

This report to NCN Members is an overview of the continuing consultation activities in regard to the proposed Wuskwatim Generation and Transmission Projects.

**March 2004**

# UPDATE: SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION WITH NCN MEMBERS

THE WUSKWATIM GENERATION PROJECT AND THE WUSKWATIM TRANSMISSION PROJECT

## Overall Direction of Studies and Planning by NCN Future Development Team

- Discussions began in 1997 between Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation and Manitoba Hydro about proposed future hydroelectric developments within the Nelson House RMA pursuant to Article 8 of the 1996 NFA Implementation Agreement.
- Overseeing and involvement by main Future Development Team and several sub-committees
- Involved in:
  - Planning of the projects (e.g. selection of low-head design for the generation project) to reduce adverse effects and maximize benefits for NCN
  - Design and overseeing of joint study program (along with other NCN Members)
  - Negotiation of Agreement in Principle, Summary of Understandings and Project Development Agreement with Manitoba Hydro.

## NCN Community Consultants

- Future Development offices established in Nelson House and South Indian Lake
- Staffed with local residents hired as Community Consultants to assist in carrying out community consultation activities in Nelson House, South Indian Lake, Winnipeg, Brandon and Thompson, including one-on-one meetings, dissemination of information, answering questions from the public, participation in open houses and other project-related events
- Staff include four individuals who provide translation services, as required.

## Wuskwatim Site Ceremonies

- June 2000 ceremonies at Wuskwatim Lake involving NCN and Manitoba Hydro
- Suwanee Elders gathering August 2003 involving NCN, Manitoba Hydro, TCN, YFFN and South Indian Lake.

## Cree Nation Gathering in Nelson House

- July 2002

This report to NCN Members is an overview of the continuing consultation activities in regard to the proposed Wuskwatim Generation and Transmission Projects.

**March 2004**

# UPDATE: SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION WITH NCN MEMBERS

THE WUSKWATIM GENERATION PROJECT AND THE WUSKWATIM TRANSMISSION PROJECT

## Overall Direction of Studies and Planning by NCN Future Development Team

- Discussions began in 1997 between Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation and Manitoba Hydro about proposed future hydroelectric developments within the Nelson House RMA pursuant to Article 8 of the 1996 NFA Implementation Agreement.
- Overseeing and involvement by main Future Development Team and several sub-committees
- Involved in:
  - Planning of the projects (e.g. selection of low-head design for the generation project) to reduce adverse effects and maximize benefits for NCN
  - Design and overseeing of joint study program (along with other NCN Members)
  - Negotiation of Agreement in Principle, Summary of Understandings and Project Development Agreement with Manitoba Hydro.

## NCN Community Consultants

- Future Development offices established in Nelson House and South Indian Lake
- Staffed with local residents hired as Community Consultants to assist in carrying out community consultation activities in Nelson House, South Indian Lake, Winnipeg, Brandon and Thompson, including one-on-one meetings, dissemination of information, answering questions from the public, participation in open houses and other project-related events
- Staff include four individuals who provide translation services, as required.

## Wuskwatim Site Ceremonies

- June 2000 ceremonies at Wuskwatim Lake involving NCN and Manitoba Hydro
- Suwanee Elders gathering August 2003 involving NCN, Manitoba Hydro, TCN, YFFN and South Indian Lake.

## Cree Nation Gathering in Nelson House

- July 2002

## Environmental and Socio-economic Studies

### Open Houses, Community Meetings, Community Forum

- Open houses  
2000 April 5/6                      July 12/13                      November 2000  
2001 February 20/21
- Small group meetings re: status of future development process (by Community Consultants – November 2002)
- Community forum held to present preliminary results of EIS - December 2002
- Presentations on biophysical results - March 4/5, 2003, February 3, 2004
- Small group process to present socio-economic impact management (along with Summary of Understandings) – meetings with 14 groups held during January/February 2004

### Newsletters

2000	March	July	August	October	Winter
2001	April	July	October	December	February
2002	April	August	November (summary of initial results)		
2003	Fall				
2004	March				

### Opinion Survey

- Opinion survey undertaken by NCN Community Consultants and additional NCN Members hired to assist in the process in Nelson House in 2000  
Results for Nelson House summarized and provided to community
- Opinion Survey undertaken by NCN Community Consultants and additional NCN Members hired to assist in the process in South Indian Lake, Thompson and Winnipeg in 2001
- Results for South Indian Lake summarized and provided to the community

### Participation in Field Studies

- Biophysical field studies included NCN Members during each field season
- Socio-economic interview program involved NCN Community Consultants
- Community Consultants administered Harvest Calendar program

### Information Pamphlets

## Routing of Access Road

### Alternatives Committee

- Joint NCN/Hydro/EMT committee established in June 2000 to examine alternatives for access road, camp location and transmission line location within Nelson House RMA
- Series of workshops/meetings held between June 2000 and December 2001

### Open House/Community Meeting

- Open House to present alternatives – August 2, 2000
- Community meeting to present results of analysis – December 3, 2001

### Newsletter

- Newsletter to summarize results of examination of alternatives – December 2001

## Road Access Management Plan

### Access Management Committee

- Joint NCN/Hydro committee established in 2002
- Meetings to establish framework for access management – resulted in report to NCN Chief and Council and Manitoba Hydro  
2002 February 14 March 8 April 12 May 7, 2002
- Committee Meetings (developed draft plan)  
2003 December 16  
2004 January 7 January 21/22 January 29 February 4

### Nelson House Resource Management Board

- Presentation to NHRMB re: progress on access management – January 13, 2004
- Board members invited to attend workshops on January 21/22, 2004 and workshop with resource harvesters on January 29, 2004
- Attended final meeting of the Access Management Committee on February 4, 2004

### Workshop with Resource Harvesters

- Executive of fishers and trappers attended NHRMB meeting – January 13, 2004
- Executive of fishers, trappers and some resource harvesters attended workshop of January 21/22, 2004
- Workshop open to all resource harvesters in Nelson House re: draft results of planning – January 29, 2004

## Employment and Training

### Career Fair

- November 14/15, 2000 – held at school; involved potential employers beyond Manitoba Hydro, as well as educational institutions, unions and government

### Newsletters

- November 2002 – helped encourage NCN Members to register with NCN Human Resources Department and receive testing to establish skill level and training requirements
- Training update newsletter – March 2003

## Routing of Transmission Lines Within the Nelson House RMA

### Open Houses, Community Forum

- Participation in open houses for generation project (April and July 2000, February 2002)
- Routing alternatives – August 3, 2000
- June 5/6, 2002 open house re: alternative routes; included interviews with resource harvesters and overflights of potential transmission line route alternatives within Nelson House RMA; additional overflights on June 18/19, 2002
- Participated in Community Forum to present initial conclusions about preferred route and effects of same – December 10, 2002
- Open house – February 11, 2003

### Alternatives Committee

- Joint NCN/Manitoba Hydro Committee addressed transmission lines along with road and camp alternatives between June 2000 and December 2001; further work with committee during 2002

### Access Management Committee

- Participated with Road Access Management Committee and addressed transmission line access management during meetings in December 2003 and January/February 2004
- Meeting with resource harvesters re: transmission access management - January 28, 2004

## Agreement in Principle

### Open Houses

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

### Documents

- Spring 2001: Agreement In Principle provided to each household
- Spring 2001: Overview document
- Spring 2001: Questions and answers guidebook

### Secret-ballot Vote

- May 2001: All NCN Members of voting age eligible to vote

## Summary of Understandings

### Newsletters/documents

- August 2002
- December 2003: Summary of Understandings document provided to each household in Nelson House and South Indian Lake
- February 2004: Summary of Understandings Simple Snapshot
- Special Report 2004

### Meetings

- Fall 2003: Off-reserve members invited to dinner meetings – Winnipeg, Brandon, Thompson
- Fall 2003: General Future Development presentation (W. Elvis Thomas) to community assembly
- January/February 2004: Presentation to 14 groups (one of these was a preview for Chief and Council) in Nelson House (along with impact management re: effects on NCN)

The consultation process has generated a great deal of information regarding the Wuskwatim Generation and Transmission Projects over the past four years. Please call or visit the Future Development Office in Nelson House, or visit our website for the latest information resulting from the continuing consultation process.



**NCN FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**  
 Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation  
 Nelson House, Manitoba R0B 1A0  
 Phone: (204) 484-2414  
 Fax: (204) 484-2980  
 Visit our website: [www.ncncree.com](http://www.ncncree.com)