

Appendix 5

Consultation and Involvement
Materials, Beyond NCN:
November 2001 – May 2002

Outline of Appendix 5

Appendix 5 provides copies of consultation and involvement materials used during Round Two of public involvement and consultation, and meetings held with the Tataskweyak Cree Nation. This includes detailed reporting on numbers of meetings and open houses, attendance, and records of what was presented to and heard from the public. This appendix includes a copy of the Round Two Newsletter, as well as various materials used in meetings and public open houses. In order to reduce the volume of materials included in this appendix, representative samples of letters and presentations are provided. In some cases there are minor differences in the materials used at different events.

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1. Round Two Newsletter

POSSIBLE WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION
AND ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES

Newsletter #2

Second Round of Public Involvement

Manitoba Hydro and the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) are considering whether to develop a new 200 megawatt hydro-electric generating station (the Project) at Taskinigup Falls at the outlet of Wuskwatim Lake, about 35 km southeast of Nelson House and about 45 km southwest of Thompson. Both parties have ratified an agreement-in-principle regarding possible future development of the Wuskwatim project that, if developed, would bring new electricity to market in late 2009. New associated transmission facilities would connect the generating station to the existing transmission network. No decision has been made to proceed with the projects. Provincial and federal regulatory approvals are required before the Project could proceed.

For more details regarding the proposed generating station and transmission projects see the Round One Newsletter.

Round One Public Involvement Process

Round One of the public involvement process, between September and early November 2001, was intended mainly 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 public involvement.

The elected leaders were invited to attend a presentation about the Project, the environmental studies currently underway, the regulatory process, and the proposed public involvement process.

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



Questions and comments were invited. Meetings were held with representatives of the following communities: Thicket Portage, Pikwitonei, Wabowden, War Lake First Nation, Tataskweyak Cree Nation, York Factory First Nation, Fox Lake First Nation, City of Thompson, LGD of Mystery Lake, Town of Gillam, Nelson House (Northern Affairs), Town of The Pas, RM of Kelsey, Opaskwayak Cree Nation, Cormorant, Snow Lake, Herb Lake Landing and South Indian Lake. Other communities received information via the newsletter, as did the Manitoba Eco-Network and interested member organizations.

What Did We Learn During Round One?

During Round One meetings, various issues and questions were raised by community representatives. Some of the themes are as follows:

- Communities upstream and downstream of the proposed project were concerned that the addition of the generating station would alter the way that the Churchill River Diversion is operated and cause new effects in their areas;
- All communities were interested in getting involved in employment and training benefits; some noted interest in other economic spin-offs as well;
- Questions were asked regarding the need for new transmission lines and routes;
- Questions were asked about the environmental review process and the nature and thoroughness of studies underway;
- Some Community representatives complimented NCN and Manitoba Hydro on their joint planning process;
- Regarding public involvement, representatives expressed an interest in bringing information about the Project to their communities, in presentations at community meetings or at open houses. Some indicated that the

information provided in the Round One presentation was the right level of detail, while others wished to see more detail about particular issues.

All issues and questions raised in meetings were documented and will become part of the environmental assessment record to be reviewed by regulatory agencies. Input regarding public involvement has been used in designing Round Two of the public involvement process. Both Manitoba Hydro and NCN contact persons were identified to provide ongoing contact points for communities.

Information on some of the key issues and questions raised by community representatives follows:

Water Regime Impacts

Communities downstream of the proposed project have noted concerns about possible impacts regarding water quality. Manitoba Hydro and NCN have committed to work with these communities to address any such concerns, and have taken action to undertake and co-ordinate water quality monitoring in downstream areas.

Communities both upstream and downstream of the proposed project have raised concerns that the addition of this new generating station might alter the way that the Churchill River Diversion is operated and cause new effects on water levels in the region. The first Newsletter reviewed expected local changes to water levels immediately upstream and downstream of Taskinigung Falls. However, no changes are expected in the way that the Churchill River Diversion is operated. Two factors can be noted on this matter:

A) There will be no change in the regulatory regime affecting Churchill River Diversion operation. This regulatory regime includes restrictions affecting water levels at Southern Indian Lake, at waters upstream of Notigi, at Footprint Lake and at Thompson, as well as restrictions affecting flows at Missi Falls, Notigi and Thompson.

B) Within the current regulatory regime, Manitoba Hydro already operates the Churchill River Diversion to supply approximately 3,500 MW of existing generating capacity located downstream on the Nelson River (Kettle Rapids, Long Spruce and Limestone). Development of the Wuskwatim Project would add only 200 MW, and would not affect Manitoba Hydro operation of the overall Churchill River Diversion.

Construction Opportunities Associated with the Potential Generating Station

The primary activities during the first two years of Wuskwatim construction would be building of the access road, camp and other infrastructure. During this time, employment will peak at about 350 positions. Most of the jobs available will be in trades and occupations that do not have apprenticeship programs. These include heavy equipment operators, heavy vehicle drivers, vehicle servicemen, labourers, and catering staff. About twenty percent of the available positions will be trainee positions that can be filled by people who have received relevant pre-job training while the remainder will require some related job experience. In later years of construction, there will be a higher proportion of jobs in trades that have apprenticeship programs.

Roads and Camp

If built, the Wuskwatim Generating Station would require a permanent access road. NCN and Manitoba Hydro have together been considering and evaluating alternative routes for this road. It is currently anticipated that the route will run between PR391 and the generating station through areas to the east of the station that will supply sand and gravel for the project construction.

Separate Projects for Generation and Transmission

For licensing and environmental review by the provincial and federal regulators, the Wuskwatim Generating Station is one project, and the associated Wuskwatim Transmission Facilities is a separate project. Accordingly, separate

applications will be made for each of these projects and separate Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) will be prepared for each of these projects. In order to facilitate public review, both projects are being addressed through an integrated Public Involvement Program.

What's Included in the Round Two Public Involvement Process?

Round Two is intended to look at alternative ways of carrying out the Project. Alternative routes used to make transmission line connections between the generating station and the existing transmission network will be identified and discussed, particularly with those who could be potentially affected by alternative routes.

Round Two will also introduce a broader audience to the Project, to the regulatory process, to the environmental studies that are underway including the incorporation of Traditional Knowledge and to further opportunities for public input. We are interested in hearing about any issues, questions, or concerns that you may have.

Between November 2001 and February 2002, visits are being planned to communities that expressed an interest in learning more about the project during Round One.

Information about the Project (Round One Newsletter) is also being provided to other communities and organizations that may have an interest in the Project. Anyone expressing an interest in the Project will receive the Round One and Round Two Newsletters.

What Else is Happening?

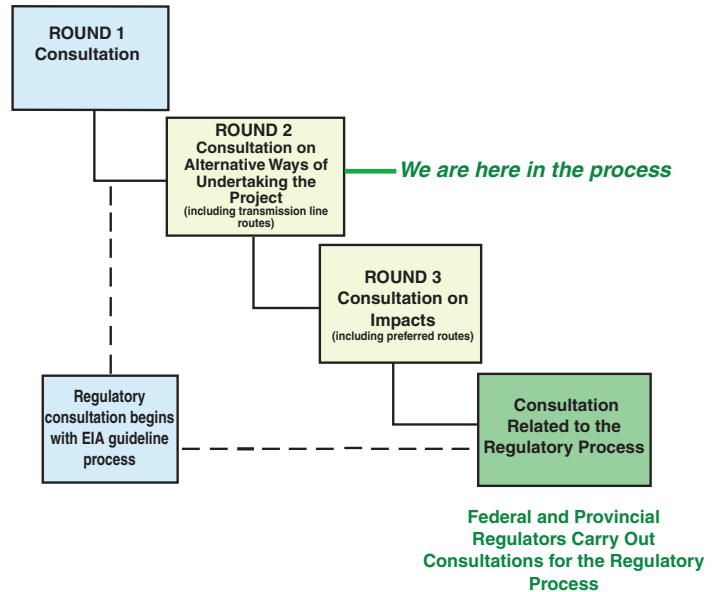
Environment Act Proposal Forms (EAPFs) for the generating station project and associated transmission facilities are being submitted to the provincial government in order to start the formal process of review by provincial and federal regulators. The initial focus is for the regulators to develop and finalize guidelines for the environmental assessment. The EAPF documents simply start the environmental review process, but do not mean that any commitment has been made to proceed with the Projects.

After the EAPFs are filed, Manitoba Conservation will post information about the projects on their website www.gov.mb.ca/environ. In addition, Manitoba Conservation will create an active file about the projects in relevant established public registries (northern public registries are located in Thompson and The Pas). Draft guidelines for environmental assessments of both the generation project and associated transmission facilities will be included. Manitoba Conservation will invite public comment on these guideline documents during a 60-day review period. Thereafter, the guideline documents will be finalized by the regulators. The guidelines will form the basis for NCN and Manitoba Hydro to prepare the EIS.

Web Page Being Developed

Manitoba Hydro and NCN are preparing a web page regarding the proposed Project to make the information available to the broader public. The web page, accessed via Manitoba Hydro's main web site, is expected to be in operation before the end of January 2002 at www.hydro.mb.ca.

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



What Happens Next?

A third round of consultation - likely to be held in spring 2002 - will look at anticipated specific impacts of the projects and ways to manage those impacts. As well, the public will have more opportunities thereafter to be involved in reviewing the projects during the governments' regulatory process.

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) 484-3019 (phone) 484-2980 (fax)

Marcel Moody (NCN future development)
(204) 484-3017 (phone) 484-2980 (fax)

2. Meeting and Open House Materials

**2.1 Summary:
Consultation and Involvement Activities
(November 2001 – May 2002)**

**Table 1
Round Two Public Consultation and Involvement Activities**

Community or Interests¹	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)	February 20	Nelson House Community Hall	4
LGD of Mystery Lake	Invited to the Thompson Open House	-	-
City of Thompson ⁴	May 2 Open House	St. Lawrence Hall Thompson	Approximately 70
Other within 80 km			
Wabowden (NA)	November 27	Wabowden Community Hall	20
Thicket Portage (NA)	January 24	Thicket Portage Community Hall	12
Pikwitonei (NA)	November 29	Pikwitonei Community Hall	23
Other upstream and downstream			
South Indian Lake (NA and through NCN)	-	-	-
Town of Gillam	Offer to meet and newsletter ³	-	-
York Factory First Nation	Invitation letter and newsletter ³	-	-
Fox Lake First Nation	Participated in community career fair February 22	Gillam Recreation Center	30 to 40 FLCN members and advisors
War Lake First Nation	February 12	Northern Lights Place of Learning, War Lake	19

Community or Interests¹	Date of Meeting	Location of Meeting	Community Attendance
Ilford (NA)	Invitation letter and newsletter ³	-	-
Other Nelson River			
Cross Lake First Nation (Pimicikamak Cree Nation)	Invitation letter and newsletter ⁵	-	-
Norway House Cree Nation	Invitation letter and newsletter ³	-	-
Cross Lake (NA)	Invitation letter and newsletter ³	-	-
Norway House (NA)	Invitation letter and newsletter ³	-	-
Other			
Mosakahiken Cree Nation	Response to concerns raised at the CEC meetings		
Manitoba Eco-Network	<i>Letter inviting meeting and newsletters sent to member organizations (interested organizations identified through assistance of Manitoba Eco-Network)</i>		
Thompson Chamber of Commerce	Letter and Newsletter sent		
Manitoba Métis Federation	Invitation to Open House in Thompson (sent with Round Two Newsletter)		
Norway House Resource Officer	Letter and Newsletter sent		

Notes:

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. Invitation to Round Two Open House in Thompson sent [with Round Two Newsletter] to elected officials in Ilford (NA), Nelson House (NA), Gillam, Pikwitonei, Fox Lake Cree Nation, Tataskweyak Cree Nation, Thicket Portage, Wabowden, War Lake First Nation, York Factory First Nation, South Indian Lake, Norway House First Nation, Cross Lake First Nation, Cross Lake (NA) and Norway House (NA).
5. Discussions between Manitoba Hydro and PCN relating to Article 9 of the NFA have been ongoing since May, 2002.

Table 2
Consultation and Involvement Activities with the Tataskweyak Cree Nation

Community or Interests	Date of Meeting	Location of Meeting	Community Attendance
Tataskweyak Cree Nation (TCN)	March 12 meeting on concerns	-	-

2.2 Meeting Materials

2.2.1 Sample Letter of Confirmation and Distribution List

Table
Distribution List: Round Two Letter of Confirmation

Recipient	Community
Deputy Mayor Howard Pronteau and Councillors	Thicket Portage (NA)
Mayor Reg Meade and Councillors	Wabowden (NA)
Mayor Warren Pagee and Councillors	Pikwitonei (NA)
Chief Ralph Beardy and Councillors	Fox Lake Cree Nation
Chief Alex Ouskan	War Lake First Nation
Mayor Bella Leonard and Councillors	Nelson House (NA)

Note:

1. NA = Northern Affairs



January 17, 2002

FAX: 204-286-3256

Deputy Mayor Howard Pronteau and Councilors
Community of Thicket Portage
Thicket Portage Post Office
Thicket Portage, MB R0B 1R0

Dear Deputy Mayor Pronteau and Councilors:

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

We are pleased to respond to your invitation to attend a meeting in your community to discuss the potential new northern hydroelectric generating station at the Wuskwatim site, as well as associated transmission facilities. This letter confirms that representatives from Manitoba Hydro and the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) will attend a meeting in **Thicket Portage on January 24th, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Hall**. Also, as requested representatives from Manitoba Hydro and NCN will be available to meet with the Mayor and Council at **6:00 p.m. on January 24th, 2002**.

This meeting is in follow up to the meeting of elected officials from the communities of Pikwitonei, Thicket Portage, and Wabowden held on September 21st in Thompson, MB. It will be part of the second round of consultation that is intended to introduce the Wuskwatim Project and its associated transmission facilities to community members in First Nations, Northern Affairs communities and incorporated municipalities in the region. We are interested in your community's feedback regarding any issues or concerns that they may have about the potential project, as well as the public involvement program itself.

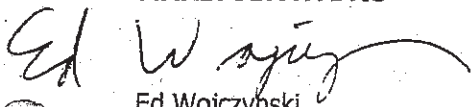
Manitoba Hydro and NCN have ratified an Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) to guide discussions pertaining to possible future development of the Wuskwatim Generating Station project.

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

2.2.2 Sample Letter of Invitation and Distribution List

Table
Distribution List: Round Two Letter of Invitation

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

Note:

1. NA = Northern Affairs



April 9, 2002

Mayor James Chornoby and Councillors
Community of Ilford
Ilford Post Office, MB R0B 0S0

Dear Mayor Chornoby and Councilors:

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

For your information, please find enclosed 50 copies of the Round Two public involvement newsletter compiled by Manitoba Hydro and the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) regarding a possible northern hydro-electric generating station at the Wuskwatim site (45 km southwest of Thompson), as well as associated transmission facilities. While no decision has been made to proceed with the project, Manitoba Hydro and NCN are participating in a joint planning process both to determine potential environmental impacts of the project and to engage the public in dialogue about those effects.

The enclosed newsletter is part of the second round of consultation, which is intended to bring information regarding the Wuskwatim Project and associated transmission facilities to local communities and other interested parties. The newsletter summarizes what was heard during Round One of the consultation process, and describes activities planned under Round Two. Further information regarding the project and consultation process can be found on Manitoba Hydro's website at www.hydro.ca; look for the link to New Generation and Transmission Projects.

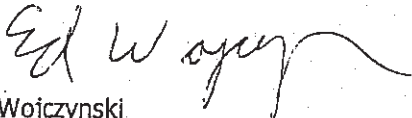
At present, Round Two of the consultation process is nearing completion. Round Three, expected to begin in May 2002, will focus on communicating the anticipated impacts of the project as well as possible ways to manage those impacts. We are interested in your feedback regarding any issues or concerns that you may have about the project or public involvement program.

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)

If you would like to meet with representatives of Manitoba Hydro and NCN during Round Three, or at any other time, please call Janet Kinley at (204) 942-0654.

Sincerely,
MANITOBA HYDRO


Ed Wojczynski
Division Manager
Power Planning and Development

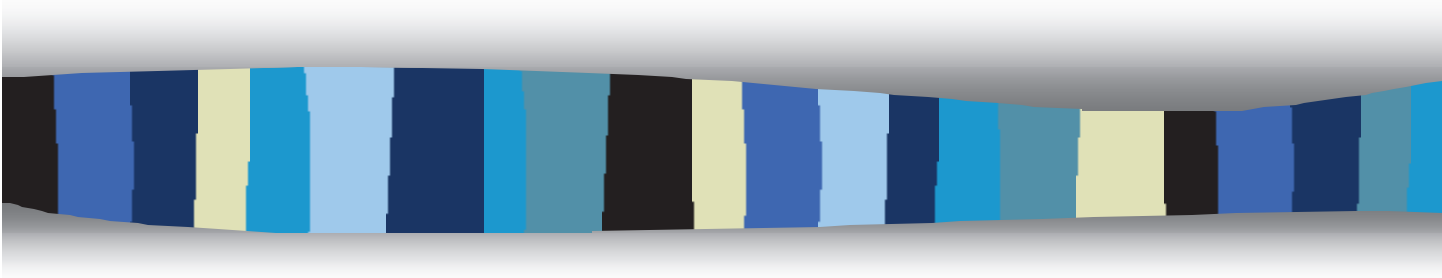
NCN


Elvis Thomas
Councillor
Future Development Portfolio

2.2.3 Sample Round Two Presentation

*The sample presentation attached is representative of the information presented during Round Two meetings. Minor modifications were made to each presentation as necessary.

Proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities



Presentation to
Wabowden
November 27th
7:00 p.m.
KeNaNow Centre



Agenda

- ▶ Opening
- ▶ Presentation on the Wuskwatim Project
- ▶ What We Learned from Round One Public Involvement
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Although Manitoba Hydro is currently considering other projects, the Wuskwatim Generating Station Project would be the earliest potential station.
- ▶ The Wuskwatim Generating Station Project is the focus of Round Two Public Consultation.
- ▶ No decisions have been made.



Overview

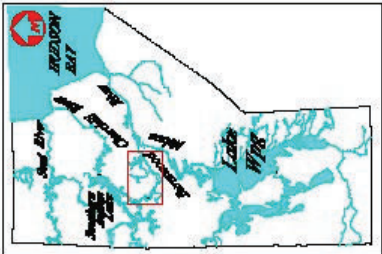
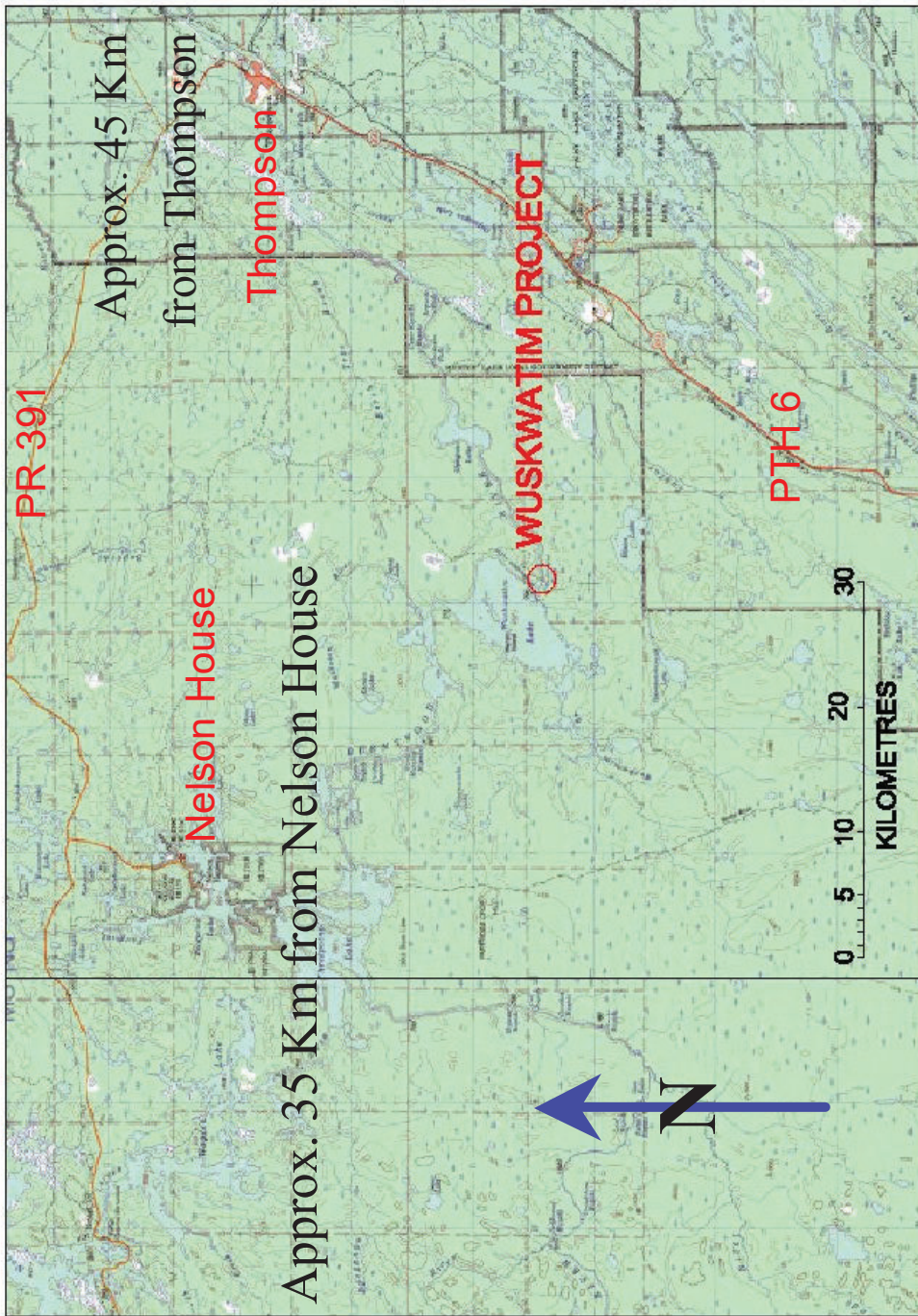
- ▶ The Wuskwatim Generating Station Project
 - ▶ Timing and Rationale of Project
 - ▶ Location of Project
 - ▶ Key Features of Project
 - ▶ Project Timeline
- ▶ Associated Transmission Facilities
- ▶ Regulatory Review
- ▶ Joint Studies
- ▶ Public Involvement Process
 - ▶ What We Learned from Round One
 - ▶ What Happens Next



Wuskwatim Generating Station Project

- ▶ Location
- ▶ Fundamental Design Assumptions
 - ▶ Water Regime Impacts
 - ▶ Infrastructure Requirements
- ▶ Project Timeline
- ▶ Estimated Manpower Requirements

LOCATION



KEYMAP

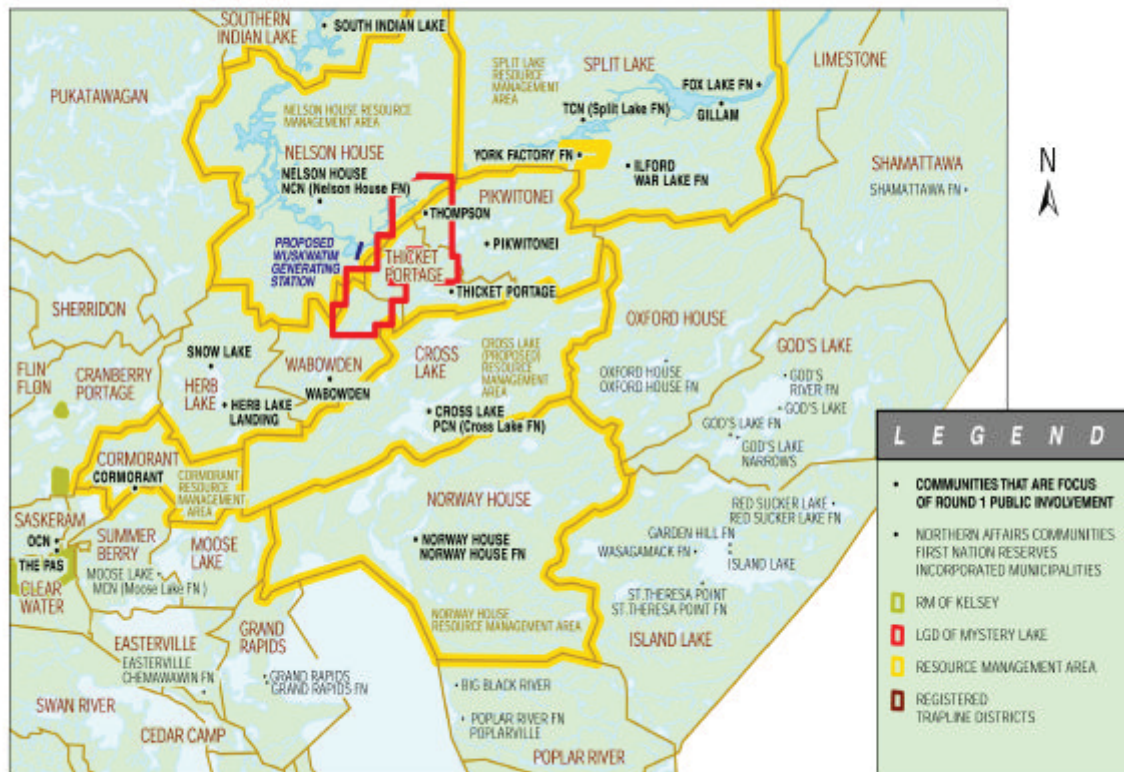
MANITOBA HYDRO POWER SUPPLY - POWER PLANNING & OPERATIONS		SHT.		REV.	
WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION		00184-10010-0012_00		01 00	
WUSKWATIM PROJECT REGIONAL LOCATION PLAN		AUTOCAD ORIGINAL			
DRAWN	DSM				
CHECK	GMC				
SCALE	AS SHOWN				
DATE	001221				

ID.	DATE	BY	REV.	APP.

FOR MICROFILM USE ONLY

Communities in Round 1 Public Involvement

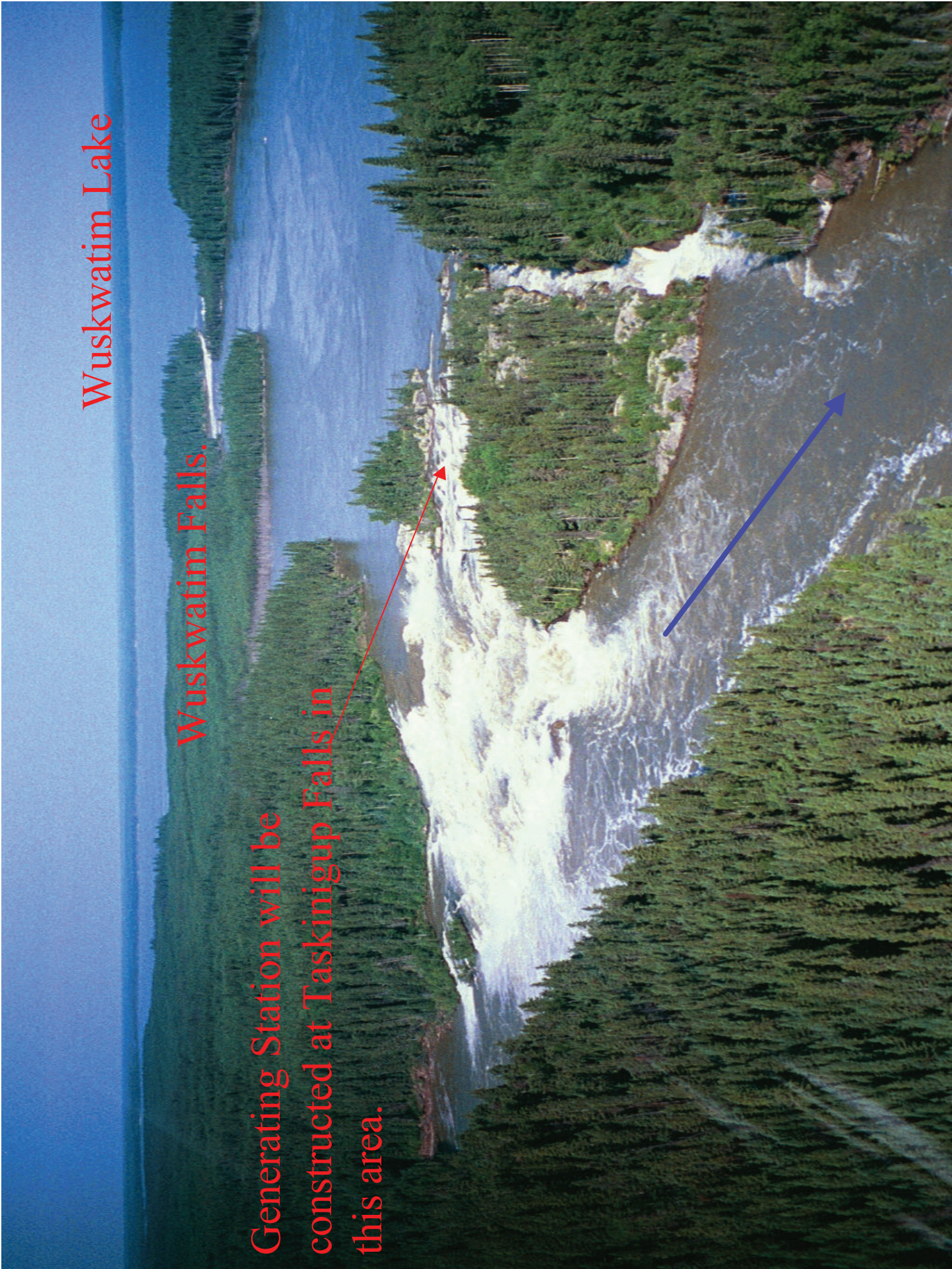
COMMUNITIES HIGHLIGHTED IN ROUND 1 OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN



Wuskwatim Lake

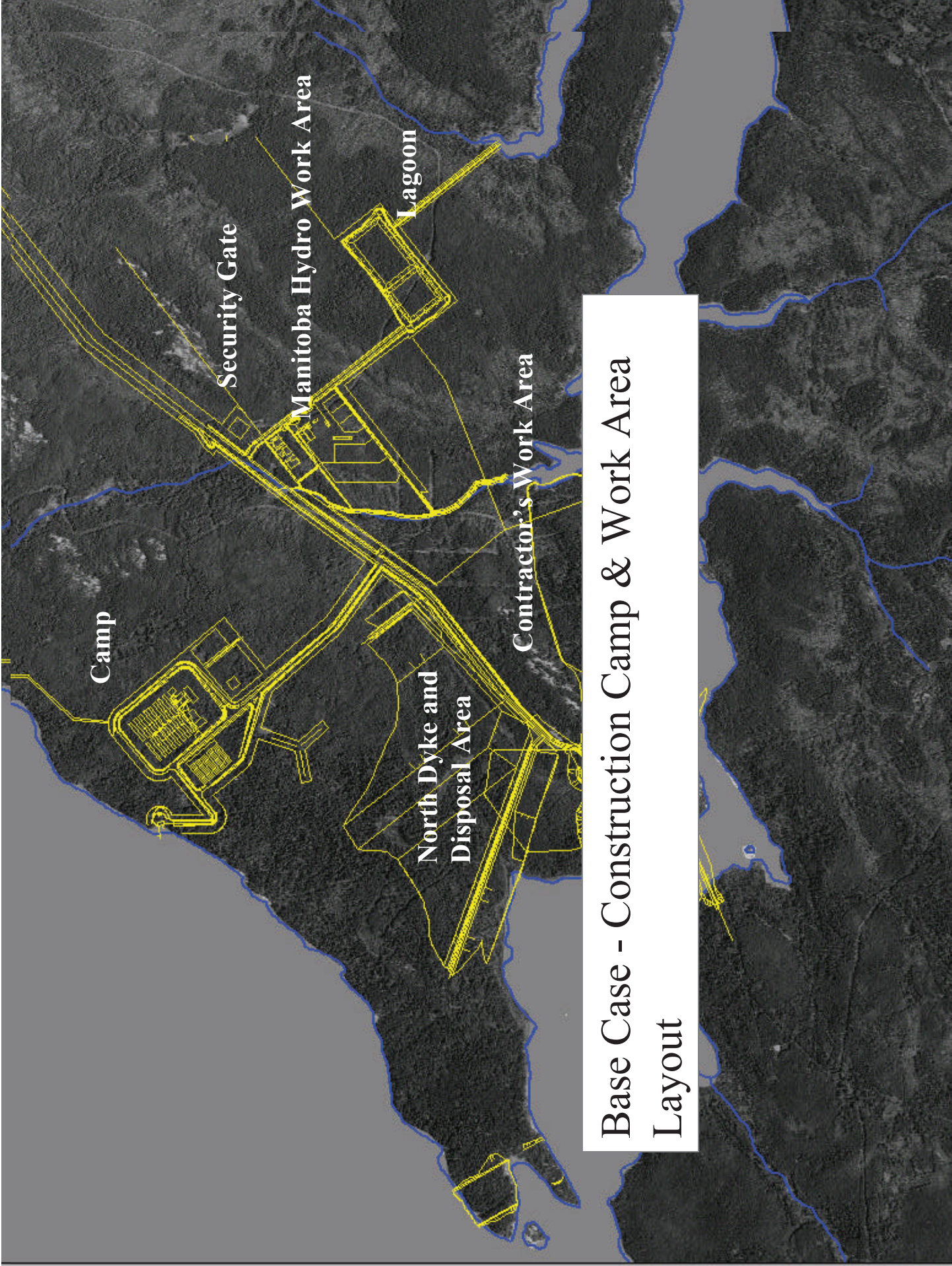
Wuskwatim Falls.

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



General Arrangement of Primary & Secondary Structures





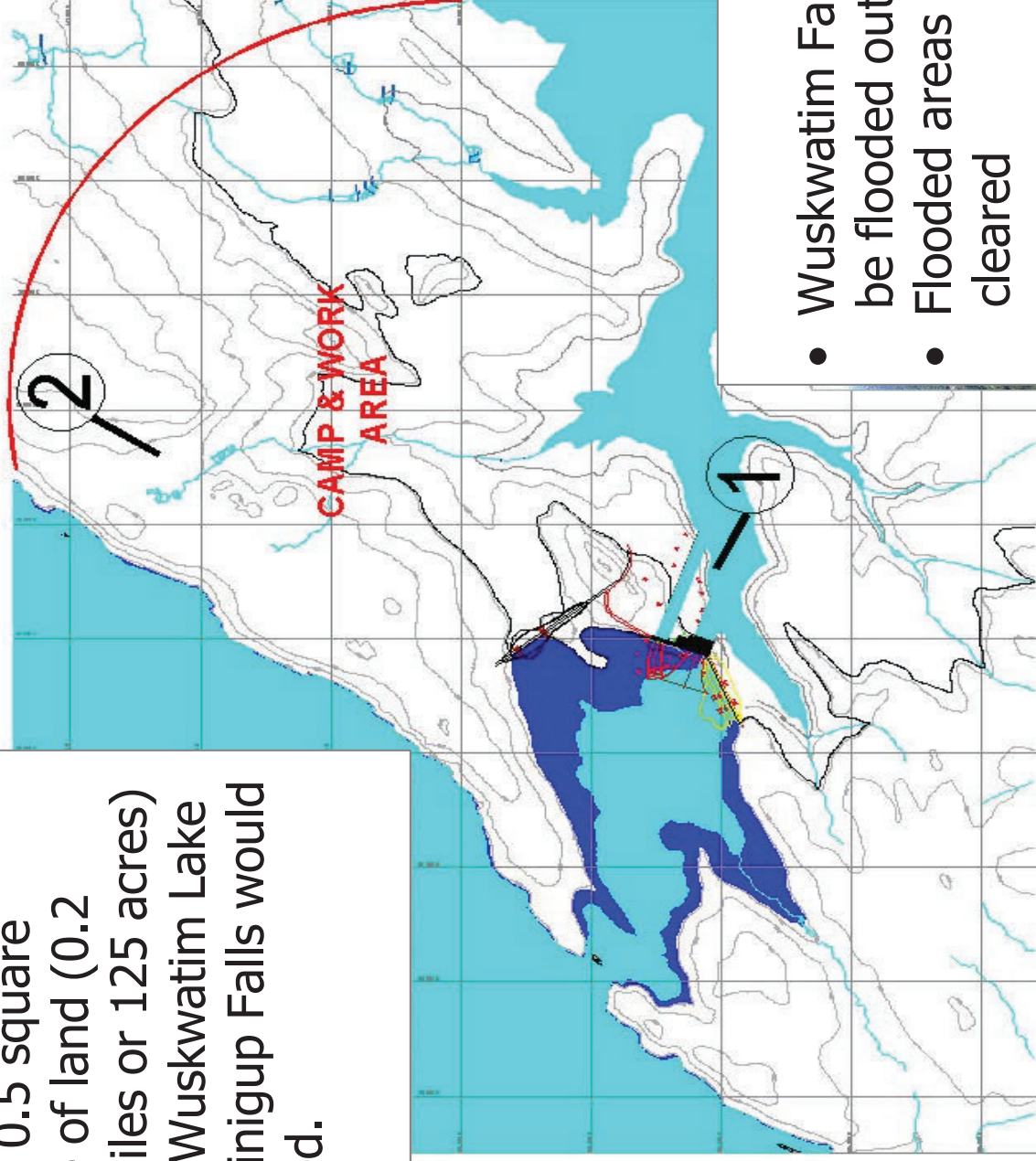
**Base Case - Construction Camp & Work Area
Layout**

Base Case - Work Area & Construction Camp Area



- 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

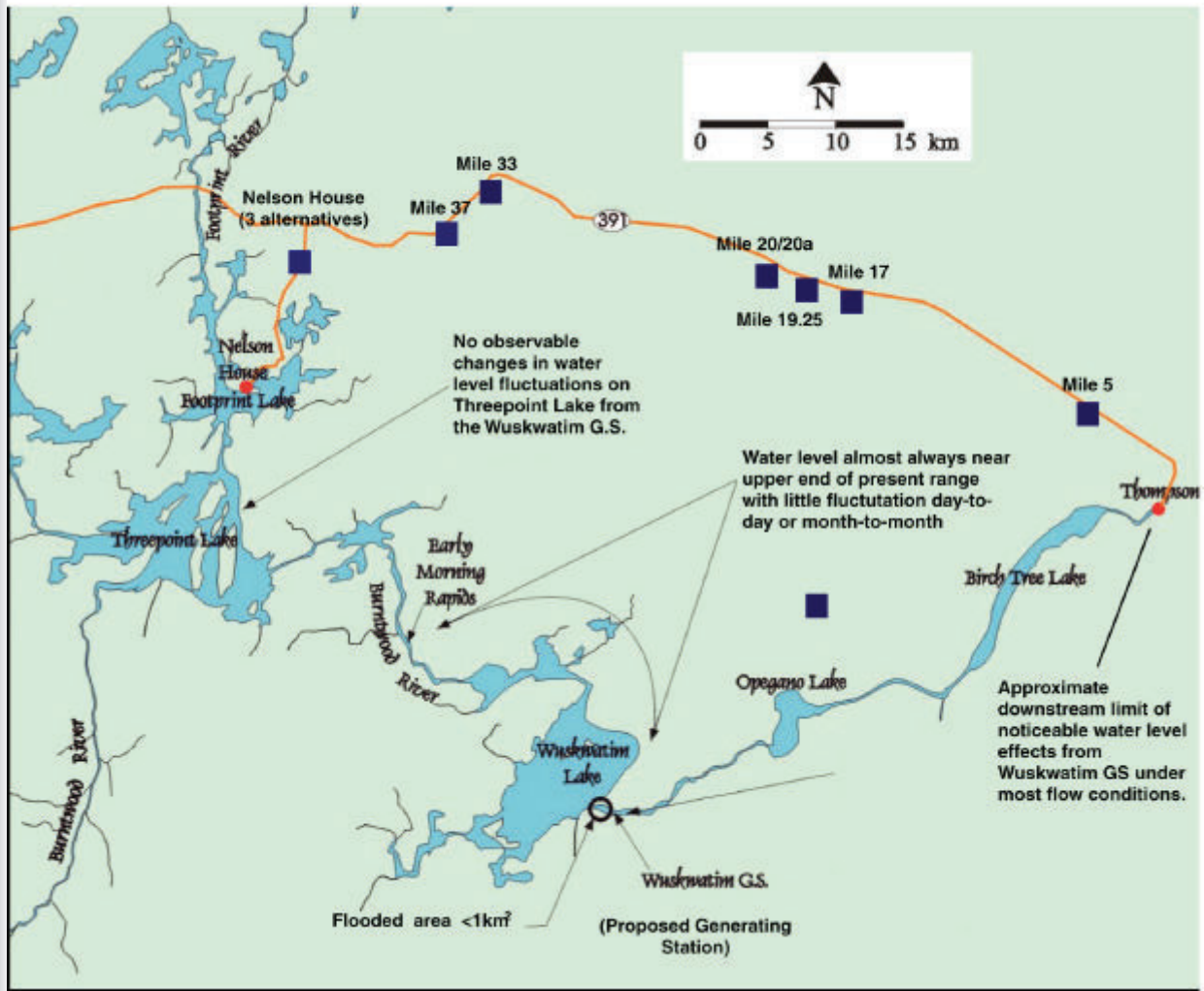


Fundamental Design Assumptions

▶ Water Regime Impacts

- ▶ A “low head” design was chosen by NCN and Manitoba Hydro to minimize the effect on the environment.
- ▶ Less than one 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), specific operation under review.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ CRD will remain unchanged.

Effects on Water Regime



■ Indicate possibilities for road construction

Mile 17 recommended by Manitoba Hydro/NCN Working Group -- being reviewed by NCN Chief and Council and Manitoba Hydro.



Fundamental Design Assumptions (continued)

- ▶ Infrastructure Requirements:
- ▶ *Permanent Access Road*
 - ▶ If built, the Wuskwatim Generating Station would require a permanent access road.
 - ▶ NCN and Manitoba Hydro are together considering and evaluating alternative routes for this road.
 - ▶ Currently, it is anticipated that the route will run between PR391 and the generating station through areas to the northeast of the station that will supply sand and gravel for project construction.
- ▶ *Camp*
 - ▶ A camp for construction workers (NCN Chief and Council support Wuskwatim as possible location).
- ▶ *Construction Power*

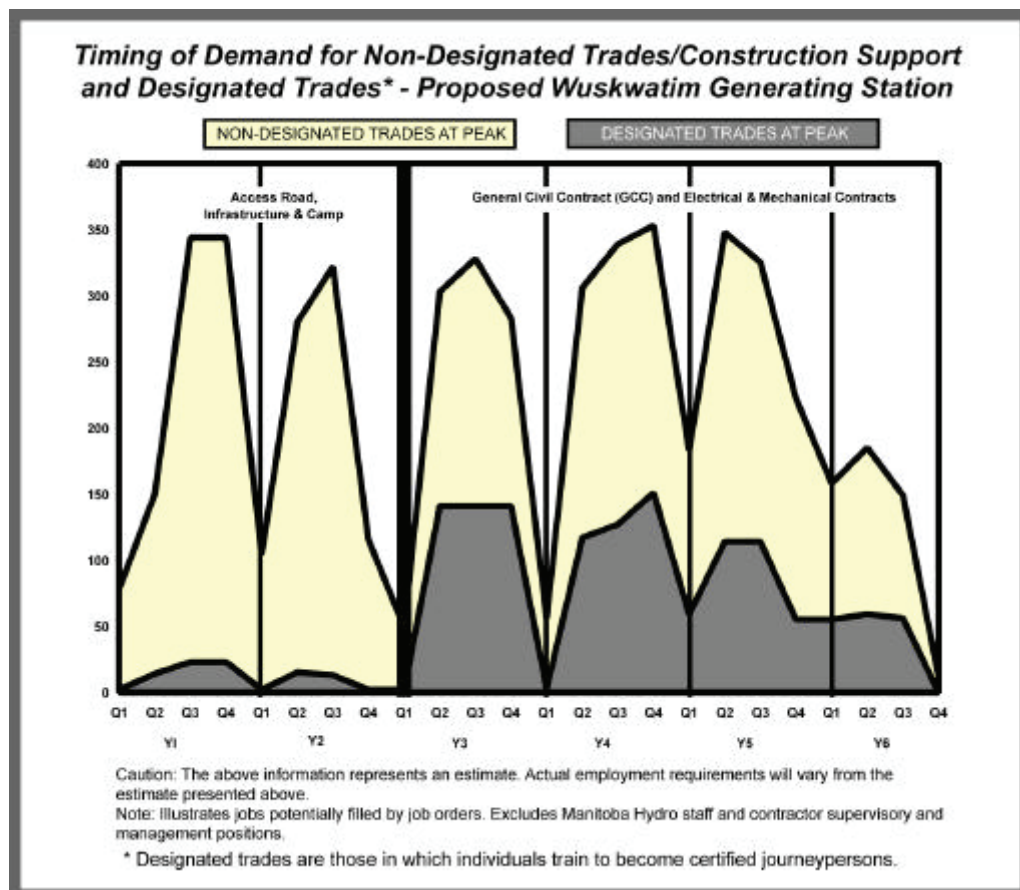


Project Timeline

- ▶ 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, June 2002.

Estimated Manpower Requirements

- ▶ 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.





Employment Opportunities (continued)

- ▶ The primary activities during the first two years of construction would be building the access road, camp and other infrastructure.
- ▶ During this time, employment would peak at about 350 positions.
- ▶ Most of the jobs available would be in trades and occupations that do not have apprenticeship programs. These include:
 - ▶ heavy equipment operators,
 - ▶ heavy vehicle drivers,
 - ▶ vehicle servicemen,
 - ▶ labourers, and
 - ▶ catering staff.



Employment Opportunities (continued)

Employment Opportunities (continued)

- ▶ About one in five of the available positions will be trainee positions that can be filled by people who have received relevant pre-job training.
- ▶ The remainder of jobs will require some related job experience.
- ▶ In later years of construction, there will be a higher proportion of jobs in trades that have apprenticeship programs.



Wuskwatim Generating Station Project

Associated 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

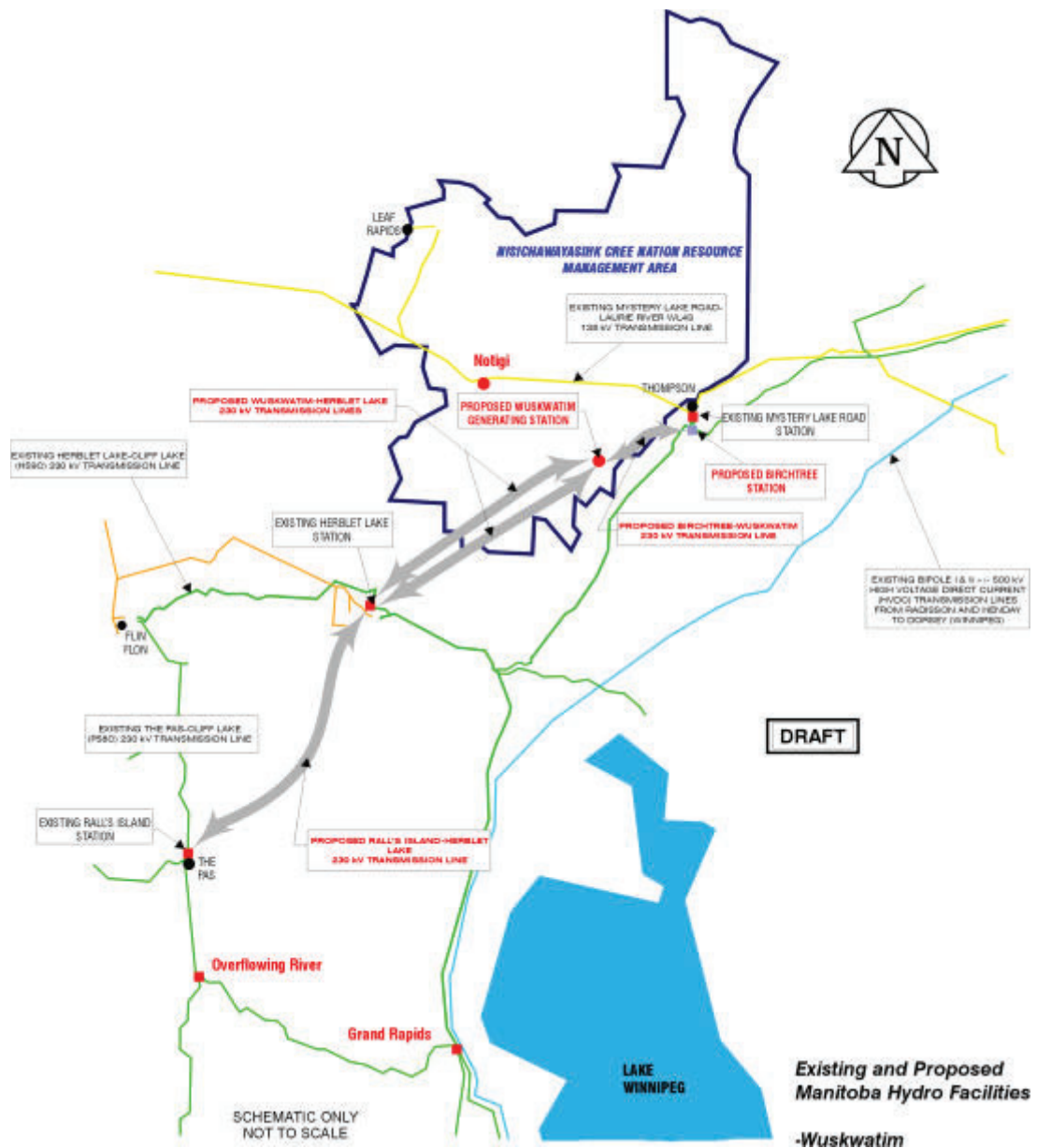
- ▶ A new transformer station would be required at the Wuskwatim Generating Station site.
- ▶ The transformer station would take the electricity from the generating station and transform it to the higher voltages necessary for transmission to the existing system.



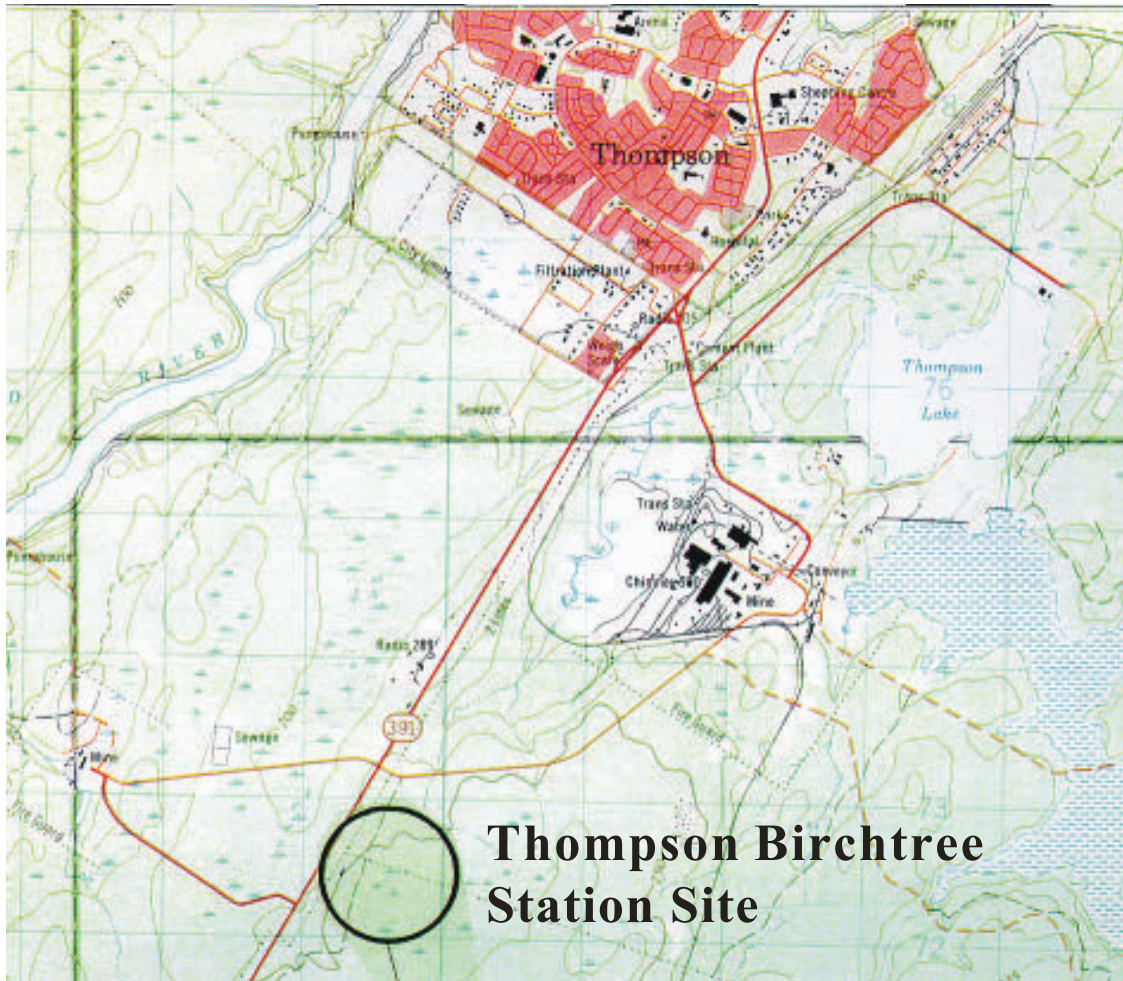
Other Transmission Facilities

- ▶ 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



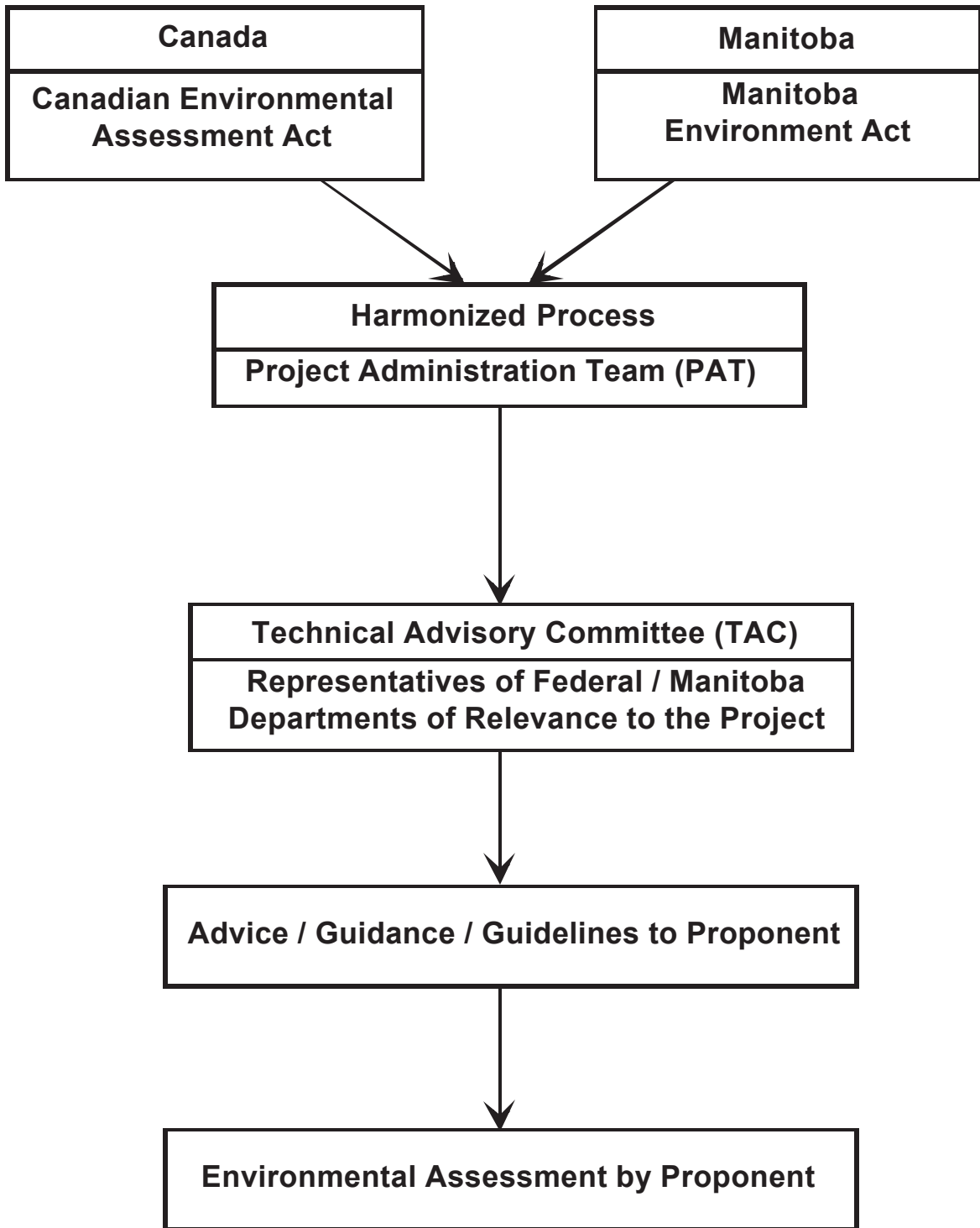
Birchtree Station: Proposed Site





Regulatory Review 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 NCN have:
 - ▶ Provided initial information to provincial/federal regulators;
 - ▶ Met with the provincial/federal Project Administration Team; and
 - ▶ Met with the Technical Advisory Committee, made up of representatives from relevant provincial and federal departments.





Regulatory Review Process (continued)

Main Steps in the Environmental Review and Decision Schedule:

- 1) The Environment Act Proposal Form (EAPF)
- 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 2 of Public Involvement Plan to introduce the Project to communities in the region.



Where are We Today? (continued)

- ▶ EAPFs for the generating station project and associated transmission facilities are being submitted to the provincial government in order to start the formal process of review by provincial and federal regulators.
- ▶ The initial focus is for the regulators to develop and finalize guidelines for the environmental assessment.
- ▶ For licensing and environmental review by the provincial and federal regulators, the Wuskwatim Generating Station is one project, and the associated Wuskwatim Transmission Facilities is a separate project.
- ▶ Separate applications will be made for each of these projects and separate EISs will be prepared for each of these projects. In order to facilitate public review, both projects are being addressed through an integrated Public Involvement Program.



Where are We Today? (continued)

- ▶ These documents simply start the environmental review process, but do not mean that any commitment has been made to proceed with the the Projects.
- ▶ After the EAPFs are filed, Manitoba Conservation will post information about the projects to their website and create an active file about the projects in appropriate established public registries (northern public registries are located in Thompson and The Pas).
- ▶ Draft guidelines for environmental assessments of both the generation project and associated transmission facilities will be included. Manitoba Conservation will invite public comment on these guideline documents during a 60-day review period. Thereafter, the guideline documents will be finalized by regulators.



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.

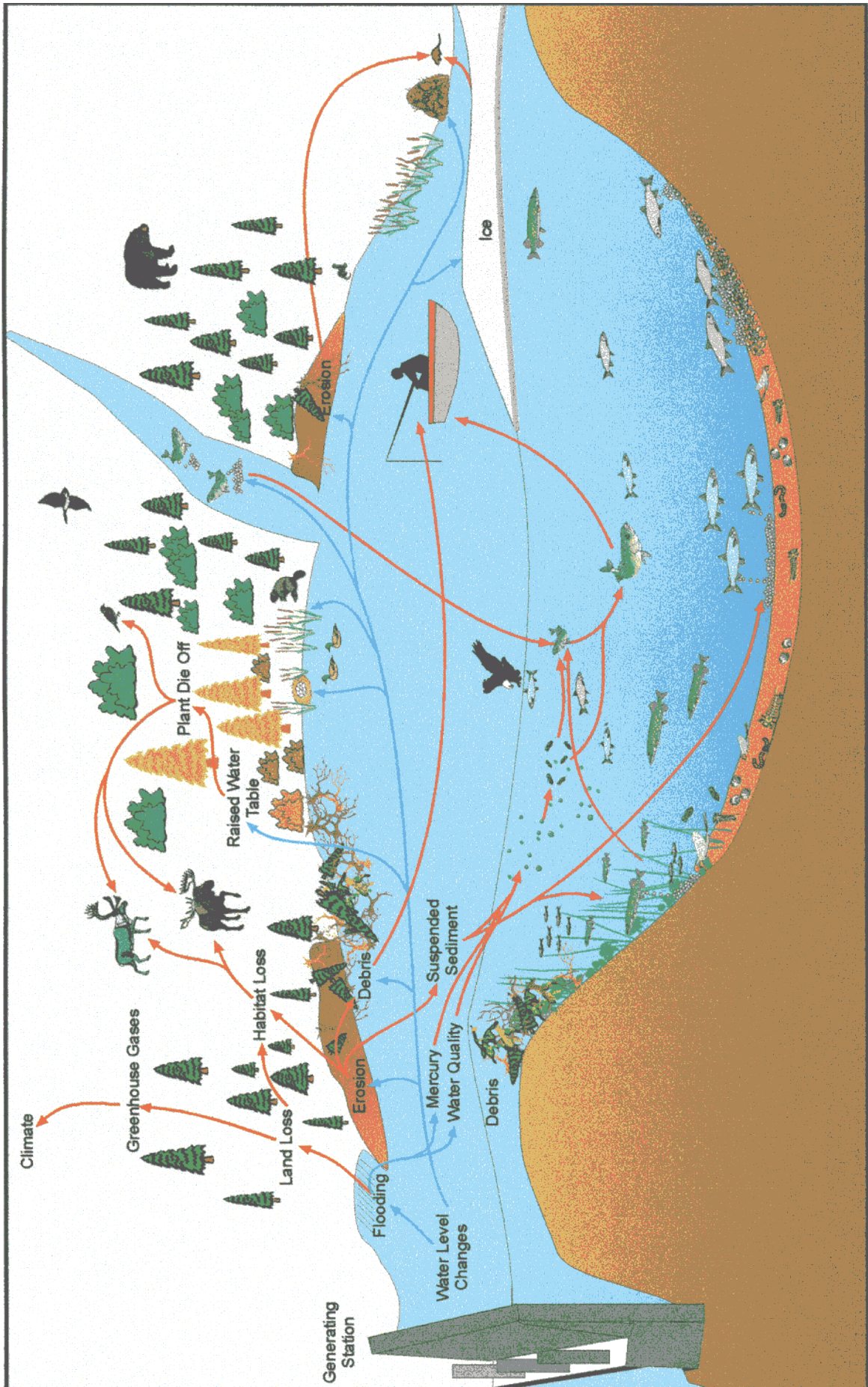


NCN/Manitoba Hydro Joint Study Program

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 and blasting; and
 - ▶ the significance of greenhouse gas emissions to global climate change.
- ▶ *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.



Physical Environment continued

- ▶ *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.
- ▶ *Ice conditions*
 - ▶ information from long-term ice monitoring studies and modeling work has been used to predict post-project ice conditions.



Water Quality/Water Chemistry

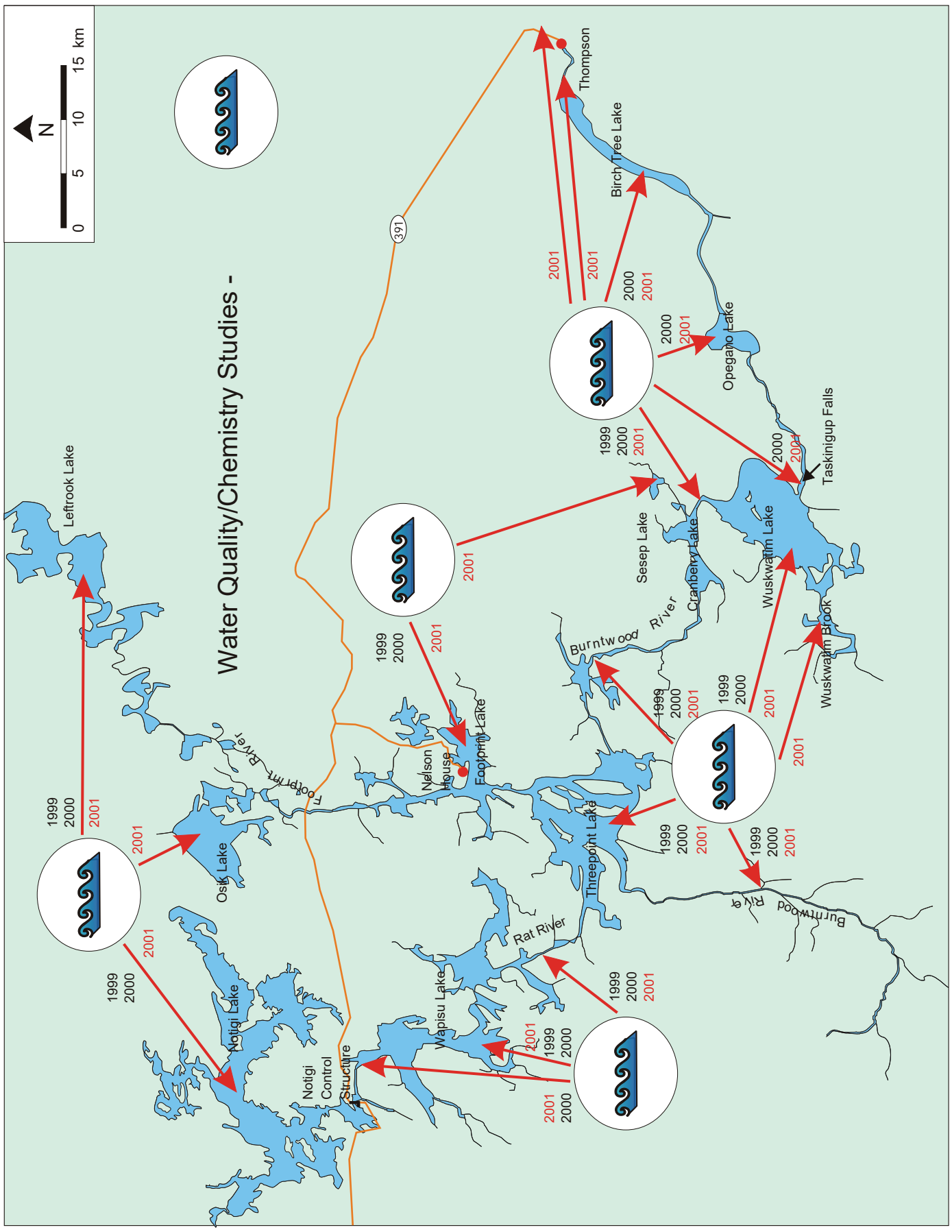
Water quality studies are being conducted:

- ▶ to predict effects of potential changes in water quality on aquatic life; and
- ▶ to predict effects of water quality changes 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 and due to erosion;
- ▶ the input of substances due to flooding (small area); and
- ▶ increased water residence time in Wuskwatim Lake.

Water Quality/Chemistry Studies -





Aquatic Environment

Aquatic Invertebrates

- ▶ zooplankton (small swimming animals) and benthic invertebrates (bugs that live on the bottom of lakes and rivers), 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.



Fish Movement and Fish Quality Studies

- ▶ *Fish movement and migration studies are being conducted to:*
 - ▶ determine when and where key species spawn;
 - ▶ identify other important habitats such as overwintering areas;
 - ▶ determine fish movements within and between lakes; and
 - ▶ confirm that fish do not move upstream over Taskinigup Falls.
- ▶ Studies are being conducted using both radio-telemetry studies and tagging studies.
- ▶ *Fish quality studies are also being conducted to determine:*
 - ▶ the present level of mercury in fish harvested by NCN; and the current “health” and “taste” of important fish species.



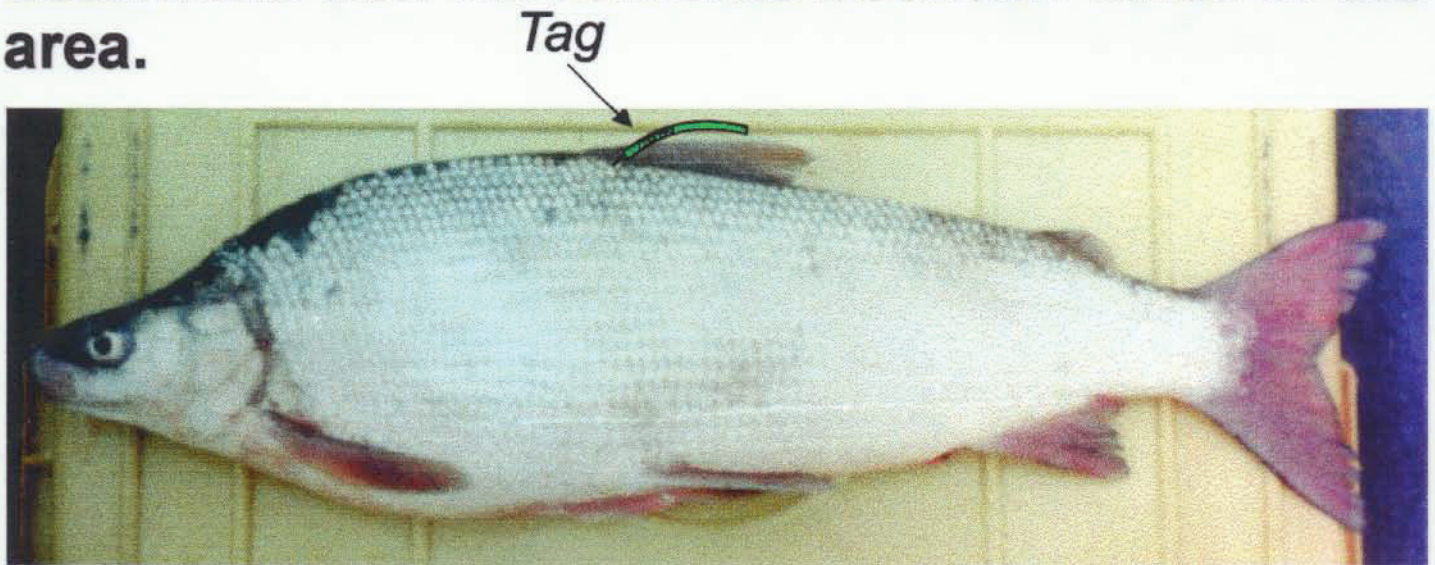
Attaching a radio-tag to a whitefish.



Derek Linklater holding up a radio-tagged pickerel at Wuskwatim Lake.

ATTENTION FISHERMEN

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



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

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



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;
 - ▶ 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

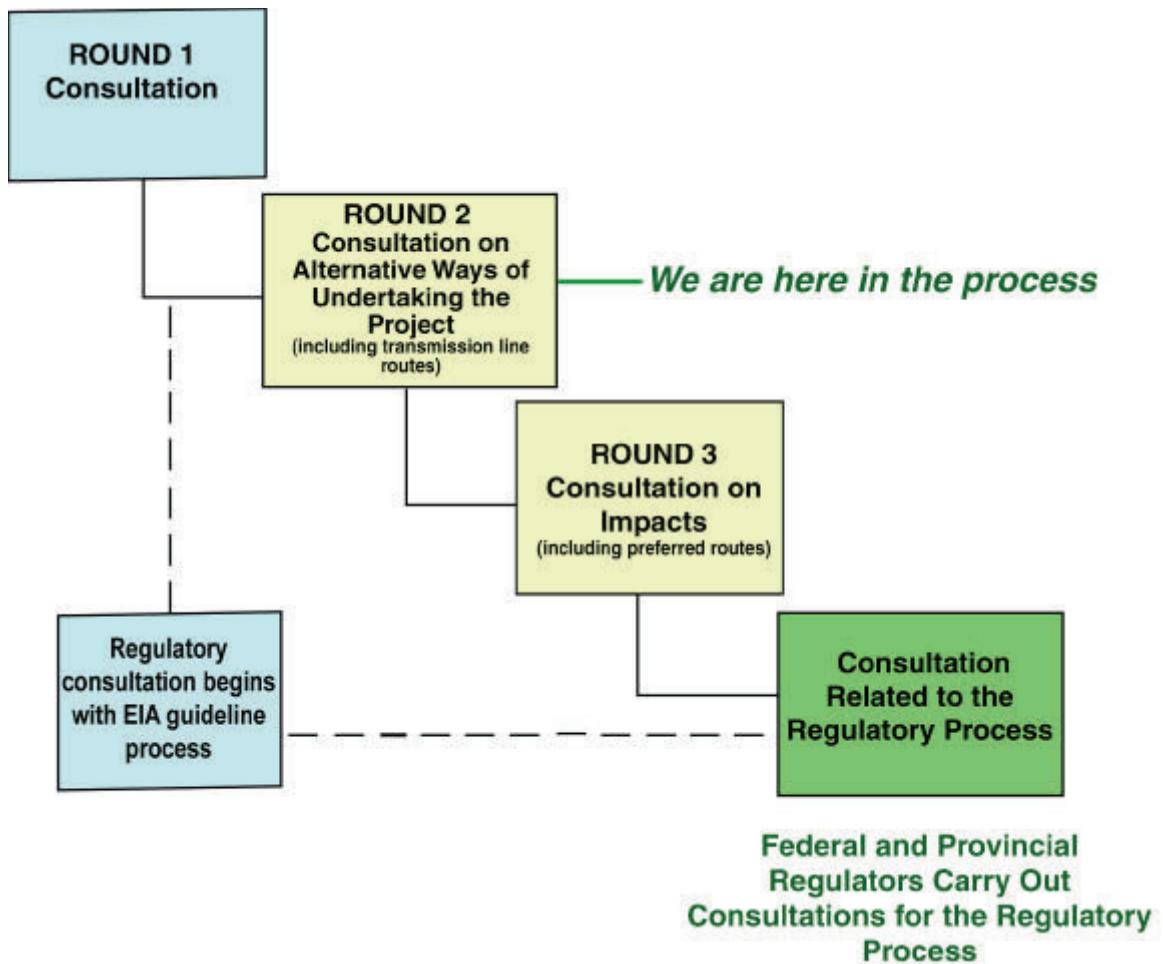
- ▶ *Wildlife and wildlife habitat studies are being conducted to provide information on:*
 - ▶ aquatic furbearer populations such as muskrat, beaver, otter, and mink in areas that could potentially be affected by the project;
 - ▶ mercury levels in muskrat and otter;
 - ▶ terrestrial furbearers (including 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;
 - ▶ 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

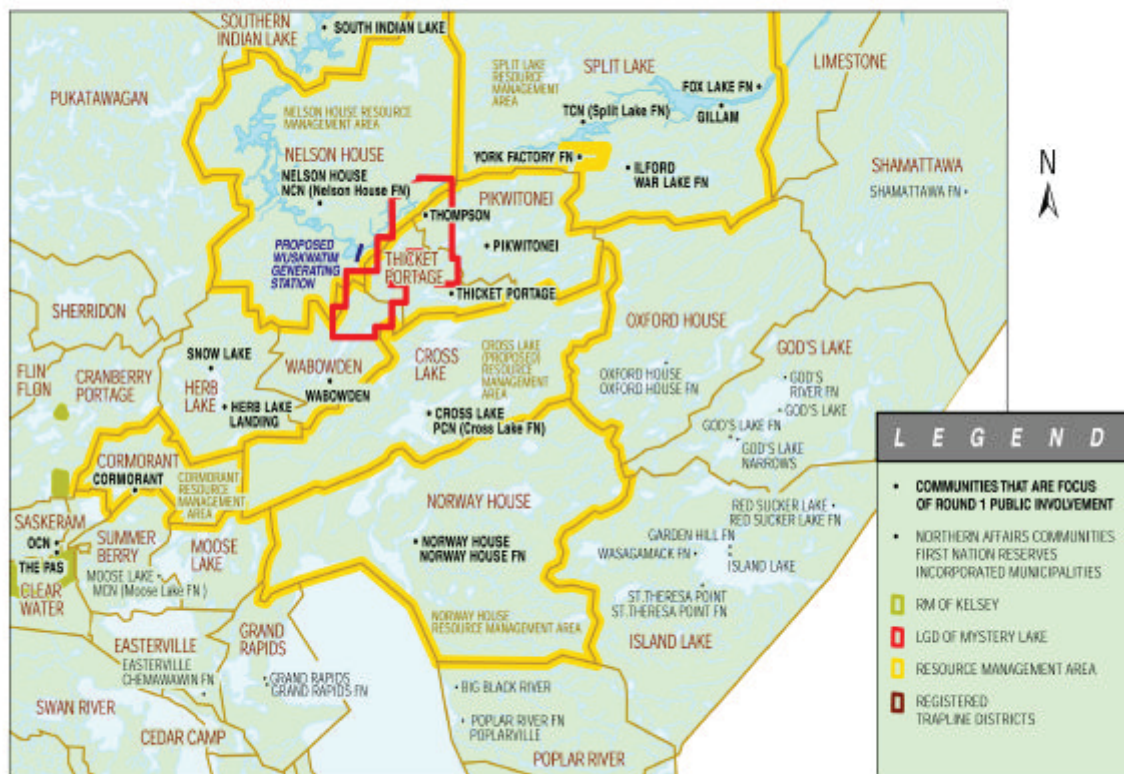
- ▶ the potential effects of the project on resource use have been identified by NCN as a key area of study.
- ▶ resource use studies are focusing on the following:
 - ▶ domestic and commercial fishing;
 - ▶ domestic hunting and gathering;
 - ▶ domestic and commercial trapping; and
 - ▶ domestic and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

The Public Involvement Plan Process



Communities in Round 1 Public Involvement

COMMUNITIES HIGHLIGHTED IN ROUND 1 OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN





What We Learned During Round 1 Public Involvement

Round One was held between September and November, 2001 to introduce the Project to elected leaders in communities in the region, to hear about issues and concerns with respect to the proposed project and to hear perspectives on further rounds of public involvement.

Frequent questions asked by communities:

- ▶ Communities upstream and downstream of the proposed project were concerned that the addition of the generating station would alter the way that the Churchill River Diversion is operated and cause new effects in their areas;
- ▶ All communities were interested in getting involved in employment and training benefits; some noted interest in other economic spin-offs as well;



What We Learned During Round 1 Public Involvement

- ▶ Questions were asked regarding the need for new transmission lines and routes;
- ▶ Questions were asked about the environmental review process and the nature and thoroughness of studies underway;
- ▶ Some community representatives complimented NCN and Manitoba Hydro on their joint planning process;
- ▶ Regarding public involvement, representatives expressed an interest in bringing information about the Project to their communities, in presentations at community meetings or at open houses.



Next Steps

- ▶ Continued environmental studies.
- ▶ A third round of consultation is planned for spring of 2002.
- ▶ Round Three will discuss anticipated impacts of the projects and ways to manage those impacts.
- ▶ More information on training and employment would be available in Round Three.
- ▶ 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?



What Happens Next...

- ▶ Follow up from meeting
 - ▶ Draft meeting notes prepared and returned to elected leaders
 - ▶ Ongoing contact
 - ▶ Opportunity for further involvement in Round Three 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) 484-3019

Marcel Moody
NCN Future Development
(204) 484-3018



Thank You

2.2.4 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 Two 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 Two community meetings.

InterGroup

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April 10, 2002

Mayor Reg Meade and Councillors
Wabowden Post Office
Wabowden, Manitoba
R0B 1S0

Dear Mayor Meade and Councillors:

**RE: DRAFT MEETING NOTES AND PRESENTATION OVERHEADS FROM NOVEMBER 27TH
COMMUNITY MEETING REGARDING PROPOSED WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION
AND ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES**

This letter is in follow up to the community meeting held on November 27th, 2001 in Wabowden, Manitoba regarding the possible Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities. Enclosed for your review are draft meeting notes. Please let me know 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 and interested community members. Further information regarding the project and consultation process can be found on Manitoba Hydro's website at www.hydro.ca; look for the link to **New Generation and Transmission Projects**. The information provided on this site is updated on a continual basis.

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) 484-3017 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: November 27, 2001
Location: Wabowden Community Hall

In Attendance: Mayor Reg Meade Wabowden
About 19 Community Members Wabowden
Marcel Moody Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN)
Councillor Jimmy Hunter-Spence NCN
Nick Barnes Manitoba Hydro, Winnipeg
Stuart Davies North/South Consultants
Janet Kinley InterGroup Consultants
Andrea Lamboo Miln InterGroup Consultants

Presenters: Janet Kinley InterGroup Consultants
Councillor Jimmy Hunter Spence NCN
Nick Barnes Manitoba Hydro
Stuart Davies North/South Consultants

Purpose: To introduce the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities to community members of Wabowden. To learn from community members about any initial issues and concerns, as well as to receive input regarding future public involvement in their communities.

MEETING NOTES

1. Opening

Mayor Reg Meade opened the meeting by welcoming presenters and stating that this presentation illustrates how partnerships can work. Spin offs from this potential partnership could benefit the rest of Manitoba. Mayor Meade also thanked NCN and Manitoba Hydro for coming to the community to present materials on the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station project.

Janet Kinley, InterGroup Consultants, thanked Mayor Reg Meade for the opportunity to talk with the community of Wabowden regarding the proposed project and to provide information. The Project is currently in the planning stages and no decisions have been made to date. She invited community members to share their views and questions. Janet indicated which communities Manitoba Hydro and NCN have visited to share similar information (see attached presentation).

Councillor Jimmy Hunter-Spence, NCN, shared opening remarks. He stated that project interest is very high at Nelson House. Manitoba Hydro and NCN are working together to make this a win-win partnership. They have examined many options and still need to decide further on transmission lines and facilities alternatives. He indicated that NCN is working with the Province of Manitoba, the Government of Canada and Manitoba Hydro to establish a training program and will be able to provide further information on training and education in the near future. NCN and Manitoba Hydro understand the challenges with training and helping people to develop the needed skills. NCN looks forward to hearing the views from Wabowden community members.

Nick Barnes, from Manitoba Hydro, indicated that a high priority for Manitoba Hydro is developing a good relationship with First Nations and other northern communities potentially affected by new projects. He explained that Manitoba Hydro is trying to do things differently than in the past, and as a result, is presently working towards developing a formal partnership with NCN. He noted that as a result of this process, NCN has been involved in all decisions about the proposed project. He further noted that NCN has played a key role in gathering field information, and has sat on all planning committees. He emphasized that no decision has been made yet about whether the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station and/or Associated Transmission Facilities will proceed, but that Manitoba Hydro and NCN wanted to start the formal process of getting public feedback on their plans. This is why they were holding the community meeting in War Lake.

2. Agenda, Background and Overview

The agenda for the meeting was outlined and a brief background and overview were provided (see attached presentation).

3. The Proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station

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

- Special note was made to illustrate that the proposed project is quite small (approximately 200 MW) in comparison to other projects such as Limestone (approximately 1300 MW).
- Also noted was that the amount of new flooding expected with the proposed project would be less than one square kilometre. This was a very important consideration for both Manitoba Hydro and NCN. NCN felt strongly about reducing the amount of flooding.
- Operation of the CRD is not expected to change if the project were developed.
- Alternative locations for the access road are being examined at the present time.
- Transmission lines and facilities should not impact the community of Wabowden.

Key Issues Raised:

Road Construction

- A community member inquired when road construction would begin. Nick Barnes indicated that construction might start in late 2003. A community member asked what would happen to the

trees that would be cleared as a result of construction. Nick Barnes indicated that they are starting to review what could be done with the timber. The community member asked when they would know for sure. Nick responded that a firmer decision should be made in the next few months, as this will need to be explained in the Environmental Impact Statement. Janet Kinley added that we are recording questions and will bring further information to answer questions in the third round of consultation.

- A community member asked if road construction would be from Highway 6. Nick Barnes indicated that there has been discussion on this option because it is the closest, but that this option is unlikely; however, a final decision on road location has not been determined. A further question was asked regarding the impact of flooding on timber. A community member was concerned that logging should be done prior to flooding so that the resources are not lost. Marcel Moody indicated that the goal is to minimize the effects of flooding. He iterated that the first flood devastated Nelson House, so this is a concern for Nelson House as well.

Water Levels

- A community member inquired if the proposed project would affect Setting Lake. Stuart Davies explained that the CRD resulted in water effects. The proposed Wuskwatim Project will not cause any change in the amount of water. A community member noted that there were indications of an underground river in this area.
- A community member stated that less than half a square kilometre of flooding is quite small. Stuart Davies reiterated that the proposed project is quite small.

Employment and Training

- A community member asked where training would take place. Marcel Moody stated that most of the training opportunity would go to NCN members, but more information will be made available in the next few months as to what the process will be and where training will be made available.
- A community member asked if training opportunities will be made available to Wabowden. Marcel Moody indicated that there will be training opportunities for NCN, and for the other northern communities as whole. Janet Kinley added that discussions about training are currently ongoing with NCN, Manitoba Hydro, the Province of Manitoba and the Government of Canada.
- A community member inquired if Manitoba Hydro will be involved in any training. Nick Barnes indicated that Manitoba Hydro is funding part of the training program. Janet Kinley added that training logistics are currently being worked out.
- A community member inquired what the hiring procedure for project jobs would be and where interested applicants should apply. Marcel Moody indicated that these details are still being worked out and need further discussion. Janet Kinley noted that the Burntwood Nelson Agreement would apply again, and that the Agreement is being renegotiated between Manitoba Hydro and construction unions. Marcel Moody indicated that NCN is seeking first preference on employment, followed by qualified northern Aboriginal residents.

Joint Environmental Studies

- A community member inquired whether or not fish ladders would be utilized with this project. Stuart Davies stated that fish ladders would not be needed. According to NCN community members, no fish pass over Taskinigup Falls because the falls are too big. Fish travel down but

not up-stream. The community member stated that perhaps the fish were travelling up prior to the CRD. The community member thought that fish ladders were a requirement when developing. Stuart Davies stated that fish passage is being examined. Fish ladders are required only when there are no natural barriers in place to restrict fish travel.

- A community member shared that there is an increased number of smelt, which is a new fish, in the area. The smelt come down and can not get back up. Stuart Davies indicated that if there had been a natural barrier, these fish would not be able to get down to these areas. A community member iterated that there is a problem with new species of fish in the area and these patterns should have been examined a long time ago.

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).

- Regulators focus on both environmental effects and the effects that the project will have on people.
- The final decision for a license would be late 2003, at which point a decision would have to be made whether or not to construct the project (late 2003).
- Community was invited to ask questions regarding the Regulatory Review Process. There were no questions on the Regulatory Review Process at that time.

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).

- Although it is not expected that the proposed project would cause measurable effects past Opegano Lake, some communities, through the public involvement process, have expressed concerns with effects past Opegano Lake. Further studies are being done on the areas of concern.
- Community members were invited to ask questions regarding the Joint Environmental Studies. There were no questions regarding the Joint Environmental Studies 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).

- Transmission line alternatives are an important aspect of the proposed project. Further consultation on this issue will occur with the potentially affected communities. The transmission lines associated with this project would not be located near the Wabowden area.
- During the third round of public involvement, more information will be available on employment and training, the joint studies being conducted as well as further clarification on community questions.

- The federal and provincial governments will post information in public registries about the Project; initially they will invite the public to comment on guidelines for the environmental assessment studies.
- Community members were invited to ask questions regarding the Public Involvement Process. There were no questions regarding the Public Involvement Process at that time.

7. Next Steps, Closing and Contact Information

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

- Community members were asked if further involvement would be of interest, e.g. another presentation in Round Three of public involvement targeted for spring of 2002.
- The general response from the community was that further involvement would be welcomed.
- Community members were also invited to share future questions and comments via e-mail, telephone, etc. (contacts were provided – see attached presentation and project newsletters).
- A community member asked if elections in the north would stop or slow down the process for the proposed project. Janet Kinley stated that she did not expect politics to slow the process. Marcel Moody stated that NCN has an election this summer, but does not anticipate any problems.

Mayor Reg Meade closed the public meeting by thanking Manitoba Hydro and NCN for coming to the community, and by stating that Wabowden is pleased to be part of the process.

Recorded by: A. Lamboo Miln

P:\P539(2)\5. Public Consultation\5.4 Public Involvement Plan - General\5.4.4 2nd Round Consultations\Meeting Notes\Community notes\Final versions\Meeting notes Wabowden - Final.doc\Thursday, 30 May 2002



Suite 604-283 Portage Avenue
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fax: (204) 943-3922
e-mail: intergroup@intergroup.ca

May 23rd, 2002

Mayor Warren Pagee and Councillors
Pikwitonei Post Office
Pikwitonei, MB R0B 1E0

Dear Mayor Pagee and Councillors:

RE: DRAFT MEETING NOTES AND PRESENTATION OVERHEADS FROM THE NOVEMBER 29TH COMMUNITY MEETING REGARDING PROPOSED WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION AND ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES

This letter is in follow-up to the community meeting held on November 29th, 2001 in Pikwitonei, Manitoba regarding the possible Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities. Enclosed for your review are draft meeting notes. Please let me know by May 30th if there are any errors or omissions in the notes. Also enclosed for your use and information are copies of the presentation overheads.

We have included extra copies of the draft meeting notes and presentation overheads 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.ca; look for the link to **New Generation and Transmission Projects**. The information provided on this site is updated on a continual basis.

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) 484-3017 or Norman Linklater (204) 484-3019 (Co-managers of Future Development for NCN).

Thank you for your hospitality. 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

WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION AND ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION LINES COMMUNITY MEETING

*Meeting with the Community of Pikwitonei
@ June 4th, 2002*

Date of Meeting: November 29, 2001

Location: Pikwitonei Community Hall

In Attendance:

Mayor Warren Pagee	Pikwitonei
About 22 Community Members	Pikwitonei
Bruce Hickey	Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN)
Councillor Jim Hunter Spence	NCN
Nick Barnes	Manitoba Hydro, Winnipeg
Stuart Davies	North/South Consultants
Janet Kinley	InterGroup Consultants
Andrea Lamboo Miln	InterGroup Consultants

Presenters:

Janet Kinley	InterGroup Consultants
Councillor Jim Hunter Spence	NCN
Nick Barnes	Manitoba Hydro
Stuart Davies	North/South Consultants

Purpose: **To introduce the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities to community members of Pikwitonei. To learn from community members about any initial issues and concerns they may have, as well as to receive input regarding future public involvement in their communities.**

MEETING NOTES

1. Opening

Mayor Warren Pagee opened the meeting by welcoming presenters and thanking Manitoba Hydro and NCN for coming to the community to share information on the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station project.

Janet Kinley, InterGroup Consultants, thanked Mayor Warren Pagee for the invitation to come to the community to discuss the proposed project. She encouraged questions and comments throughout the presentation. She also stated that this proposed project is still in the early stages of planning and no decisions have been made. Manitoba Hydro and NCN are currently examining a potential partnership in the project. There will be further opportunities to share information in the spring.

- A community member wanted to know why Northerners do not benefit from cheaper hydro rates. He expressed concern that communities such as Pikwitonei are not part of adequate consultation prior to development projects taking place. The community member was also concerned about potential flooding. Janet Kinley indicated that there would be water level impact information presented during this meeting.

Jimmy Hunter Spence, NCN, shared opening remarks. He stated that NCN is excited about the proposed project. He iterated that the community in Nelson House has been very involved in the process, and that the community's input has been very valuable. NCN looks forward to hearing Pikwitonei's views.

Nick Barnes, Manitoba Hydro, thanked the community for taking the time to come and listen to what the presenters had to say. He mentioned that a high priority for Manitoba Hydro is developing good relationships with First Nations potentially affected by new projects, and that they are trying to do things differently than in the past. He indicated that a formal relationship has been established between Manitoba Hydro and NCN, and that this relationship has resulted in an Agreement-in-Principle between the parties. As a result of this relationship, NCN has been involved in all decisions about the Project, and has been represented on all planning committees. NCN has also participated in the gathering of information under the field studies associated with the environmental impact assessment. Manitoba Hydro has benefited significantly from this involvement. Nick reinforced that a decision to proceed with the project has not yet been made, but that both Manitoba Hydro and NCN wanted to start the formal process of receiving feedback on their plans.

- A community member indicated that his main concern was lack of effective involvement in the past. Nick Barnes offered to discuss and record the community member's concerns at the end of the meeting.

2. Agenda, Background and Overview

The agenda for the meeting was outlined and a brief background and overview were provided (see attached presentation).

3. The Proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station

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

- Special note was made that this proposed project is quite small (approximately 200 MW, 20 metre head, 3 turbines) in comparison to other projects such as Limestone (approximately 1300 MW, with 10 turbines).
- Also noted was that the amount of new flooding expected with the proposed project would be less than half a square kilometre. Flooding was a very important consideration for both Manitoba

Hydro and NCN. NCN felt strongly about ensuring a minimal amount of flooding in association with this project.

- The operation of the Churchill River Diversion is not expected to change if the project is developed.
- The jobs that require more training would not occur until later in the project development, e.g. third year onward.

Key Issues Raised:

Employment and Training Opportunities

- A community member asked how jobs and training will be made available, inquiring as to whether or not parts of the project would be contracted out and how communities could get involved. Nick Barnes indicated that Manitoba Hydro is working that out with the Province of Manitoba, the Government of Canada, and NCN. All of these bodies will play a role in training. Bruce Hickey further stated that these parties are currently involved in negotiations to address how training can be accessed. Once developed, more information on training opportunities will be shared with interested communities. Janet Kinley added that the hiring process would follow the Burntwood Nelson Agreement (currently being renegotiated between Manitoba Hydro and the construction unions), and that specific ways to be referred for employment would be outlined once finalized.
- A community member stated that, in the case of the Limestone project, many northerners got fired. He was also concerned that, in many cases, individuals did not reap the benefits of the training program e.g. did not receive any hours towards their apprenticeship. Bruce Hickey stated that NCN is very concerned about that and they are looking to avoid some of the mistakes made with the Limestone project in terms of employment and training.
- A community member asked if Pikwitonei would get money to support individuals being trained. Bruce Hickey indicated that there is money available for training; however, it is unclear at this time how the money will be allocated. The community member asked how much money would be set aside. Bruce Hickey responded that approximately 25% of funding would be reserved for northerners apart from NCN members. The community member further inquired where training would be made available. Bruce Hickey indicated that training locations have not yet been determined.
- A community member asked if they would be included with NCN when training and jobs were allocated and whether or not they would be directly involved in the hiring process. He asked where exactly Pikwitonei falls within the different levels for training and employment allocation. Bruce Hickey stated that Pikwitonei would be included in the 25% of funding that will be allocated to non-NCN members for training. The community member asked if any of the training dollars would be allocated solely for Pikwitonei. Bruce Hickey indicated that training dollars will actually be in a pool of money, and that there will be a process to apply for training (which has not yet been determined). The community member was interested in having a certain number of positions allocated to Pikwitonei rather than having to apply through an application process.
- A community member inquired as to what other places are directly or indirectly involved. Janet Kinley stated that NCN is involved as a potential partner with Manitoba Hydro in the project. Bruce Hickey indicated that this would mean that NCN would be a partial owner of the facility as a result of a financial contribution. The community member expressed the concern that as a

result of the partnership, only NCN members would be hired for available positions. Bruce Hickey indicated that they would be bound by the Burntwood Nelson Agreement to have an Aboriginal persons preference. The community member inquired if that would include Metis, Native. Bruce Hickey replied that it would encompass a broad spectrum of Aboriginal people. Janet Kinley added that Manitoba Hydro and the construction unions are renegotiating the Burntwood Nelson Agreement for the project, and that NCN is seeking a first order of preference for NCN members to be included in the Agreement.

- A community member asked if training would be set up ahead of time. Bruce Hickey responded that no decisions have been made on how to allocate training funds but they do hope that training would start by mid 2002. He further stated that there is additional money available for training through the Province of Manitoba that is not solely for NCN.
- A community member congratulated NCN and Manitoba Hydro on their proposed partnership. He inquired if the community consultation within Nelson House has been completed. Councillor Jim Hunter-Spence stated that community consultation is an ongoing process. The community member further inquired if all of the 350 possible jobs created would go to NCN. Councillor Hunter-Spence stated that he could not estimate how many NCN members would be qualified and hired.
- A community member inquired how many jobs would be available for maintenance and operation once the project was completed. Bruce Hickey indicated that the number of jobs would be very small (possibly between 10 and 12).

New Flooding

- A community member asked if there would be flooding beyond the Burntwood River in Thompson. If there will be, are there any plans to compensate trappers during or after the development? The community member would like to see a local flood committee in place to monitor the situation. Nick Barnes indicated that there would be a commitment to fix problems if they are directly related to the development.
- Nick Barnes inquired if the community currently receives information on water levels. A community member responded that the information is on the radio, but it is on at 8:00 a.m. when traps have already been set.
- A community member wanted to know if the water levels would change on the Burntwood River. Nick Barnes indicated that Manitoba Hydro does not expect to operate CRD differently as a result of the Project.

General Questions

- A community member asked if Notigi was a separate project. Nick Barnes responded that it is a separate project.
- A community member asked if this project would tie in with Bipole III, and if there would be cross connections. Nick Barnes indicated that there would be no direct connection.

4. Regulatory Review Process

In this section the 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).

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).

- The studies are responsive to concerns raised in communities through the Public Involvement Program.
- Information on Heritage Resources was collected under the Joint Study Program.
- Trappers in the Wuskwatim area have been affected by the CRD (e.g., water level fluctuations, effects on aquatic furbearers).

Questions regarding the Joint Environmental Studies

- A community member asked how long the study had been taking place. Stuart Davies indicated since 1998. The community member asked if there was any information for the period prior to the CRD. Stuart Davies stated that researchers are using some pre-CRD data in their analysis.
- A community member expressed concern that, before the CRD, fish could swim up stream and now they can not. Stuart Davies noted that Wuskwatim is a natural barrier, and that there is no fish movement over Taskinigup Falls.
- A community member inquired if climate change would be built into the studies somehow. Stuart Davies indicated that climate change will be factored in, the guidelines provided by the regulators should include what exactly should be studied in relation to climate change. A community member indicated that climate change also affects the ice conditions and winter road seasons.
- A community member expressed concern as to what would happen to trappers who have cabins along the shoreline if the shoreline continues to erode year after year. He inquired as to what Manitoba Hydro would do to compensate trappers. Stuart Davies indicated that, if damage to the cabins is a direct result of the project, Manitoba Hydro has compensated in the past; however, no noticeable effects are expected past Birchtree Lake.

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).

- Round One of public involvement took place between September and November of 2001. Communities received information and the Round One Newsletter.
- Round Two of public involvement started in late November and is expected to run until the end of January.
- Round Three of public involvement is expected to take place in April or May of 2002.

- The federal and provincial government will also provide consultation opportunities to discuss issues and concerns in relation to the proposed project. This process will most likely start soon. The regulators will provide guidelines and ask for public comment on what should be studied for the Environmental Impact Statement.
- Janet Kinley asked the community if they would like Manitoba Hydro and NCN to bring further information to the community in Round Three of public involvement. Mayor Pagee indicated that the community would be interested in being part of Round Three and in particular, receiving information on employment opportunities and flooding related to the Project.

7. Next Steps, Closing and Contact Information

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

- Janet Kinley asked community members if there were any final questions. Mayor Pagee reiterated that employment and training opportunities are of great interest to Pikwitonei and he would like to see more information and a commitment to Pikwitonei in Round Three. Bruce Hickey stated that NCN will look at these issues; however, it will be difficult to allocate money directly to communities. Mayor Pagee stated that application processes for training are less desirable. He would prefer to have a certain number of positions allocated to Pikwitonei and for NCN and Manitoba Hydro to work collaboratively with Pikwitonei's resource centre.

Mayor Warren Pagee closed the public meeting by thanking Manitoba Hydro and NCN for coming to the community.

Recorded by: A. Lamboo Miln

P:\P539(2)\5. Public Consultation\5.4 Public Involvement Plan - General\5.4.4 2nd Round Consultations\Meeting Notes\Community notes\Pikwitonei, Nov.29th - with Stu and Nick's changes.doc\Thursday, 30 May 2002

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April 10, 2002

Mayor Arnold Bignell and Councillors
Community of Thicket Portage
Thicket Portage Post Office
Thicket Portage, MB R0B 1R0

Dear Mayor Bignell and Councillors:

RE: DRAFT MEETING NOTES AND PRESENTATION OVERHEADS FROM THE JANUARY 24TH COMMUNITY MEETING REGARDING THE PROPOSED WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION AND ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES

This letter is in follow-up to the community meeting held on January 24th, 2002 in Thicket Portage, Manitoba regarding the possible Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities. Enclosed for your review are draft meeting notes. Please let me know if there are any errors or omissions in the notes.

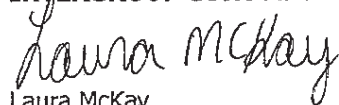
We have included extra copies of the draft meeting notes and presentation overheads for distribution to Councillors and interested community members. Further information regarding the project and consultation process can be found on Manitoba Hydro's website at www.hydro.ca; look for the link to **New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

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) 484-3017 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: January 24th, 2002
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Thicket Portage Community Hall

In Attendance: *Community Members:*
Deputy Mayor Howard Pronteau, Thicket Portage
Councilor Ricky Pronteau, Thicket Portage
12 Community Members, Thicket Portage

Presenters:
Chief Jerry Primrose, NCN
Nick Barnes, Manitoba Hydro
Janet Kinley, InterGroup Consultants
Stuart Davies, North/South Consultants
Laura McKay, InterGroup Consultants

- PURPOSE:** **Community meeting in War Lake to:**
- **Introduce the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities to War Lake community members;**
 - **To learn about issues and/or concerns community members may have about the proposed project; and**
 - **To receive input regarding future public involvement processes in their community.**

1. Opening

Janet Kinley opened the meeting by thanking Councillor Ricky Pronteau and Councillor Natalie Bittern for the invitation to speak with community members about the proposed project. She thanked the community members for attending, and extended condolences on the passing of Mayor McCleverty. Community members were encouraged to voice their questions and comments throughout the presentation. The other presenters were asked to introduce themselves and to say a few words about their involvement in the evening's proceedings.

Chief Primrose shared opening remarks by introducing himself and discussing NCN's role in the proposed project and related public involvement process to date. He noted that NCN has participated in other community meetings, and stated that, overall, their involvement has been a positive and enjoyable experience. He invited the community to share any concerns or questions they may have.

Nick Barnes, Manitoba Hydro, thanked everyone for taking the time to attend the meeting. He indicated that a high priority for Manitoba Hydro is developing good relationships with First Nations and other northern communities potentially affected by new projects. He explained

that Manitoba Hydro is trying to do things differently than in the past, and mentioned the formal relationship that has been established with NCN. He noted that as a result of this relationship, NCN has been involved in all decisions about the proposed project. He further noted that NCN has played a key role in gathering field information, and has sat on all planning committees. Nick reinforced that no decision has been made to proceed with the project to date. He explained that Manitoba Hydro and NCN wanted to start the formal process of getting public feedback on their plans, and that is why they were holding the community meeting in Thicket Portage.

Stuart Davies also shared opening remarks by thanking everyone for attending the evening's proceedings. He explained that he would outline the regulatory process underlying the environmental impact assessment, as well as associated environmental studies both planned and under way.

Janet Kinley, introduced Henry Wood (NCN) and Laura McKay.

2. Presentations

Presentations on the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities were made by Janet Kinley, Chief Primrose, Stuart Davies and Nick Barnes. A full version of the presentation is attached. Topics addressed were as follows:

- **Agenda, Background and Overview:** presented by Janet Kinley.
- **NCN's Perspective and Involvement in the Process to Date:** presented by Chief Primrose. Provided a brief outline of the size, location and stages of the project. He noted the following:
 - The approach taken by Manitoba Hydro, as well as the relationship established with NCN, represents a new approach to development in the north. Elected leaders from NCN obtained approval from Band members prior to embarking on discussions with Manitoba Hydro.
 - Environmental and socio-economic studies are already underway, and further studies are planned.
 - A special note was made that training and employment opportunities would be distributed on a preferential basis to NCN and other Northern communities. He explained that lessons from the Limestone project regarding employment and training are being integrated into the project, so that positive economic impacts will have a more long-term impact on the region. He noted that 25 per cent of the anticipated training funds available under the project would be reserved for other Northern communities.
- **The Proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station:** presented by Nick Barnes. Provided an outline of the project location, the fundamental design assumptions, project timeline and manpower requirements (see attached presentation). He noted the following:
 - The proposed generating station is relatively small (approximately 200 MW, 20m head, 3 turbines) in comparison to other projects such as Limestone (approximately 1300 MW, with 10 turbines). The size and design of the generating station was chosen, after consultations with NCN, to minimise flooding and environmental impacts. With its current design, the project would result in less than one square kilometer of flooding.
 - The proposed project would not alter the current CRD regime. The operation of the CRD has been an area of concern for other communities participating in the public involvement process.

- The more skilled trades positions under the project would not begin until the third year of construction, and as a result, there would be time and opportunity for local training prior to the hiring process.
- **Regulatory review process:** presented by Stuart Davies. Presented an overview of the relevant regulatory and licensing requirements, and outlined the main steps in the environmental review and decision-making schedule. He also highlighted where the process stood at the time of the meeting (see attached presentation). He noted that both the provincial and federal levels of government are involved in the regulatory and assessment process (see attached presentation). A special note was made of the timing and location of the upcoming Clean Environment Commission (CEC) hearings:
 - Thompson, February 11th;
 - Nelson House, February 12th;
 - Winnipeg, February 18th; and,
 - Opaskwayak Cree Nation February 19th.
- **Joint Environmental Studies:** presented by Stuart Davies. Reviewed the NCN/Manitoba Hydro Joint Environmental Study Program, and outlined the program objectives. Information regarding the physical environment, water quality, aquatic environment, terrestrial environment and resource use studies was presented (see attached presentation). He noted the following:
 - An ecosystem-based approach has been used in the studies already underway, and will be used in upcoming studies. Under this approach, pathways between ecosystem components are identified, and all impacts are investigated for links back to resource users.
 - The studies were designed to respond to concerns raised by communities in the area.
- **Public Involvement Process:** presented by Janet Kinley. Provided an overview of the Public Involvement Process for the proposed project, and highlighted the communities that have been involved to date. She outlined what was learned from participating communities during Round One of public involvement (see attached presentation). She noted the following:
 - Round One of public involvement took place between September and November of 2001. Communities received information and the Round One Newsletter.
 - Round Two of public involvement started in late November. A special note was made of the upcoming open houses in Thompson and Nelson House, which are part of the consultation during Round Two.
 - Round Three of public involvement is expected to take place in the Spring of 2002, this round will bring the results of the environmental and socio-economic studies back to the communities.

Janet Kinley asked participants if they would like Manitoba Hydro and NCN to bring further information to the community in Round Three of public involvement. Councillor Ricky Pronteau indicated that the community would be interested in receiving further information.

- **Next Steps, Closing and Contact Information:** presented by Janet Kinley. She provided contact information, and invited further comments and questions.

3. Issues/Questions

During the presentations, community members asked questions and indicated their concerns about the projects. Their issues/questions and, where applicable, the responses provided are outlined below.

ISSUES/CONCERNS

RESPONSE

RE: Background and Overview

- A community member expressed concern that construction of the proposed Wuskwatim generating station, and/or other potential projects in the region (Notigi specifically), would cause hydro rates to increase.
Nick Barnes replied that hydro rates were not expected to increase as a result of the proposed project. He explained that during the initial period of the station's lifespan the electricity would be exported to the United States, and because of this, the project would be a profitable undertaking not requiring a rate increase. Chief Primrose added that construction of the potential Notigi project, if approved, would not begin until 2014. Stuart Davies reiterated that because the electricity is for export, the consumer (the United States) will bear the cost of construction and generation.
- A community member asked if they would receive a copy of the meeting minutes.
Janet Kinley answered that yes, the minutes would be sent to the community in draft form for review and comment, and that they would be available at the community council office.

RE: NCN's Perspective and Involvement

- A community member asked how many communities would be eligible under the training and employment package.
Chief Primrose explained that those details have not yet been finalized, but would be available for discussion in Round Three of the public consultation process. He noted that this concern would be documented and followed up.
- A community member asked who would receive the other 75 per cent of the available training funds.
Chief Primrose explained that these funds would be allocated to members of NCN.
- A community member commented that 25 per cent of training funds was not a significant number, particularly when distributed throughout the entire Northern Manitoba region.

RE: Joint Environmental Studies

ISSUES/CONCERNS

- A Community member asked if the Lakes near Thicket Portage would be affected by the proposed generating station.
- Councillor Pronteau asked whether there would be places for community members to read or follow up on the environmental studies.
- A community member asked if the environmental impact statement would be accessible through the Internet.

RE: Training and Employment

- Councillor Pronteau asked if more long-term employment opportunities with Manitoba Hydro would be made available to community members: opportunities that extend beyond the construction phase of this particular project.
- A community member asked whether training facilities and programs would be located in Thompson.

RESPONSE

Stuart Davies explained that some head waters on the Burntwood River are located in the Thicket Portage Resource Management Area, but that these headwaters flow toward the river and are not expected to be affected.

Janet Kinley responded that a public registry containing the Draft Guidelines for the environmental impact assessment, as well as other project related material, could be accessed by any community member. She indicated that she believed the Public Registry in Thompson was located at the public library, and that she would follow-up on this issue. She also explained that a number of reports and studies would be on the CEC's website in the future.

Nick Barnes noted that Manitoba Hydro was planning to have the document available through their website. Stuart Davies replied that the size of the document might make it difficult to place on the Internet.

Nick Barnes replied that he was not familiar with upcoming employment programs, but that he would look into the issue. Stuart Davies noted that Manitoba Hydro has made a direct attempt to increase Aboriginal involvement in their workforce force. He further commented that training and employment opportunities linked to projects such as Wuskwatim raise the skill and experience level of Northern residents, thereby increasing their opportunities with organizations like Manitoba Hydro.

Stuart Davies and Janet Kinley responded that this issue had not been decided upon, and that more details would be available in Round Three of the consultation process. Nick Barnes said that he would look into the issue.

ISSUES/CONCERNS

- Councillor Pronteau asked that more information on the training and employment opportunities be sent to the community, so that preparations and planning could be initiated.

RESPONSE

The presenters responded that this type of information would be brought to the community as soon as possible.

RE: Financial Impact

- A community member asked if the Wuskwatim project would impact the value of either the American or Canadian dollar.

Janet Kinley responded that a project of this size was not likely to have a significant impact on currency values.

4. Closing

Deputy Mayor Howard Pronteau closed the meeting by thanking the presenters for coming to the community.

Recorded by L. McKay



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April 10, 2002

Chief Arnold Ouskun and Councillors
War Lake First Nation
General Delivery
Ilford, MB R0B 0S0

Dear Chief Ouskun and Councillors:

RE: DRAFT MEETING NOTES AND PRESENTATION OVERHEADS FROM FEBRUARY 12TH COMMUNITY MEETING REGARDING THE PROPOSED WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION AND ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES

This letter is in follow up to the community meeting held on February 12th, 2002 in War Lake, Manitoba regarding the possible Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities. Enclosed for your review are draft meeting notes. Please let me know 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 and interested community members. Further information regarding the project and consultation process can be found on Manitoba Hydro's website at www.hydro.ca; look for the link to **New Generation and Transmission Projects**. The information provided on this site is updated on a continual basis.

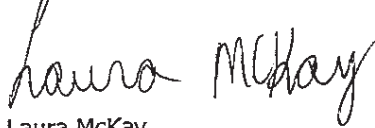
Beyond meeting note changes, if you have any questions or comments about the project or the public involvement process, please do not hesitate to call:

- Nick Barnes (204) 474-3999 (generation project)
- Ron Rawluk (204) 474-3119 (transmission facilities)
- Marcel Moody (204) 484-3017 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: February 12, 2002
Time: 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Location: Northern Lights Place of Learning, War Lake

In Attendance: *Community Members:*

Chief Arnold Ouskun
Conrad Beardy
Roy Marsan
Ellen Wavey
Chantelle Chornoby
Nicole Flett
Esther Laliberty
Eileen Flett
Janet Flett
Candice Laliberty
Raymond Spence
Sandra Morrisseau
Alan Flett
Glen Husack
Ralph Brown
Philip Morris
Heather Henley
Thomas Henley
Harold Westdal

Presenters:

David Spence, NCN
Nick Barnes, Manitoba Hydro
Cam Osler, InterGroup Consultants
Stuart Davies, North/South Consultants
Vicky Cole, InterGroup Consultants

PURPOSE:

Community meeting in War Lake to:

- **Introduce the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities to War Lake community members;**
- **To learn about issues and/or concerns community members may have about the proposed project; and**
- **To receive input regarding future public involvement processes in their community.**

1. Opening

Cam Osler of InterGroup Consultants opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending. He indicated that this is the second round of public consultation for the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities. During the first round of consultation, the study team and NCN met with the community's Chief and Council in Winnipeg. At this previous meeting, the Chief and Council indicated that they would be interested in having a community meeting with the same project information presented.

He went on to introduce other members of the Environmental Management Team at the meeting: Councilor David Spence from NCN, Nick Barnes of Manitoba Hydro, and Stuart Davies of North/South Consultants. Vicky Cole of InterGroup Consultants was at the meeting to take notes and provide logistical support.

David Spence told participants that NCN is looking at a potential partnership with Manitoba Hydro. An Agreement-in-Principle with Manitoba has been ratified by NCN, with a large majority of NCN members in Nelson House voting for this agreement. They are now visiting other communities in the region to identify and address concerns they may have with regards to the proposed project.

Nick Barnes, from Manitoba Hydro, indicated that a high priority for Manitoba Hydro is developing a good relationship with First Nations and other northern communities potentially affected by new projects. He explained that Manitoba Hydro is trying to do things differently than in the past, and as a result, is presently working towards developing a formal partnership with NCN. He noted that as a result of this process, NCN has been involved in all decisions about the proposed project. He further noted that NCN has played a key role in gathering field information, and has sat on all planning committees. He emphasized that no decision has been made yet about whether the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station and/or Associated Transmission Facilities will proceed, but that Manitoba Hydro and NCN wanted to start the formal process of getting public feedback on their plans. This is why they were holding the community meeting in War Lake.

2. Presentations

Presentations on the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities were made by Cam Osler, Nick Barnes and Stuart Davies. A full version of the presentation is attached. Topics addressed were as follows:

- **Background information and an overview of the project:** presented by Cam Osler.
- **Detailed description of the Wuskwatim Generating Station project:** presented by Nick Barnes. Included information on:
 - The location of the project
 - Design assumptions, particularly with regards to water regime impacts and infrastructure requirements
 - The project timeline, and
 - Estimated manpower requirements and employment opportunities.
- **Transmission facilities associated with the Wuskwatim Generating Station Project:** presented by Nick Barnes. Provided an overview of the proposed transmission line alternatives and transformer stations.
- **Regulatory review process:** presented by Cam Osler. Presented an overview of the regulatory licensing and approval requirements before the proposed project can proceed.

This included the main steps in the environmental review and decision schedule, and an indication of where the process was at the time of this meeting.

A special note was made of the Clean Environment Commission (CEC) hearings that are currently underway on the draft guidelines for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Meetings were already held in Thompson on February 11 and in Nelson House on the day of this meeting. Future meetings will be held in Winnipeg on February 18 and at Opaskwayak Cree Nation on February 19.

- **NCN/Manitoba Hydro Joint Study Program:** Presented by Stuart Davies. Provided an overview of the studies being undertaken to assess the proposed project. These include studies on:
 - Climate and air quality
 - Geology, soils and groundwater
 - Water levels and flows
 - Ice conditions
 - Water quality/water chemistry
 - The aquatic environment, including aquatic invertebrates and fish habitat.
 - Fish populations
 - Fish movement and fish quality
 - The terrestrial environment, including vegetation and commercial forestry
 - Wildlife, and
 - Resource use.

Both scientific and Aboriginal knowledge will be used as part of these studies.

This presentation also included responses to concerns raised by War Lake Chief and Council during the first round of consultation (also attached).

- **Public Involvement Plan process:** presented by Cam Osler. Provided an overview of the first and second rounds of the public consultation process. Indicated that there will be a third round of consultation in which anticipated project impacts will be presented. This will occur before the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is submitted to the regulators.

3. **Response to War Lake Concerns Raised During Round 1 Consultation**

Cam Osler indicated that responses had been developed to the concerns raised by War Lake First Nation during the first round of consultation. These responses, drafted by Manitoba Hydro and NCN in consultation with their advisors, were available as a handout at the meeting and are attached to these meeting notes.

4. Issues/Questions

During the presentations, community members asked questions and indicated their concerns about the projects. Their issues/questions and, where applicable, the responses provided are outlined below.

ISSUES/CONCERN

RESPONSE

RE: Project Description

- Does the transmission line have to go to The Pas?

Nick Barnes indicated that the transmission line does have to go to The Pas. From there it will link up to Manitoba Hydro's existing transmission system. Cam Osler also told the group that new work done by Manitoba Hydro on system security indicates that the transmission line from Herblet Lake to The Pas will likely be needed regardless of whether the Wuskwatim Generating Station is developed.

- When will information be available on job preferences and job opportunities? Is there anything available on this subject now?

Cam Osler indicated that, at present, the only information available is the magnitude and timing of jobs. Discussions are currently underway regarding preferences, but, at this stage, the anticipated outcome of these discussions is unknown.

He also indicated that some of what is known includes the following:

- There are fewer job opportunities available on the Wuskwatim project than the Gull/Keeyask project.
- NCN is looking to maximize opportunities for their members on the Wuskwatim project.
- During the first few years of construction, the focus will be primarily on building project infrastructure. It is likely that related contracts will be awarded on a preferred basis.
- Manitoba Hydro is currently looking at pre-project training opportunities for jobs with a variety of training needs. For example, under the main contract to build the facility, about one-third of the jobs require three to four years of training. As such, anyone interested in these jobs must be committed to a career in one of the particular areas. Other jobs, for example some of those available during infrastructure construction, may require less than 6 months of training.

ISSUES/CONCERN

RESPONSE

RE: Regulatory Review Process

- Who is on the Project Administration Team (PAT)?

Cam Osler indicated that the Harmonization Agreement between the province and the federal government is very specific about members of the PAT. Members include:

- Dan McNaughton, Prairie Regional Office, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
- Larry Strachan, Manitoba Conservation
- Trent Hreno, Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC – see below)
- Other federal Responsible Authorities (RAs). In this case, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans is the only other RA identified for PAT membership.

The PAT was responsible for developing the draft EIS guidelines that are now being reviewed through public Clean Environment Commission meetings.

- Who is on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)?

The TAC consists of representatives from various government departments who have an interest in, or may be affected by, the proposed Wuskwatim project. Most members have technical expertise in areas to be considered as part of the EIS.

RE: NCN/Manitoba Hydro Joint Study Program

- Two weeks ago, local people reported that a helicopter landed on Landing (Aiken) River and took water samples. Were these people from your study team?

Stuart Davies indicated that this would not have been researchers from the Wuskwatim study team.

North/South Consultants, those responsible for undertaking water quality studies, will not start conducting studies in the area for at least another week.

- How are spawning sites identified as part of the environmental studies?

Stuart Davies said that there were several ways including:

- Asking Elders and Resource Harvesters
- Using a specific type of gear (called a nuestion sampler) that scoops the fish off the surface just as they hatch, and
- Through tagging studies.

- Could tags be put on fish in the Landing River to determine where they spawn?

Stuart Davies said that he would include this in the Study Plan and that it would be discussed with War Lake before implementation.

- Will the studies be able to determine whether the pickerel in Landing River are from Split Lake?

Stuart Davies indicated that they will be tagging fish in a number of different areas. The tags will help them determine where fish are moving within these waterways.

5. Closing

Councilor Rusty Beardy closed the meeting by thanking the Environmental Management Team for meeting with the community. He said that he was satisfied that a reasonable effort had been made to address their concerns.

He indicated that War Lake would like to be part of the Round Three Consultation process.

In closing, he stated that War Lake is interested in meeting with NCN to discuss and learn about how the NCN Future Development process works.

Recorded by V. Cole.

P:\P539(2)\5. Public Consultation\5.4 Public Involvement Plan - General\5.4.4 2nd Round Consultations\Meeting Notes\Community notes\Final versions\Meeting Notes War Lake - Final.doc\Thursday, May 10, 2002



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fax: (204) 943-3922
e-mail: intergroup@intergroup.ca

May 23rd, 2002

Mayor Bella Leonard and Councillors
Community of Nelson House
Nelson House Post Office
Nelson House, MB R0B 1A0

Dear Mayor Leonard and Councillors:

RE: DRAFT MEETING NOTES AND PRESENTATION OVERHEADS FROM THE FEBRUARY 20th COMMUNITY MEETING REGARDING PROPOSED WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION AND ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES

This letter is in follow-up to the community meeting held on February 20th, 2002 in Gillam, Manitoba regarding the possible Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities. Enclosed for your review are draft meeting notes. Please let me know by May 30th if there are any errors or omissions in the notes. Also enclosed for your use and information are copies of the presentation overheads.

We have included extra copies of the draft meeting notes and presentation overheads 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.ca; look for the link to **New Generation and Transmission Projects**. The information provided on this site is updated on a continual basis.

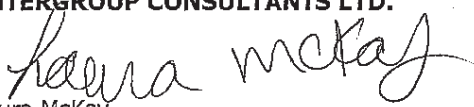
If you have any questions or comments about the Project or the public involvement process, please do not hesitate to call:

- 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. 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: February 20, 2002
Time: 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Location: Community Hall, Nelson House Northern Affairs Community

In Attendance: *Community Members:*
Cecilia Tait, Councillor
Wayne Spence, Councillor
Susan Kobliski
David Spence

Presenters:
Stuart Davies, North/South Consultants
Nick Barnes, Manitoba Hydro
Vicky Cole, InterGroup Consultants

PURPOSE: **Community meeting in the Nelson House Northern Affairs Community to:**

- **Introduce the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities to Nelson House Northern Affairs community members;**
- **To learn about initial issues and/or concerns community members may have about the proposed project; and**
- **To receive input regarding future public involvement processes in their community.**

1. Opening

Vicky Cole of InterGroup Consultants opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending. She indicated that this is the second round of public consultation for the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities. During the first round of consultation, the study team and NCN met with the Mayor and Council of Nelson House. At this previous meeting, Mayor and Council indicated that they would be interested in having a community meeting with the same project information presented.

Vicky went on to introduce other members of the Environmental Management Team at the meeting: Nick Barnes of Manitoba Hydro, and Stuart Davies of North/South Consultants. She indicated that Councillor David Spence from NCN had been called away to meetings in Winnipeg and apologized for not being able to attend.

Nick Barnes, Manitoba Hydro, indicated that a high priority for Manitoba Hydro is developing a good relationship with First Nations and other northern communities potentially affected by new projects. He explained that Manitoba Hydro is trying to do

things differently than in the past, and as a result, is presently working towards developing a formal partnership with NCN. He noted that as a result of this process, NCN has been involved in all decisions about the proposed project. He further noted that NCN has played a key role in gathering field information, and has sat on all planning committees. He emphasized that no decision has been made yet about whether the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station and/or Associated Transmission Facilities will proceed, but that Manitoba Hydro and NCN wanted to start the formal process of getting public feedback on their plans. This is why they were holding the community meeting in Nelson House.

2. Presentations

Presentations on the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities were made by Vicky Cole, Nick Barnes and Stuart Davies. A full version of the presentation can be seen in [Appendix 1](#) at the end of these notes. Topics addressed were as follows:

- **Background information and an overview of the project:** presented by Vicky Cole.
- **Detailed description of the Wuskwatim Generating Station project:** presented by Nick Barnes. Included information on:
 - The location of the project
 - Design assumptions, particularly with regards to water regime impacts and infrastructure requirements
 - The project timeline, and
 - Estimated manpower requirements and employment opportunities.
- **Transmission facilities associated with the Wuskwatim Generating Station Project:** presented by Nick Barnes. Provided an overview of the proposed transmission line alternatives and transformer stations.
- **Regulatory review process:** presented by Stuart Davies. Presented an overview of the regulatory licensing and approval requirements before the proposed project can proceed. This included the main steps in the environmental review and decision schedule, and an indication of where the process was at the time of this meeting.
- **NCN/Manitoba Hydro Joint Study Program:** Stuart Davies provided an overview of the biophysical studies being undertaken to assess the proposed project. These include studies on:
 - Climate and air quality
 - Geology, soils and groundwater
 - Water levels and flows
 - Ice conditions
 - Water quality/water chemistry
 - The aquatic environment, including aquatic invertebrates and fish habitat.
 - Fish populations
 - Fish movement and fish quality
 - The terrestrial environment, including vegetation and commercial forestry
 - Wildlife, and
 - Resource use.

Both scientific and Aboriginal Knowledge will be used as part of these studies.

Vicky Cole presented information on the socio-economic studies that are also being undertaken to assess the proposed project. These studies consider impacts on local

people, their lifestyles and their communities.

- **Public Involvement Plan process:** presented by Vicky Cole. Provided an overview of the first and second rounds of the public consultation process. Indicated that there will be a third round of consultation in which anticipated project impacts will be presented. This will occur before the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is provided to the regulators. Additional opportunities will also be available for public involvement through the federal/provincial regulatory process.

3. Concerns/Questions Raised At This Meeting

During the presentations, community members asked questions and indicated their concerns about the projects. Their questions/concerns and, where applicable, the responses provided are outlined below.

QUESTION/CONCERN

RESPONSE

RE: Background Information and Overview

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is it legal for Manitoba Hydro to create new power for export if that power is not needed by Manitobans? How has it been determined that this is acceptable? Does the corporation have a policy regarding the export of power? | <p>Stuart Davies indicated that Manitoba Hydro does have a corporate policy regarding the export of hydro-electricity. Stuart and Nick Barnes indicated that they would provide those interested with further information on Manitoba Hydro's export policy.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Even though no decision has been made, the community believes that the project is going ahead. | <p>Stuart Davies reiterated that no decision has been made about whether to proceed with the project. Before a final decision is made, NCN members will have the opportunity to vote on the Project Development Agreement (PDA). If the PDA vote is 'no', it is very unlikely that Manitoba Hydro will want to continue pursuing the Wuskwatim project at this time. A 'no' PDA vote would also make it very difficult for Manitoba Hydro to get a license for the project.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who was involved in the presentation presented at this meeting? | <p>Stuart Davies and Nick Barnes indicated that both NCN and Manitoba Hydro were involved in developing the presentation.</p> |

QUESTION/CONCERN

- Why is there not a representative from the Metis community talking with NCN and Manitoba Hydro? Why is no one from our community involved in these negotiations? We are also NCN members. We may appear small but our land was also affected by past hydro-electric development.
- Will this project be a target like the World Trade Centre?
- What is the possibility of receiving free Hydro?
- Would Greenpeace come here?

RE: Detailed description of the Wuskwatim Generating Station project

- Keep in mind that Wuskwatim is a sacred site.
- Regarding water quality, have you traveled by air from York Landing to Thompson? Have you seen how brown the water is? This is caused by damage to the earth and is the effect of flooding. Those in the South are receiving the abundance and richness of our northern resources. I'd like to see how this is going to be different from last time. Once the damage is done, you can't go back and correct it.

RESPONSE

Stuart Davies indicated that this was an issue to be discussed between the Metis community and NCN.

Nick Barnes suggested that, although not likely, this could be possible. Manitoba Hydro is currently looking at security in general.

Stuart Davies told the group there is no possibility of this happening.

Nick Barnes told the group that this concern has been expressed by a number of people. He indicated that Manitoba Hydro is trying to do things differently this time.

QUESTION/CONCERN

- Is Manitoba Hydro going to test the water? We have bad water here now. We can't drink the water and we can't swim here. Are they going to accommodate burial sites? How many times a year are they going to collect logs off the shore? Only certain medicines grow along the shore and these should be replanted elsewhere like reforestation. Will Wuskwatim affect our land here again?
- Are there contingency plans for a dam breach? Is Hydro prepared to relocate people with houses? How are dams maintained?
- Is there going to be a lagoon at the camp?
- How long will it take to construct the generating station?
- Isn't there another part of Canada you can get hydro-electric power?
- What is the death rate during construction and preparation for projects like these?
- Who provides the training?

RESPONSE

Nick Barnes indicated that Manitoba Hydro is interested in listening to community concerns and is trying to gather all relevant information before the Project begins. This way they can work with communities to find acceptable solutions. After the Project is complete, Manitoba Hydro will keep collecting data so that changes can be made if what was predicted to occur does not happen.

Stuart Davies also indicated that they want to make sure people understand the impacts of the project. The goal is to be honest with people so that they understand the benefits and drawbacks of the project and can make an informed decision about whether they think the Project should proceed.

Nick Barnes told the group that Manitoba Hydro regularly tests the structures associated with their generating stations. They do have contingency plans in place, including emergency procedures if there is the possibility of a break.

Nick Barnes indicated that the camp facility will include these types of services. It will be a facility designed to provide living accommodation for up to 500 people at one time.

Nick Barnes said it would take about 6 years to construct the dam.

Stuart Davies indicated that there are other places, for example Quebec, but these locations are also being developed.

Nick Barnes told the group that he would check to see if there are statistics available for those interested. **Stuart Davies** emphasized that Limestone was a very safe work environment. Workplace safety and health would also be a very important issue if the Wuskwatim Generating Station were constructed.

The current thinking is that training will likely be provided by Manitoba Hydro, Manitoba Education and Training as well as the federal government. The roles and responsibilities of each, however, have yet to be worked out.

QUESTION/CONCERN

RESPONSE

- How does the Metis community of Nelson House fit into the training opportunities available? Usually everything is discussed with, and benefits go to, the First Nation.
- How many of the jobs available are women's jobs?
- Who pays for salaries and benefits?
- How was the estimate of 1 in 5 trainee positions determined?

Stuart Davies indicated that the current understanding is that about 75% of the training money provided by Manitoba Hydro is to be allocated to train NCN members, including those living in the Northern Affairs communities of Nelson House and South Indian Lake. The remaining 25% of the money will be allocated for training other Northern Aboriginal people, including Metis.

Stuart Davies indicated that it is Manitoba Hydro's policy that all jobs are male or female.

Stuart Davies told the group that contractors will be hired for the project who, in turn, will hire the employees. Contractors will charge the partnership (NCN and Manitoba Hydro) for these salaries. Employees will not be hired directly by Manitoba Hydro.

Nick Barnes indicated that trainee positions are filled by individuals with the relevant pre-project training, but that do not necessarily have previous on-the-job experience. The estimate of one trainee position for every five jobs under the Wuskwatim Project was derived from past experience with similar projects; most notably the Limestone Project.

RE: Transmission facilities associated with the Wuskwatim Generating Station Project

- Will the development of this Project cause territorial issues?

Nick Barnes indicated that this is a large component of what the transmission line group is considering. As part of their routing and assessment, they are talking with a lot of different communities. To some extent, there is flexibility to route transmission lines around communities and other sensitive areas.

RE: Regulatory review process

- How long would the licensing process take?
- Who will be involved in licensing? Will it be under the table?

Stuart Davies said it is anticipated to take 14 to 16 months. The filing of the Environmental Act Proposal Form in late 2001 started the regulatory process. The next big stage is the EIS.

Stuart Davies emphatically told the group that all of the regulatory process will be public. Absolutely nothing will be under the table.

QUESTION/CONCERN

RESPONSE

RE: NCN/Manitoba Hydro Joint Study Program

- Has shoreline clearing started?
Stuart Davies said that no shoreline clearing has started. No construction will proceed until the project is approved. This approval is not expected until late 2003/early 2004.
- Are all of the lakes where testing is occurring going to be affected?
Stuart Davies said it is anticipated that there will be no changes to water levels upstream of Early Morning Rapids. Wuskwatim Lake will be held near the top of its present range. Downstream of Wuskwatim Lake, changes in water level will be difficult to detect by the time you hit Opegano Lake and will be unnoticeable on Birchtree Lake. The water quality studies have been expanded to Split Lake to address the concerns of those living downstream. Other lakes like Osik and Leftrook have been included in the studies to make sure there is available information on the system. This was not done in the past and it is important to understand what is there so if change occurs it can be detected and addressed.
- Will caribou and moose be included in the studies?
Stuart Davies indicated that both will be included.
- Is there mercury in Lynx?
Stuart Davies indicated that, to his knowledge, this has never been tested.
- What is being done about burial sites?
Stuart Davies indicated that a lot of work to determine the location of burial sites has already been done in the Nelson House RMA, and that additional work will be completed in the areas where project-related effects are expected. Dave Riddle, of Historic Resources Branch, and Manitoba Hydro have been doing this type of work on the Nelson House RMA for about 30 years and this funding has been approved for another 5 years. MKO has also done some work. There is no guarantee that all of the sites have been identified; however, the study team is working with NCN members and archaeologists to make sure that as many sites as possible are identified.
- With regards to studies on culture, will you be talking with more than elders?
Vicky Cole indicated that the intent is to talk with a number women and men in the community in different age groups.

QUESTION/CONCERN

RESPONSE

- Will you be using local members to help you with the culture studies? It is hard to believe that someone with a university degree really understands our culture. Unless you have experienced the personal effects that our people have as a result of past hydro projects you cannot understand our perspectives.

Vicky Cole indicated that the intent is to work closely with community members to understand local culture and social well-being. NCN will also have the opportunity to review and comment on what is reported in the EIS.

5. Closing

Vicky Cole closed the meeting by thanking those present for their participation and interest in the process.

Recorded by V. Cole.

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InterGroup

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May 23rd, 2002

Chief Ralph Beardy and Councillors
Fox Lake Cree Nation
P.O. Box 369
Gillam, MB R0B 0L0

Dear Chief Beardy and Councillors:

**RE: DRAFT MEETING NOTES, SUPPLEMENTAL NOTES AND PRESENTATION OVERHEADS
FROM THE FEBRUARY 22ND COMMUNITY MEETING REGARDING PROPOSED
WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION AND ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES**

This letter is in follow-up to the community meeting held on February 22nd, 2002 in Gillam, Manitoba regarding the possible Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities. Enclosed for your review are draft meeting notes. Please let me know by May 30th if there are any errors or omissions in the notes. Also enclosed for your use and information are supplemental notes to the meeting, which address a question raised by a community member at that time, as well as copies of the presentation overheads.

We have included extra copies of the draft meeting notes, supplemental notes and presentation overheads 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.ca; look for the link to **New Generation and Transmission Projects**. The information provided on this site is updated on a continual basis.

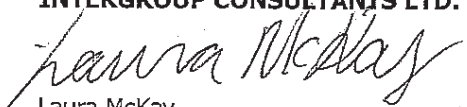
If you have any questions or comments about the Project or the public involvement process, please do not hesitate to call:

- 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. 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



RECORD OF MEETING

Fox Lake Cree Nation Career Symposium

Date of Meeting: February 22, 2002
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Location: Gillam Recreation Centre, Gillam

In Attendance: *About 30 to 40 Fox Lake Cree Nation (FLCN) Members & Advisors, including:*
Nathan Neckoway, Organizer of the Career Symposium
Chief Ralph Beardy
George Neepin, Keeyask Project Manager
Robert Wavey, Senior Negotiator
Michael Lawrenchuk, Communications Advisor
Richard Henderson, Fox Lake Community Representative for Keeyask
Lorne Hanks, Special Projects Advisor
Geoff Cowie, Environmental and Social Impacts Advisor (not present for the presentation on the Wuskwatim Project)

Presenters:
Nick Barnes, Manitoba Hydro
Vicky Cole, InterGroup Consultants

PURPOSE: **Presentation at the Fox Lake Career Symposium to:**

- **Introduce the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities to Fox Lake community members, and**
- **To learn about initial issues and/or concerns community members may have about the proposed project.**

1. Background

As part of Round 2 of the Public Involvement Process for the proposed Wuskwatim Project, Manitoba Hydro and NCN offered to hold a community meeting for the Fox Lake Cree Nation to introduce the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities. Community leadership indicated that they would prefer that the presentation occur during the Fox Lake Career Symposium on February 22nd.

2. Opening

Nick Barnes of Manitoba Hydro opened the presentation by thanking everyone for attending. He extended apologies for David Spence, an NCN Councillor who was scheduled to attend the event but was called away to meetings in Winnipeg. He also introduced Vicky Cole of InterGroup Consultants, a member of the study team.

Nick went on to indicate that a high priority for Manitoba Hydro is developing a good

relationship with First Nations and other northern communities potentially affected by new projects. He explained that Manitoba Hydro is trying to do things differently than in the past, and as a result, is presently working towards developing a formal partnership with NCN. He noted that as a result of this process, NCN has been involved in all decisions about the proposed project. He further noted that NCN has played a key role in gathering field information, and has sat on all planning committees. He emphasized that no decision has been made yet about whether the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station and/or Associated Transmission Facilities will proceed, but that Manitoba Hydro and NCN wanted to start the formal process of getting public feedback on their plans.

He concluded his opening remarks by indicating that this is the second round of public consultation for the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities. During the first round of consultation, the study team and NCN met with FLCN's Chief and Council. At this previous meeting, Chief and Council indicated that they would be interested in having a community meeting with the same project information presented. Since this initial meeting, they indicated that they would prefer having the study team make a presentation at the Career Symposium.

3. Presentations

Presentations on the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities were made by Nick Barnes and Vicky Cole. A full version of the presentation is attached. Topics addressed were as follows:

- **Background information and an overview of the project:** presented by Nick Barnes.
- **Detailed description of the Wuskwatim Generating Station project:** presented by Nick Barnes. Included information on:
 - The location of the project
 - Design assumptions, particularly with regards to water regime impacts and infrastructure requirements
 - The project timeline, and
 - Estimated manpower requirements.
- **Transmission facilities associated with the Wuskwatim Generating Station Project:** presented by Nick Barnes. Provided an overview of the proposed transmission line alternatives and transformer stations.
- **Regulatory review process:** presented by Nick Barnes. Provided an overview of the regulatory, licensing and approval requirements before the proposed project can proceed. This included the main steps in the environmental review and decision schedule, and an indication of the current status of the process.
- **NCN/Manitoba Hydro Joint Study Program:** Details of the studies being undertaken to assess the proposed project were presented by Nick Barnes. These include studies on:
 - The physical environment
 - The aquatic environment
 - The terrestrial environment
 - The socio-economic environment, and
 - Heritage resources.Both scientific and Aboriginal Knowledge will be used as part of these studies.
- **Public Involvement Process:** presented by Vicky Cole. Provided an overview of the first and second rounds of the public consultation process. She indicated that

there will be a third round of consultation in which anticipated project impacts will be presented. This will occur before the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is provided to the regulators. Opportunities for public involvement will also be available during the provincial/federal regulatory review of the project.

4. Concerns/Questions Raised At This Meeting

Following the presentation, community members, as well as members of the Fox Lake Keyask Committee, asked questions about the projects. Their questions/concerns and, where applicable, the responses provided are outlined below. All of the questions and responses presented below occurred during one-on-one discussions after the presentation.

QUESTION/CONCERN

RESPONSE

RE: Project Description

- Will the Wuskwatim project lead to the development of transmission lines to northern Manitoba communities that still depend on diesel generators?

Vicky Cole indicated that this will not be an outcome of this project.
- Why are transmission line links to Thompson and Snow Lake needed to strengthen the existing system if Wuskwatim is being developed for the purposes of export?

Nick Barnes indicated that he would speak with members of the transmission line study team and get back to FLCN with an answer to this question.

RE: NCN/Manitoba Hydro Joint Study Program

- How will Traditional Knowledge (TK) be incorporated into the EIS? In particular, how will conflicts between TK and Western science conclusions be presented. As well, how will impacts be quantified from the TK perspective, particularly with regards to compensation?

Nick Barnes indicated that TK has been an integral part of planning the studies that are being undertaken. NCN has established their own TK Committee to work specifically on this aspect of the project. The EIS will present both TK and Western science perspectives on each issue, even if they are in conflict. The EIS is currently being developed and a workshop approach is being used to integrate NCN's perspective into the document. Conflicts between TK and Western science have not yet emerged, but, if they do arise, the group will work through these conflicts. How TK will be quantified and whether this will, in fact, be necessary have not yet been determined.

QUESTION/CONCERN

RESPONSE

RE: The Public Involvement Process

- What types of processes is NCN using to communicate this project with others – both internally and externally? How is the distribution of information coordinated between NCN and Manitoba Hydro?

Vicky Cole indicated that NCN is employing a number of methods to ensure that their membership is fully informed about the proposed projects. These include:

- Community Newsletters distributed on at least a bi-monthly basis,
- Special Newsletters on specific topics of interest,
- Open Houses held at key points in the process. Open Houses for NCN Members have been held in Nelson House, South Indian Lake, Winnipeg, Thompson, and Brandon,
- Community meetings, which have been held in Nelson House and South Indian Lake,
- Opinion Surveys of members on- and off-reserve, and
- Broadcasts on the local cable channel and radio station.

Communication with other communities has occurred primarily through the Public Involvement Process (PIP). With the exception of FLCN, all of the PIP meetings have been attended by representatives from both NCN and Manitoba Hydro. Newsletters, presentations and other communication materials used as a part of the PIP have been developed collaboratively by between NCN and Manitoba Hydro. Before any of these materials are distributed, both NCN and Manitoba Hydro have to indicate that they are comfortable with the content.

5. Closing

Nathan Neckoway, the organizer of the Career Symposium, closed the presentation by thanking Manitoba Hydro for attending the Career Fair.

In discussions following the presentations, members of the Fox Lake Keeyask Committee indicated that they found the presentation to be informative.

Recorded by V. Cole.

P:\P539(2)\5. Public Consultation\5.4 Public Involvement Plan - General\5.4.4 2nd Round Consultations\Meeting Notes\Community notes\Fox Lake Career Fair Notes Feb 22.doc\Monday, May 13, 2002

SUPPLEMENTAL MEETING NOTES
WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION AND ASSOCIATED
TRANSMISSION LINES COMMUNITY MEETING
Meeting with the Fox Lake Cree Nation

Date of Meeting: February 22, 2002
Location: Gillam Recreational Center, Gillam

SUPPLEMENTAL MEETING NOTES

These are supplemental notes to the meeting held during the Fox Lake Career Symposium on February 22nd at the Gillam Recreational Center. The purpose of the meeting was to share information on the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station, to learn about any initial issues and concerns community members may have 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 Cree Nation member asked why transmission line links to Thompson and Snow Lake are required to strengthen the existing system if the Wuskwatim Project is being developed solely for export? Nick Barnes indicated that he would speak with members of the transmission line study team, and provide further information as soon as possible.

Information on the need for additional transmission facilities:

The following information has been provided by the Transmission Planning & Design Division of Manitoba Hydro:

Although the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station would initially be developed for export purposes, the power generated in the future may be used to service both export and domestic customers.

Whether for export or domestic use, delivery of electricity from Wuskwatim will require connection of both the customers and the new Generating Station to the existing transmission system. Connection to the existing system will minimize the requirement for new transmission lines between Wuskwatim and the customers, and will take advantage of the back-up provided by the network of existing high voltage lines. If there were no connection provided to the existing transmission system, new dedicated transmission lines would have to be constructed all the way from Wuskwatim to the customers, and, to ensure reliability of service, additional back-up lines would have to be provided as well. Costs would be greatly increased.

The closest points on the 230kV high voltage transmission system at which the new Wuskwatim Generating Station can reasonably be connected to the existing system are Thompson and Snow Lake. The connection at Snow Lake will take advantage of the existing Herblet Lake Transmission Station. The connection at Thompson will involve development of a new 230 kV Birch Tree Transmission Station south of the City with direct connections into the existing system. The new lines will not only deliver electricity from Wuskwatim but will also help to improve existing system performance and reliability. The provision of two points of connection will ensure that, in the event of a failure or outage on one of the connections, the second would continue to transmit power from Wuskwatim.

With any further questions regarding the transmission facilities please contact:

Ron Rawluk
Licensing & Environmental Assessment Dept.
Transmission Planning & Design
Winnipeg, MB., R3C 2P4
Telephone: (204) 474-3119 (Collect)
Fax: (204) 474-4974

Recorded by L. McKay



Date of Meeting: March 12, 2002
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: Radisson Hotel

In Attendance: Elvis Thomas, NCN
Jim Moore, NCN
Marcel Moody, NCN
Trevor Ray, Myers Weinberg
Val Matthews Lemieux, Myers Weinberg
Victor Spence, TCN
Bob Roddick
Doug Mackenzie
Ernie Hobbs, Hobbs and Associates
Ed Wojczynski, Manitoba Hydro
Wayne Everett, Manitoba Hydro
John Markowsky, Manitoba Hydro
Stuart Davies, North South Consultants
Bob Adkins, Thompson Dorfman Sweatman
Jan Lederman, Thompson Dorfman Sweatman
Janet Kinley, InterGroup

Regrets:
Purpose:

MEETING TO HEAR TCN CONCERNS ABOUT THE PROPOSED WUSKWATIM PROJECT

Item	Description	Action by
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1. **OPENING**

Ed Wojczynski and **Bob Adkins** welcomed everyone to the meeting and indicated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss TCN's concerns regarding the Environmental Impact Assessment studies and guidelines regarding the Wuskwatim Project. It was also noted that the meeting was not intended to discuss legal matters between Manitoba Hydro and TCN.

Elvis Thomas, on behalf of NCN, indicated that representatives of NCN were attending the meeting to hear TCN's concerns regarding the Wuskwatim Project.

Item	Description	Action by
2.	TCN CONCERNS	

Victor Spence indicated that he had attended two presentations by NCN and Manitoba Hydro. He had understood from those presentations that the Wuskwatim Project would not affect TCN. However, he did not believe what was presented. He indicated that the community has not met as a whole to talk about their concerns with the Wuskwatim project, per se, but the following types of concerns have been expressed by people.

WATER QUALITY

Following concerns were raised:

- Silt plume where river enters Split Lake
- Effect on capacity of water treatment facility to keep up with contamination

STURGEON, COMMERCIAL AND DOMESTIC FISHING

Following concerns were raised:

- Effect on commercial and domestic fishing
- Effect on sturgeon habitat, particularly places where sturgeon spawn, such as First Rapids

COMMERCIAL TRAPPING

- Effect on commercial trapping was noted as a concern

DOMESTIC HUNTING

Following concerns were raised:

- Effect on domestic hunting
- Effect on waterfowl

CAMPING

- Camping was noted as a concern, including its cultural importance

ENVIRONMENT AS A WHOLE

- Concern for the environment as a whole – “it is our being, our life, our health, our culture”
- People see it as “just one more development in the area where we don’t have answers to our questions”

Item	Description	Action by
3.	<p>'92 AGREEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victor Spence felt that conclusions were being drawn about impact as provided for in the '92 agreement based on western science before the results of studies are completed. TCN doesn't believe these results or conclusions and Chief and Council want to get these results in writing from Manitoba Hydro. People feel that Hydro is not respecting the '92 agreement. • TCN has a '92 agreement and this means that TCN needs to be treated with respect and as a nation, not as a group of individuals from whom information is gathered. Chief and Council would like the rights set out in the agreement (Article 6) dealt with; different processes are set out (Article 6 and Article 2) and TCN's jurisdiction in these matters needs to be respected by Manitoba Hydro. 	
4.	<p>RESOURCES FOR TCN PARTICIPATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The matter of resources for TCN participation in the process was raised several times by TCN: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TCN would like to meet with their people alone without EMT and they need a budget for same ○ A different budget and resources are needed to deal with Wuskwatim, compared to current budgets related to Keeyask work ○ If community members are raising issues, will Manitoba Hydro fund studies? ○ Manitoba Hydro should pay under the '92 Agreement. 	
5.	<p>WHERE TO FROM HERE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At various points during the meeting, Manitoba Hydro asked how best to move forward to learn more about TCN's issues/concerns and to resolve them. Stuart Davies outlined the following suggested steps for possible consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meet with elders and resource harvesters to learn more about the situation and their concerns ○ Share information from the Feb 20/21 open house in Nelson House re: biophysical study conclusions, as known today ○ Have EMT and NCN come to the community to make a presentation ○ Look at issues and resolve together how to address them through NCN/Hydro ○ If gaps, then put together study to address. 	

Item	Description	Action by
•	Victor Spence asked that the steps proposed by Manitoba Hydro and NCN be put in writing. Bob Adkins will prepare such a letter	BA
•	Val Matthews Lemieux offered, on behalf of NCN, that NCN and Hydro would come to the community to do a workshop and share information about the Wuskwatim Project.	
•	Wayne Everett will be the follow up contact in Manitoba Hydro.	
•	Victor Spence noted that no meetings can take place in the community during Lent – any meetings would have to follow Easter.	

2.2.5 Correspondence with Other Communities



SAFF

MPP

FILE COPY	
FILE No.	
FMIS	00184
SCI	07320
SEQ.	0003_00

December 17, 2001

FAX: 204-341-2322

Chief Roy Redhead and Councillors
York Factory First Nation
General Delivery
York Landing, MB R0B 2B0

Dear Chief Redhead and Councillors:

RE: CONSULTATION WITH YORK FACTORY FIRST NATION ON THE PROPOSED WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION PROJECT AND ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES

On September 27th, 2001, Manitoba Hydro and Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) met with elected officials of the York Factory First Nation as part of the first round of consultation on the Wuskwatim project. At that time, you expressed an interest in having representatives of Manitoba Hydro and NCN visit York Landing as part of our second round of public consultation to provide a presentation to the membership about the current status of our plans and information collection and to hear from you and the membership about your views on the proposed developments. In response, we contacted your office in November and scheduled a public meeting in the community for December 4th, 2001.

We subsequently learned (based on your telephone conversation with Janet Kinley on November 29th, 2001) that you would prefer that the meeting not take place and that future meetings should not be scheduled at this time. Accordingly, the December 4th meeting has been cancelled. We would like to plan public information meetings with York Landing, and are looking forward to further direction from you. We understand that Janet committed to talk with you again on this matter in the near future.

In addition, we would like to confirm that we are prepared to provide further information to you and your members on the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station and associated transmission facilities, in whatever form or forum is most convenient to you. We would also like to confirm our interest to hear from you and your community and to discuss any issues, concerns or questions that you and your community may have about the proposed developments. We continue to want to carry out this consultation in whatever forms you and your community feel are most appropriate. For example, we could provide written information for circulation to your officials and members, and respond to your written questions, if this is your preferred means of carrying out this phase of consultation.

With any questions or comments on these matters, please don't hesitate to call either of us.

We look forward to being of assistance to you.

Sincerely,
MANITOBA HYDRO

Ed Wojczynski
Division Manager
Power Planning and Development

NCN

for

Elvis Thomas
Councillor
Future Development Portfolio



InterGroup
CONSULTANTS

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

*Received
Feb. 11/02
DL*

February 11, 2002
P. 539(5)

Mr. Brad Regehr
D'Arcy and Deacon
1200 - 330 St. Mary Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3C 4E1

Dear Mr. Regehr:

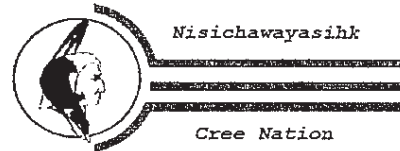
Re: Wuskwatim Round 1 and Round 2 Newsletters

As per your discussion with Janet Kinley this morning, enclosed please find 10 copies of the Wuskwatim Round 1 and Round 2 Newsletters.

Yours truly,

INTERGROUP CONSULTANTS LTD.

Lisa LaBelle
Administrative Assistant



January 30, 2002

FAX: (204) 676-2117

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

Dear Chief Miswagon and Councillors:

**RE: CONSULTATION WITH CROSS LAKE FIRST NATION ON THE PROPOSED
WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION PROJECT AND ASSOCIATED
TRANSMISSION FACILITIES**

On October 24, 2001 we extended 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. Copies of a newsletter about the possible Wuskwatim project were forwarded separately to you with a copy of our letter. We stated our interest 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 date, we have had no response to our letter or our invitation.

Manitoba Hydro and the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) are currently conducting a second round of consultation that is intended to introduce the Wuskwatim Project and its associated transmission facilities to community members in First Nations, Northern Affairs communities and incorporated municipalities in the region. We would welcome the opportunity to plan public information meetings with Cross Lake. Copies of the second newsletter about the proposed Wuskwatim Projects are being forwarded separately to you today with a copy of this letter. To make arrangements for a meeting in response to our initial invitation or this letter, please call Janet Kinley at (204) 942-0654.

We would like to confirm that we are prepared to provide further information to you and your members on the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station and associated transmission facilities, in whatever form or forum is most convenient to you. We would also like to confirm our interest to hear from you and your community and to discuss any issues, concerns or questions that you and your community may have about the proposed developments. We continue to want to carry out this consultation in whatever forms you and your community feel are most appropriate. For example, we could provide written information for circulation to your officials and members, and respond to your written questions, if this is your preferred means of carrying out this phase of consultation.

Tommy Monias of the Pimicikamak Cree Nation NFA Implementation Office wrote a letter on December 19, 2001 to Larry Strachan, Director of Environmental Approvals, Manitoba Conservation with respect to the Wuskwatim Projects. Among other matters, Mr. Monias said in this letter that he had been advised that the proposed Wuskwatim Projects "will affect residents of the reserve at Cross Lake", and "will affect the exercise of aboriginal and Treaty rights (under both Treaty #5 and the NFA) and they will affect Manitoba Hydro's operation of the dam at Jenpeg, just upstream of Cross Lake". We have not been so advised, and currently have no information that the Wuskwatim Projects will affect Manitoba Hydro's operation of the dam at Jenpeg or other operations in the Cross Lake area. In response to this concern, however, we are having Manitoba Hydro review its planned operations in this area with and without the

Wuskwatim Projects. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you directly to discuss these, and any other concerns, that residents of Cross Lake may have with respect to the Wuskwatim Projects.

We are attaching a copy of a letter that Manitoba Hydro and NCN have sent to Mr. Strachan commenting on the letter from Mr. Monias.

With any questions or comments about the project, please don't hesitate to call either of us.

We look forward to being of assistance to you.

Sincerely,
MANITOBA HYDRO



Ed Wojczynski
Division Manager
Power Planning and Development

NCN



for

Elvis Thomas
Councillor
Future Development Portfolio



May 10, 2002

FAX: (204) 676-2117

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

Dear Chief Miswagon and Councillors:

**RE: CONSULTATION WITH CROSS LAKE FIRST NATION ON THE PROPOSED
WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION PROJECT AND ASSOCIATED
TRANSMISSION FACILITIES**

Manitoba Hydro and the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) are currently concluding a second round of consultation to introduce the Wuskwatim Project and its associated transmission facilities to elected officials and community members in First Nations, Northern Affairs communities and incorporated municipalities in the region. We are writing to provide you with further information on the consultation process being used for these Projects to address any interests or concerns that you may have with respect to these Projects.

INFORMATION TO DATE

On October 24, 2001 we extended 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. Copies of a newsletter describing the possible Wuskwatim Projects were forwarded separately to you at that time with a copy of our letter. On January 30, 2002 we forwarded copies of a second newsletter with information about the Wuskwatim Projects, noted our interest in planning meetings in Cross Lake, or elsewhere, as most convenient to you.

Our January letter noted that some of your community members have raised specific questions about the possibility of "system wide" effects of the Wuskwatim Project, and we would like to begin to address those questions, in particular. In addition, we noted that we continue to want to carry out this consultation in whatever forms you and your community feel are most appropriate. For example, we could provide written information for circulation to your officials and members, and respond to your written questions, if this is your preferred means of carrying out this phase of consultation.

FURTHER DETAIL ON WUSKWATIM CONSULTATION APPROACH

For your information, we provide additional information about our approach to consultation which we hope would address any concerns that you may have with respect to these Projects:

1. Manitoba Hydro and NCN intend to engage in meaningful consultation with CLFN/PCN at each relevant stage in the Wuskwatim Projects development process to address any impact concerns that you may have related to these Projects:

- during the effects assessment - to incorporate CLFN's/PCN's concerns,
 - after the EIS has been prepared and before licensing and detailed design are completed - to review and explain the contents of the EIS, report on the means by which your concerns have been addressed, to the extent we are aware of them, and to revise or update the information and analysis contained in the EIS, where required, based on any new information or concerns,
 - during the stage at which the regulatory authorities assess the EIS and during and after the CEC hearing to add information and respond to concerns, if required.
2. Manitoba Hydro and NCN request a meeting with CLFN/PCN representatives at which they can present and explain their proposal for the consultation process and also make a presentation about the developments and the information gathered in the planning process to date which is relevant to PCN.
 3. Manitoba Hydro and NCN are preparing, on an ongoing basis, a list of all documents which are relevant to environmental assessment of the effects of the Wuskwatim Projects and to planning, design and mitigation options for these Projects, with the exception of those documents which are confidential. We would like to discuss the process of sharing and updating a list of documents for your review and, if possible, a method for obtaining similar documentation from you, if relevant.
 4. In order to proceed with consultation during the current effects assessment stage, Manitoba Hydro and NCN request that CLFN/PCN facilitate access to the Reserve so that the planning team can, with the cooperation of CLFN/PCN, obtain information from its members about any of their resource use in areas that may be affected by the Wuskwatim Projects. The planning team will provide information on the relevant areas and the specific information that it would like to receive from PCN and its members.
 5. The Hydro/NCN planning team would like to visit the Reserve and, together with PCN representatives, hold a series of meetings throughout the consultation stages described above at a convenient location(s) on the Reserve with members:
 - To explain the assessment and planning process that is underway,
 - To receive from the members any questions and concerns that individual members would like the planning process to address, and
 - To reply to their concerns by outlining the means by which the issues will be addressed in the planning, design, assessment and mitigation process.
 6. Manitoba Hydro and NCN will consider providing financial support where it is reasonably requested and required, to enable a qualified independent technical expert retained by CLFN/PCN to assist CLFN's/PCN's representatives in fulfilling its participation in the consultation process. The expert would be able to review technical information provided by Hydro/NCN, explain this information to CLFN/PCN representatives and members, and assist CLFN/PCN representatives in determining and articulating concerns about potential environmental effects. In the event that other communities and CLFN/PCN share technical issues of concern, Manitoba Hydro and NCN may modify this proposal as reasonably required to enable the group of communities with the common concern to retain a qualified independent technical expert.

Manitoba Hydro has advised NCN that there are ongoing discussions with you relating to Article 9 of the NFA. It is our sincere hope that those discussions will enable us to proceed soon with the proposals we have made in this letter.

To make arrangements for a meeting in response to our initial invitations or this letter, please call Janet Kinley at (204) 942-0654.

With any questions or comments about the project, please don't hesitate to call either of us.

We look forward to being of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

MANITOBA HYDRO



Ed Wojczynski
Division Manager
Power Planning and Development

NCN



Elvis Thomas
Councillor
Future Development Portfolio

cc. Tommy Monias, Secretary to the Councils, NFA Implementation Office, PCN

2.3 Open House Materials

2.3.1 Sample Invitations and Distribution Lists

*All invitation recipients received a copy of the Round Two Newsletter.

Table
Distribution List: Round Two Open House Invitation
Sent to Elected Officials and Senior Administrative Staff in the Project Region

Title	Community/Organization
Chief Ralph Beardy and Councillors	Fox Lake Cree Nation
Mayor James Chornoby and Councillors	Ilford (NA)
Charlie Joe Hart	Nelson House Resource Management Board
Mayor Bella Leonard	Nelson House (NA)
Mayor Warren Pagee and Councillors	Pikwitonei (NA)
Chief Duke Beardy and Councillors	Tataskweyak Cree Nation
Mayor Arnold Bignell and Councillors	Thicket Portage (NA)
Mayor Bill Comaskey	City of Thompson
Ken Allard	City of Thompson
Roger Hardman	Thompson City Hall
Wayne Morrissey	Thompson City Hall
Harold Smith	Nelson House Resource Management Board
Alec Sutherland	City of Thompson Recreation Office
Don C. Taylor	LGD of Mystery Lake
Lynn Taylor	Thompson City Hall
Mayor Soloway and Councillors	Town of Gillam
Mayor Reg Meade and Councillors	Wabowden (NA)
Chief Roy Redhead and Councillors	York Factory First Nation
Mayor Gary Trewin and Councillors	South Indian Lake (NA)
Chief John Miswagon and Councillors	Cross Lake First Nation (Pimicikamak Cree Nation)
Chief Ron Evans and Councilors	Norway House Cree Nation
Mayor Clarence Smith and Councillors	Cross Lake (NA)
Mayor Elizabeth Isbister and Councillors	Norway House (NA)

Note:

1. NA = Northern Affairs



April 22, 2002

Mr. Ken Allard, Superintendent
Public Works
City of Thompson
226 Mystery Lake Road
Thompson MB R8N 1S6

Dear Mr. Allard:

Re: Open House Regarding Possible Wuskwatim Generating Station Project and Associated Transmission Facilities

Manitoba Hydro and the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) invite you to attend an upcoming Open House which will review a possible new northern hydro-electric generating station at the Wuskwatim site southwest of Thompson and associated transmission facilities which are required to connect the generating station to the existing transmission system.

Manitoba Hydro and NCN have ratified an Agreement-In-Principle (AIP) to guide discussions pertaining to possible future development of the Wuskwatim Generating Station. The attached two newsletters provide an overview of the proposed generating station, associated transmission line facilities, and the anticipated regulatory and decision schedules.

If the Wuskwatim Generating Station were to be developed, it would be located approximately 45 km southwest of Thompson at Taskinigung Falls at the south end of Wuskwatim Lake. It would produce about 200 MW of electricity. The associated new transmission facilities would include a sub-station (Birchtree Station) to be located south of Thompson, one 230 kV transmission line between Birchtree Station and a new switching station at the Wuskwatim site, and two 230 kV lines between the Wuskwatim Switching station and the existing Herblet Lake Station at Snow Lake. In addition, there would be one 230 kV transmission line between Herblet Lake Station and the existing Rall's Island Station at The Pas. The proposed transmission line facilities are illustrated schematically in the attached First Round newsletter.

To fulfill project environmental licensing requirements, Manitoba Hydro and NCN have initiated an environmental impact assessment study of the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station. In addition, a Site Selection and Environmental Assessment (SSEA) study has been initiated to select routes for the proposed transmission lines. These studies will contribute to planning for the proposed project, but initiation of the studies does not mean that a decision has been made to proceed with the Wuskwatim project.

As part of this process, Manitoba Hydro and NCN have initiated discussions with potentially affected communities and interested parties outside the Nelson House Resource Management Area (RMA).

A Public Open House will be held in Thompson to share information with interested parties and the public about the Wuskwatim generating station project and associated transmission facilities. Interested parties

will have an opportunity to review information regarding the proposed Birchtree Station, preliminary routing options for the 230 kV transmission line between the proposed Birchtree Station and the Wuskwatim Switching Station, as well as between the Wuskwatim Switching Station and Herblet Lake Station at Snow Lake. Representatives from Manitoba Hydro and NCN will be available to answer questions regarding the projects.

We invite you to attend the upcoming **Public Open House** on **May 2nd, 2002** at the **St. Lawrence Hall** in Thompson anytime between **3:00 and 8:00 p.m.**

You are also welcome to attend any of the upcoming open houses in other locations that will deal with the transmission facilities proposed in those areas:

Community of Cormorant May 1, 2002 Community Hall 3:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Opaskwayak May 7, 2002 Kikiwak Inn 3:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Town of Snow Lake May 8, 2002 Elk's Hall 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. & 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.
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A special preview to the Open House information will be available to municipal and First Nation governments, one hour in advance of the opening to the general public.

In closing, if you have any questions regarding the proposed project prior to the Open Houses, please feel free to contact Mr. Ron Rawluk (Manitoba Hydro re: transmission facilities) at (204) 474-3119, Mr. Nick Barnes (Manitoba Hydro re: the generating station) at (204) 474-3999, Mr. Norman Linklater (NCN Future Development) at (204) 484-3019, or Mr. Marcel Moody (NCN Future Development) at (204) 484-3018.

Sincerely,

MANITOBA HYDRO



Ed Wojczynski
Division Manager
Power Planning and Operations

NCN



W. E. Thomas
Councillor
Future Development Portfolio

for

Att.

Table
Distribution List: Round Two Open House Invitation
Sent to Potentially Interested Parties in the Thompson Region

Recipient	Organization
Anita Campbell	Ma Mow We Tak, Thompson
Dr. Deviliers	Burntwood Regional Health Authority
Anne Gray-Kaspik	Thompson YWCA
Tim Johnston	North Central Community Future Development Corporation Inc.
Murray Kadys	Century 21 Sherry's Real Estate
Olaf Lamerz	Thompson Fire and Ambulance Department
Stella Locker	Lockers Real Estate Brokers
Karen McClelland	Burntwood Regional Health Authority
Bob McGilvray	Mystery Lake School Division
Daniel McSweeney	INCO Limited, Thompson
Ron Plomp	Thompson RCMP
Brad Ritchie	Thompson Chamber of Commerce
Joe Michel	Keewatin Tribal Council, Thompson
Norman Bignell	Registered Trapline Holder (Thicket Portage RTL District)
Robert Duncan	Registered Trapline Holder (Thicket Portage RTL District)
Agnus Barry	Registered Trapline Holder (Thicket Portage RTL District)
Mike Snihor	Registered Trapline Holder (Thicket Portage RTL District)
Ricky Chaboyer	Registered Trapline Holder (Thicket Portage RTL District)
Harry Pronteau	Registered Trapline Holder (Thicket Portage RTL District)
Donald Pronteau	Registered Trapline Holder (Thicket Portage RTL District)
Raymond L. Hamilton	Registered Trapline Holder (Wabowden RTL District)
Keith Brightnose	Registered Trapline Holder (Pikwitonei RTL District)
Leon H. E Brightnose	Registered Trapline Holder (Pikwitonei RTL District)
Carl Clearwater	Registered Trapline Holder (Nelson House RTL District)
Brett D. Hedman	Registered Trapline Holder (Nelson House RTL District)
Armella Kraska	Registered Trapline Holder (Pikwitonei RTL District)
Art E. Lamontagne	Registered Trapline Holder (Pikwitonei RTL District)
George S. McKay	Registered Trapline Holder (Nelson House RTL District)
Brendan P. Roberts	Registered Trapline Holder (Nelson House RTL District)
Kristen I. Roberts	Registered Trapline Holder (Nelson House RTL District)
Geoffrey Smith	Registered Trapline Holder (Nelson House RTL District)
Don R. Aikman	Registered Trapline Holder (Wabowden RTL District)
Joe Colombe	Registered Trapline Holder (Wabowden RTL District)
Ralph R. Colombe	Registered Trapline Holder (Wabowden RTL District)
Carl S. Dram	Registered Trapline Holder (Wabowden RTL District)
Ken A. Foure	Registered Trapline Holder (Wabowden RTL District)
Henry J. Garrick	Registered Trapline Holder (Wabowden RTL District)
Rod (Erick) P. Garrick	Registered Trapline Holder (Wabowden RTL District)

Recipient	Organization
Patrick Halcrow	Registered Trapline Holder (Wabowden RTL District)
Glen G. McIvor	Registered Trapline Holder (Wabowden RTL District)
Andrew McIvor	Registered Trapline Holder (Wabowden RTL District)
Donald A. McIvor	Registered Trapline Holder (Wabowden RTL District)
Jack E. McIvor	Registered Trapline Holder (Wabowden RTL District)
M. Edward E. McIvor	Registered Trapline Holder (Wabowden RTL District)
Charlie McLeod	Registered Trapline Holder (Wabowden RTL District)
Reggie A. Meade	Registered Trapline Holder (Wabowden RTL District)
Carl Hall	Registered Trapline Holder (Wabowden RTL District)
David W. Beebe	Registered Trapline Holder (Wabowden RTL District)



April 22, 2002

Mr. Tim Johnston,
North Central Community Future Development Corporation Inc.
Box 1203
3 Station Road
Thompson MB R8N 1P1

Dear Mr. Johnston:

Re: Open House Regarding Possible Wuskwatim Generating Station Project and Associated Transmission Facilities

Manitoba Hydro and the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) invite you to attend an upcoming Open House which will review a possible new northern hydro-electric generating station at the Wuskwatim site southwest of Thompson and associated transmission facilities which are required to connect the generating station to the existing transmission system.

Manitoba Hydro and NCN have ratified an Agreement-In-Principle (AIP) to guide discussions pertaining to possible future development of the Wuskwatim Generating Station. The attached two newsletters provide an overview of the proposed generating station, associated transmission line facilities, and the anticipated regulatory and decision schedules.

If the Wuskwatim Generating Station were to be developed, it would be located approximately 45 km southwest of Thompson at Taskinigup Falls at the south end of Wuskwatim Lake. It would produce about 200 MW of electricity. The associated new transmission facilities would include a sub-station (Birchtree Station) to be located south of Thompson, one 230 kV transmission line between Birchtree Station and a new switching station at the Wuskwatim site, and two 230 kV lines between the Wuskwatim Switching station and the existing Herblet Lake Station at Snow Lake. In addition, there would be one 230 kV transmission line between Herblet Lake Station and the existing Rall's Island Station at The Pas. The proposed transmission line facilities are illustrated schematically in the attached First Round newsletter.

To fulfill project environmental licensing requirements, Manitoba Hydro and NCN have initiated an environmental impact assessment study of the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station. In addition, a Site Selection and Environmental Assessment (SSEA) study has been initiated to select routes for the proposed transmission lines. These studies will contribute to planning for the proposed project, but initiation of the studies does not mean that a decision has been made to proceed with the Wuskwatim project.

As part of this process, Manitoba Hydro and NCN have initiated discussions with potentially affected communities and interested parties outside the Nelson House Resource Management Area (RMA).

A Public Open House will be held in Thompson to share information with interested parties and the public about the Wuskwatim generating station project and associated transmission facilities. Interested parties

will have an opportunity to review information regarding the proposed Birchtree Station, preliminary routing options for the 230 kV transmission line between the proposed Birchtree Station and the Wuskwatim Switching Station, as well as between the Wuskwatim Switching Station and Herblet Lake Station at Snow Lake. Representatives from Manitoba Hydro and NCN will be available to answer questions regarding the projects.

We invite you to attend the upcoming **Public Open House on May 2nd, 2002** at the **St. Lawrence Hall** in Thompson anytime between **3:00 and 8:00 p.m.**

You are also welcome to attend any of the upcoming open houses in other locations that will deal with the transmission facilities proposed in those areas:

Community of Cormorant
May 1, 2002
Community Hall
3:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Opaskwayak
May 7, 2002
Kikiwak Inn
3:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Town of Snow Lake
May 8, 2002
Elk's Hall
1:00 – 4:00 p.m. & 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

In closing, if you have any questions regarding the proposed project prior to the Open Houses, please feel free to contact Mr. Ron Rawluk (Manitoba Hydro re: transmission facilities) at (204) 474-3119, Mr. Nick Barnes (Manitoba Hydro re: the generating station) at (204) 474-3999, Mr. Norman Linklater (NCN Future Development) at (204) 484-3019, or Mr. Marcel Moody (NCN Future Development) at (204) 484-3018.

Sincerely,

MANITOBA HYDRO



Ed Wojczynski
Division Manager
Power Planning and Operations

NCN



W. E. Thomas
Councillor
Future Development Portfolio

for

Att.

Table
Distribution List: Round Two Open House Stakeholders Invitation
Sent to Potentially Interested Parties in the Project Region

Recipient	Company/Organization
D.E. McKeachnie	Hudson Bay Exploration and Development Company, Flin Flon
Peter Bell	Southern Resources Limited, Toronto
E. Brown	Minigold Resources Inc., Flin Flon
Shaun Spelliscy	Mining Claim Holder
Jeffrey H. Heidema	Cominco Ltd., Vancouver
Mira Kusta	Aur Resources Inc., Toronto
A.H. Dufresne	Falconbridge Limited, Toronto
Mike Muzykowski	Callinan Mines Limited, Vancouver
W. Bruce Dunlop	W. Bruce Dunlop Limited (N.P.L), Winnipeg
Anthon Menardy	1126774 Ontario Limited, Toronto
	Tri-Energy Inc., Calgary
Robert Dunlop	Mid-North Resources Limited, Calgary
Ken De Graff	Mining Claim Holder
Peter C. Dunlop	Mining Claim Holder
Brian Randa	INCO Limited, Thompson
Gail Harrop	INMET Mining Corporation, Vancouver
Dan Ziehlke	Strider Resources Limited, Cranberry Portage
	Threehouse Mines Limited, Toronto
Dalton Dupasquier	Cugold Ventures Inc., Vancouver
John Koban	Koban Resources Inc., The Pas
Roger Lemaitre	Mining Claim Holder
Neil David Roth	Mining Claim Holder
	Golden Range Resources Inc., Islington
Daniel V. Ziehlki	Mining Claim Holder
	A.L. Parres Ltd., Flin Flon
William McCrindle	Berland Resources Ltd., Thunder Bay
John Lee	Indicator Explorations Ltd., Winnipeg
W.S. Ferreria	W.S. Ferreria Ltd., Winnipeg
Bill Ferreria	Canmine Resources Corporation, Winnipeg
Bob Bushie	Aboriginal and Northern Affairs, Thompson
	Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakinak (MKO), Thompson
Ken Agar	Aboriginal & Northern Affairs, Winnipeg
Michael Anderson	Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakinak (MKO), Winnipeg
Ernie Armitt	Industry, Trade and Mines, Winnipeg
Pat Badertscher	Manitoba Heritage Resources Branch, Winnipeg
Chris Beumont-Smith	Industry, Trade & Mines, Thompson
Bryan Blunt	Manitoba Conservation, Winnipeg

Recipient	Company / Organization
Gary Ceppetelli	Intergovernmental Affairs, Thompson
Amar Chadha	Manitoba Transportation and Government Services, Winnipeg
David Chartrand	Manitoba Métis Federation, Winnipeg
Darcy Chrisp	Manitoba Conservation (Northwest Region), Flin Flon
Don Cook	Manitoba Conservation (Forestry Branch), Winnipeg
Craig Coughlin	Canadian Coast Guard, Kenora
Steve Davis	Manitoba Conservation (Northwest Region), The Pas
Isabel Dube	Manitoba Conservation, Neepawa
Bob Dubreuil	Industry, Trade & Mines Petroleum, Winnipeg
Jim Duncan	Manitoba Conservation Data Centre, Winnipeg
Don Dunnigan	Manitoba Conservation (Northwest Region), The Pas
Cam Elliott	Manitoba Conservation (Northeast Region), Thompson
Jim Fisher	Manitoba Conservation (Northwest Region), Snow Lake
Robert Fleming	Manitoba Agriculture & Food (Crown Lands), Minnedosa
John Fox	National Energy Board, Calgary
Chuck Frankard	Transport Canada (Prairie and Northern Region), Winnipeg
Peter Garrett	Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Winnipeg
Craig Hanley	Intergovernmental Affairs, Thompson
Ed Head	Manitoba Métis Federation, Winnipeg
Tom Heine	Industry, Trade & Mines, Flin Flon
Bruce Holmes	Manitoba Conservation (Northeast Region), Thompson
Trent Hreno	Manitoba Conservation, Winnipeg
Charles Jones	Industry, Trade and Mines, Winnipeg
David Jopling	Intergovernmental Affairs, Winnipeg
Mayer Judy	Manitoba Métis Federation, The Pas
Christine Kabernick	Manitoba Agriculture & Food, Carman
Steve Kearney	Manitoba Conservation (Northeast Region), Thompson
Dennis Lamb	Manitoba Conservation (Northwest Region), The Pas
Iannick Lamirande	Natural Resources Canada, Ottawa
Douglas Leroux	Manitoba Conservation (Northwest Region), The Pas
Don MacDonald	Manitoba Conservation (Northeast Region), Thompson
Jennell Majeran	Aboriginal & Northern Affairs, Thompson
Rod McCharles	Manitoba Conservation (Northwest Region), The Pas
Marnie McCracken	Manitoba Agriculture & Food, The Pas
Dan McNaughton	Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, Winnipeg
Blair McTavish	Manitoba Conservation, Winnipeg
Reg Meade	Northern Association of Community Councils, Wabowden
Darryl Montgomery	Manitoba Métis Federation, Thompson
Maria Ooi	Health Canada, Ottawa
Rich Peters	Manitoba Conservation, Winnipeg

Recipient	Company / Organization
Floyd Philips	Manitoba Conservation, Winnipeg
Jim Popplow	MOH Environment, Manitoba Health, Winnipeg
John Rigaux	Manitoba Conservation (Northeast Region), Thompson
Joe Romeo	Manitoba Highways and Government Services, Winnipeg
Julianne Schaible	Industry, Trade and Mines, Winnipeg
Roger Schroeder	Manitoba Conservation (Parks and Natural Areas Branch), Winnipeg
Ken Schykulski	Manitoba Conservation (Parks and Natural Areas Branch), Winnipeg
Harold Smith	Aboriginal and Northern Affairs, Thompson
Gail Swaine	Manitoba Transportation and Government Services, Thompson
Gary Swanson	Manitoba Conservation, Winnipeg
Suzanne Therrien-Richards	Parks Canada, Winnipeg
Beth Thomson	Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Winnipeg
Lorimer Thompson	Manitoba Conservation, Winnipeg
Ken Vipond	Aboriginal and Northern Affairs, Thompson
Rick Wilson	Manitoba Conservation (Parks and Natural Areas Branch), Winnipeg
Terry Youmans	Environment Canada, Winnipeg
Larry Strachan	Manitoba Conservation, Winnipeg
Bev Ross	Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Winnipeg
Chief Philip Buck and Councillors	Mosakahiken Cree Nation
Mayor Fosseneuve and Councillors	Community of Moose Lake
Jim Ticknor	Manitoba Lodges and Outfitters Association Inc., Beausejour
	Moose Lake Logging Company Ltd., Crossing Bay
Grant Armstrong	Manitoba Trappers Association, Lac du Bonnet
	Moose Lake Local Fur Council, Moose Lake
Don Campbell	Moose Lake Fishermen's Association, Moose Lake
Kelly Baker Sr.	Manitoba Trappers Association – Zone 10, South Indian Lake
	Thompson Wildlife Association, Thompson
Roger Guy	Norman Regional Development Inc., Thompson
Maxine A.Larway	Manitoba Telecom Services, Northern Region Engineering, Thompson
Scott Mooney	INCO Ltd. Exploration and Technical Services, Thompson
Bert Wentzell	Thompson Trailbreakers, Thompson
Mel Wyshynski	INCO Ltd., Manitoba Division, Thompson
Edward Huebert	The Mining Association of Manitoba Inc., Winnipeg
James Robertson	Falconbridge Ltd., Winnipeg
Cal Bonyai	Registered Trapline Holder (Thicket Portage RTL District)
Dale C. Chaboyer	Registered Trapline Holder (Thicket Portage RTL District)
Emile T. Chaboyer	Registered Trapline Holder (Thicket Portage RTL District)
Philip R. McGuiness	Registered Trapline Holder (Thicket Portage RTL District)
Kelly B. McKenzie	Registered Trapline Holder (Thicket Portage RTL District)
Blaine M. Snihor	Registered Trapline Holder (Thicket Portage RTL District)



April 22, 2002

Mr. Peter C. Dunlop
201 - 2639 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg MB R3J 0P7

Dear Mr. Dunlop:

Re: Open Houses Regarding Possible Wuskwatim Generating Station Project and Preliminary Siting and Alternative Routes for the Proposed Associated Transmission Facilities

Manitoba Hydro and the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) invite you to attend an upcoming Open House which will review a possible new northern hydro-electric generating station at the Wuskwatim site southwest of Thompson and associated transmission line facilities which are required to connect the generating station to the existing transmission system.

Manitoba Hydro and NCN have ratified an Agreement-In-Principle (AIP) to guide discussions pertaining to possible future development of the Wuskwatim Generating Station. The attached two newsletters provide an overview of the proposed generating station, associated transmission line facilities, and the anticipated regulatory and decision schedules.

If the Wuskwatim Generating Station were to be developed, it would be located approximately 45 km southwest of Thompson at Taskinigung Falls at the south end of Wuskwatim Lake. It would produce about 200 MW of electricity. The associated new transmission facilities would include a sub-station (Birchtree Station) to be located south of Thompson, one 230 kV transmission line between Birchtree Station and a new switching station at the Wuskwatim site, and two 230 kV lines between the Wuskwatim Switching Station and the existing Herblet Lake Station at Snow Lake. In addition, there would be one 230 kV transmission line between Herblet Lake Station and the existing Rall's Island Station at The Pas. The proposed transmission line facilities are illustrated schematically in the attached First Round newsletter.

To fulfill project environmental licensing requirements, Manitoba Hydro and NCN have initiated an environmental impact assessment study of the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station. In addition, a Site Selection and Environmental Assessment (SSEA) study has been initiated to select routes for the proposed transmission lines. These studies will contribute to planning for the proposed project, but initiation of the studies does not mean that a decision has been made to proceed with the Wuskwatim project.

As part of this process, Manitoba Hydro and NCN have initiated discussions with potentially affected communities and interested parties outside the Nelson House Resource Management Area (RMA).

Public Open Houses will be held to share information with interested parties and the public about the proposed Wuskwatim generating station project and associated transmission facilities. Interested parties

will have an opportunity to review preliminary routing options. Representatives from Manitoba Hydro and NCN will be available to answer questions regarding the projects.

You are welcome to attend any of the upcoming open houses.

Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities

Thompson
May 2nd, 2002
St. Lawrence Hall
3:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Transmission Facilities

Community of Cormorant
May 1, 2002
Community Hall
3:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Opaskwayak
May 7, 2002
Kikiwak Inn
3:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Town of Snow Lake
May 8, 2002
Elk's Hall
1:00 – 4:00 p.m. & 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

In closing, if you have any questions regarding the proposed project prior to the Open Houses, please feel free to contact Mr. Ron Rawluk (Manitoba Hydro re: transmission facilities) at (204) 474-3119, Mr. Nick Barnes (Manitoba Hydro re: the generating station) at (204) 474-3999, Mr. Norman Linklater (NCN Future Development) at (204) 484-3019, or Mr. Marcel Moody (NCN Future Development) at (204) 484-3018.

Sincerely,

MANITOBA HYDRO



Ed Wojczynski
Division Manager
Power Planning and Operations

NCN



W. E. Thomas
Councillor
Future Development Portfolio

for

Att.

2.3.2 Newspaper Advertisement

*Displayed in the Thompson Citizen on April 26 and 29, 2002, and in the Nickel Belt News on April 29, 2002.

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

To discuss

PROPOSED WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION PROJECT AND PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVE ROUTES FOR THE ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES

Environmental Impact Assessment

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. If the Wuskwatim Generating Station were to be developed, it would be located approximately 45 km southwest of Thompson at Taskinigup Falls at the south end of Wuskwatim Lake. It would produce about 200 MW of electricity. Associated new transmission facilities would include a new sub-station (Birchtree Station) to be located just south of Thompson in the LGD of Mystery Lake, one 230 kV transmission line between the Birchtree Station and a new Wuskwatim Switching Station at the generating station site, as well as two 230 kV lines between the Wuskwatim Switching Station and the existing Herblet Lake Station at Snow Lake. In addition there would be one 230 kV transmission line between Herblet Lake Station and the existing Rall's Island Station at The Pas.

To fulfill project environmental licensing requirements, Manitoba Hydro and NCN have initiated an Environmental Impact Assessment study of the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station. In addition, a Site Selection and Environmental Assessment (SSEA) study has been initiated to select routes for the proposed transmission lines. As part of this process, Manitoba Hydro and NCN have initiated discussions with potentially affected communities and interested parties outside the Nelson House Resource Management Area (RMA).

A Public Open House will be held in Thompson to share information with the public about both the Wuskwatim generating station project and associated transmission facilities. Interested parties will have an opportunity to review preliminary routing options between the proposed Birchtree Station south of Thompson and the Wuskwatim Switching Station at the generating station site, as well as between the Wuskwatim Switching Station and the Herblet Lake Station at Snow Lake. Representatives from Manitoba Hydro and NCN will be on hand to discuss the proposed projects.

We invite you to attend the upcoming Open House in Thompson:

St. Lawrence Hall, 114 Cree Road

May 2nd, 2002

3:00 – 8:00 p.m.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

For more information about transmission facilities please contact:

Ron Rawluk
Licensing & Environmental Assessment Dept.
Transmission Planning & Design
Winnipeg, MB R3C 2P4
Telephone: (204) 474-3119 (Collect)
Fax: (204) 474-4974

For more information about the generating station please contact:

Nick Barne
Power Planning and Operations
Manitoba Hydro
Winnipeg, MB R3C 2P4
Telephone: (204) 474-3999 (Collect)
Fax: (204) 474-4543

For Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation:
Norman Linklater
Co-Manager of Future Development
NCN
Nelson House, MB R0B 1A0
Telephone: (204) 484-3019
Fax: (204) 484-2980

or
Marcel Moody
Co-Manager of Future Development
NCN Nelson House, MB R0B 1A0
Telephone: (204) 484-3018
Fax: (204) 484-2980



2.3.3 Poster Advertisement

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE NOTICE

To share information with the public about the proposed

WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION PROJECT AND ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES

We invite you to attend the following upcoming Open House in Thompson:

May 2, 2002
St. Lawrence Hall
114 Cree Road
3:00 – 8:00 p.m.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

For more information please contact:

Ron Rawluk
Licensing & Environmental Assessment Dept.
Transmission Planning & Design
Winnipeg, MB., R3C 2P4
Telephone: (204) 474-3119 (Collect)
Fax: (204) 474-4974

Norman Linklater
Co-Manager of Future Development, NCN
Nelson House, MB R0B 1A0
Telephone: (204) 484-3019
Fax: (204) 484-2980

Nick Barnes
Power Planning and Operations
Manitoba Hydro
Winnipeg, MB R3C 2P4
Telephone: (204) 474-3999 (Collect)
Fax: (204) 474-4543

Marcel Moody
Co-Manager of Future Development, NCN
Nelson House, MB R0B 1A0
Telephone: (204) 484-3018
Fax: (204) 484-2980



2.3.4 Sign-in Sheet

Open House Participants
 Thursday May 2nd, 2002
 Thompson

Name	Community
1 Mark [unclear]	Thompson
2 Ray [unclear] Traper	Nelson House, Thompson
3 Marcell Moody	WPC
4 John Threiner	Thompson, MB
5 DAN BENNETT	— DO —
6 marlene Kominsky Northwest	Thompson
7 Tom Cuthbertson — DO —	Thompson
8 D. Manning	Thompson
9 Dheadly	Thompson
10 Phyllis Wiscombe MET	Thompson
11 Red Murphy TGS	Thompson
12 Laurayne Piechotta (Spence)	Nelson Also
13 Rodney Spence	N.C.S.
14 B. Miller	Thompson
15 Charles Campbell	Thompson
16 ROB PIECHOTTA	Thompson

Open House Participants
Thursday May 2nd, 2002
Thompson

Name	Community
17 Richard Tait	Nelson House.
18 Marcella Tait	Thompson.
19 Mary McCarthy	Thompson
20 Joyce McGee	Thompson.
21 Martha Jonasson	Thompson.
22 Craig Adams	Thompson.
23 Don Gates	THOMPSON
24 Tim Johnson	Thompson
25 LARRIS SPENCE	Thompson, MB
26 Bob Wall	T. Ham ptn MB.
27 DARRELL TAIT	THOMPSON MB
28 MERVIN TAIT	Thompson MB.
29 MARCY RICHARD	WPG.
30 GORDIE CRATE	HRDC THOMPSON
31 Tom Ellis	HRDC Thompson
32 Glen McInerney	WABONDEN ² TL #3

Open House Participants
 Thursday May 2nd, 2002
 Thompson

Name	Community
33 WALLY JANSEN	Thompson Thompson
34 JOHN T CONDAY	71
35 EDITH SPITTAL	Thompson Thompson Thompson
36 Lorraine Spittal	
37 Carl Spittal	
38 AL ADAMS United Rentals	
39 L. Linnick UNITED Rentals	FLIM FLOE
40 PETER ROSENFELD Aboriginal Bus. Con.	Thompson
41 MURRAY Thompson	Thompson Thompson
42 Linda Wentz	
43 Joe Garon	Split Lake
44 HAROLD SMITH	THOMPSON
45 Russ Sagan	1)
46 Chris Donohue	1)
47 Colleen + Nick Amok	Thompson
48 Kristy Prystay + John Holland	Thompson
49 ADRIAN de Groot	Thompson. 3

Open House Participants
 Thursday May 2nd, 2002
 Thompson

Name	Community
50 Michelle Weber	Nelson House, MS
51 Geoff Rogan	Thompson
52 Jessica Spence	H.C.N
53 Cheyenne Spence	NCN
54 D. A. GAUTHIER	Thompson
55 ANTONIO HERMENEZ GILDO	Thompson
56 Morgan Svendsen	Thompson
57 Norma Johnson	Thompson
58 Florie Campbell	Thompson
59 Darryl FEDMAN	Thompson
60 Charlie Joe Hart	Nelson House, Room Met. Bldg.
61 Britt + Colleen Washam	Thompson
62 Peter Geller	Thompson
63 Joe Coker	Thompson
64 Terry-Lynn Steven	Thompson

Open House Participants
Thursday May 2nd, 2002
Thompson

65

Name

Abund Thompson

Community

2.3.5 Storyboards

WELCOME

Public Open House

Proposed Wuskwatim

Generating Station

and Associated

Transmission Facilities

Thompson ☐☐☐ May 2, 2002

**Nisichawayasihk
Cree Nation**

**Manitoba
Hydro**

Project Overview

- Manitoba Hydro and the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) have ratified an Agreement-in-Principle regarding possible future development of the Wuskwatim Generating Station project.
- If approved, the Wuskwatim Generating Station would be built at Taskinigup Falls at the outlet of Wuskwatim Lake (about 35 km southwest of Nelson House and 45 km southeast of Thompson).
- Associated transmission facilities would be required to carry the electricity from the generating station to the existing transmission system.
- 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 of Manitoba.
- No decisions have been made as to whether to proceed with the project.

The Wuskwatim Generating Station Project

Wuskwatim Falls

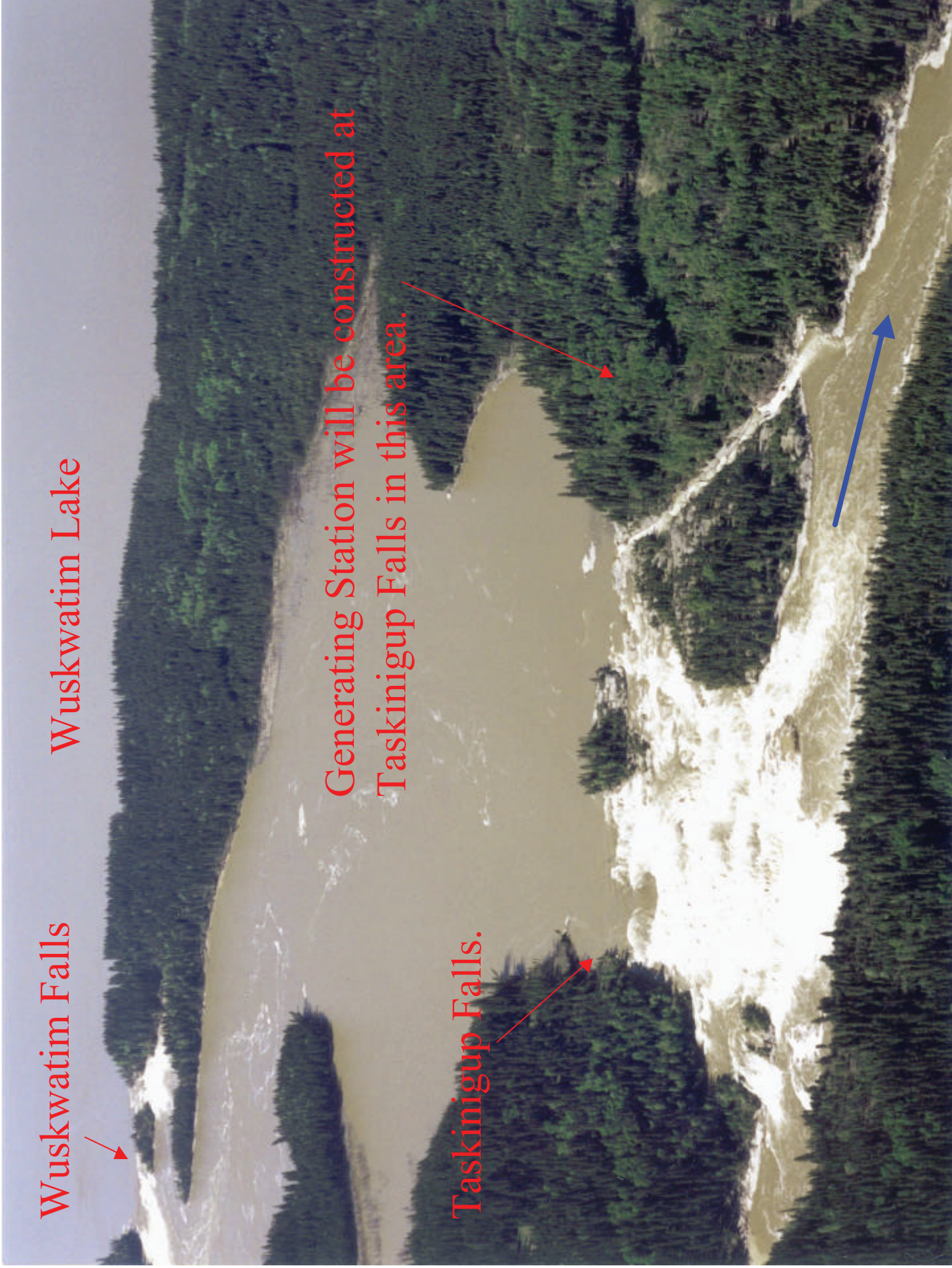


Wuskwatim Lake

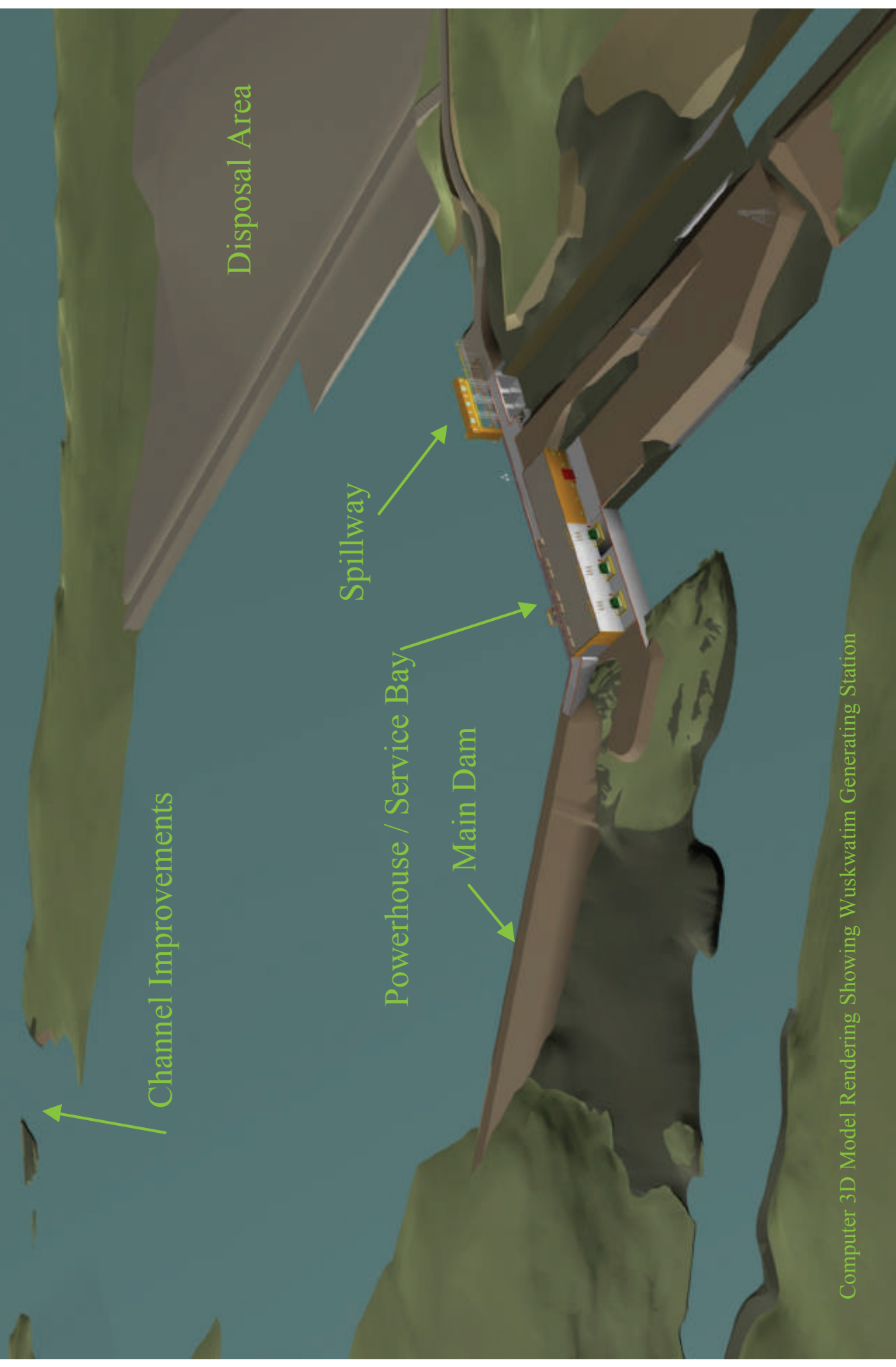
Generating Station will be constructed at Taskinigup Falls in this area.



Taskinigup Falls.



General Arrangement of Principal & Secondary Structures



Channel Improvements

Disposal Area

Spillway

Powerhouse / Service Bay

Main Dam

Computer 3D Model Rendering Showing Wuskwatim Generating Station

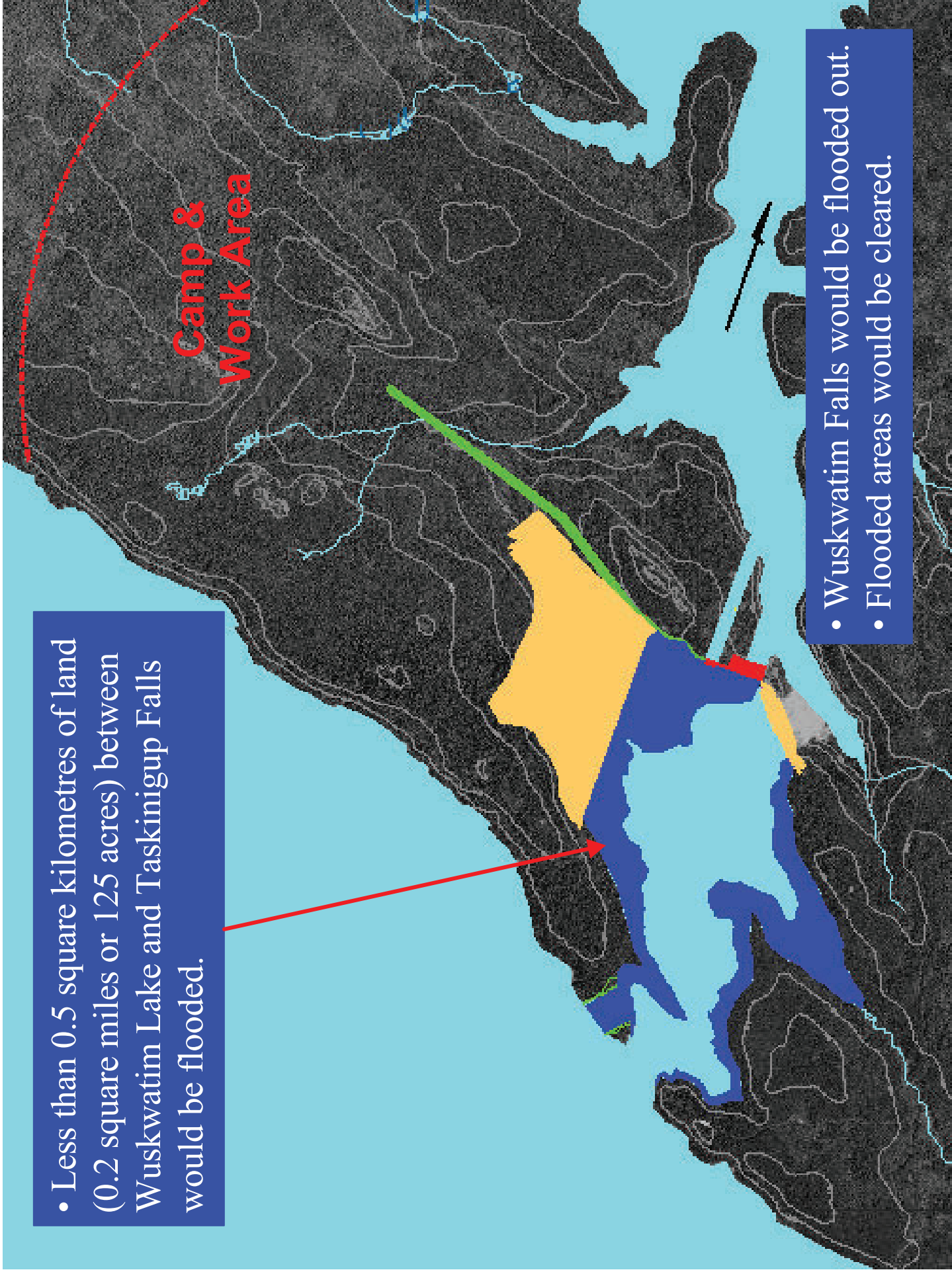
Wuskwatim Project - Plant Parameters

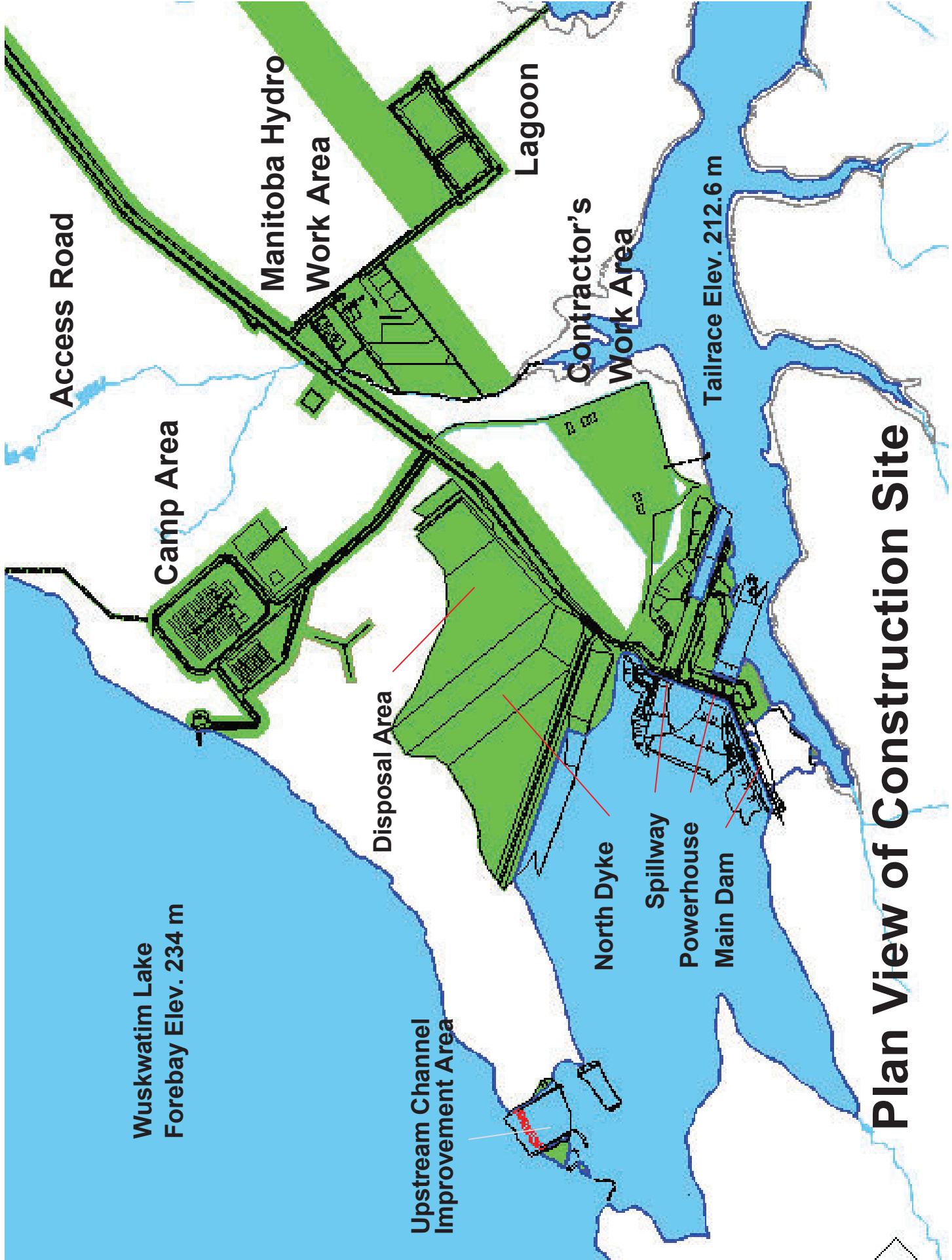
- 
- Forebay at elevation 234.0 m
 - Approximately 21-22 m of Hydraulic Head
 - Rated Discharge of 1,100 cms (38, 850 cfs)
 - Three Fixed Blade Vertical Shaft Turbines
 - Produce about 200 MW of power (0.81 Capacity Factor)

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

**Camp &
Work Area**

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

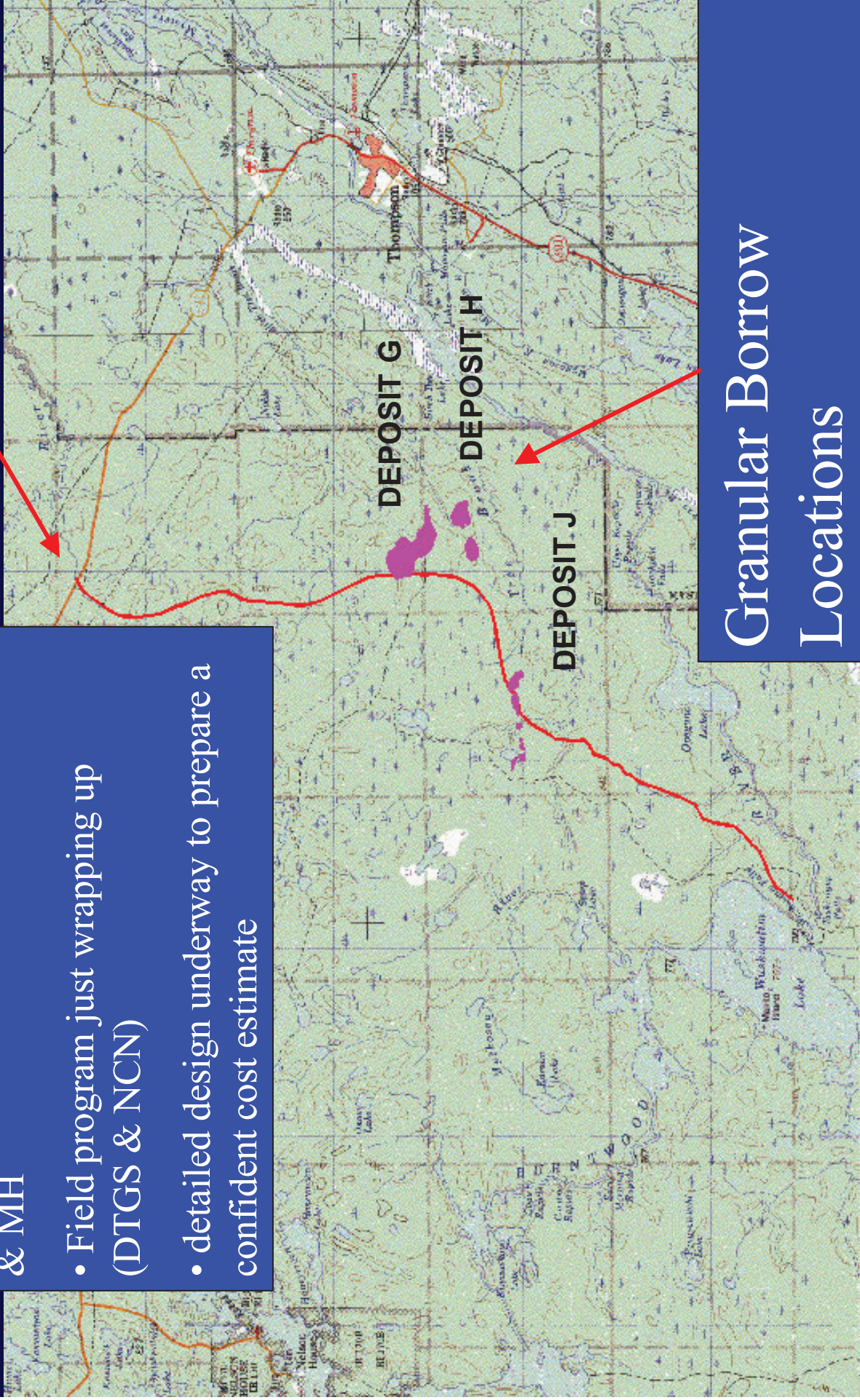




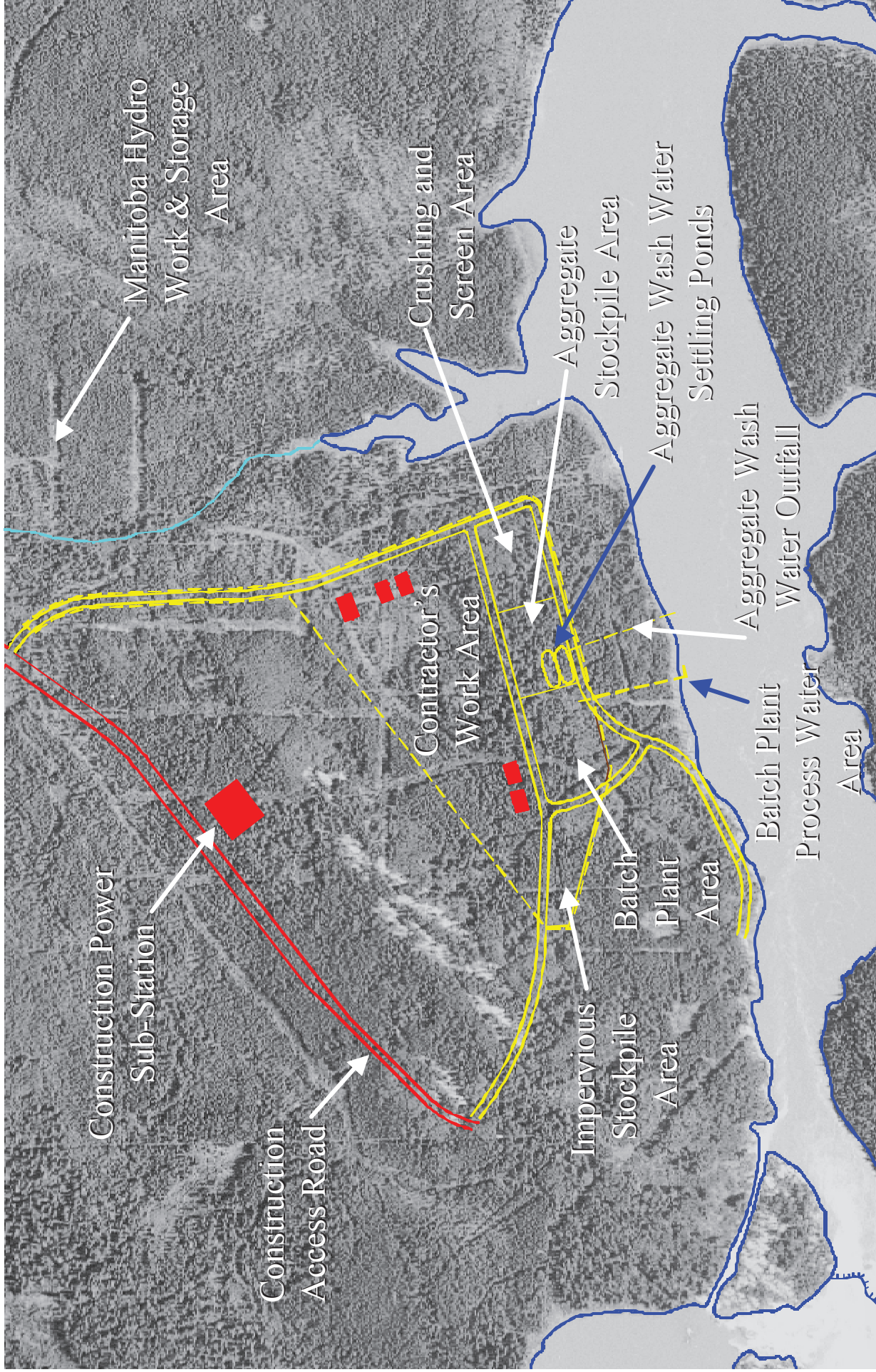
Plan View of Construction Site

- Selection process for the access road route was an extensive exercise
- Alternatives Committee formed - NCN & MH
- Field program just wrapping up (DTGS & NCN)
- detailed design underway to prepare a confident cost estimate

Mile 17 Access Road

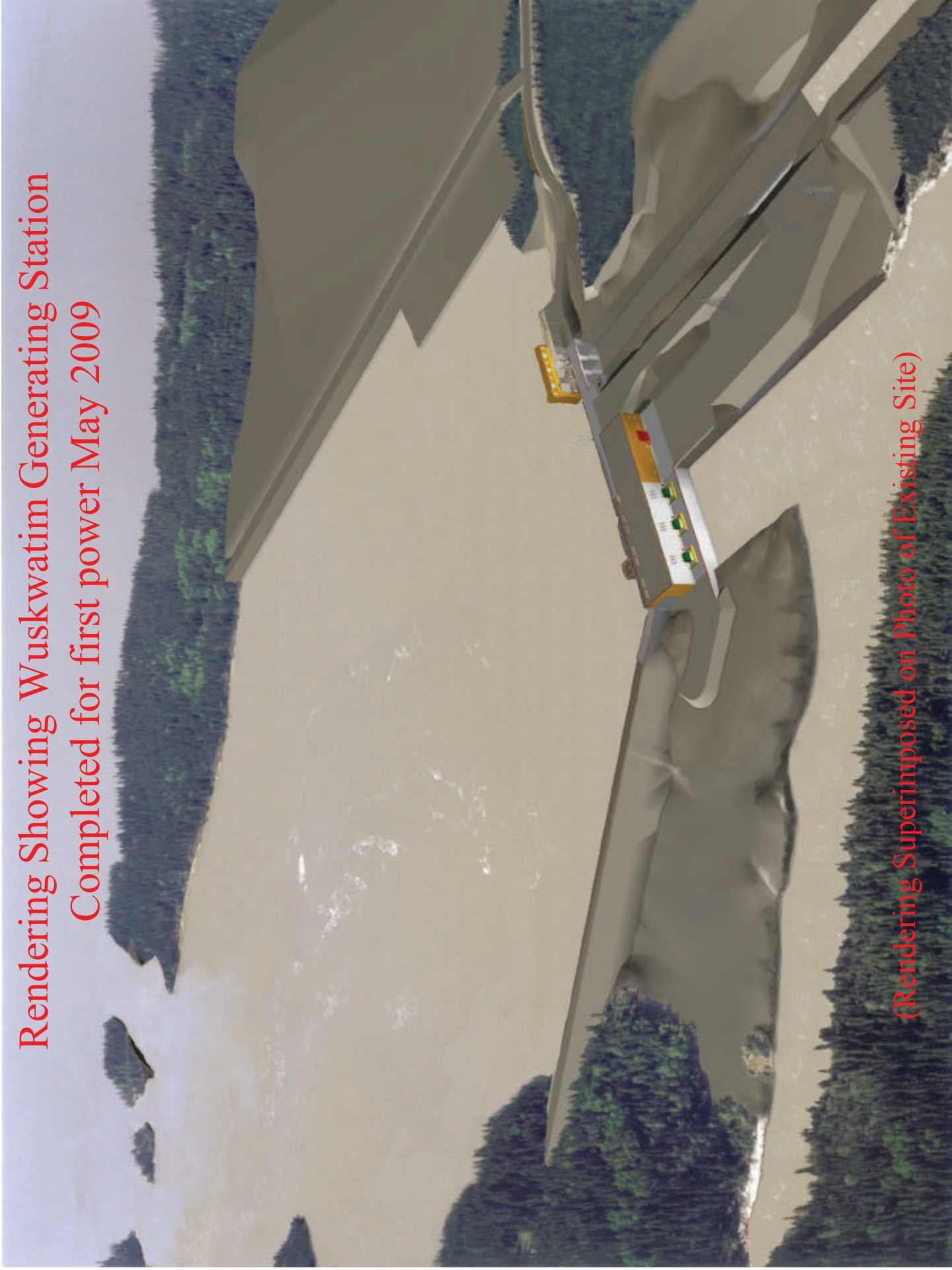


Granular Borrow Locations



2005 - Mobilization – Showing contractors work area, office, garage, batch plant, crushers, stock piles, settling ponds.

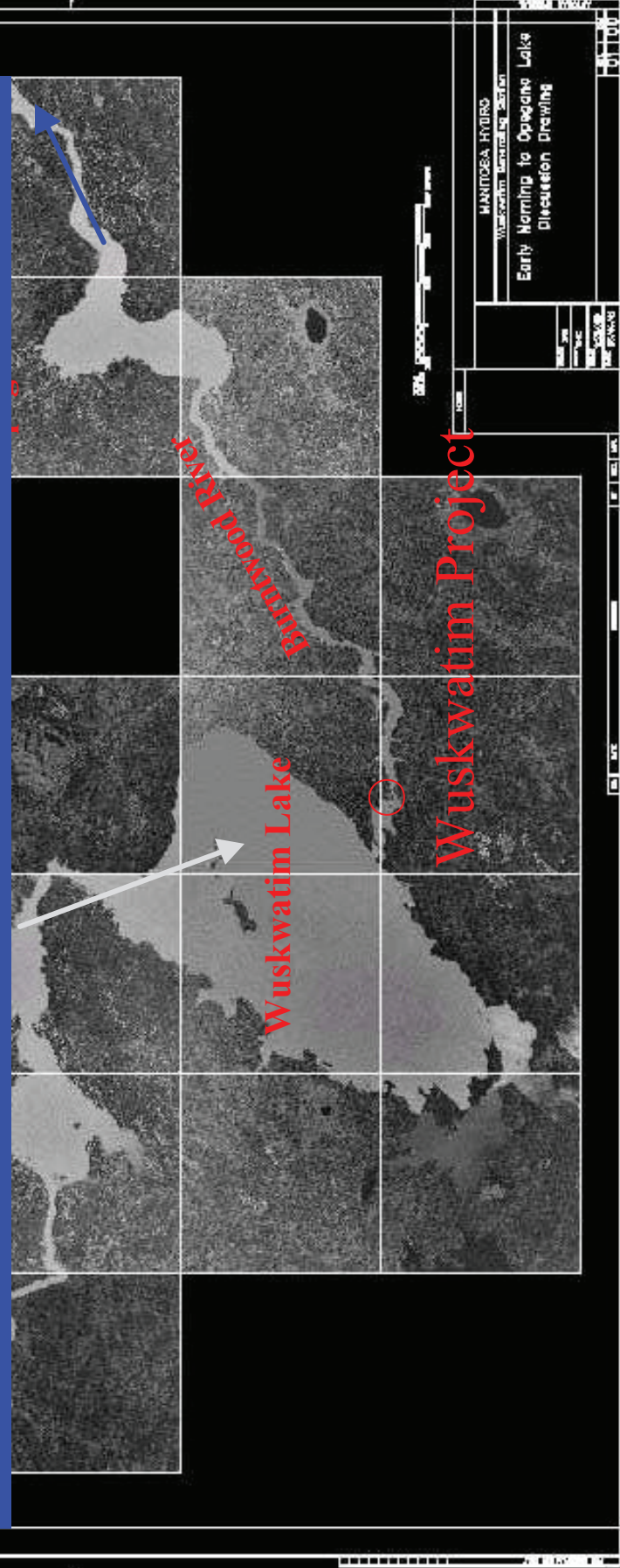
Rendering Showing Wuskwatom Generating Station
Completed for first power May 2009



(Rendering Superimposed on Photo of Existing Site)

Water levels on Wuskwatim Lake would not go up and down like they have since CRD.

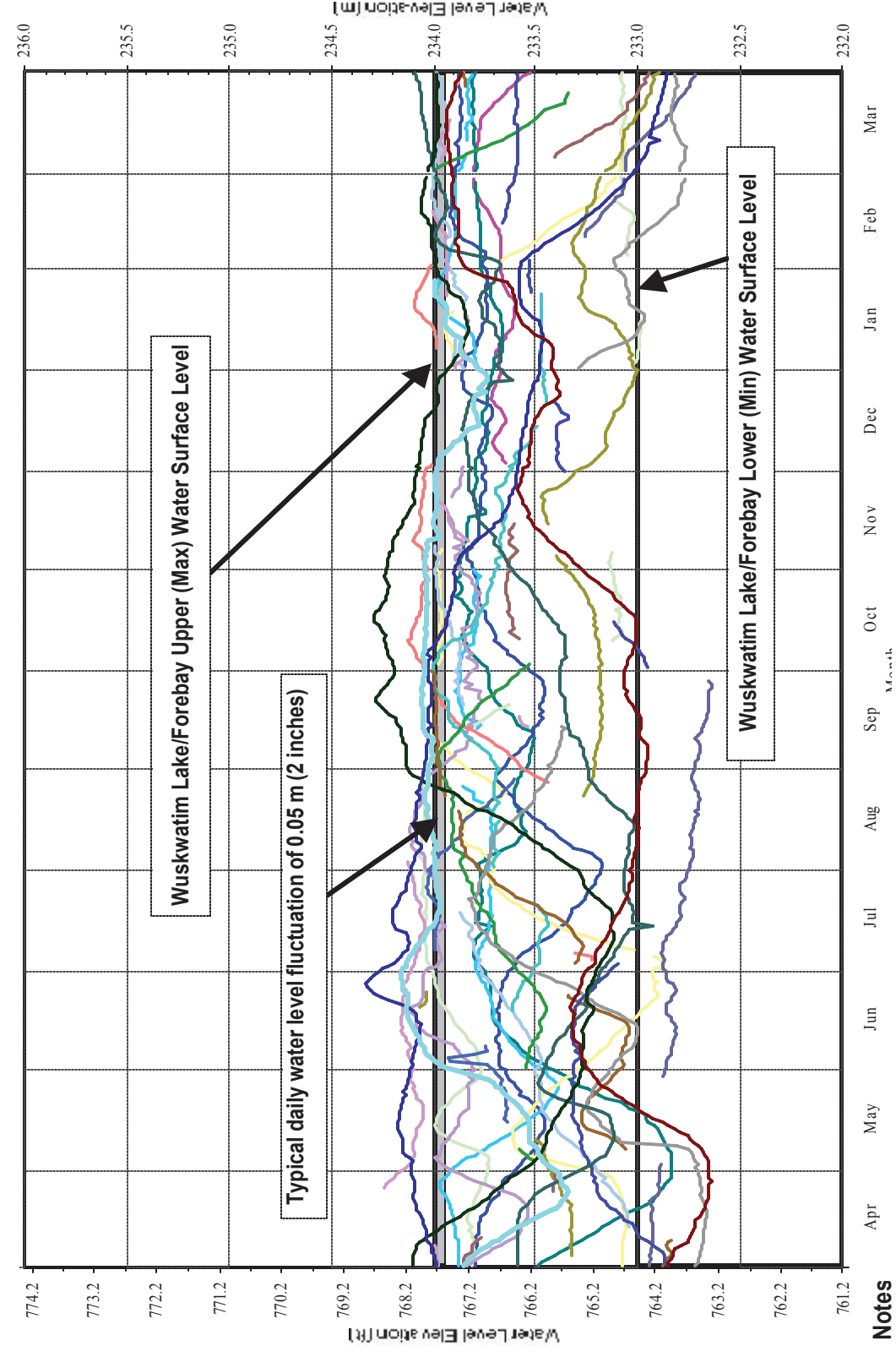
- The project will normally be operated such that the water level will be at or slightly below 234.0 m ASL
- The water level would remain near the upper end of the range seen in the last 25 years as shown in the following slide.
- The typical daily change in water level is about 0.05 m.
- For short term emergency purposes the water level may go down as low as 233.0 m . The “one” metre of storage would be drawn upon under emergency conditions most likely when water supplies are low in late winter.



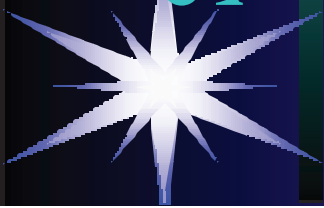


Wuskwatim Lake Water Regime

- 77/78
- 78/79
- 79/80
- 80/81
- 81/82
- 82/83
- 83/84
- 84/85
- 85/86
- 86/87
- 87/88
- 88/89
- 89/90
- 90/91
- 91/92
- 92/93
- 93/94
- 94/95
- 95/96
- 96/97
- 97/98
- 98/99
- 99/00
- 00/01

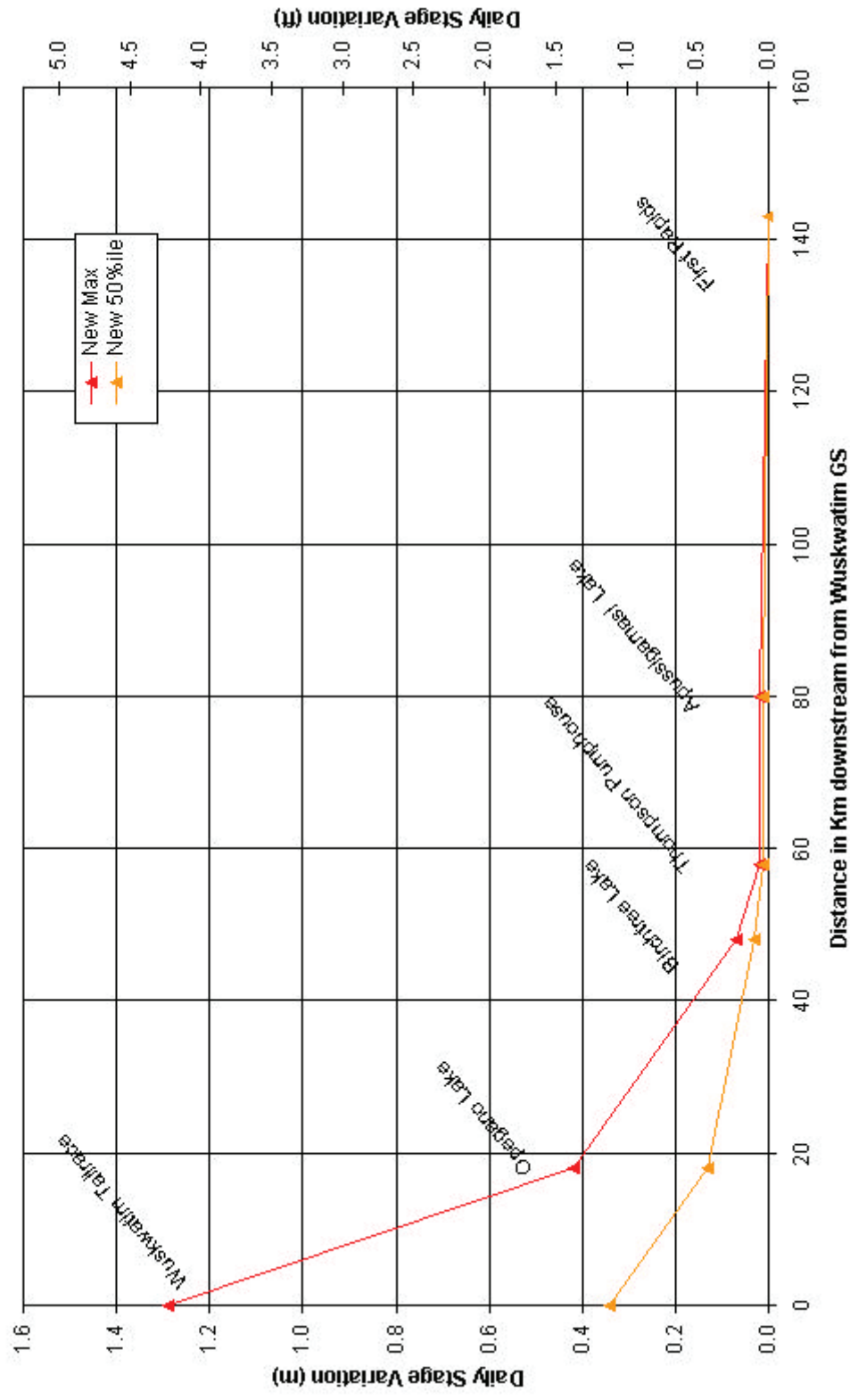


Notes



Summary of Daily Stage Variations

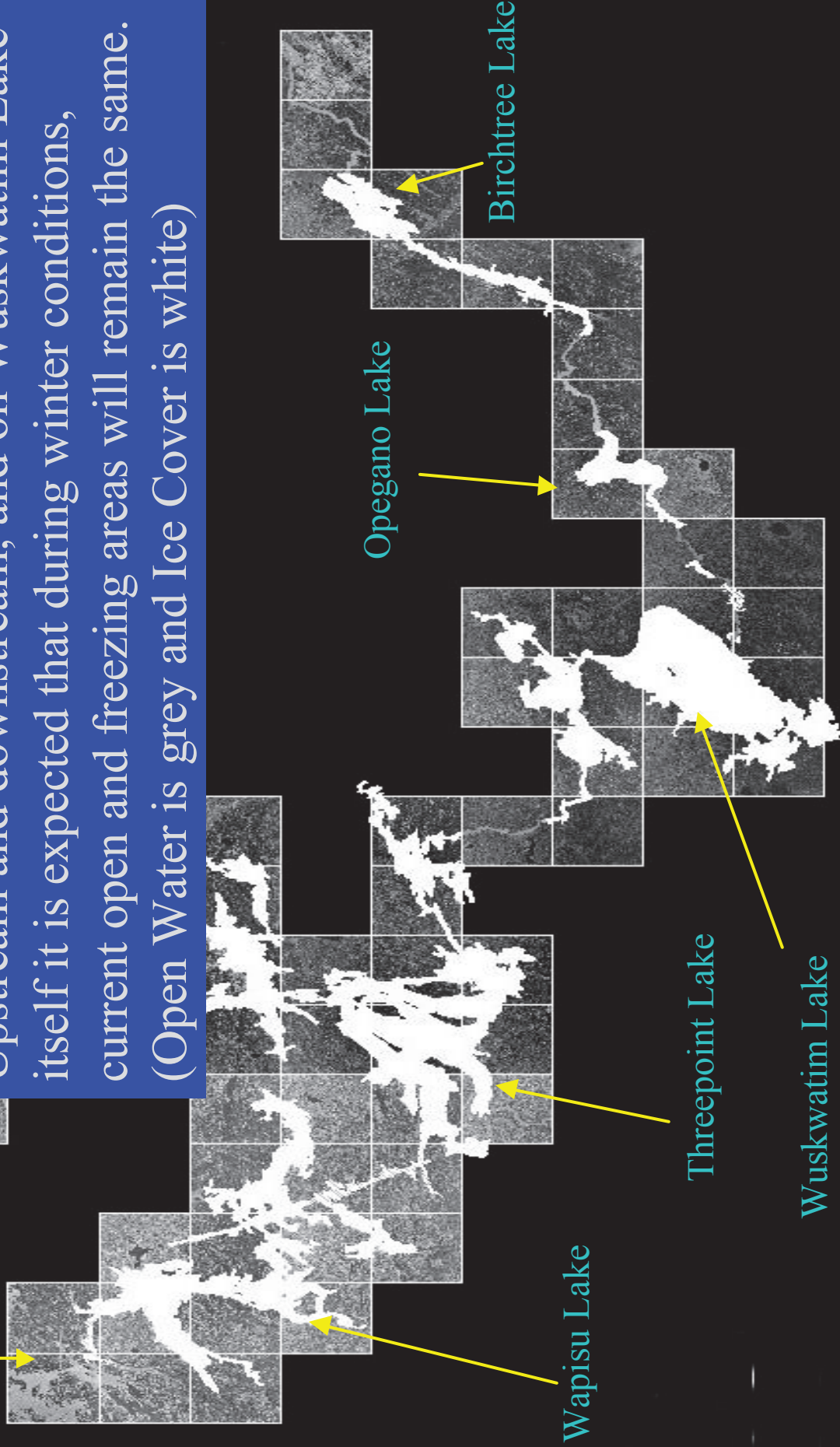
Daily Open Water Stage Variations vs Distance from Wuskwatim GS for Simulated Flows from 1912 to 1997



Ice Studies

Notigi Control
Structure

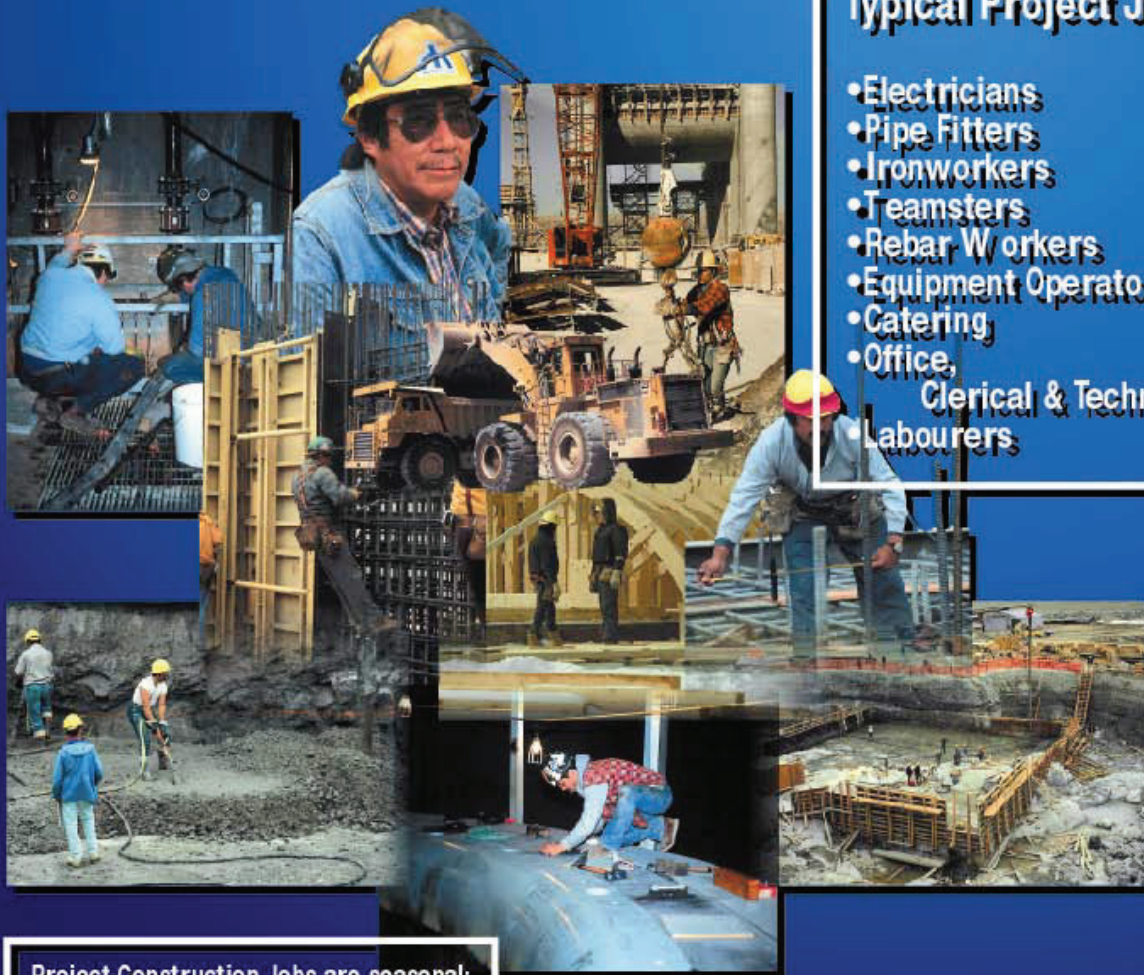
Ice conditions are being studied to predict the effect of a generating station. Upstream and downstream, and on Wuskwatim Lake itself it is expected that during winter conditions, current open and freezing areas will remain the same. (Open Water is grey and Ice Cover is white)



Project Construction Jobs

Typical Project Jobs

- Electricians
- Pipe Fitters
- Ironworkers
- Teamsters
- Rebar Workers
- Equipment Operators
- Catering
- Office, Clerical & Technical Labourers



Project Construction Jobs are seasonal; usually 4-6 months of the year

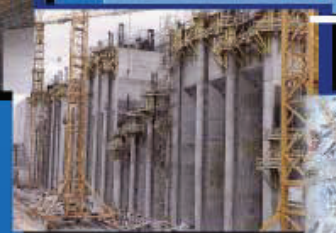


Generating Station Construction Sequence

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

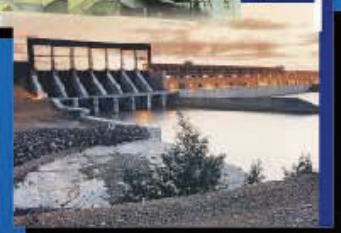
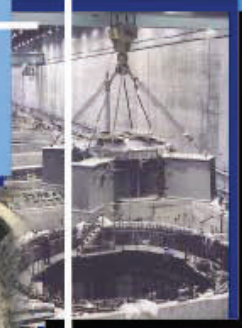
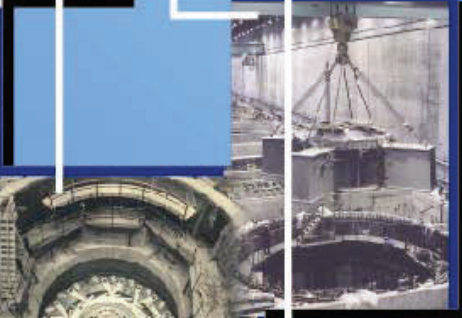


Generating Station Construction Sequence

Year 4

Year 5

Year 6



NCN/Manitoba Hydro Joint Study Program

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

NCN/Manitoba Hydro Joint Study Program Objectives

The overall objectives of the Joint Study Program are:

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

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

NCN Traditional Knowledge

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

- **NCN, Manitoba Hydro, and the Environmental Study Team feel that it is important to include Traditional Knowledge (TK) in the environmental studies.**
- **NCN has a TK Committee to guide the process of collecting TK.**
- **The Community Consultants have been conducting interviews with elders and resource harvesters.**
- **TK will be important for the environmental studies and as a legacy for the community.**
- **NCN members participating in the field studies are also providing valuable information to the study team biologists.**

What Studies are Being Done on the Environment?

Environmental Studies

NCN and Hydro have been working together to understand the effects that proposed hydroelectric developments may have on the environment:

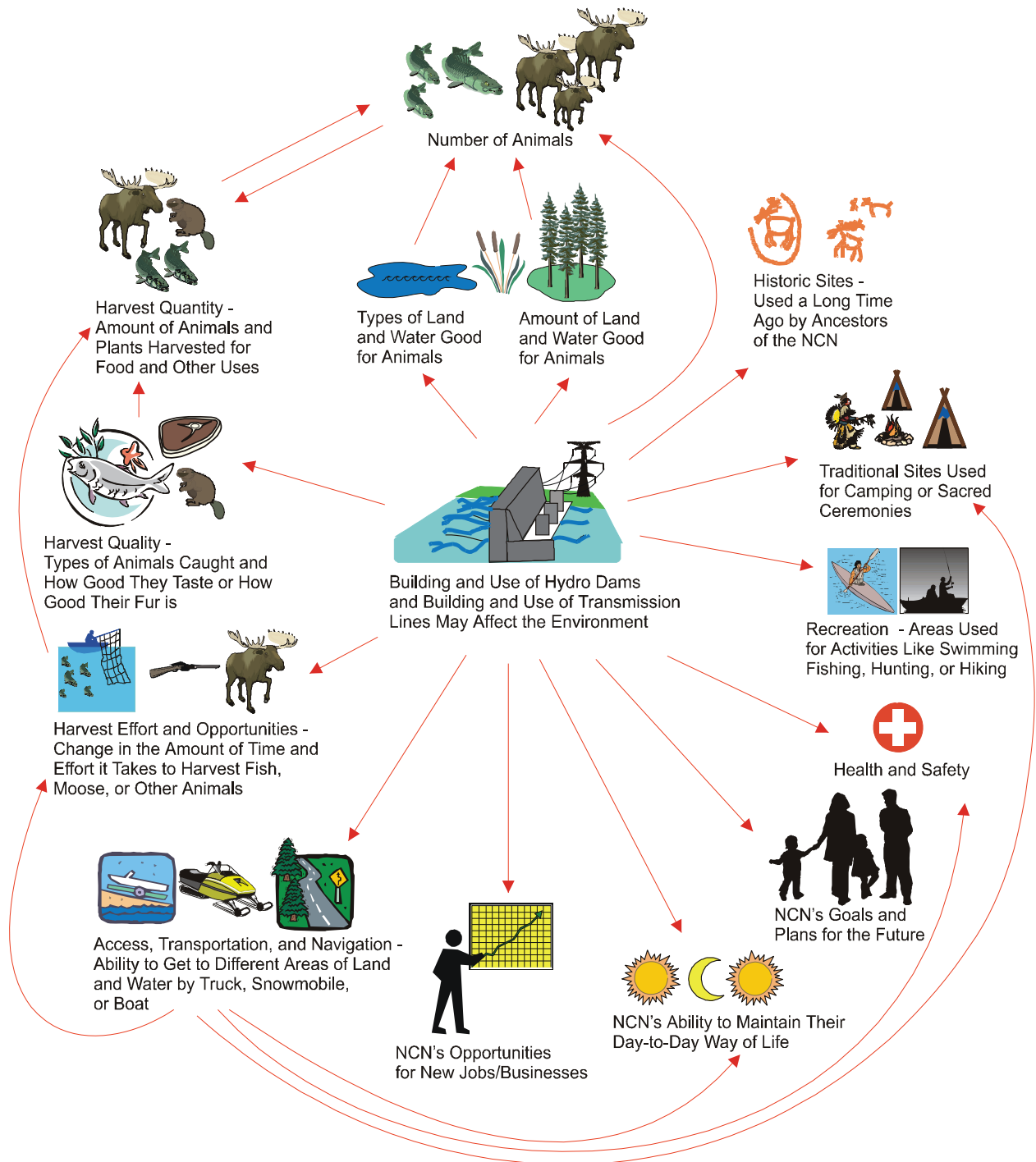
- **The environmental studies that will be done this year began in 2000, and continued in 2001 and 2002.**
- **Studies are looking at:**
 - **water flow and ice formation.**
 - **erosion and debris.**
 - **water and things that live in it, including fish.**
 - **the land environment and things that live in it.**
 - **use of resources by NCN (e.g., hunting, trapping, fishing).**
 - **commercial forestry.**
 - **heritage resources.**
 - **socio-economic issues such as business and employment opportunities, transportation, culture, and community and family life.**

NCN members have been participating in the studies by providing information about things being studied, such as wildlife, and by working with the field crews.

Assessing the Effects of the Proposed Developments

- **The information gathered during the studies will be used to write an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).**
- **An EIS is a study, which is done before a project is built, to identify the expected effects of the project on land, water, and animals, as well as the community and people.**
- **The studies will use information from many sources, including field studies as well as local and traditional knowledge.**
- **The EIS will also look at CUMULATIVE EFFECTS - the effect of the proposed project together with other planned developments, such as forestry.**

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



Things to be studied as part of an EIS.

Studies of the Land Environment

- **vegetation**
- **wildlife**

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.



Wihkis roots drying



Beaver lodge in Wuskwatim Brook area



Bald Eagle nest in an Aspen tree on Wuskwatim Lake

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 hare, lynx, weasel etc.), moose, and woodland caribou; and
- small mammals (such as mice, voles, etc.) that support other mammal populations.



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



Lynx tracks



Wuskwatim Brook beaver lodge - plundered by wolverine



A caribou being radio-collared

Wildlife Studies (continued)

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.**



Harry Spence (above left) and Ron Dysart (center) assisted in boat-based and Ron Spence (above right) in helicopter surveys



Adult eagle in Aspen along Notigi Lake



Duck nest near Wuskwatim Brook



Gull nesting colony on Wuskwatim Lake

Studies of the Water Environment

- **water quality**
- **fish habitat (water depth, bottom type, water plants and bugs)**
- **fish population**
- **fish movements and fish quality**

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.



Harry Spence at the Opegano Limnology Site

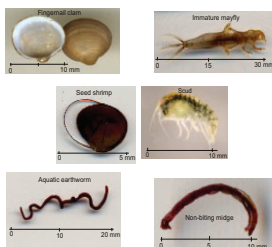
Aquatic Environment

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.



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



Derek Linklater collecting water plants



A sample taken from the bottom of a lake

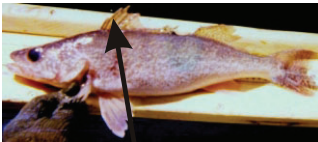


Jeff Eddy collecting depth information

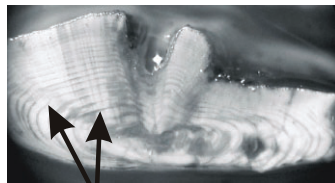
Fish Populations

The following information is being gathered on fish populations for all major lakes and river reaches potentially affected by the project:

- fish species presence and relative abundance;
 - a description of fish populations (where they are 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.



The age of pickerel is determined by examining a bone from their back fin called a "dorsal spine".



The ages of whitefish and tullibee are determined by examining a bone in the head, called an "otolith". Each ring of the otolith represents one year of life.



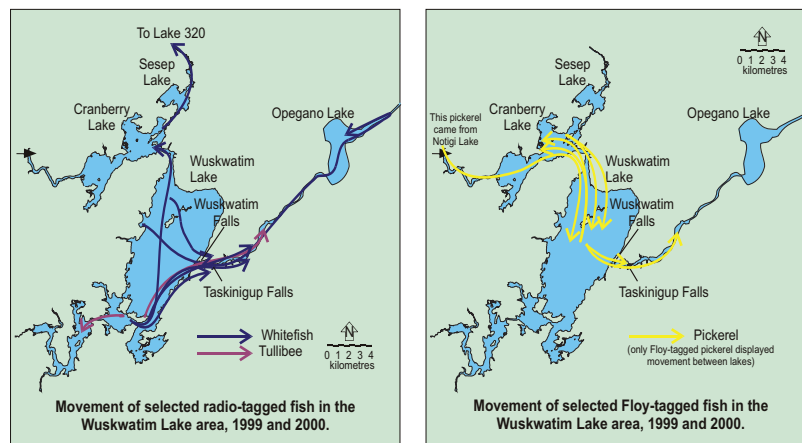
The age of jackfish is determined by examining a bone under the gill plate, called a "cleithrum".

Fish Movements

Fish movements 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.



Radio-tags



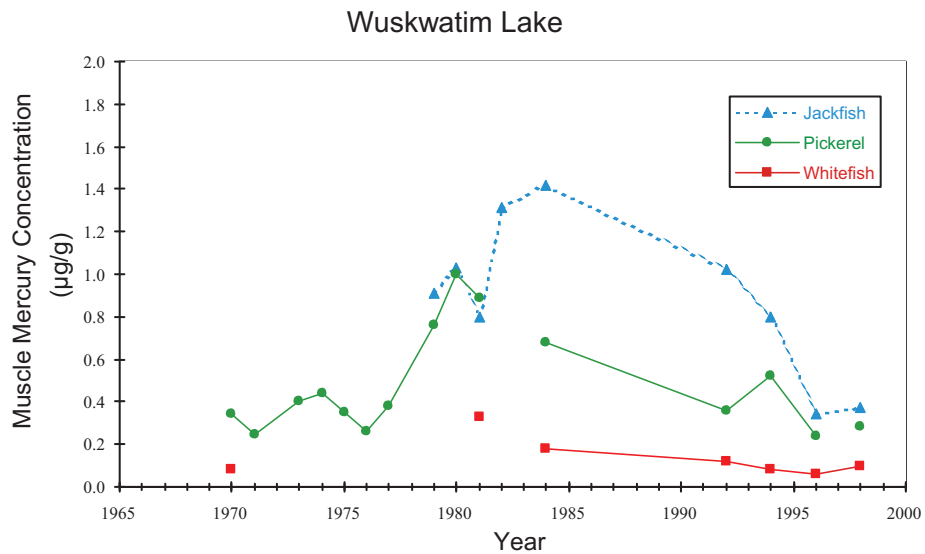
Floy-tags



Fish Quality Studies

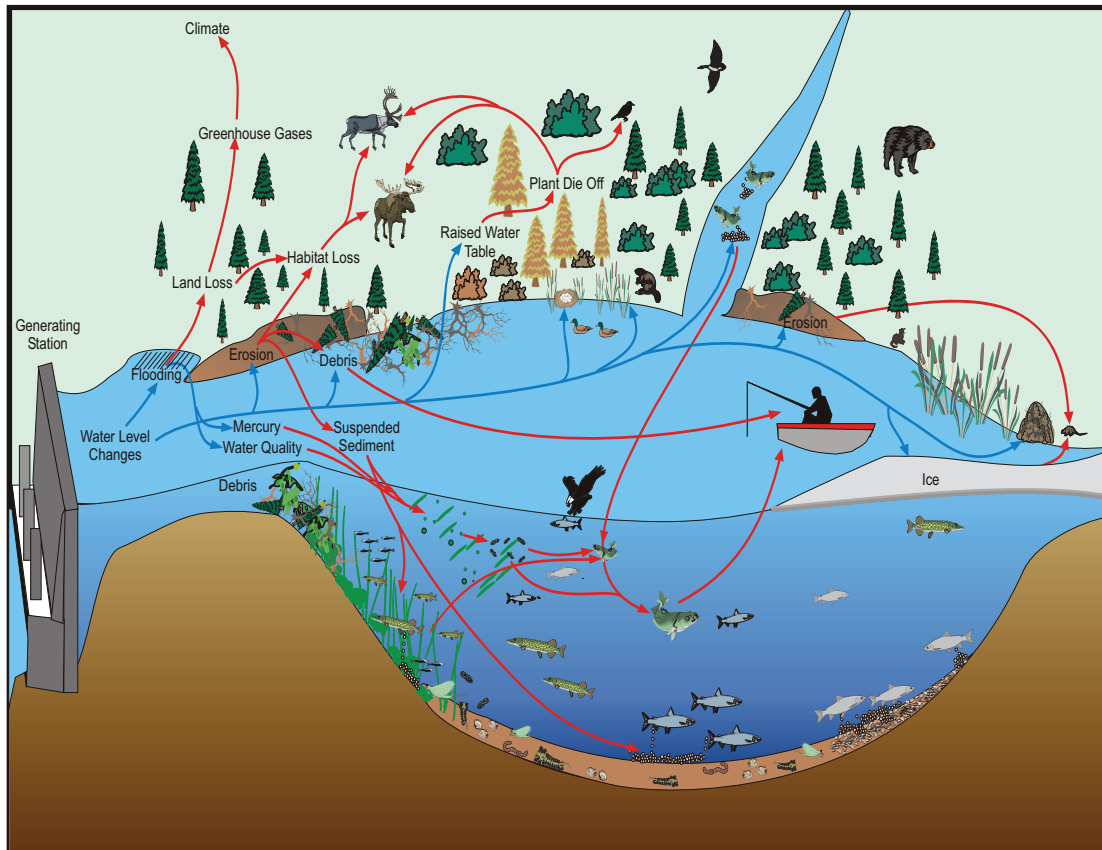
Fish quality studies are also being conducted:

- 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.



How Will This Information Be Used?

- Information about the existing environment, based on field studies, TK from NCN members, government databases, and published scientific reports, will be used to help predict how the proposed project might affect the aquatic environment.



- This picture shows how the project could affect the water, plants, bugs, and fish living in the lake.
- For example, increased water levels could increase erosion of the shore. This would make the water muddier, and affect the growth of plants and bugs. Changes in the plants and bugs could then affect the fish.
- The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will describe these pathways and, using our understanding of the existing environment, say if there would be a change as a result of the Project, and, if so, how big the change would be.

Studies of Resource Use

Resource Use

- 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.



Murdo Linklater assisting with forestry work

Studies of the Effects on Heritage Resources

Northern Lights Heritage Services Inc. staff, and NCN were busy during the summers of 2000 and 2001 conducting archaeological field investigations.



The construction area and the areas between Wuskwatim Lake and Taskinigup Falls on the Burntwood River were investigated.

At Wuskwatim Falls a stone feature was uncovered about 25 m north of the falls during shovel testing. A 2 m x 2 m area was opened which revealed numerous rocks that may have been a portage marker in the distant past. A small piece of black chert stone core was found nearby.



Studies of the Effects on Heritage Resources (continued)

The remains of an old cabin are located at Taskinigup Falls. When David McLeod and Leo Spence excavated the interior of the cabin, much to their surprise they found a canoe buried deep in the moss.



- **Field investigations along the access road will be completed in spring 2002.**
- **The study team will use results from these field studies as well as past research on Wuskwatim Lake conducted by Manitoba Heritage Resources Branch to assess the potential effect of the proposed Wuskwatim Project on heritage resources.**

Socio-Economic Studies

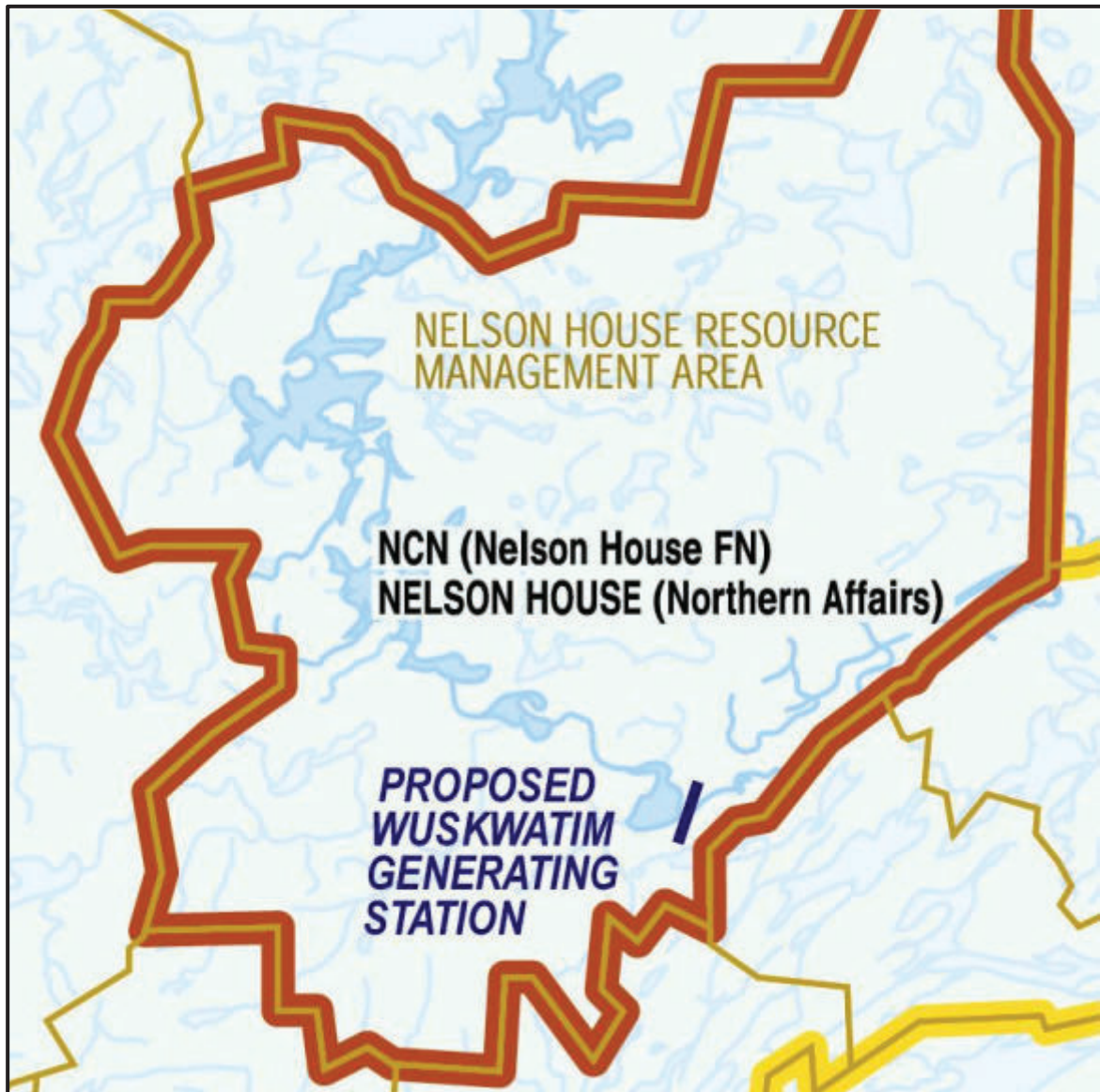
Socio-Economic Studies

- Socio-economic studies consider people, their lifestyles, and their communities.
- They differ from biophysical studies because people may be affected by more than physical change (e.g., employment and business opportunities)
- Socio-economic studies of the Wuskwatim project are considering:
 - What it is currently like to live in communities and regions near the proposed project.
 - What life might be like if things were to continue the way they are today without the proposed project.
 - What life might be like if the Wuskwatim project is developed.

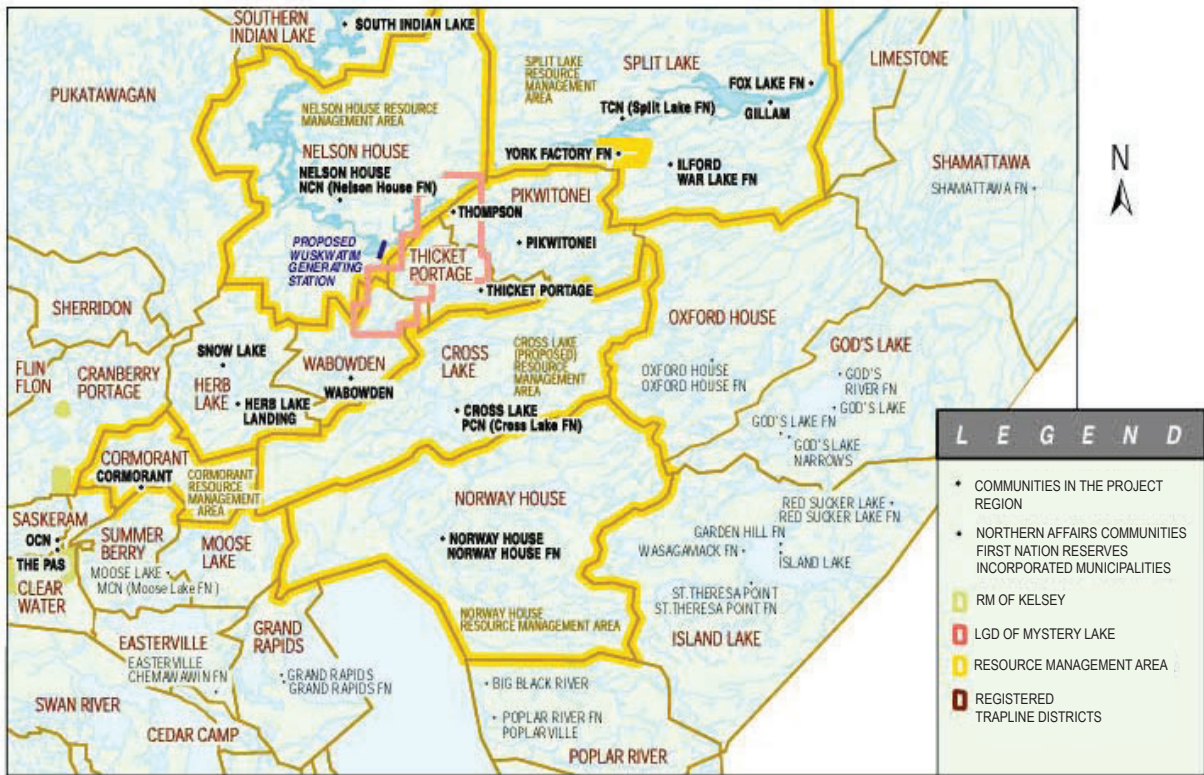
Socio-Economic Studies (continued)

- Socio-economic studies for the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station are being completed for:
 - Local Region
 - NCN at Nelson House
 - Nelson House Northern Affairs Community
 - Nelson House RMA
 - Project Region
 - Thompson and the LGD of Mystery Lake
 - Other communities in Public Involvement Plan defined as potentially affected
 - Northern Manitoba
 - Boundary used in Burntwood Nelson Collective Agreement

Local Region

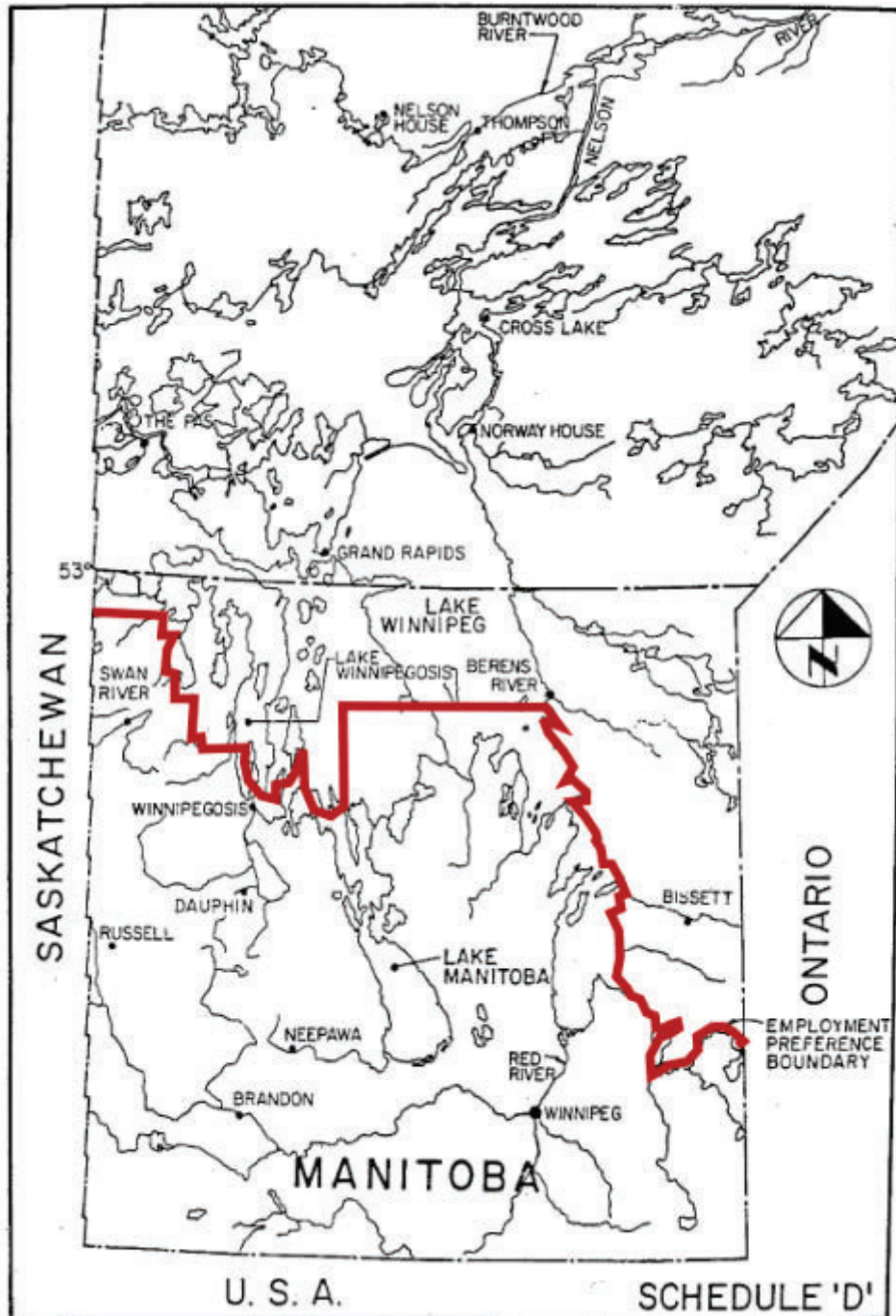


Project Region



Northern Region

- The Northern Region is the same as the Northern Boundary, as defined in the Burntwood Nelson Agreement (BNA).



Socio-Economic Studies (continued)

- The main topics included in the Socio-economic studies for the Wuskwatim project are:
 - Economy, including Resource-Based Economy
 - Built Environment & Community Services
 - Personal Family & Community Life
- For each of these topics, studies will consider:
 - Sources of Impact
 - Existing Environment
 - Impacts and Mitigation
 - During construction
 - During operations
 - Cumulative Impacts
 - Residual Impacts
 - Monitoring and Follow-up

Socio-Economic Studies (continued)

Economy

Topic	Nelson House/R MA	Thompson	Project Region	Northern Manitoba
Employment and Training	√	√	√	√
Business	√	√	√	√
Equity Participation	√			
Resource-based Economy	√			

Socio-Economic Studies (continued)

Built Environment and Community Services

Topic	Nelson House/ RMA	Thompson	Project Region	Northern Manitoba
Project Infrastructure	√	√		
In/Out Migration	√	√		
Community Infrastructure and Services	√	√		
Community Finance	√	√		

Socio-Economic Studies (continued)

- Community Infrastructure and Services (Nelson House and Thompson) includes:
 - Housing and accommodations
 - Water and waste disposal
 - Roads
 - Education facilities and services
 - Health facilities and services
 - Policing and enforcement services
 - Social assistance and other services
 - Community recreation

Socio-Economic Studies (continued)

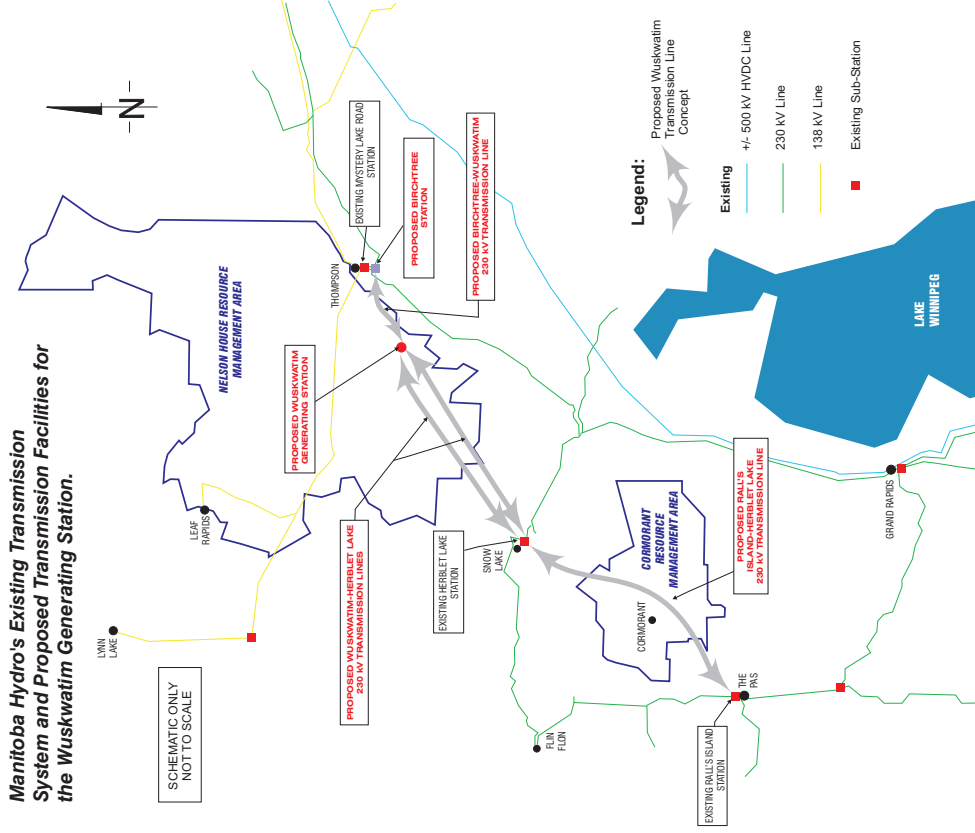
Personal, Family and Community Life

Topic	Nelson House/ RMA	Thompson	Project Region	Northern Manitoba
Transportation, Safety and Access	√	√		
Aesthetics	√			
Community Health	√			
Social Well-Being	√			
Culture	√			
Community Organization and Governance	√			
Compatibility with Goals and Plans	√	√		

Wuskwatim Transmission Facilities

The proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station would require the development of new transmission facilities to deliver the electricity into the existing transmission system.

- A new switching station would be required at the Wuskwatim Generating Station site. New transmission lines would connect the Wuskwatim Switching 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 to the north of the community) and at The Pas (at the existing Rall's Island Station).



Wuskwatim Transmission Facilities (cont....)

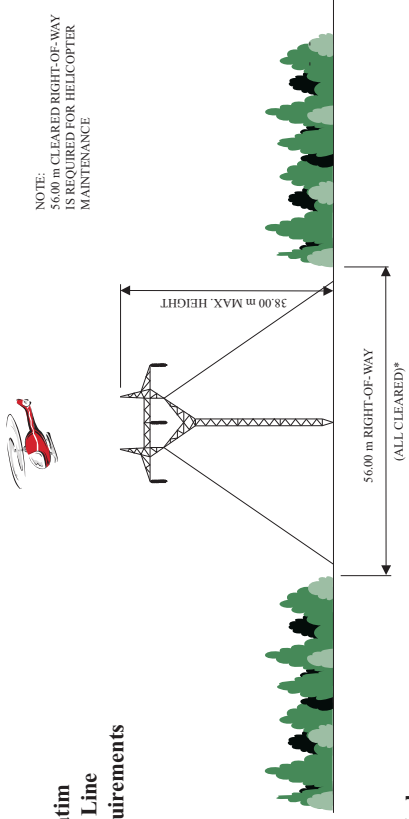
One 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line would be required between the Wuskwatim Switching Station and the proposed Birchtree Station; two 230 kV lines would be required between Wuskwatim and the existing Herblet Lake Station; and one 230 kV transmission line would be required between the existing Herblet Lake and Rall's Island Stations.

The 230 kV transmission line between Wuskwatim and Thompson Birchtree Station would be used initially to provide construction power for the generating station.

Even if the Wuskwatim Generating Station were not developed, the proposed 230 kV transmission line between Herblet Lake Station and Rall's Island Station would be required in the future to improve the existing regional transmission system.

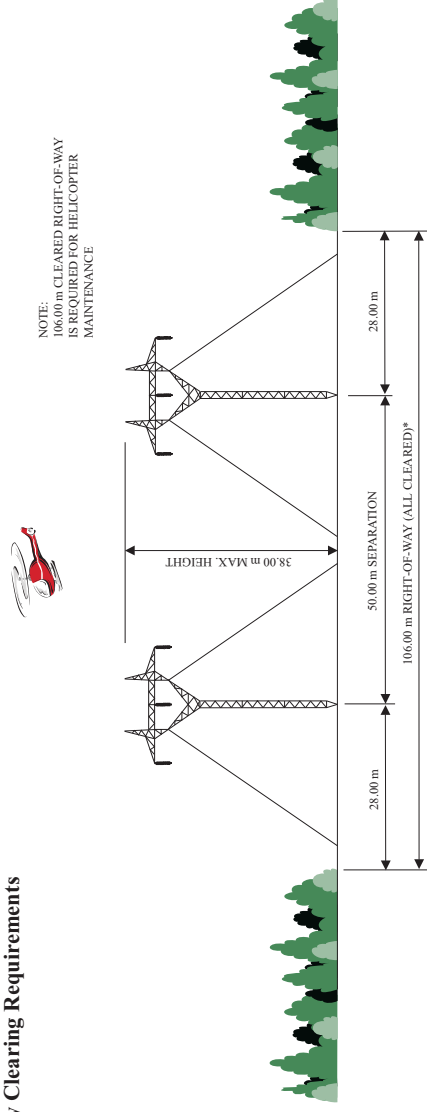
Clearing Requirements

**Birchtree - Wuskwatim
230 kV Transmission Line
Preliminary Clearing Requirements**



NOTE:
56.00 m CLEARED RIGHT-OF-WAY
IS REQUIRED FOR HELICOPTER
MAINTENANCE

**Wuskwatim - Herblet Lake
2 - 230 kV Transmission Lines
Preliminary Clearing Requirements**



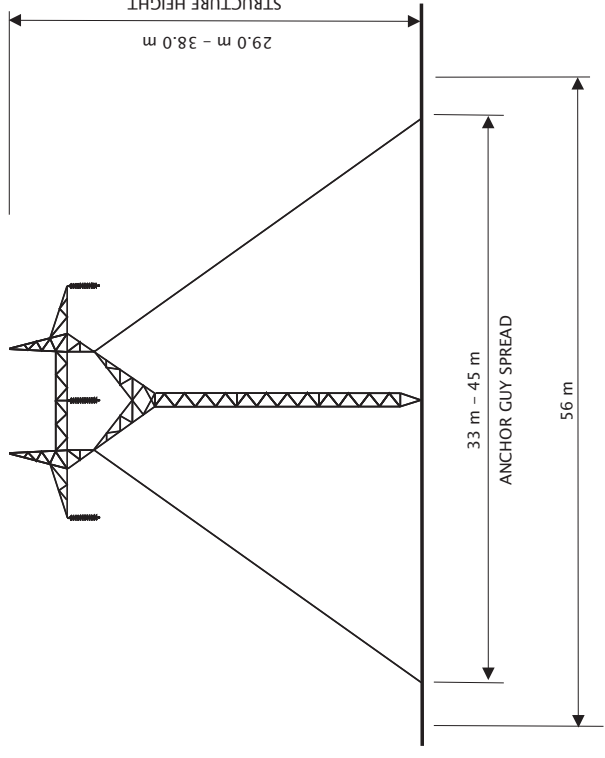
NOTE:
106.00 m CLEARED RIGHT-OF-WAY
IS REQUIRED FOR HELICOPTER
MAINTENANCE

Note: * To maximize maintenance access, the technical preference is to clear the entire width of the right-of-way. In sensitive areas (e.g., river and stream crossings), clearing practices may be adjusted to minimize adverse impact.

230 kV Transmission Line Design

Detailed design for the 230 kV transmission lines has not been finalized, but general technical requirements for transmission lines of this voltage are well established.

A typical guyed steel structure, which is the structure type being considered for this project, is illustrated below. The span between structures is generally about 450 metres.



Proposed Thompson-Birchtree Station

Electricity generated at Wuskwatim will be delivered to the existing Manitoba Hydro transmission system at Thompson and at Snow Lake. The connection to the system at Thompson will require development of a new transmission station (to be called Thompson-Birchtree Station) proposed to be located on the east side of PTH 6 south of the City of Thompson.

The property for the proposed station site would encompass approximately 100 acres (40 hectares). Two additional properties, approximately 77 acres (31 hectares) of the total station area, will need to be purchased. Within the proposed property, a 200 metre x 345 metre fenced area has been identified for station development. Access to the proposed station site would follow along an existing access road off of PTH 6.

One new 230 kV transmission line the proposed Birchtree Station and the Wuskwatim Switching Station will be required. Construction of this line will be advanced to provide construction power for the development of the generating station.

Construction Power Transmission Line

Construction power to the generating station site will be provided by a pre-build of a new 230 kV transmission line from the proposed Thompson-Birchtree Station (temporarily operated at 138 kV). The in-service date for this transmission line is 2004. Related 12 kV service will be provided from the distribution side of the new station, which will ultimately be used to service the completed switching and generating stations.

A 138/230 kV temporary tap circuit from the existing K24W transmission line will supply initial construction power to the proposed generating station site. The provision of construction power to the Wuskwatim generating station site from the proposed Thompson-Birchtree Station requires the addition of two construction power transformers.

Following construction of the generating station site, this transmission line will be converted to serve as the 230 kV point of connection between Thompson-Birchtree and the Wuskwatim Switching Station.

Transmission Line Routing

Identification and assessment of a route for a proposed transmission line is based on a Site Selection and Environmental Assessment (SSEA) process.

SSEA studies for transmission line projects typically involve a staged approach which includes:

- Describing the regional characteristics within the general project area;
- Identifying regional and site-specific constraints/issues and opportunities for transmission line routing;
- Identifying alternative routes (based on cost, technical, socio-economic and biophysical factors and traditional knowledge);
- Selecting a preferred route that, where practical, minimizes impacts and enhances opportunities; and
- Developing impact management measures, where required, to address residual impacts.

Input from potentially affected communities, interested parties, resource users and stakeholders, the general public and government is an important part of the process.

Potential Environmental Issues

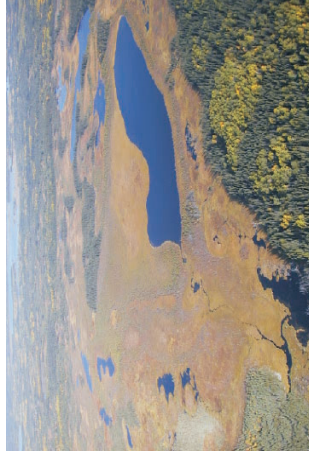
A broad range of information on biophysical and socio-economic issues and/or features is being gathered from publically available information and traditional knowledge of the area, including:

Biophysical Considerations:

- key wildlife and fish species, habitats, distribution and seasonal factors
- water bodies, stream crossings and wetlands
- disturbance of vegetation or loss of forest cover
- rare and endangered species and habitats
- unique geological and surficial features
- special lands (i.e., Protected Areas, Wildlife Management Areas, Ecologically Significant Areas, etc.)



Protection of watercourse by maintaining shoreline vegetation buffers.



Typical wilderness area in Northern Manitoba



Woodland Caribou in Winter Months

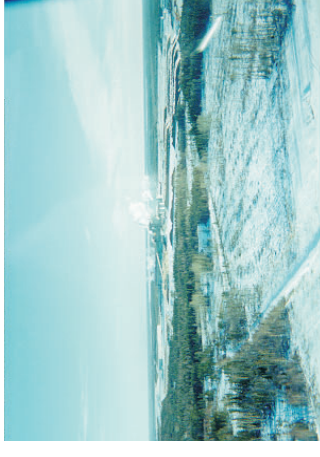
Potential Environmental Issues

Socio-Economic Considerations:

- existing First Nation Reserves/Treaty Land Entitlement selections
- traditional resource areas, resource management areas
- existing communities/settlements
- domestic and commercial resource harvesting
- infrastructure facilities and services
- licensed/private airstrips/airports
- active and dormant surface and aggregate deposits
- known heritage and archaeological areas/cultural sites
- communications facilities
- designated and highly valued recreational use areas
- electric and magnetic field effects



Community of Snow Lake



Toiko Industries north of ThePas -
View looking southwest



Grass River

Technical and Cost Factors

Technical and cost factors considered in routing transmission lines include the following:

- Minimizing line length;
- Minimizing the number of heavy angle structures; and
- Avoiding route alignments through major waterbodies.

Wildlife

A variety of wildlife species and habitat that supports them are found within the general project area.

Identification of alternative transmission line routes consider:

- Key species which are representative of the habitats in the area (i.e., caribou and moose);
- Rare and endangered species which are of special concern; and
- Special programs intended to protect wildlife species and their habitats.

The objective is to minimize negative effects on wildlife species and their habitats.

Local and Traditional Knowledge

Local knowledge and Traditional Knowledge (TK) is being obtained through consultation with local communities, area residents, resource harvesters, other resource users, elders of First Nations and other communities, and potentially affected organizations and interest groups.

Public Involvement Plan meetings were held with elected municipal officials and First Nation communities in the project area. At these meetings, other potentially affected stakeholders (e.g., resource harvesters, resource users) were identified for follow-up.

Meetings have been held with trappers, trapping associations, snowmobile associations, mining companies, resource management area boards, etc. Additional meetings will be held with interested stakeholders as the environmental assessment for the proposed project proceeds.

Local knowledge and Traditional Knowledge is being integrated into the Site Selection and Environmental Assessment process for routing the Wuskwatim transmission facilities.



Impacts and Mitigation

The environmental assessment process addresses a full range of environmental and socio-economic issues (e.g., wildlife, forestry resources, land use, archaeology and cultural resources, areas of local or traditional importance, community way of life).

To the extent practical, potential impacts are avoided in the selection of alternative routes. The choice of preferred route will attempt to minimize negative impacts while maximizing positive opportunities.

In instances where a potential negative impact is unavoidable, appropriate impact management measures will be identified to help minimize any residual impacts.

Next Steps

Following the completion of the second round of public consultation, the site selection and environmental assessment process will include:

- Comparison of alternative routes using local knowledge, Traditional Knowledge, biophysical, socio-economic, cost and technical considerations;
- Selection of preferred route(s);
- Public and government review and input into appropriate mitigation for the preferred routes;
- Environmental impact assessment of the preferred routes;
- Preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS); and
- Submission of the EIS to Federal and Provincial Regulators for public review and an environmental licensing decision.

Land Acquisition: Securing the Right-of-Way

If a transmission line is routed across Crown Land, following the receipt of the required environmental licenses and approvals, Manitoba Hydro generally secures the land required for the transmission line right-of-way by Crown Land Reservation.

To obtain a Crown Land Reservation, Manitoba Hydro applies to the Province of Manitoba (Crown Lands Branch).

Once approved and issued, the Crown Land Reservation temporarily secures the rights to construct, operate and maintain the transmission line right-of-way. Ownership remains with the Crown.

Key Construction Activities

Prior to construction, the right-of-way of a transmission line is surveyed in order to establish the centreline. Pre-construction activities also include flagging the right-of-way edges to establish clearing widths, identifying locations for structures, as well as anchors.

Clearing of the right-of-way allows construction activities to proceed and is required for line operating safety and reliability.

In northern Manitoba, clearing of the right-of-way typically occurs one year before transmission line construction and is generally undertaken during the winter months under frozen ground conditions to minimize disturbance to the ground surface. Where feasible, arrangements will be made for salvaging the cleared timber.



Right-of-way Clearing

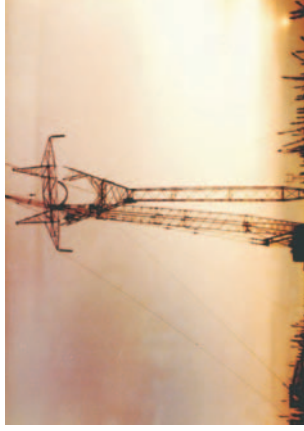
Key Construction Activities (cont....)

Marshalling yards are established near the route for the storage of construction materials and equipment and their deployment to the construction site.

Basic construction steps for transmission lines involve installation of foundations and anchors, where required, framing and erection of structures, and stringing of conductors. In order to prepare foundations, local fill materials such as gravels or clays may be used.

Access for construction is generally limited to the right-of-way or established roads and trails. If access to the right-of-way is difficult, temporary access trails may be developed. If new access trails need to be developed, approval will be sought from the appropriate authorities.

Although sites are cleaned-up during construction, a final clean-up is conducted upon completion of the construction activities. Final site inspections are generally conducted with local authorities.



Erection of a steel structure in northern Manitoba

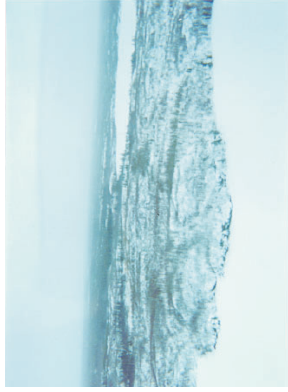


Caribou along a transmission line under construction.

Routing Opportunities

Several potential transmission line routing opportunities have been identified for the 230 kV transmission line. These include:

- Following along existing transmission line rights-of-way (i.e., an opportunity exists to parallel the existing H19C 230 kV transmission line in the vicinity of the existing Herblet Lake Station and parallel the existing 230 kV transmission line north of Rall's Island Station);
- Paralleling portions of other existing rights-of-way (i.e., an opportunity exists to parallel two sections of the Hudson Bay Railway line between Dyce Lake and The Pas); and
- Crossing through burn areas or timber harvest areas (i.e., there is an extensive burn area south of the Town of Snow Lake).
- Subject to cost and technical considerations, routing along or nearby existing rights-of-way tends to limit transmission line effects to areas which have already been impacted by development, and to avoid impacts in undeveloped areas. Routing through a burn area may minimize adverse aesthetic effects in areas where tourism is important. It may also minimize clearing requirements.



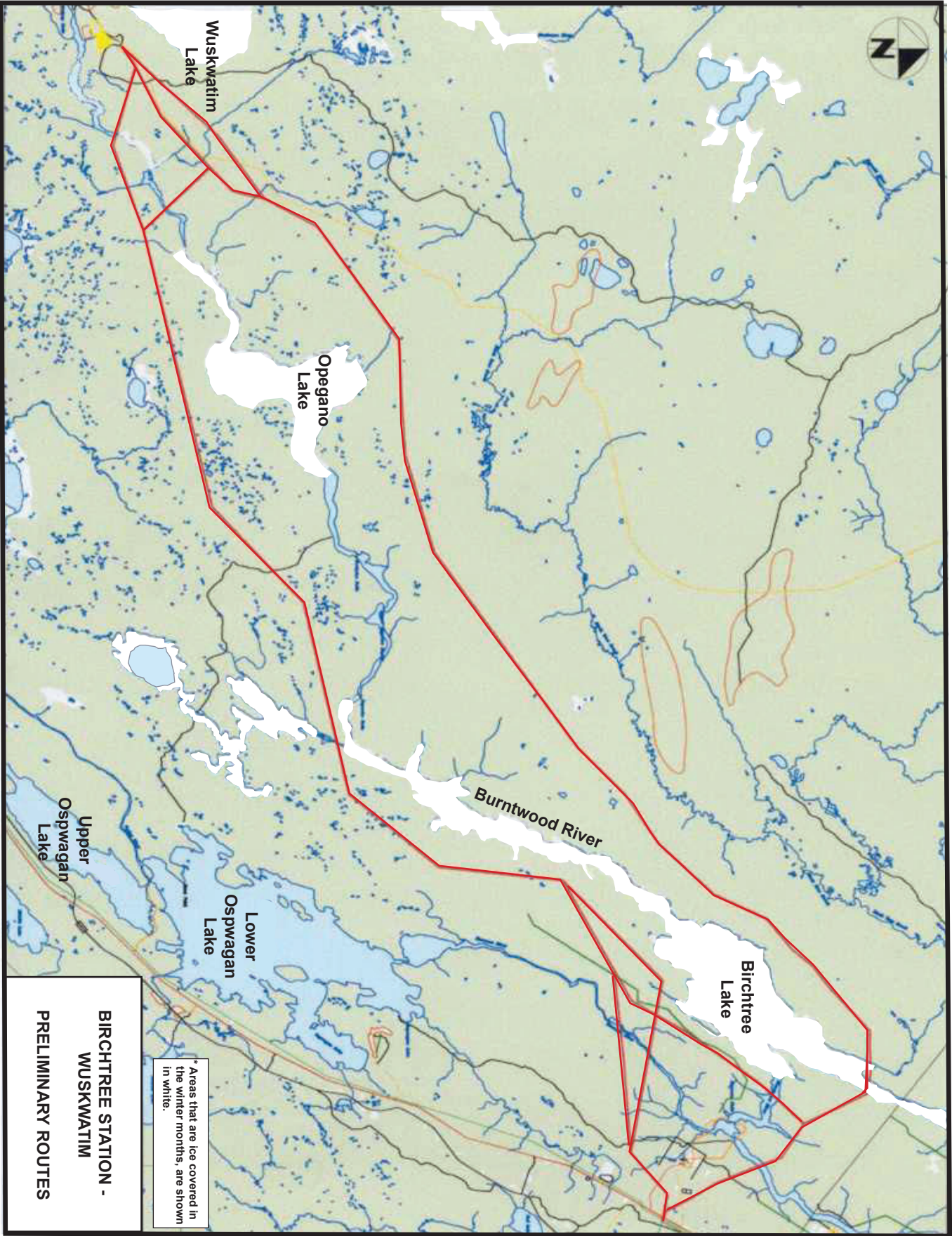
Burn area along the North Bank of Tramping Lake



Rail Line along Dyce Lake - View looking Southwest

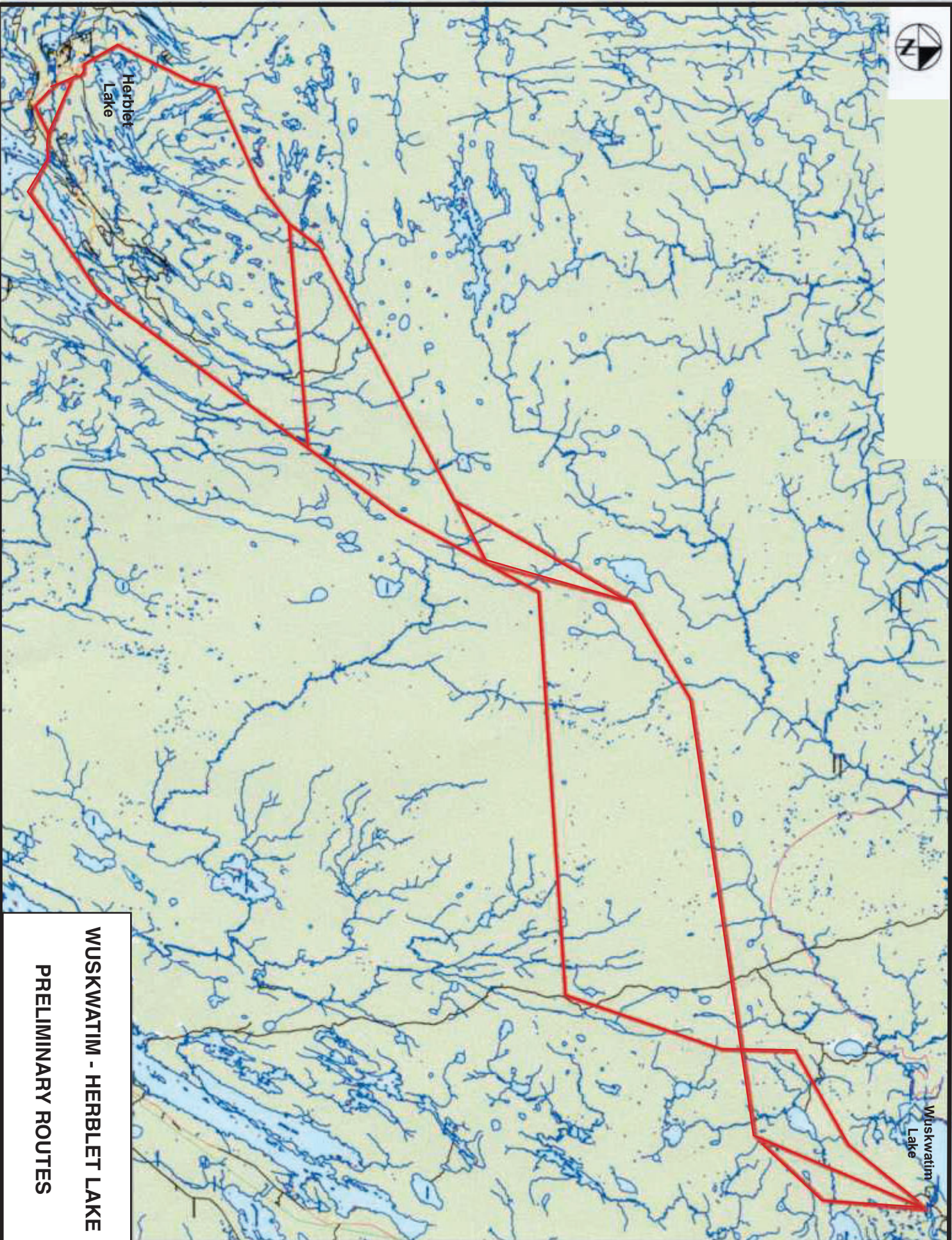


Existing Right-of-Way west of Herblet Lake Station



* Areas that are ice covered in the winter months, are shown in white.

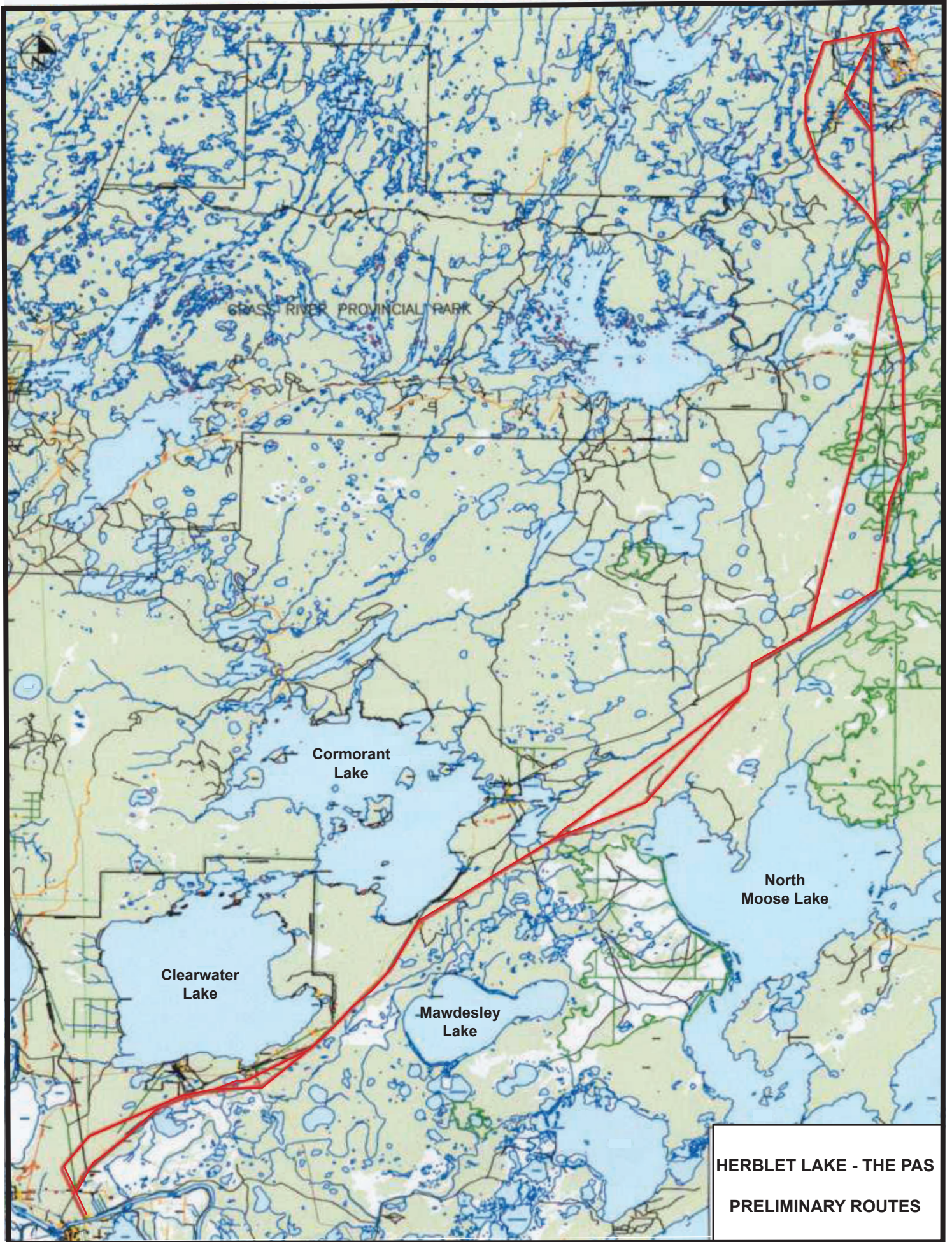
**BIRCHTREE STATION - MUSKWATIM
PRELIMINARY ROUTES**



Herblet
Lake

Muskwatim
Lake

**WUSKWATIM - HERBLET LAKE
PRELIMINARY ROUTES**



Infrastructure

The alternative transmission line routes cross or are located in the vicinity of the following infrastructure:

- The Hudson Bay Railway line between The Pas and Dyce Lake; and
- The Pas Airport

Discussions have taken place with Hudson Bay Railway regarding the alternative routes. No issues or concerns were identified in those locations where alternative transmission line routes paralleled the rail line.

Discussions have also taken place with Transport Canada, and The Pas & Area Airport Commission regarding the proximity of the alternative routes to the airport. The alternatives routes are outside of the outer surface control limits of The Pas Airport, and hence there are no aviation-related concerns regarding the proposed transmission line.

Electric and Magnetic Fields

Electric and magnetic fields (EMFs) are invisible lines of force surrounding any wire carrying electricity, and are produced by all electric tools and appliances, household wiring and power lines.

A transmission line produces an electric field, magnetic field and corona which generate electrical effects, the most common of which are radio and television interference, audible noise and induction on nearby metallic objects.

The strengths of electric and magnetic fields depend on the voltage level and the amount of current flow; fields fall off sharply with increasing distance from a transmission line; electric fields are easily blocked by vegetation, buildings or other obstacles while magnetic fields are unaffected by such objects.

Electric and Magnetic Fields

There is presently no scientific evidence to justify modification of existing practices respecting facilities for the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity; position statements adopted by federal and provincial health officials express the same view.

Recent project applications for environmental licensing of proposed Manitoba Hydro transmission lines have included EMF evaluations which support the position outlined.

Various independent scientific panels, which have evaluated scientific research on EMFs, have concluded that no cause and effect relationship has been established between exposure to magnetic fields and cancer or other health effects (Bailey, 1996).

In a recent health and EMF workshop, convened by the Manitoba Clean Environment Commission (CEC, 2001) to discuss the human health effects of EMFs, a consensus statement concluded that the weight of scientific evidence over the past 30 years does not show there to be any causal association between human health and extremely low frequency EMFs, such as those produced by power lines, and that there are no demonstrable adverse health-related effects resulting from exposure to these fields.

EMF - Recent Reports

National Research Council. (1997).

"the conclusion of the Committee is that the current body of evidence does not show that exposure to these fields presents a human health hazard. Specifically, no conclusive evidence shows that exposures to residential electric and magnetic fields produce cancer, adverse neuro behavioral effects, or reproductive and developmental effects."

NIEHS Working Group Report. (1998).

"An international panel of experts convened by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences reported to the institute today that electric and magnetic fields like those surrounding electric power lines should be regarded as a "possible human carcinogen" ...

"This report does not suggest that the risk is high" said, Chairman Michael Gallo, Ph.D."

Federal/Provincial Advisory Committee on Environmental And Occupational Health. (1990).

"Recommended exposure limits to prevent acute health effects have been put forward by an international committee of experts. It is extremely unlikely that members of the Canadian public would be exposed above these exposure limits."

Manitoba Clean Environment Commission. (2001).

"The research to date has not confirmed any biophysical mechanisms that would link properties of power and frequency fields to the initiation or promotion of cancer or any other adverse effect on human health."

"Currently available information on health and bioeffects of extremely low frequency fields does not provide a basis for establishing more restrictive exposure limits."

Definitions

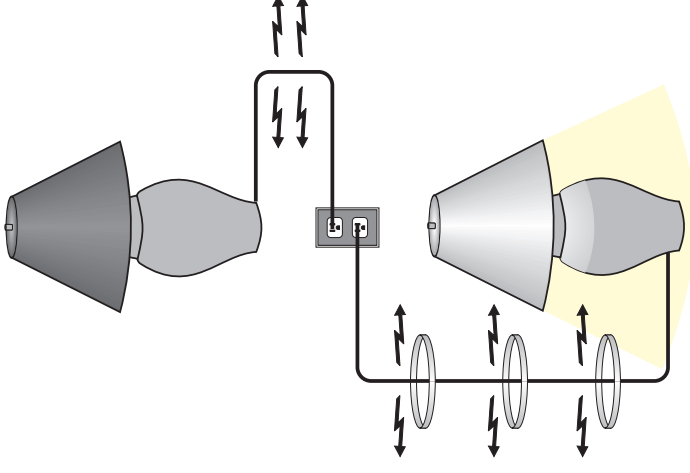
1. MilliGauss - A measure of or a unit used to express the "strength" or "intensity" of a magnetic field. In typical residences the 60Hz magnetic field ranges from 0.5 to 2 milliGauss, but near electrical appliances the field may reach tens to hundreds of milliGauss.

2. Epidemiology - The science that studies the patterns of disease among human populations. For environmental studies, the objective of an epidemiologic study is to assess if people with and without exposure to a specified environmental agent have different health experiences.

3. Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF) are produced by the flow and use of electrical energy.

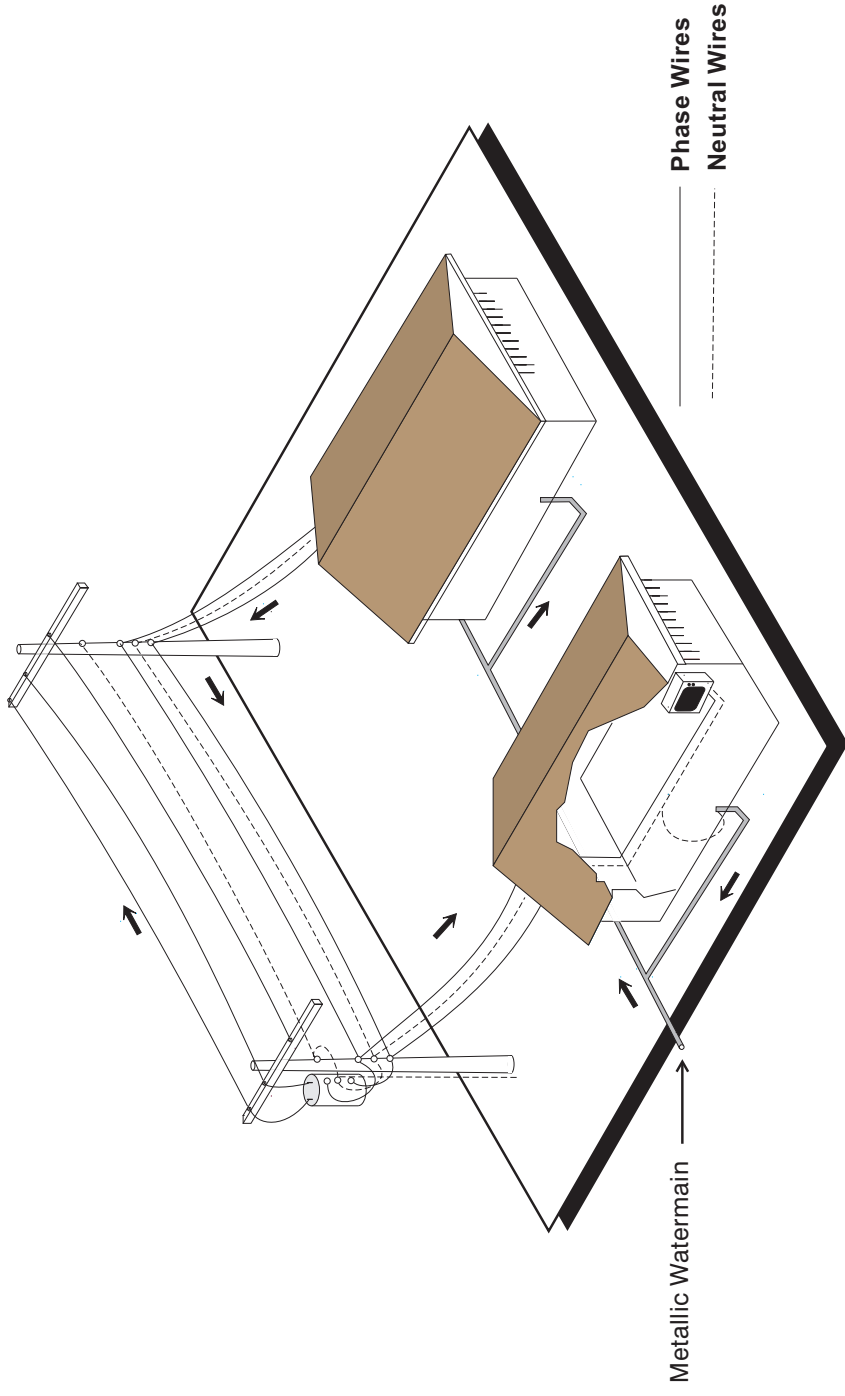
a) Electric Fields - arise from the voltage on a conductor and can exert a force on charged objects near them. Measured in volts per meter.

b) Magnetic Fields - arise from current flowing in a conductor (amperes). Measured in milliGauss.



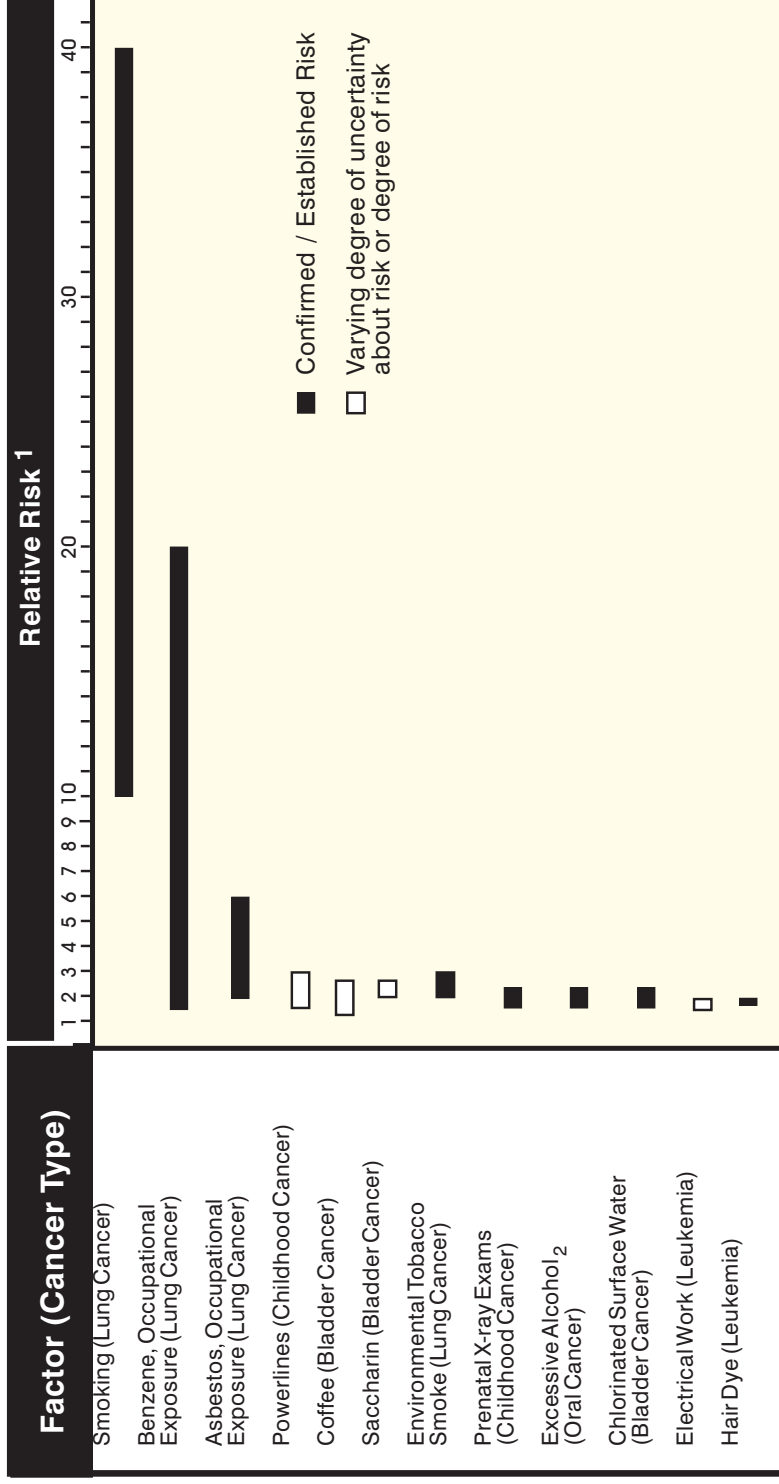
Note:
An appliance must be plugged in and operating to create a magnetic field; i.e. electric current must flow for a magnetic field to be produced.

Sources of Residential Magnetic Fields



Some sources of residential magnetic fields are: household appliances (television), grounding systems and overhead distribution lines. The arrows indicate the direction of net current flow at a point in time. The magnetic field may change with changes in loads such as appliance usage. Other possible sources of residential magnetic fields not shown include unusual residential wiring, underground distribution lines and nearby high-voltage transmission lines.

Possible Human Cancer Risks



1. Monson (1980) characterized the significance of relative risk levels as follows:

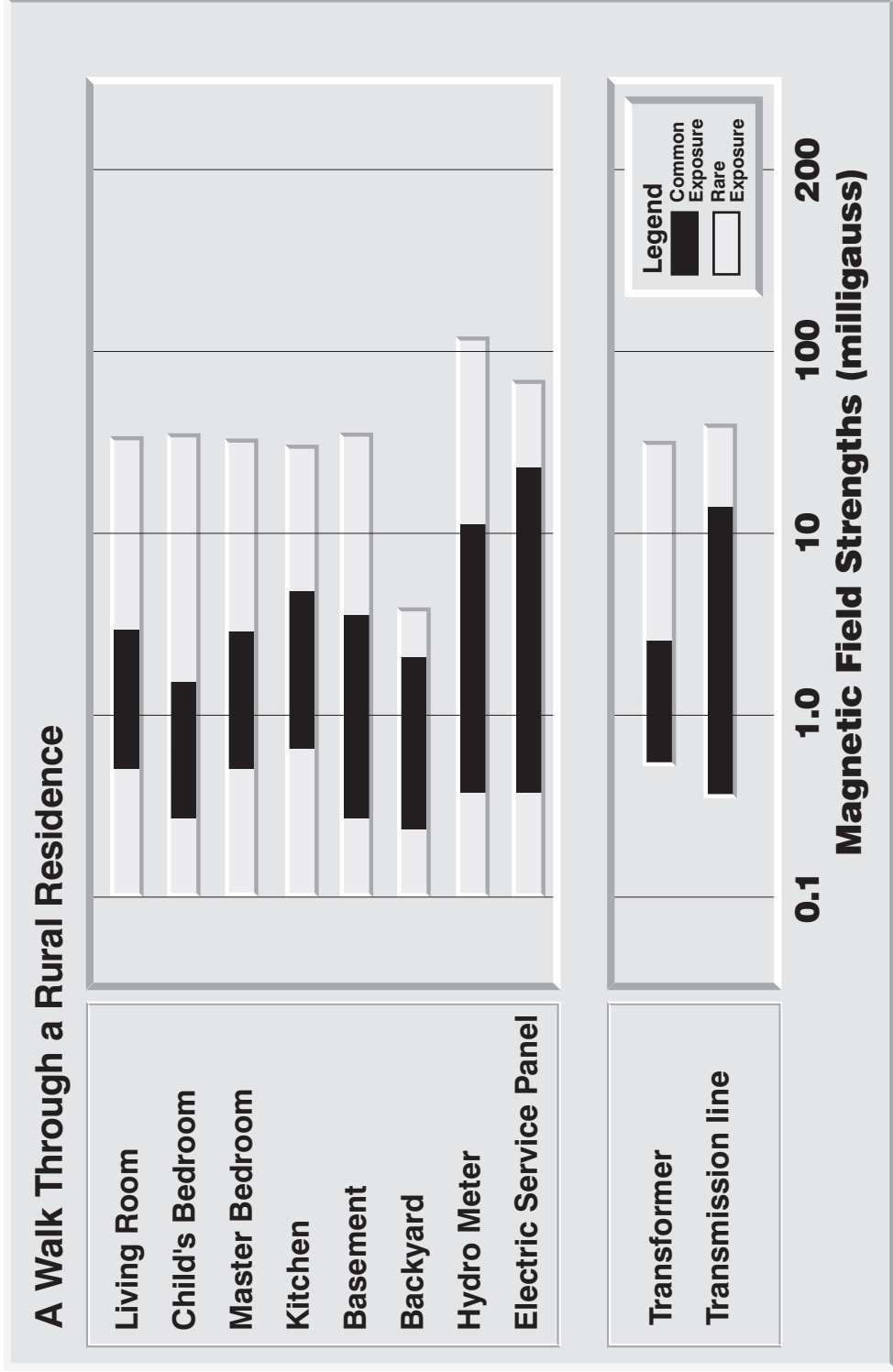
Relative Risk	Strength of Association
1.0 - 2.0	None
1.2 - 1.5	Weak
1.5 - 3.0	Moderate
3.0 - 10.0	Strong
Above 10.0	Infinite

Relative risks for each factor are smaller than for two factors combined. In general, it becomes very difficult to establish causation when relative risks are small, eg. below 3.

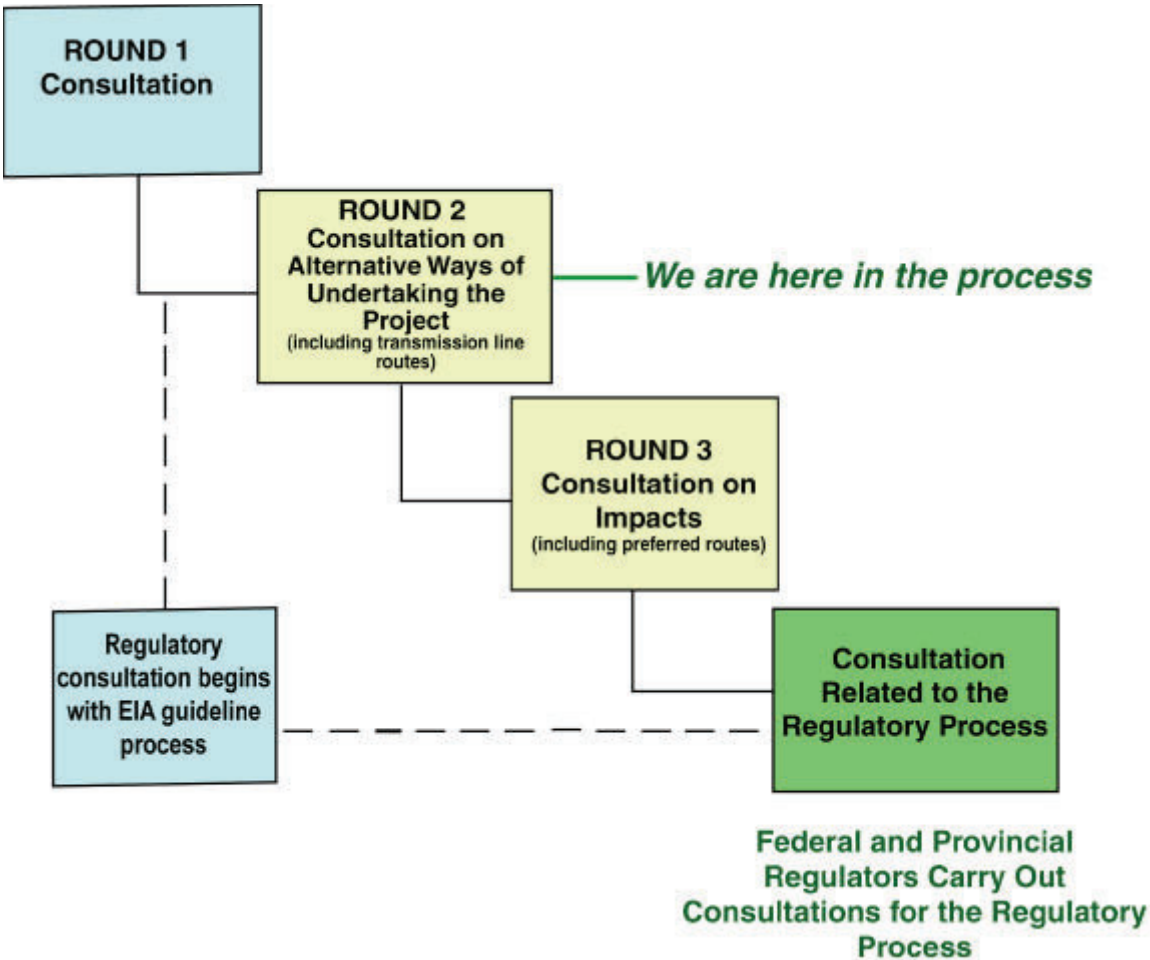
2. Alcohol, combined with heavy smoking, increases the risk of oral cancer up to 15.5.

NOTE: The risks shown for comparison purposes are typical values from studies reporting statistically significant risks. For most of the factors, there are also some studies which found no increased risks.

Magnetic Field Exposure Assessment



The Public Involvement Plan Process

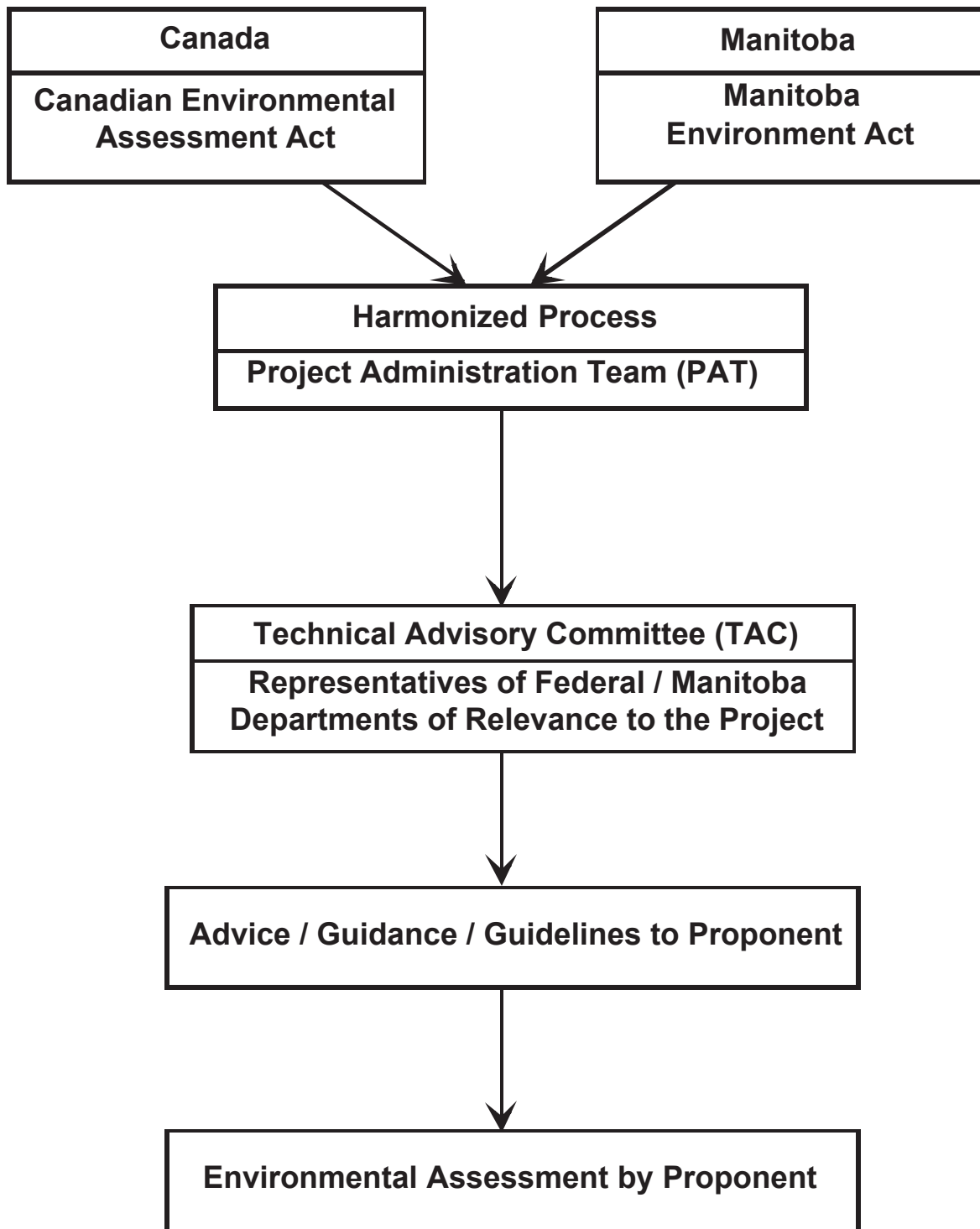


The Public Involvement Plan Process (cont.)

- Round One was held between September and November, 2001 to introduce the Project to elected leaders in communities in the region, to hear about issues and concerns with respect to the proposed project and to hear perspectives on further rounds of public involvement.
- Round Two introduces the Project to communities in the region. It has been underway since January 2002 and is near completion.
- Round Three will begin in late Spring and will present preliminary conclusions about anticipated Project impacts and ways to manage those impacts.
- More opportunities for the public to be involved in reviewing the project during provincial/federal regulatory process.

Regulatory Review 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 NCN have:
 - Provided initial information to provincial/federal regulators;
 - Met with the provincial/federal Project Administration Team; and
 - Met with the Technical Advisory Committee, made up of representatives from relevant provincial and federal departments.



Regulatory Review Process (continued)

Main Steps in the Environmental Review and Decision Schedule:

- 1) The Environment Act Proposal Form (EAPF) - submitted December 2001
- 2) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Guidelines - to be finalized in April/May 2002
- 3) Formal Commitment to Develop – Target July 2002
- 4) EIS Filed – Target July/August 2002
- 5) EIS Public Review Process
- 6) Final Licensing Decisions – estimated end of 2003
- 7) Final Decision to Start Construction – earliest is December 2003

Where are We Today?

- For licensing and environmental review by the provincial and federal regulators, the Wuskwatim Generating Station is one project, and the associated Wuskwatim Transmission Facilities is a separate project.
- Separate EAPF applications filed in December 2001 for each of these projects and separate EISs will be prepared for each of these projects (target July/August 2002).
- In order to facilitate public review, both projects are being addressed through an integrated Public Involvement Program.

Where are We Today?

(continued)

- The EAPF documents simply start the environmental review process, but do not mean that any commitment has been made to proceed with the Projects.
- Now that the EAPFs are filed, Manitoba Conservation has posted information about the projects to their Web site and created an active file about the projects in appropriate established public registries.
 - Northern public registries are located in Thompson and The Pas.
- Draft guidelines for environmental assessments of both the generation project and associated transmission facilities are included on this Web site.

Where are We Today?

(continued)

- Manitoba Conservation invited public comment on the draft guideline documents in February and March.
- Public review of the draft guidelines included meetings held by Manitoba's Clean Environment Commission (CEC) in:
 - Thompson on February 11
 - Nelson House on February 12
 - Winnipeg on February 18, and
 - The Pas on February 19.
- Notes of these meetings and copies of submissions made at these meetings are available on the CEC Web site.
- The CEC issued a report with recommendations on April 18, 2002 (see CEC Web site).
- Regulators are considering this public input as they work to finalize the guideline documents during late April and early May, 2002.

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) 484-3019

Marcel Moody
NCN Future Development
(204) 484-3018

Your Comments

We value your comments and opinions.

Please feel free to approach any representative in attendance if you have any questions regarding this project.

Please fill out the comment sheet and drop it in the box provided.

Thank you.



2.3.6 Questionnaire



**COMMENT SHEET
THE PROPOSED WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION
AND ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES**

Manitoba Hydro and NCN ask you to take this opportunity to provide us with your comments and suggestions about the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities Project. Please drop the completed comment sheet in the box provided, or forward it to Manitoba Hydro or NCN at the addresses shown on the reverse.

The purpose of the Open House is to provide you with information about the proposed transmission facilities and proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station. Did you find that this Open House provided you with sufficient information about the projects?

Transmission Facilities

Several preliminary alternative routes have been identified for the proposed transmission lines associated with the potential development of the Wuskwatim Generating Station. Do you feel that these are practical routes to consider? If so, why? If not, why not?

Are there any potential local issues/sensitive features associated with the preliminary alternative routes other than those identified at this Open House which should be further investigated. If so, please explain.

Local and traditional knowledge can help to identify potential project impacts. As such, is there any additional information or potential project impacts, other than those identified at this Open House, which could be helpful in the environmental assessment of the proposed transmission facilities? Please explain.

Other comments or questions about transmission facilities?

Generating Station

Do you have any concerns about the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station? If so, please explain.

Do you see benefits of the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station for your community? If so, please explain.

Any other comments or questions about the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station?

(Optional)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

For more information please contact:

Ron Rawluk
Licensing & Environmental Assessment Dept.
Transmission Planning & Design
Winnipeg, MB. R3C 2P4
Telephone: (204) 474-3119 (Collect)
Fax: (204) 474-4974

Norman Linklater
Co-Manager of Future Development, NCN
Nelson House, MB R0B 1A0
Telephone: (204) 484-3019
Fax: (204) 484-2980

Nick Barnes
Power Planning and Operations
Manitoba Hydro
Winnipeg, MB R3C 2P4
Telephone: (204) 474-3999 (Collect)
Fax: (204) 474-4543

Marcel Moody
Co-Manager of Future Development, NCN
Nelson House, MB R0B 1A0
Telephone: (204) 484-3018
Fax: (204) 484-2980

2.3.7 Summary
Questions and Comments Heard
at the Thompson Open House

Summary of Questions and Comments
Round Two Open House in Thompson
(May 2, 2002)

Representatives from NCN, Manitoba Hydro and the study team working on the environmental impact assessments for the Wuskwatim Generation and Transmission projects were asked to record the questions and comments they heard during the Round Two public open house in Thompson. The questions and comments received during the open house are summarized below.

Project Description

- How does Wuskwatim compare to Limestone, Kelsey, Notigi and Gull?
- Why is a construction camp necessary?
- How many people will be at the construction camp?
- How many Manitoba Hydro employees will be at the construction camp?
- When will the project begin?
- How long will construction last?
- Will there be any project operations in Thompson?
- How long is the access road?
- Why isn't the access road located off Highway 6?
- Why is the access road not taking the shortest route (i.e. Taylor River Road)?
- If Hydro is planning to export the power, why are they not building a bigger generating station such as Conawapa?
- What goes into the disposal area, and from where?
- What type of turbines will be used at Wuskwatim?
- Why is Manitoba Hydro partnering with NCN on this project? Why partner at all?

Physical and Biophysical Studies

- Will there be a fish passage facility for the generating station?
- Do many fish move downstream over Taskinigup Falls?
- Do fish move very much?
- Are there any Sturgeon in the area?
- Are mercury levels in fish still high because of the CRD?
- Will Wuskwatim affect the water level at Notigi?
- How will water levels at Thompson be affected by Wuskwatim?

- Concern was expressed that there is an underground river flowing south from Wuskwatim Lake to the Grassy River, and that this river will be negatively affected by the project.

Socio-Economic Studies

- Will housing prices increase as a result of the Wuskwatim Project?
- Will Project employees live in Thompson and commute?
- What types of training will be available?
- Will there be a training program similar to that under the Limestone Project (i.e. the Limestone Training and Education Authority)?
- When will training be made available?
- Where will training take place?
- What types of jobs will be available?
- How many jobs will there be?
- When do the trades jobs begin?
- How many permanent jobs will be available after construction?
- Where can I apply for employment?
- Will all of the jobs go to NCN?
- How can I bid on project contracts?
- I have a small business, how do I get on Manitoba Hydro's vendors list?

Public Involvement Process

- Have you consulted South Indian Lake? A lot of NCN members live there.
- How much consultation has been undertaken in Thompson regarding the Project?

Transmission Facilities

- Why are the alternative routes between Wuskwatim and Thompson (south of the Burntwood River) wiggly?
- General questions were asked regarding location, alternatives (etc.)

General

- What about the Gull project?
- How long did Limestone take to construct?
- How long will Notigi/Gull take?

3. Correspondence with Other Parties

InterGroup

CONSULTANTS

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

August 19, 2002

Mr. Jerry Ron Campbell
Councillor
Mosakahiken Cree Nation
General Delivery
Moose Lake, Manitoba
R0B 0Y0

Dear Mr. Campbell:

RE: RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS RAISED AT THE FEBRUARY 19TH CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION MEETING REGARDING THE PROPOSED WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION AND ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES PROJECTS

Please find below a response to the questions you raised at the CEC meeting in The Pas on February 19, 2002. We apologize for the delay in sending this response, which includes inputs from: Stuart Davies of North/South Consultants, Director of the Environmental Impact Assessment Study of the Wuskwatim Generating Station; Nick Barnes, of Manitoba Hydro, Power, Planning and Development and Elisabeth Hicks of ND Lea Engineers & Planners, Manager of the Environmental Impact Assessment Study of the Wuskwatim Transmission Facilities.

In support of our responses, the following figures are attached:

- Figure 1: Location of the proposed Wuskwatim G.S.
- Figure 2: Map of water level effects from the construction of the Wuskwatim G.S.
- Figure 3: General arrangement of primary and secondary structures.
- Figure 4: General arrangement of principal structures.

Our responses to your questions are as follows:

Why is the Wuskwatim Generating Station (G.S.) being built now?

The Wuskwatim G.S. is being proposed for consideration now in order to secure benefits available from export markets. Manitoba residents will not require additional power to be produced until about 2018 or 2019. The proposed Wuskwatim G.S. would be in-service earlier than that (about 2009), and the power produced by the station would initially be sold to export markets.

Why is the Wuskwatim Generation Project more important than other hydro projects?

The Wuskwatim G.S. is being proposed for possible development now due to several factors which are noted below; however, this does not mean that this project is "more important" than other hydro

projects that may be considered for subsequent potential development. In addition, no decision has been made at this time to proceed with the Wuskwatim G.S.

According to Manitoba Hydro's current plans and forecasts, the Wuskwatim generation station is the best new plant option available today to develop new hydro-electricity in Manitoba for power sales to export markets. Wuskwatim offers advantages because it is relatively small, has minimal flooding, and has better economic feasibility today and can potentially be developed sooner than other potential hydro projects currently under consideration. At 200 megawatts (MW), it also has less business risk than larger capacity hydro plants because markets should be better able to absorb smaller amounts of electricity, and because it is less costly to build. Unlike other larger capacity new hydro-projects, the Wuskwatim G.S. is also not dependent on the construction of any new north/south HVDC transmission lines.

The Wuskwatim Generation Project will provide significant economic development opportunities for the First Nations Partner (NCN), as well as other Northern communities and Manitoba overall. There have been considerable efforts by NCN and Manitoba Hydro to develop a mutually beneficial partnership, and they are now in the final stages of making an agreement. Extensive engineering and environmental studies are almost completed, and are providing encouraging signs that this project could be available for full public review during the next year.

If water is being diverted to the United States of America, what are the consequences to the environment?

Water is not being diverted from, or to, any water system for this project. The Wuskwatim G.S. will operate with the existing water regimes (yearly pattern of flow) of the Burntwood River system and the Rat River system (controlled by the Notigi Control Structure). The Notigi Control Structure will operate the same way with or without the Wuskwatim G.S.

Would the Wuskwatim Generating Station affect flows in Moose Lake?

There will be no effect from the Wuskwatim G.S. on water in the Saskatchewan River watershed, including Moose Lake.

The Wuskwatim G.S. project is located in the Burntwood River system. This is in a different water system (watershed) than the one Moose Lake is in (Moose Lake is in the Saskatchewan River watershed). Watersheds are separated from each other by geological (land) barriers (i.e., elevated land such as hills, eskers, or dykes). The watershed boundaries are displayed on Figure 1. Only extreme flooding or excavation of a channel through these barriers could join the two watersheds together. This will not happen with the construction of the Wuskwatim G.S.

If there is a lot of environmental damage associated with the construction of the project, would it still be built?

This project will only be built if it meets all environmental licensing requirements. The environmental licensing process being carried out by Manitoba and Canada will review all environmental impacts, and determine what mitigation measures are needed as well as whether the expected impacts are acceptable. As reviewed below, both Manitoba Hydro and NCN feel that the impacts associated with the proposed generating station will be small. However, if significant impacts that could not be mitigated are found, the regulators will then need to determine under what conditions, if any, the station could be built.

Figure 1 shows the location of the proposed Wuskwatim G.S. in Manitoba. The Wuskwatim G.S. is a "low head" design, which will cause the least amount of environmental damage compared to other generating station options at that site but still generate power. This option was chosen by Manitoba Hydro to minimize the effect on the environment after NCN stated that a "high head" design, which would cause significant flooding, was not acceptable to their community. Downstream and upstream extents of water level change are depicted on Figure 2. With the low head design less than 0.5 square kilometres of land (0.2 square miles or 125 acres) would be flooded (see Figure 3).

Will Manitoba and Canada issue a license if the project has major impacts?

This question can only be answered by Manitoba and Canada. A full public review process will be required before decisions are made by them on whether to issue the necessary approvals, licenses, permits and other authorizations.

The Wuskwatim G.S. and Associated Transmission Facilities (transmission lines and stations) are being reviewed by Manitoba and Canada as two separate projects. We can't speak for the regulators, but we can say that both Manitoba and Canada will consider the results of the environmental studies currently underway, as well as results of hearings held by the Clean Environment Commission and the Public Utilities Board, before making their decisions about whether to license the projects under their respective provincial and federal legislation or to license the projects with conditions. Environmental studies are considering the possible positive and adverse effects of the projects on the environment and on people, as well as ways to reduce adverse effects and make any benefits better. These studies are not yet complete, but early indications are suggesting that major adverse impacts are not expected. When studies are complete, results will be discussed with the public by Manitoba Hydro and NCN, and then again by Manitoba and Canada through the environmental licensing process (including public hearings by the Clean Environment Commission).

Questions about the Wuskwatim Transmission Facilities Project

You had asked:

- Why does Manitoba Hydro have to build another transmission line?
- What compensation will be paid to Tolko Manitoba to have the transmission line run through their cutting area?
- What kind of equipment will be used to cut the trees, and what will be done with the trees?
- Where will the transmission line be located in Moose Lake's traditional territory?
- What impact will the project have on MCN's resources, including muskrat and beaver? What impact will the project have on fish migration and spawning?

In addressing these questions, we can provide information on the transmission facilities work underway on the Wuskwatim Project. Detailed responses, however, will need to wait until transmission team representatives are able to proceed with their next round of meetings and consultations, at which time you will be contacted directly by them.

The proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station will require the development of new transmission facilities to deliver electricity into the existing transmission system. The points of connection to the existing system will 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 to the north of the community) and at The Pas (at the existing Rall's Island Station). Additional information on the proposed facilities is provided in the enclosed Newsletters. The proposed transmission facilities, though directly

associated with the Wuskwatim development requirements, will improve the existing 230 kV transmission system in the region. Even if the Wuskwatim Generating Station was not developed, the proposed 230 kV transmission line between Herblet Lake Station and Rall's Island Station would be required in the future to improve the existing regional transmission system.

The Environmental Study Team has been evaluating a number of options for transmission line routing between the Rall's Island Station at The Pas and the Herblet Lake Station at Snow Lake, between the Herblet Lake Station and a new station at the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station site and, finally, between the Wuskwatim Station and a new Birchtree Station near Thompson. It is expected that the preferred routes for the proposed transmission lines will be confirmed in the near future. Once the preferred routes are confirmed, consultation will be undertaken to share information and obtain feedback regarding the preferred routes. Elisabeth Hick and Ron Rawluk will plan to meet with you during this process to share information, and to answer any questions you may have regarding the proposed transmission facilities. You will be called to set up a meeting once this process is underway. In the meantime, we would appreciate receiving any information that you can provide as to Moose Lake's traditional territory in the areas under consideration for these new transmission facilities, and any potential concerns that MCN may have in this regard.

For your information, we have enclosed copies of two newsletters on the proposed development. If you have any additional questions related to the Project, please contact any of the individuals listed on the last page of the newsletter.

Yours truly,

INTERGROUP CONSULTANTS LTD.

Janet Kinley for,

Janet Kinley
Senior Consultant and Principal

Enclosure

cc Stuart Davies, Nick Barnes
Elisabeth Hicks, Ron Rawluk



June 3, 2002

JUN 25 2002

Ms. Loretta Mowat
Box 250
Norway House First Nation
Norway House MB R0B 1B0

Dear Ms. Mowat:

RE: INFORMATION REGARDING THE PROPOSED WUSKWATIM PROJECT AND ASSOCIATED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

For your use and information, please find enclosed copies of the storyboards displayed at the Thompson Open House, which was held on May 2, 2002 as part of Round Two of the public involvement process associated with the proposed Wuskwatim Project. Also enclosed are 10 copies each of the Round One and Round Two public involvement newsletters. These newsletters were compiled and distributed by Manitoba Hydro and the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation to provide the public with information on the proposed Wuskwatim Project and related public involvement process. While no decision has been made to proceed with the Project, Manitoba Hydro and NCN are participating in a joint planning process to identify potential environmental impacts, and to engage the public in dialogue about those effects.

Newsletter #1 was compiled as part of the first round of public consultation, which was designed to introduce the project to elected officials in the region and to hear about any initial concerns they may have. On December 13, 2001, and as part of Round One, representatives from Manitoba Hydro and the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation met with elected officials from the Norway House Cree Nation to discuss the proposed Project. A further meeting was not requested by the community at that time.

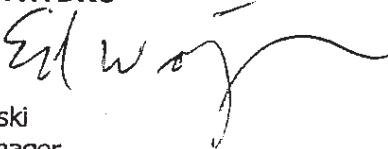
Newsletter #2 was compiled as part of the second round of consultation, which is intended to bring information regarding the Project to local communities and other interested parties. At present, Round Two of public involvement is nearing completion. Round Three, expected to begin in June 2002, will focus on communicating the anticipated impacts of the project as well as possible ways to manage those impacts. Further information regarding the project and public involvement process can be found on Manitoba Hydro's website at www.hydro.mb.ca; look for the link to **Issues** and then to **New Generation and Transmission Projects**.

We are interested in your feedback regarding the project or public involvement program. 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)

Sincerely, /

MANITOBA HYDRO


Ed Wojczynski
Division Manager
Power Planning and Development

NCN


W.E. Thomas
Councillor
Future Development Portfolio

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

June 19, 2002

Mrs. Margaret Allen
Office Manager
Thompson Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 363
Thompson MB R8N 1N2

Dear Mrs. Allen:

RE: PROPOSED WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION AND ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION FACILITIES: STORYBOARD AND NEWSLETTER PACKAGE

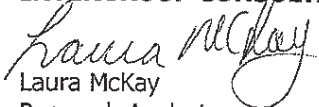
In follow-up to your earlier conversations with John Markowsky (Manager Major Projects Planning, Manitoba Hydro), please find enclosed an informational package on the proposed Wuskwatim Project (includes the generating station as well as the transmission line facilities). We are sending this information to you in anticipation of a future meeting, currently targeted for September. While no decision has been made to proceed with the Project, Manitoba Hydro and the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) are participating in a joint planning process designed to identify potential environmental impacts, and to engage the public in dialogue about the Project.

Included in the enclosed package are copies of two newsletters jointly produced by Manitoba Hydro and NCN. Newsletter #1 was compiled as part of the first round of public consultation, which was designed to introduce the Project to elected officials in the region and to hear any initial concerns they may have. Newsletter #2 was compiled as part of the second round of public consultation, which was intended to bring information regarding the Project to local communities and other interested parties. At present, Round Two of public involvement is nearing completion. Round Three is expected to begin in late August 2002, and will focus on communicating the anticipated impacts of the Project as well as possible ways to manage those impacts.

Also enclosed, for your information, is a copy of the storyboards displayed at the May 2nd Thompson Open House, which was held as part of the second round of public involvement. The storyboards review both the generation and transmission aspects of the Project, including the alternative transmission routes being considered in the Thompson-Wuskwatim area. Further information regarding the Project and public involvement process can be located on Manitoba Hydro's website at www.hydro.mb.ca; look for the link to **Issues** and then to **New Generation and Transmission Projects**.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the information enclosed, please contact John Markowsky at (204) 474-4935. We look forward to discussing the proposed Project with you further in September.

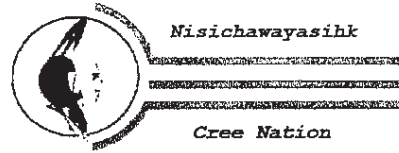
Yours truly,
INTERGROUP CONSULTANTS LTD.



Laura McKay
Research Analyst

Enclosure

cc. John Markowsky



March 19, 2002

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

Dear Ms. ^{Anne}Lindsey:

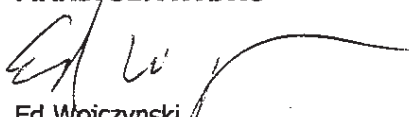
**RE: SECOND ROUND OF CONSULTATION REGARDING POSSIBLE
WUSKWATIM GENERATING STATION PROJECT AND ASSOCIATED
TRANSMISSION FACILITIES**

Enclosed for your information and use are copies of the second newsletter regarding the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station and Associated Transmission Facilities. As discussed with Janet Kinley of InterGroup Consultants Ltd., we have provided copies of this newsletter to your member organizations that you felt may have an interest in the project. In case they have not already obtained copies from you of the first newsletter, we've included copies of that newsletter as well for their information. We have also drawn to their attention that the web page, with additional information about the project, is up and running. It can be accessed via the Manitoba Hydro website at www.hydro.mb.ca; look for the link to New Generation and Transmission Projects. New documents will be added to the website as they become available.


We have invited the member organizations to contact us regarding any issues or concerns about the possible project. NCN and Manitoba Hydro contacts are listed in the newsletters and questions or comments can also be provided via the website.

Thank you for the assistance that you have provided. If you require further copies of either newsletter or have any questions about the public involvement process, please do not hesitate to call Janet Kinley at 942-0654.

Sincerely,
MANITOBA HYDRO


Ed Wojczynski
Division Manager
Power Planning and Development

NCN

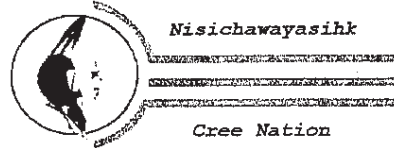
 for
Elvis Thomas
Councillor
Future Development Portfolio

enclosures

**Table
Distribution List:
Round Two Informational Letter to Environmental Non-government Organizations**

Recipient	Organization
<i>Manitoba Eco-Network Members</i>	
Mr. Peter Miller	Time to Respect Earth's Ecosystems (TREE)
Ms. Gaile Whelan-Enns	Canadian Nature Federation
Mr. Gordon Fardoe	Manitoba Naturalists Society
Ms. Jennifer Wuschke	Project Peacemakers
Mr. Randall McQuaker	Resource Conservation Manitoba
Mr. Ron Thiessen	Western Canada Wilderness Committee
Mr. Ken Reddig	Mennonite Central Committee
Mr. Michael Rosenstock	Eco-Males and Females in Action c/o University of Winnipeg Student's Union (eco-MAFIA)
Ms. Caitlin Keyzer	Consumers for Responsible Energy (CoRE)
Ms. Kathy Penner	Fort Whyte Center
Mr. Mark Miller	Manitoba Ozone Protection Industry Association (MOPIA)
Mr. Don Sullivan	Boreal Forest Network
Mr. Dennis Cunningham	International Institute for Sustainable Development
Mr. Michael Dudley	Institute of Urban Studies
Ms. Beth McKechnie	Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS)
Ms. Joan Moore	University of Manitoba Environmental Science Program
Ms. Erin Bochstael	University of Manitoba Recycling and Environment Group
Mr. Harold Taylor	The International Coalition for Land and Water Stewardship in the Red River Basin
Mr. Allen Bleich	Winnipeg Water Watch
Mr. Ian Greaves	CAMPAIGN FOR PESTICIDE DUCTION! WPG
<i>Participants in Separate Consultations with Manitoba Hydro Regarding Electrical Energy Planning</i>	
Ms. Gaile Whelan Enns	
Ms. Kristen Bingeman	
Ms. Elizabeth Fleming	
Ms. Leanne Dustan	
Ms. Michelle Forrest	
Mr. John Sinclair	
Mr. Barry Wild	

Recipient	Organization
Mr. Duncan Stewart	
Mr. Scott Kidd	
Ms. Natalie Seaba	
Mr. Gary Raven	
Mr. Henry Moneas	
Mr. Rob Altemeyer	
Ms. Valerie Wood	
Mr. Peter Miller	
Mr. Peter Boothroyd	
Mr. Lloyd Lintott	



March 19, 2002

Ms. Michelle Forrest
c/o Boreal Forrest Network
Unit 2 – 70 Albert Street
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1E7

Dear Ms. Forrest:

RE: CONSULTATION 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.

Enclosed for your information please find copies of two newsletters 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.

The first newsletter provides a description of the proposed Wuskwatim Generating Station Project and Associated Transmission Facilities, and the status of the regulatory and public involvement processes at the time the newsletter was prepared. The newsletter was prepared as part of a first round of public involvement that also included meetings with elected leaders in the Project Region. Copies of the newsletters were also provided to the Manitoba Eco-Network Inc. and interested member organizations. The second newsletter summarizes what was heard during the first round and describes the second round of public involvement. Also note that information about the project is found on the Manitoba Hydro website at www.hydro.mb.ca; look for the link to New Generation and Transmission Projects. New documents will be added to the website as they become available.

We are interested in your feedback regarding any issues or concerns about the possible project and invite you to contact us.

With any questions or comments about the Wuskwatim project itself, please don't hesitate to call (fax numbers are also noted in the newsletters):


- 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) 484-3019 or Norman Linklater (204) 484-3017 (Co-Managers of Future Development for NCN).

You can also send us comments or questions via the Manitoba Hydro website.

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.


Sincerely,

MANITOBA HYDRO



Ed Wojczynski
Division Manager
Power Planning and Development

NCN



Elvis Thomas
Councillor
Future Development Portfolio

for

enclosures