a period of time. He stated that the bottom line is the Churchill River Diversion (CRD) licence and operating regime will not be altered.
- John Markowsky outlined the fundamental design assumptions, effects on the water regime and the Project timeline (see attached presentation). John Markowsky stated that when this Project was presented in Thompson two years ago the estimated in-service date was 2008, but it has since been pushed back to 2009. He explained that this is a new process and they want to make sure that they go through it properly. Manitoba Hydro and NCN are planning well in advance to allow time for the public consultation and environmental review process. He indicated that the design is a "low head"

design, selected after discussions with NCN. The low head design was chosen because it produces less flooding.

- One of the attendees asked if the formal approval process begins in 2002, can that be taken as agreement/commitment to build the Generating Station. John Markowsky indicated that this step would simply start the process and move the Project to the next stage, but would not guarantee that the project would go ahead.
- One of the attendees asked when the proposed project would be guaranteed to go ahead. John Markowsky stated that there is an opportunity to decide against the project up until civil contracts are issued (target late 2003). Manitoba Hydro has said that it will not build if the Project does not make good business sense or they are not confident that they will receive a license. He added that NCN shares the same view. NCN and Manitoba Hydro are continually assessing the viability of the Project.
- One of the attendees asked when the final decision would be made. John Markowsky indicated this would be decided after the Ministers make the final decisions to approve/reject the Project (target late 2003).

Associated Transmission Facilities

- Dave Hicks, ND Lea Engineers and Planners Inc., discussed the associated Transmission Facilities (see attached presentation). He stated that the Wuskwatim Transmission Facilities are being treated as a separate project that is associated with the generating station project. If the 200 MW generating facility is to be valuable, it must be connected to the system, and so a Transmission Station will be required at the Generating Station site. The electricity generated by the Station will be transformed up to the 230,000 volt level used in the existing transmission system. Even if the proposed Generating Station were not built, transmission improvements would be needed in the future (by about 2010) to improve system reliability. This will benefit communities in the region, by strengthening the existing network and making it more reliable. A new Transmission Station is proposed for the Thompson area, called the Birchtree Station. It would be located south of the City, east of PTH 6 in the LGD of Mystery Lake.
- One of the attendees asked where the station would be with respect to the existing station. Dave Hicks replied that it would be located south of the current Mystery Lake Station.
- Dave Hicks stated that the Birchtree Station (for Thompson) was first proposed about 10 years ago. He noted that it is important that the power from the Wuskwatim Generating Station be capable of being fed both through Thompson and through two single circuit transmission lines to Herblet Lake Station and then from Herblet Lake to The Pas. Currently, there are insufficient back-up facilities provided by the transmission system. Under certain circumstances, for example, an outage of the 230,000 volt line between Ponton and Thompson, could make it difficult to provide power to Thompson. Development of transmission facilities for the Wuskwatim Generating Station Project can also serve to improve the regional transmission network and its reliability. Dave Hicks indicated that other communities have been included in discussions about the Transmission Facilities, including Snow Lake and The Pas. He stated that any proposal for Transmission Facilities operating at 115,000 volts or more requires a license under *the Environment Act (Manitoba)*. Dave Hicks stated that some preliminary environmental assessment studies have been undertaken in the areas that might be affected by transmission line routes. Subject to further community consultation, further information may be available for discussion with the public before Christmas with regards to alternative routes. The formal Environmental Impact Statement will be submitted by mid-2002. This approval process

can take up to 18 months for approval from Ministers. Detailed studies for the Transmission Facilities will be ongoing during construction and, in some cases, monitoring will follow. The consultation process today is initial consultation and discussions on alternative routes will follow. The environmental review will involve the Technical Advisory Committee (representatives from both federal and provincial government). The second round of consultation will occur within one month to six weeks.

- The portion of the Transmission Facilities between Thompson and Wuskwatim will be a pre-built source of power for the construction of the Generating Station. One of the attendees asked how long the Transmission Facilities will take to build. Dave Hicks responded that the lines will be built within two winter seasons – one for clearing of the right-of-way and one for actual construction of the line. One of the attendees asked what size of crew would be needed for this operation. Dave Hicks responded that there are no firm numbers as of yet. The rights-of-way will be cleared by small crews. A larger, more specialized crew will be required for erection and stringing of towers. Construction access is generally by winter road down the right-of-way; there will be no road left in place. No decision has been made with respect to construction approach (e.g. use of contractors or use of Manitoba Hydro forces). The longest line segment is likely to be between Herblet Lake Station at Snow Lake and Rall's Island Station at The Pas (minimum length of approximately 160 km).
- One of the attendees asked what the transmission lines would look like. Dave Hicks replied that a transmission line would probably use lattice steel structures connected by three conductor cables. The conductors on the towers are insulated and are protected from lightening. Environmental impacts are mostly associated with clearing the rights-of-way and the loss of habitat. Rights-of-way can be narrowed for aesthetic reasons, or at stream crossings. In some cases, there is a need for vegetation management to ensure it does not interfere with the conductors. Access along the lines is also a concern, poaching is prime example.
- Thompson Councillor asked if clearing between Thompson and Paint Lake was associated with this project. Pat Gmiterek, Manitoba Hydro (Thompson), confirmed that this line was an alternate feed and was not associated with this project.
- One of the attendees inquired about the timber that would be cut down when clearing the transmission line rights-of-ways. Dave Hicks stated that timber is dealt with in various ways, sometimes being made available for local communities for firewood or merchantable timber.
- One of the attendees asked whether the absence of an access road would make it difficult to access this wood. Dave Hicks agreed, indicating that access would be an important consideration affecting the feasibility of collecting timber cleared from the right-of-way.

Regulatory Review Process

- Cam Osler, InterGroup Consultants, discussed the Regulatory Review Process (see attached presentation). He stated that the Transmission Facilities and the Wuskwatim Generating Station are being treated as two separate projects for several reasons. The generating facility would potentially be owned by both NCN and Manitoba Hydro in a partnership, however, the transmission facilities may be a separate project owned solely by Manitoba Hydro. However, for regulatory purposes they are being considered concurrently. The process for environmental review and approval is harmonized between the Government of Canada and the Province of Manitoba. The Technical Advisory Committee (made up of representatives from relevant provincial and federal departments) will provide environmental guidelines for the environmental studies. Manitoba Hydro and NCN are

responsible for producing a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement for the federal and provincial regulators. Currently, Manitoba Hydro and NCN are not even at step one of the formal regulatory process, which is to file an Environment Act Proposal Form. A formal commitment to construct will be made at a later stage and Manitoba Hydro will go through a series of reviews to decide whether or not the project makes good business sense. At that later stage Manitoba Hydro will need to decide, along with their partner NCN, whether to proceed. A final decision from regulators will take approximately 16 months from the time that the Environmental Impact Statement is filed. For NCN and Manitoba Hydro, the final decision will be based on the market, project costs and whether or not the project makes good sense. This meeting is to provide information to people early in the process so that they are aware of the proposal.

- Cam Osler, reviewed where we are today in the process (see attached presentation).

Joint Environmental Studies

- Stuart Davies, North/South Consultants, introduced the Joint Environmental Studies program, and its objectives (see attached presentation). Studies are being conducted with First Nations; two-thirds of the people conducting the field studies are NCN members and there is reciprocal learning taking place. The Studies are based on an ecosystem-based approach. The Studies focus on the physical, aquatic, terrestrial and socio-economic environments.
- Thompson Councillor asked if the baseline data for the studies were based on pre-CRD or post-CRD data. Stuart Davies responded that the information is being collected to describe the existing environment, which has the CRD in place. However, he stated that, continuing “trends” will be taken into account, for example mercury levels are decreasing after the early years of the CRD operation and this information needs to be incorporated into the assessment.
- Thompson Councillor asked if there was agreement with NCN on what the baseline data should include. Stuart Davies indicated that the Study Team is working very closely with NCN and that this has been discussed.
- Stuart Davies reviewed water quality components of the studies (see attached presentation). He stated that, once the Project is in place, the water level on Wuskwatim Lake would be kept at the high level of its current range. The Joint Study Team is examining what the effects of this permanent higher level will be. He stated that, because there is concern on the part of some downstream communities that there will be effects past Opegano Lake, further sampling stations have been added. Monitoring would also occur at these stations after the project is in place.
- Stuart Davies discussed the use of bathymetric mapping for the studies. Thompson Councillor asked if the bathymetric maps would be developed for various periods. Stuart Davies stated that bathymetric mapping would give a good indication of what the lake looked like before and after the Project. Thompson Councillor asked if the maps were snapshots of moments in time that could be filed. Stuart Davies responded that that is exactly what happens. The maps are then layered on to one another to give a picture of how the area has changed, e.g. how much area is covered by aquatic vegetation, etc. Thompson Councillor further inquired if someone wanted to see an area, could they pull that area up and Stuart Davies responded yes, the data are sophisticated and fairly detailed.
- Stuart Davies discussed fish populations and fish quality (see attached presentation). He stated that fish quality was being examined in three ways, first through mercury levels in fish, second by fish health, e.g. frequencies of deformities, and third by taste and texture.

- Thompson Councillor asked if there would be differences in the water of the forebay and the flow-through. Stuart Davies responded that Manitoba Hydro did a 10-year study on the Limestone forebay that included studies of the effects of how the system evolved. There are good databases that are currently available to assist us in predicting impacts on water quality.
- Stuart Davies discussed the terrestrial environment and resource use studies (see attached presentation).

Public Involvement Process

- Cam Osler discussed where we are today in the public involvement process (see attached presentation). He described that this is Round 1 of the public consultation process and is focused on elected leaders of communities in the region. Round 2 of public consultation will include discussion of alternatives means of carrying out the project, where they are available (such as alternative routes for transmission lines) and further detail on environmental studies. Round 3 of public consultation will focus on impacts of the Project. Once the Environmental Impact Statement is filed, regulators will review the information, decide whether it is sufficient, ask for additional information as necessary and then hold public hearings. He stated that the Study Team has also met with downstream communities and others.
- Cam Osler discussed the next steps (see attached presentation) and welcomed any questions or comments.

Other Questions and Comments

- Cam Osler invited questions and comments from communities. No questions or comments were raised at this time by the LGD of Mystery Lake, the Town of Gillam and the community of Nelson House.
- Thompson Councillor asked why Conawapa was abandoned and why it was not being considered now. Cam Osler responded that Conawapa at 1200 MW was very large in comparison to the Wuskwatim project at 200 MW and risks are much higher on bigger projects. In addition, a project of that size would require a new Bipole transmission line, new connecting lines into markets outside of Manitoba and probably other investments. The market at the time of that proposed project was not strong enough to proceed after Ontario Hydro cancelled its contact to purchase the power from Manitoba Hydro. Planners may still be considering that project, but the risks are much greater than for a project at the scale of the Wuskwatim project.
- Mayor Bill Comaskey, City of Thompson, stated that he was excited about the project. He congratulated NCN and Manitoba Hydro on the proposed Project. He also thanked the attendees from coming, including those from Gillam and Mystery Lake, and it was nice to see the Mayor of Nelson House. He looks forward to further consultations. He appreciated that the proponents were exercising due diligence in undertaking consultation with communities in Northern Manitoba. He asked how much power people have to intervene/interfere with the Project. Stuart Davies stated that there would be public and regulatory review of the project, but that the project is relatively benign due to the minimal amount of flooding. Cam Osler added that the project might come under scrutiny from other interests outside of Northern Manitoba, and that was one of the reasons they are exercising due diligence.
- Thompson Councillor stated that as a Northerner he is cognisant of environmental impacts but also of the economic benefits that are accrued to the North through these kinds of projects. It was

suggested that economic impacts on the local region including Thompson, should be included in the impact studies.

- One of the attendees asked what hurdles or opposition the Project has faced to date. Chief Jerry Primrose, NCN, stated that the process has been interesting. There have been inaccurate statements made with regards to the Project and they have done what they can to portray accurate information in response.
- Cam Osler asked if this type of presentation was useful and if the communities present would appreciate presentations for their communities as a whole. He welcomed follow up at a later date. Mayor Comaskey indicated that the group was more than welcome to come back. Cam Osler asked the attendees to consider when they would like the group to return.
- John Markowsky, Manitoba Hydro, stated that this Project would have a direct impact on the northern economy for many years, including Thompson. He also stated that this is leading edge development with lots of interest from utilities around the world. The way that the First Nations have conducted themselves has been very business-like, and Manitoba Hydro has learned from the process. He added that we will all benefit from it in the long run.

Recorded by Andrea Lamboo



Suite 604-283 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 2B5
tel: (204) 942-0654
fax: (204) 943-3922
e-mail: intergroup@intergroup.ca

May 31, 2002

Chief Ron Evans and Councillors
General Delivery
Norway House Cree Nation
Norway House, MB R0B 1B0

Dear Chief Evans and Councillors:

RE: FINALIZED MEETING NOTES FROM THE DECEMBER 13th MEETING WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS REGARDING THE PROPOSED WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION AND ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES

This letter is in follow-up to the meeting with elected officials held on December 13, 2002 in Winnipeg, regarding the possible Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities. Following the December 13th meeting, copies of the presentation overheads and draft meeting notes were sent to the community for review and comment. The draft notes were later finalized after receiving confirmation from the community that no revisions were required. For your future use and information, please find enclosed copies of the finalized notes.

We have included extra copies of the finalized meeting notes for distribution to Councillors and interested community members. Further information regarding the project and consultation process can be found on Manitoba Hydro's website at www.hydro.mb.ca; click on the link to **Issues** and then **New Generation and Transmission Projects**. The information provided on this site is updated on a continual basis.

If you have any questions regarding the notes you can contact me at (204) 942-0654. If you have any questions or comments about the project or the public involvement process, please do not hesitate to call:

- Nick Barnes(204) 474-3999 (generation project)
- Ron Rawluk(204) 474-3119 (transmission facilities)
- Marcel Moody (204) 484-3017 or Norman Linklater (204) 484-3019 (Co-managers of Future Development for NCN).

Thank you for your hospitality and we look forward to meeting with you again during future rounds of public involvement regarding the possible Wuskwatim Generating Station.

Yours truly,
INTERGROUP CONSULTANTS LTD.

Laura McKay
Research Analyst
enclosure



Date of Meeting: December 13, 2001
Location: 780 - 125 Garry Street

In Attendance: Councillor Mike Muswagon Norway House Cree Nation (NHCN)
Councillor Jimmock Cromarty NHCN
Councillor Eliza Clarke NHCN
Councillor Fred Muskego NHCN
Councillor David Spence NHCN
Nellie Swanson NHCN
Councillor Elvis Thomas Nisichawaysihk Cree Nation (NCN)
Marcel Moody NCN
Nick Barnes Manitoba Hydro, Winnipeg
Stuart Davies North/South Consultants
Cam Osler InterGroup Consultants
Janet Kinley InterGroup Consultants
Andrea Lamboo Miln InterGroup Consultants

Presenters: Cam Osler InterGroup Consultants
Councillor Elvis Thomas NCN
Nick Barnes Manitoba Hydro
Stuart Davies North/South Consultants
Janet Kinley InterGroup Consultants

Purpose: To introduce the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities to elected leaders of Norway House Cree Nation. To learn from elected leaders about any initial issues and concerns, as well as input regarding future public involvement in their communities.

MEETING NOTES

1. Opening

Councillor Mike Muswagon welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Cam Osler, InterGroup Consultants, discussed the format of the presentation, the Agenda (see attached presentation), and the Background (see attached presentation). He invited Nick Barnes of Manitoba Hydro and Councillor Elvis Thomas of NCN to share opening remarks.

Nick Barnes, Manitoba Hydro, thanked the Council of NHCN for coming to hear more about the proposed Wuskwatim Generation Project. He indicated that this is a new process and a different way of doing things for Manitoba Hydro. NCN and Manitoba Hydro have been involved in a joint planning process. No decisions have been made.

Councillor Elvis Thomas, NCN, thanked the NHCN for the opportunity to share information about the project with Council members. Councillor Thomas stated that they are in the process of engaging their community in decision-making and that the Future Development Team looks to the community for its input. NCN has used a number of mechanisms to engage their community such as community consultants, public meetings, open houses, and the media. There is overwhelming support for the project -- 82% agreement among NCN members in Nelson House and 66% agreement among NCN's total membership. The goal of the project is to have the project benefit the community in a significant way. Under the current structure of the potential partnership, NCN will enjoy 33.3% of the revenues generated from the project. NCN's focus is on employment, training and economic development.

2. Overview

An overview of the meeting was outlined (see attached presentation).

Question:

- A Council member asked what the size of Wuskwatim would be. Nick Barnes gave a comparison of the project to other Hydro developments. Stuart Davies indicated that Wuskwatim would be very similar in size to the Kelsey Generating Station.

3. The Proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station

Project location, the fundamental design assumptions, project timeline and manpower requirements, and associated transmission facilities were outlined (see attached presentation).

- A note was made to illustrate the size of the project – Wuskwatim would have 3 turbines and a 20 metre head whereas the Limestone project has 7 turbines and a 60 metre head.

Question:

- A Council member inquired if Cross Lake had been consulted with yet. Janet Kinley indicated that both a letter of invitation to meet with elected officials regarding the project as well as newsletters had been sent to Cross Lake. There has been no response to date.
- A Council member asked if there were commercial fishermen on Wuskwatim Lake and how they would be affected. Stuart Davies indicated that there are both positive and negative effects this project could have on the lake. Currently, fishermen have to fly fish out because there is no road access. An access road would allow fishermen to transport fish more economically. The negative effects could be higher water levels, more debris in the nets and possible effects on the fish population.
- A question was asked as to whether or not there would be an airstrip with the project. Nick Barnes responded that there would be no airstrip but that there would be an access road.

- A question was asked if there would be any flooding on the main lake. Nick Barnes responded that there would be less than half a square kilometre of new flooding. Alternative designs were available for the project, but the low head design was chosen which would cause less flooding than other design options.
- A Council member asked if, during construction, there would be a preference clause where northerners would get preference for employment. Marcel Moody indicated that NCN and Manitoba Hydro are currently in discussions on employment and training. The Council member asked if a preference clause is something that NCN is pushing for. Councillor Thomas indicated that NCN is pursuing it. Nick Barnes also indicated that they are working with the Province of Manitoba, the Government of Canada as well as NCN to identify a process for employment and training.
- A Council member asked if transmission lines were insulated. Stuart Davies responded that they are not. The Council member further inquired if the project would utilize existing lines. Nick Barnes indicated that new lines would be used and that the exact route for new transmission lines has not yet been determined. The Council member asked if the new power would be fed into The Pas and Thompson. Cam Osler responded that the power would feed into the whole system and new power would eventually be exported.

4. Regulatory Review Process

In this section the necessary regulatory and licensing requirements were reviewed, the main steps in the environmental review and decision schedule were outlined, as well as where we are today in the regulatory review process (see attached presentation).

Questions:

- A Council member asked what stage the project was at in the Regulatory Review Process. Cam Osler indicated that the project is still in the very early stages. The Environment Act Proposal Form (EAPF), which is the first step in the formal Regulatory Review Process, was filed on December 7, 2001.

5. Joint Environmental Studies

The NCN/Manitoba Hydro Joint Environmental Study Program was reviewed, Program objectives were outlined, information regarding the physical environment, water quality, aquatic environment, and terrestrial environment studies was also presented (see attached presentation).

Questions:

- A Council member asked if fish pass through the rapids. Stuart Davies stated that fish do come down Taskinigup Falls, but do not travel back up the Falls.
- A Council member asked if the studies were being done mostly by First Nations people in the area. Stuart Davies responded that a crew will go out consisting of two fishermen and one biologist. The same system applies to studies done on the terrestrial environment. Hunters and trappers accompany the biologist on the studies. Information from the studies goes back to the community.
- Stuart Davies asked if there were any further questions regarding the Joint Environmental Studies. There were no further questions at that time.

6. Public Involvement Process

The Public Involvement Process for the proposed project was reviewed, communities involved in the public involvement process were highlighted, as well as what was learned from communities during the first round of public involvement (see attached presentation).

- A special note was made to indicate that a website on the proposed project is targeted for the end of January 2002, which will provide people with further information.

Questions:

- A Council member asked if Cross Lake has been involved in any consultation. Janet Kinley responded that an invitation has been sent to meet with Chief and Council and newsletters on the project have also been sent. To date, there has been no response.
- A Council member asked what happens if communities reject the project. Janet Kinley responded that the goal of early consultation is to better understand why communities may be feeling the way they are feeling and their concerns. If a community still objects to the project, that objection would be recorded and included in the information submitted to the regulators.
- A Council member asked if videotape of the presentation was available. Janet Kinley indicated that a videotape of the presentation does not exist at this time but that is something NCN and Manitoba Hydro could consider.
- A Council member asked if this project would tie into Bipole III. Janet Kinley responded that Bipole III would not be needed for this project. Cam Osler added that Bipole III may be developed regardless of this project.
- Presenters asked if elected officials felt there was a need for community visits. Because the proposed development does not directly affect Norway House Cree Nation elected officials felt that a public meeting in the community would not be necessary. Elected leaders felt it would be important for community to receive the same information; however this could be done through a video, the newsletters and elected leaders. Elected leaders would like to meet again in the spring.

7. Next Steps, Closing and Contact Information

Next steps in relation to the proposed project were outlined (see attached presentation).

Recorded by: A. Lamboo Miln

2.6 Correspondence with Other Communities

OCT 29 2001



October 24, 2001

FAX: (204) 676-2117

Chief John Miswagon and Councillors
Cross Lake First Nation
Cross Lake, MB R0B 0J0

Dear Chief Miswagon and Councillors:

**RE: INVITATION TO MEET REGARDING POSSIBLE WUSKWATIM
GENERATING STATION PROJECT AND ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION
FACILITIES**

This letter extends our invitation to you to attend a meeting in Thompson or Winnipeg to discuss the possible new northern hydro-electric generating station at the Wuskwatim site southwest of Thompson and southeast of Nelson House, as well as associated transmission facilities.

Manitoba Hydro and the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) have ratified an Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) to guide discussions pertaining to possible future development of the Wuskwatim Generating Station project. We are currently conducting a first round of consultation that is intended to introduce the Wuskwatim Project and its associated transmission facilities to elected officials in First Nations, Northern Affairs communities and incorporated municipalities in the region. Copies of a newsletter about the possible Wuskwatim project are being forwarded separately to you today with a copy of this letter.

We are interested in your feedback regarding any issues or concerns that you may have about the possible project, as well as the public involvement program itself. To make arrangements for a meeting, please call Janet Kinley at (204) 942-0654.

With any questions or comments about the project, please don't hesitate to call:

- Nick Barnes (204) 474-3999 (Manitoba Hydro: generation project)
- Ron Rawluk (204) 474-3119 (Manitoba Hydro: transmission facilities)
- Marcel Moody (204) 484-2604 or Norman Linklater (204) 484-3003 (Co-Managers of Future Development for NCN).

We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,
MANITOBA HYDRO

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Ed Wojczynski'.

Ed Wojczynski
Division Manager
Power Planning and Operations

NCN

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Elvis Thomas'.

for

Elvis Thomas
Councillor
Future Development Portfolio

3. Correspondence with Other Parties



November 5, 2001

FAX: (204) 989-8476

Ms. Anne Lindsey
Executive Director
Manitoba Eco-Network Inc.
#2 - 70 Albert Street
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1E7

Anne
Dear Ms. Lindsey:

**RE: INFORMATION REGARDING POSSIBLE WUSKWATIM GENERATING
STATION PROJECT AND ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES**

Manitoba Hydro and the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) have ratified an Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) to guide discussions pertaining to possible future development of the Wuskwatim Generating Station project. If developed, the earliest that the Wuskwatim Project could bring new electricity to market is in late 2009. Provincial and federal approvals are required before the Project could proceed. If approved, the Wuskwatim Generating Station Project would be built at Taskinigup Falls at the outlet of Wuskwatim Lake (about 35 km southeast of Nelson House and 45 km southwest of Thompson). Associated transmission facilities would also be required.

For your information and distribution to interested member organizations and the resource centre, enclosed please find copies of a newsletter regarding this possible new northern hydro-electric generating station and associated transmission facilities. While no decision has been made to proceed with the project, Manitoba Hydro and NCN are engaging in a planning process to study the potential environmental effects of the project and to engage in public dialogue about the project.

This newsletter was prepared as part of the recent first round of consultation that was intended mainly to introduce the Wuskwatim Project and its associated transmission facilities to elected officials in First Nations, Northern Affairs communities and incorporated municipalities in the northern region. The information may also be of interest to you and your member organizations, and we would appreciate if you could distribute copies of the newsletter to those who are interested. We are interested in your feedback and that of interested member organizations regarding any issues or concerns about the possible project, as well as the public involvement program itself. We are also interested in learning of any member organizations that are interested in participating in future consultations on the Wuskwatim project.

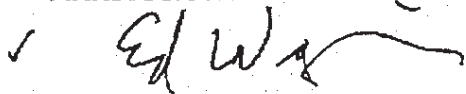
With any questions or comments about the public involvement process, or if you wish to obtain more copies of the newsletter, please don't hesitate to call Janet Kinley at (204) 942-0654. As part of our next round of public involvement activities, which begins shortly, we would like to gauge if there is enough interest among member organizations to organize one or more meetings that representatives could attend regarding the Project. If you are aware of such interest, we would appreciate knowing this as soon as possible.

With any questions or comments about the Wuskwatim project itself, please don't hesitate to call:

- Nick Barnes (204) 474-3999 (Environmental Specialist for the Wuskwatim generation project for Manitoba Hydro)
- Ron Rawluk (204) 474-3119 (Coordinator for the Wuskwatim transmission facilities for Manitoba Hydro)
- Marcel Moody (204) 484-2604 or Norman Linklater (204) 484-3003 (Co-Managers of Future Development for NCN)

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,
MANITOBA HYDRO



Ed Wojczynski
Division Manager
Power Planning and Operations

NCN



for

Elvis Thomas
Councillor
Future Development Portfolio

enclosures

4. Press Releases

News Releases

DATE: 2001 09 25
01 - 14

Nelson House (NCN) Cree Nation Signs Agreement in Principle with Manitoba Hydro

1.0 Equity position in proposed Wuskwatim and Notigi generating stations announced

Nelson House, MB - Premier Gary Doer congratulated the Nisichawaysihk Cree Nation (NCN) today on the signing of an Agreement in Principle with Manitoba Hydro to potentially develop new hydroelectric facilities. The Agreement in Principle allows the First Nation to obtain an equity position by investing in the proposed Wuskwatim and Notigi generating stations, which are located in the NCN Resource Management Area.

In addition to Premier Doer, other speakers at the signing included NCN Chief Jerry Primrose, Thompson MLA Steve Ashton, Rupertsland MLA Eric Robinson, Minister responsible for Manitoba Hydro Greg Selinger, Hydro Chairman Vic Schroeder, and Hydro President and CEO Bob Brennan.

Premier Gary Doer said, "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 for the entire province."

The Premier said the province is also committed to expanding profitable electricity exports which help keep Manitoba electricity rates the lowest in Canada, "and all Manitobans pay the same low rates no matter where they live," said Doer.

The signing of the Agreement in Principle is a major milestone following several years of discussions between NCN and Hydro about the projects, which included ways of designing the Wuskwatim station to reduce environmental impacts.

Premier Doer said the projects will undergo full public reviews before any final decisions are made to proceed with construction. An environmental team, jointly selected by NCN and Manitoba Hydro, is currently conducting studies that will be required for federal and provincial environmental assessments.

No decision has yet been made by Manitoba Hydro about which, if any, of the three sites (including the Gull Generating Station in the Split Lake Resource Area) would be selected for development. The Corporation expects to be able to announce a development plan as early as the spring of 2002.

Chief Jerry Primrose said the Nisichawaysihk members had voted strongly in favour of the Agreement. In May, 65 per cent of the members who voted at polls in Nelson House, South Indian Lake, Thompson, Winnipeg, and Brandon supported the Agreement in Principle. At Nelson House, the community closest to the project and where the reserve is located, approval for the AIP was 82.4 per cent.

Chief 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 and resources of this area, we can work with Manitoba Hydro to plan and market these projects, added Primrose. "Together, we will make sure this is an environmentally sustainable project with long term benefits for everyone involved."

"This is a very positive step for the Nisichawaysihk Cree Nation and Manitoba Hydro," said Greg Selinger, Minister responsible for Manitoba Hydro. "Like the agreement that was signed with Tataskweyak Cree Nation last year, this agreement supports two new models for future relationships between Manitoba Hydro and First Nation peoples."

Today's announcement is a historic milestone for Nisichawaysihk and Manitoba Hydro," said MLA Eric Robinson, Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs. "This agreement is a clear example of how Manitoba First Nations and Manitoba Hydro can work together to realize viable economic opportunities for both First Nation communities and the Province as a whole. I congratulate NCN and Manitoba Hydro for their work in forging a new relationship."

Bob Brennan, President and CEO of Manitoba Hydro, added, "This Agreement-in-Principle supports one of Manitoba Hydro's key objectives - namely to be a leader in strengthening relationships with aboriginal peoples. Both Manitoba Hydro and NCN will mutually benefit from these arrangements."

News Releases

DATE: 2001 10 05
01 - 16

Manitoba Hydro And NCN Meet With Elected Officials In Thompson

1.1.1 Re: Possible Wuskwatim Generating Station

Thompson, Manitoba - Yesterday, representatives of Manitoba Hydro and the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) met with elected officials from the City of Thompson, LGD of Mystery Lake, the Town of Gillam and Community of Nelson House to introduce the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station and associated transmission facilities. Over the past three weeks, similar meetings have also been held with elected leaders in other northern communities in the general vicinity of the development, including South Indian Lake, Wabowden, Thicket Portage, Pikwitonei, Fox Lake First Nation, York Factory First Nation, War Lake First Nation, Tataskweyak First Nation, The Pas, RM of Kelsey and Snow Lake. Other meetings and communications are being planned to complete this initial round of consultation. These initial meetings have discussed the opportunities, issues and concerns associated with this project, as well as plans for future public involvement. Representatives of the NCN / Manitoba Hydro Environmental Management Team have also attended the meetings to provide technical information.

The proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station is still in the conceptual stage and no final decisions to proceed have been made. These meetings are the first in a series of public consultations that will take place over the next several months. There will be future opportunities for interested members of the public to communicate their viewpoints. If the decision is made to proceed, the Wuskwatim Generating Station Project will be subject to environmental review under both the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* and the *Manitoba Environment Act*.

The Wuskwatim Generating Station is one of three possible hydroelectric sites in Northern Manitoba that Manitoba Hydro is considering developing in conjunction with local First Nations.

News Releases

DATE: 2001 12 11
01 - 22

Manitoba Hydro And Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation File For Environmental Review For Wuskwatim Generating Station

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) and Manitoba Hydro have announced that Environmental Act Proposal Forms (EAPFs) are being filed for the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station and its associated transmission facilities.

Manitoba Hydro President and CEO Bob Brennan emphasized that the formal EAPF filing does not indicate that a selection has been made to proceed with construction of the Wuskwatim facility, but that an application is being submitted for provincial and federal environmental approvals in order to protect a potential in-service date of 2009 for the new generating station. "The current information indicates a high level of confidence that Wuskwatim will be an attractive development from environmental, economic and ratepayer perspectives. Community consultation and environmental, engineering and economic studies are continuing. After consultations with our potential First Nation Partner, Hydro expects to be able to make a decision about whether to proceed further with Wuskwatim by the spring or summer of 2002."

NCN Chief Jerry Primrose said that the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation has recently signed an agreement in principle with Manitoba Hydro with respect to potential development at Wuskwatim and is currently negotiating a project development agreement. "We are very pleased that support for this project remains strong among NCN members. We look forward to participating in the formal environmental review process and contributing our traditional ecological knowledge to the assessment process. The NCN leadership also expects to be able to make decisions about proceeding with the Wuskwatim project once further studies have been completed. There will be ongoing consultation with our members."

An EAPF filing initiates the formal environmental review of a project by Manitoba and Canada, a process with extensive public involvement that could take two years to complete. As an initial step, federal and provincial authorities with input from the public will establish the guidelines for the environmental impact statement that Manitoba Hydro and NCN will be required to complete.

The environmental impact statement will include descriptions of the project area, environmental and socio-economic impacts, and plans to avoid or otherwise manage those impacts.

Manitoba Hydro also signed an agreement in principle in 2000 with Tataskweyak Cree Nation at Split Lake to potentially develop the Gull hydroelectric site. Negotiations continue with TCN and nearby First Nations of York Landing, War Lake and Fox Lake with respect to this project. Community consultations and environmental, engineering and economic studies are also continuing for Gull. Since the earliest in-service date for Gull is 2012, an EAPF is not needed at this time to protect that in-service date.

NCN and Manitoba Hydro will, over the next several months, continue with their planning and consultation and are expected to bring forward proposed plans for review next year.