

MANITOBA CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

LAKE WINNIPEG REGULATION REVIEW
UNDER THE WATER POWER ACT

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Transcript of Proceedings
Held at the Juniper Centre
Thompson, Manitoba

MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2015

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APPEARANCES

CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

Terry Sargeant - Chairman
Edwin Yee - Commissioner
Neil Harden - Commissioner

Cathy Johnson - Commission Secretary
Joyce Mueller - Administrative Assistant
Bob Armstrong - Report Writer

MANITOBA CONSERVATION AND WATER STEWARDSHIP

Rhonda Dyck

MANITOBA HYDRO

Dale Hutchison

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Jason Cook	19

1 MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2015

2 UPON COMMENCING AT 3:30 P.M.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon. I

4 would like to call our proceedings to order.

5 Welcome to these hearings of the Clean Environment

6 Commission. My name is Terry Sargeant, I'm the

7 chair of the Manitoba Clean Environment

8 Commission, as well as the chair of the panel that

9 is conducting this review. At the outset I would

10 like to acknowledge that we are holding these

11 hearings in the traditional territory of the

12 Treaty 5 First Nations and also in the homeland of

13 the Manitoba Metis Nation.

14 I would like to introduce the other

15 members of the panel which will be conducting the

16 review of Lake Winnipeg Regulation. On my right

17 is Edwin Yee, on my left is Neil Harden.

18 In addition to the panel, we do have

19 some staff with us who I will introduce: Our

20 Commission secretary, Cathy Johnson; our report

21 writer, Bob Armstrong. At the back of the room,

22 our Commission administrative assistant, Joyce

23 Mueller. Our recorder, Cece Reid. And also near

24 the back of the room, our aboriginal liaison

25 Melissa Hotain.

1 We are here today because about three
2 years ago, perhaps more than three years ago, in
3 2011, the Minister of Conservation and Water
4 Stewardship asked the Clean Environment Commission
5 to provide a public forum to consult with
6 stakeholders regarding Manitoba Hydro's
7 performance under its interim licence of the
8 regulation of Lake Winnipeg. We were asked to
9 hold meetings in communities around both the north
10 and south basins of Lake Winnipeg, as well as in
11 the City of Winnipeg. And at those meetings, to
12 hear evidence about the impacts of regulation --
13 of the regulation of Lake Winnipeg. We have not
14 been asked to provide an opinion on whether or not
15 the final licence should be issued. We have not
16 been asked to provide an opinion on whether or not
17 Lake Winnipeg Regulation should have been
18 implemented in the first place. As you will know,
19 it has been in operation for over 40 years
20 operating under an interim licence. So therefore
21 these hearings, meetings will not focus on those
22 questions.

23 We have been asked to review the
24 broader public policy rationale in effect at the
25 time leading up to the issuance of the initial

1 interim licence in 1970. We have also been asked
2 to look at the effects and impacts of Lake
3 Winnipeg Regulation since first operation in 1976.
4 And we have been asked to look at the successes
5 and failures of the implementation of those policy
6 goals.

7 We may make comment on concerns raised
8 about the issuance of the final licence, including
9 but not limited to future monitoring and research
10 which might be beneficial to the project and to
11 Lake Winnipeg. While we recognize that Lake
12 Winnipeg Regulation is very much an important part
13 of the Hydro system, it is not up to the
14 Commission to decide whether other parts of the
15 system are also examined as part of this review.
16 We hope, particularly when we hold the meetings
17 outside of Winnipeg, here and in a number of
18 communities in the north and around the south
19 basin of Lake Winnipeg, we hope to make them as
20 informal as possible in order to encourage as much
21 participation as possible.

22 These proceedings will be recorded.
23 This is required by the Environment Act. A
24 written record of what is said each day at the
25 community hearings will be produced each day,

1 known as -- this is known as the daily transcript.
2 It will be posted on our website as soon as
3 possible following today's proceedings. Anyone in
4 the room who so wishes can make an oral
5 presentation. And it is okay if more than one of
6 you wants to make a presentation at the same time.
7 An oral presentation is a chance for you and other
8 members of the community to give their personal
9 knowledge, views, and concerns about the project,
10 Lake Winnipeg Regulation.

11 What we are interested in hearing from
12 you in these presentations is, first of all, who
13 you are, what community you are from, how Lake
14 Winnipeg Regulation has impacted or benefited you
15 individually or how it has impacted your
16 community. We would like to know your views on
17 whether the project has been good or bad for the
18 whole of the province. We also would like to hear
19 from you your views or your opinions on what
20 decisions the panel should make when we report to
21 the Minister. And then generally any information
22 that you think is important that we hear.

23 As a rule, oral presentations are
24 limited to 15 minutes. If anyone wishes to make
25 presentation in a language other than English,

1 they are welcome to do that, but we would ask that
2 you have a translator or interpreter who can
3 translate so that we would understand. Also it is
4 open to anybody really in the province to make a
5 written submission. You don't have to make an
6 oral presentation. You don't have to come to one
7 of these hearings or meetings to have your say.
8 You can make a written submission which can be as
9 simple as a letter or even an email or a written
10 statement that you send to the Commission. You
11 can send it by email, by regular mail. The
12 address is available on our website,
13 Cecmanitoba.ca and the deadline for written
14 submissions is February 28th this year.

15 That's all I have to say for opening
16 comments. We are going to, before we have any
17 public presentations, Manitoba Hydro is going to
18 make a brief presentation, so I turn it over to
19 Dale. For the record, Dale, introduce yourself.

20 MR. HUTCHISON: Thank you, Terry.
21 Everyone can hear? My name is Dale Hutchison. I
22 work with Manitoba Hydro, in their hydro
23 operations department. Thank you for inviting me
24 to the City of Thompson to speak about our Lake
25 Winnipeg Regulation project. I have been working

1 with Manitoba Hydro for 15 years to understand our
2 impacts on the waterways on the people we share
3 them with. My presentation will describe the
4 Manitoba Hydro system, Lake Winnipeg and our Lake
5 Winnipeg Regulation project.

6 I'm also here with Mark Sweeny,
7 manager of our community relations department here
8 in Thompson and Ed Danyluk, manager of our
9 customer service operations here in Thompson.

10 First I would like to talk about the
11 Manitoba Hydro system. It is a huge area from
12 Manitoba that is extended out to the Rocky
13 Mountains in the west, to the edge of Lake
14 Superior in the east, down to the Red River Valley
15 into the United States, drains into Lake Winnipeg.
16 The shape of this land is like a million square
17 kilometre bowl, and this is what makes Manitoba
18 Hydro electric development possible on a large
19 scale in Manitoba. There are 15 generating
20 stations to take advantage of the water flowing
21 through Manitoba. These stations are shown by the
22 blue dots. The size of the dot, small, medium and
23 large, shows the amount of electricity that they
24 can produce. So there are six small generating
25 stations on the Winnipeg River, and a medium sized

1 station on the Saskatchewan River at Grand Rapids.
2 Now the Nelson River flows north into Hudson's
3 Bay. We have a small generating station at Jenpeg
4 on the west channel of the Nelson River. North of
5 the Nelson is the Churchill River, and it also
6 flows into Hudson's Bay. Now rapid build
7 generating stations on this far northern river,
8 its waters are diverted into the Nelson in what is
9 called the Churchill River Diversion project.
10 This project involved placing a dam, shown by the
11 orange box, at the outflow of the Churchill River
12 at Southern Indian Lake, raising the level of the
13 lake by nine feet, and diverting most of the water
14 of the Churchill River into the Nelson River where
15 it meets up with Split Lake.

16 Wuskwatim, our newest generating
17 station, is along this Churchill River Diversion
18 route.

19 The main hydroelectric benefit of the
20 Churchill River Diversion is that from Split Lake
21 downstream to Hudson's Bay, the Nelson River has
22 the benefit of two rivers. And as you can see by
23 the large blue dots, Kettle, Long Spruce and
24 Limestone are large generating stations located
25 here. Together these three stations produce 70

1 per cent of all of the electricity in Manitoba.
2 Now to move the electricity from these stations,
3 we have two high voltage bipole lines and they run
4 1,000 kilometres from Gillam all the way down to
5 the converter station just outside of Winnipeg,
6 while a third bipole line is currently under
7 construction.

8 From the converter station near
9 Winnipeg, the electricity is sent over 100,000
10 kilometres of distribution lines to homes and
11 businesses throughout Manitoba. We can also
12 produce electricity from natural gas at stations
13 in Selkirk and Brandon. We can also use coal in
14 an emergency at the station in Brandon as well.
15 We also purchase electricity from wind farms at
16 St. Joseph and St. Leon right near the U.S.
17 border. The Manitoba system, or Manitoba Hydro
18 system uses water to produce over 95 per cent of
19 all of the electricity made.

20 Now I want to turn your attention to
21 Lake Winnipeg. This lake is the 10th largest
22 freshwater lake in the world. It is Manitoba's
23 great lake. You can see here over a dozen rivers
24 flow into Lake Winnipeg, and yet there is only one
25 natural outflow, the Nelson River. This makes it

1 easy for the lake to flood. The mouth of the
2 Nelson River is wide but very shallow which causes
3 ice to block water flow out of the lake over
4 winter.

5 Historically flooding has caused
6 problems for people living around the lake;
7 highways are closed, farmers lost their crops,
8 homes and cottages were damaged. So this banner
9 shows photos and Winnipeg Free Press headlines
10 describing Lake Winnipeg flood events in recent
11 history, so back in 1927, 1950, 1954, 1955, 1966,
12 1968, 1969, and 1970. People put a lot of
13 pressure on the government to do something about
14 Lake Winnipeg flooding.

15 At the same time the demand for
16 electricity was growing in the province. So in
17 1970, the Premier of Manitoba announced a plan to
18 proceed with Lake Winnipeg Regulation for flood
19 control on Lake Winnipeg and the power production
20 on the Nelson River.

21 Now we will talk about Lake Winnipeg
22 Regulation, which I will call LWR so I can save
23 some breath. Before we could build LWR we needed
24 a licence from the Province under the Water Power
25 Act. This is similar to getting a building permit

1 when you build a house. Under the Water Power Act
2 this initial licence is called an interim licence.
3 To get it we had to provide information on what we
4 were building, and the impact that it would have
5 on water levels and flows.

6 The province granted us an interim
7 licence in 1970 which gave us the approval to
8 build LWR, along with rules for how it could be
9 operated.

10 There were three types of rules.
11 First, for operating ranges for Lake Winnipeg and
12 and a few of the downstream lakes. For instance
13 on Lake Winnipeg between elevation 711 and 715
14 above sea level, Manitoba Hydro could decide how
15 much water to flow through Jenpeg in order to meet
16 electricity demands. Above elevation 715, we have
17 to let as much water as possible out of Lake
18 Winnipeg. This is called maximum discharge. And
19 below elevation 711, the Minister of Conservation
20 and Water Stewardship tells us how much water to
21 let out of the lake.

22 The second rule is there must be
23 minimum flow of water from Lake Winnipeg at all
24 times. And the third rule is we can not change
25 the rate of water flow at Jenpeg too fast.

1 We agreed with these rules and built
2 the LWR by 1976, including the channels and the
3 Jenpeg dam. The next step in the licence process
4 is to request a final licence, which is good for
5 50 years from the date construction was completed.
6 In this case the LWR final licence will expire in
7 2026, which is only 11 years away. We applied for
8 a final licence in 2010 after many years of
9 negotiations with First Nations' communities and
10 resource user groups to address the impacts of
11 LWR. Before our licence expires in 2026 we will
12 ask the province to renew the licence for up to
13 another 50 years.

14 So it is a little hard to see from a
15 distance, but I will have these banners set up
16 later on as well. LWR involved digging a second
17 outlet for Lake Winnipeg, along with two other
18 channels, to allow more water to flow out of the
19 lake. These channels alone would drain the lake,
20 so it was necessary to build a dam at Jenpeg to
21 control the outflow of water on the west channel
22 of the Nelson River.

23 Now using the example of a faucet, tub
24 and a drain, if all of the rivers entering Lake
25 Winnipeg were represented in flood by this water

1 drop under the faucet, you have got the larger
2 yellow drain that would represent the natural
3 outlet of Lake Winnipeg. The amount of water --
4 sorry, you can see that this droplet is much
5 smaller than the one under the faucet. So during
6 the flood this shows that more water enters the
7 lake than can flow out of it, which causes the
8 lake to rise and flood. In the lower diagram,
9 there is a second drain representing this LWR
10 channel. It is half the size of the water drop
11 under the natural level flow. So this drop is
12 half the size of this one. During flood years,
13 even with two outflows available, the two drops
14 still aren't as big as the larger drop. So the
15 lake will still flood if all of these rivers
16 entering into it are going to flood. However, the
17 lake won't rise as high and the flood won't last
18 as long. Therefore because of this difference
19 between water inflows and outflows, LWR can
20 influence the level of Lake Winnipeg, but it can't
21 control it.

22 People have different ideas of how LWR
23 affects Lake Winnipeg. Many think they keep the
24 water level high all of the time, while some
25 people think they keep it low. The Federal

1 government has been monitoring water levels on the
2 lake for over 100 years. What this water data
3 shows is that Lake Winnipeg still acts the same
4 way it always did. The water level rises in the
5 spring and early summer, and falls through the
6 fall and winter. When there is a drought in the
7 watershed the lake gets low, and when there is
8 flood in the watershed the lake is high.

9 However, since 1976 when LWR was built
10 there was one very noticeable change. If we go to
11 the graph, I apologize for relying on a chart, but
12 it is really the only way to kind of show water
13 levels over time. So what this chart demonstrates
14 is that LWR has reduced flooding in Lake Winnipeg,
15 by comparing water level with LWR and what the
16 water level would be without LWR. One side of the
17 chart shows the elevation above sea level, while
18 the bottom shows the close to 40 years since 1977,
19 which is the first full year that LWR was
20 operational. The blue line here represents the
21 actual with Lake Winnipeg regulation level, while
22 the red line represents the estimate of what the
23 water level would have been if LWR did not exist.
24 As you likely noticed, the last decade in
25 particular it has been very wet through the Lake

1 Winnipeg watershed, with a lot of water flowing
2 into the lake and down to the Nelson River. The
3 chart shows that water levels in flood years like
4 1997, 2005, 2011 and 2014, the water level would
5 have been about two feet higher in each of these
6 flood years, and the flood would have lasted a lot
7 longer than they did. So this demonstrates that
8 the LWR is meeting its goal of providing flood
9 relief on Lake Winnipeg.

10 Now let's look at what happens
11 downstream. 20,000 people live along the Nelson
12 River. Land and water are extremely important to
13 their identity and livelihood. All Manitobans
14 benefit from having low cost, reliable
15 electricity. And people around Lake Winnipeg
16 benefit from having flood relief provided by LWR.
17 However, people downstream of Lake Winnipeg have
18 suffered from having more water flow out of the
19 lake during winter and during times of flood.
20 This additional water caused significant impacts
21 to people living downstream of Lake Winnipeg. In
22 natural conditions, lake levels and river flows
23 gradually decrease over the course of the winter.
24 With LWR water flows during the winter are much
25 higher, up to 50 per cent higher, than it would

1 have been without this project.

2 This water affects ice conditions on
3 the waterways which can make travel more
4 dangerous. Also it negatively affects animals
5 like beaver, mink, muskrat and otter. During the
6 summer months, anytime the Lake Winnipeg water
7 level gets close to or above elevation 715, Jenpeg
8 goes to maximum discharge, sending a surge of
9 water down the Nelson River causing water level
10 fluctuations on the rivers and lakes.

11 Ultimately this change in water flow
12 from LWR affects the cultural, commercial,
13 recreational, spiritual pursuits of people living
14 downstream of Lake Winnipeg. Working together --
15 in Cree this is called "witasosketowin" -- with
16 the people who live and work along the Nelson
17 River, Manitoba Hydro continues to work to address
18 impacts through agreements and other arrangements
19 with all communities and First Nations and
20 resource users down the Nelson River through
21 projects like the Cross Lake Weir, through
22 programs for resource harvesting, access and
23 navigation, archaeology and heritage resources and
24 recreation, as shown by the photos in this banner.

25 Thank you for inviting me to speak,

1 and I wish you a productive meeting with the
2 Commissioners from the Environment Commission, and
3 Mark and I will be available after the meeting if
4 you want to talk further. Thank you.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Dale. We
6 have had one person identify that he wishes to
7 make a presentation. I believe some others have
8 come in since. So if anybody else wishes to make
9 a presentation after this first person, please
10 come up. So the one person who has identified or
11 wishes to make a statement is Jason Cook. So if
12 you could identify yourself and say where you are
13 from, and go ahead.

14 MR. COOK: My name is Jason Cook, I'm
15 a resident of Thicket Portage. Thicket Portage is
16 located between the Nelson River and Landing Lake,
17 which branches into the Nelson River.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

19 MR. COOK: And I don't have any
20 briefing notes. I was just notified yesterday
21 that I was going to be here. I was -- I appeared
22 before the panel before, making a presentation on
23 the adverse effects of our traditional land and
24 territory within the areas that we come from.

25 The community of Thicket Portage has

1 been affected by all of the Hydro projects that
2 have started since 1975, with Jenpeg and all of
3 that. We are located in a situation where the
4 water flows into our lakes, and I don't -- we have
5 no agreement ever set up by the province, Hydro.
6 Yet there is some benefit that we have received
7 from Hydro. And another thing that we benefit
8 from is in short term employment in those
9 projects. What we are looking at in our community
10 of Thicket is the fishermen who have been affected
11 by fluctuation of the water level and the surface
12 species that do come into our lakes and are found
13 by the fishermen, which were not identified by the
14 Province, and the trappers in the surrounding
15 area, which comes up to Thompson.

16 Those are -- that's the territory that
17 we belong to, Thicket Portage resource management
18 area. When there is development of some sort by
19 the province we are not consulted at the community
20 level. Other than that, we would have had an
21 agreement set up for all of the impacts that we
22 have encountered in the community of Thicket
23 Portage. A lot of residents that have lived there
24 are no longer with us because trapping and fishing
25 was a way of life in Thicket. But that's taken

1 away from us now. So there is only a handful of
2 people that are fishing during the fishing season,
3 and the province sets a quota of how much you can
4 catch. It is managing the fishery. And the
5 trapping is very scarce in our community now,
6 because it is not worth -- the fur is -- the
7 market is not there. Too costly for one to go out
8 and get the catch. You have to have a machine and
9 pay for gas and all of that. Those are the things
10 that we have to look at.

11 I notice in the agreements that I have
12 read and seen from other communities, we in the
13 community of Thicket Portage, we don't have
14 benefit for some of those things that were given
15 to others. We, in our community, fall under the
16 jurisdiction of the Province of Manitoba because
17 we are a municipality with an elected mayor and
18 council who administer the funds for the community
19 through the province. So how can you bite the
20 hand that feeds you? It is pretty hard to do
21 that.

22 There is regulation and procedures,
23 and they have to follow those. That's how it is
24 set up. With the previous Hydro projects that
25 have been going on, it is sad for us to see we

1 don't have anything in our community. We have
2 many areas to work at, to look at, culturally and
3 historically. We have burial sites that we want
4 to restore. We have no -- where the Hydro has
5 buried them with crushed rock, we know that
6 because we have seen, we have traveled and we have
7 got stories from people who have worked and lived
8 on the Nelson River water system. So their
9 information is passed on, that is how we gain our
10 knowledge on the history of our community.

11 We have a winter road into Thicket
12 Portage. It is an hour from here, south. It is
13 our only means of transportation in the winter.
14 And in the summer we go by train.

15 I don't know how much time I have
16 here. If you could give me a nod and tell me what
17 time you have got?

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Keep going, we are not
19 pressed for time.

20 MR. COOK: The thing in our community,
21 we are members of First Nations from various
22 reserves. Our parent band we call it, which is
23 Cross Lake, some members from Tataskweyak, The
24 Pas. So being out in the community where the
25 province looks after us, we are excluded from

1 those agreements, the funding formula that's been
2 given to them. Sometimes you might have a
3 different view from a newly elected council
4 member. We have to start working with these guys,
5 they are our brothers and sisters. Let's not
6 exclude them anymore. You know, it takes one
7 person to change, you know, at least there is a
8 heart in that one group. And that's what we need.
9 We need to work together as a unit for the
10 betterment of people in that area that have been
11 affected.

12 There is no recreation in our
13 community, because we are living on resources from
14 the province. If there was such an agreement that
15 was given by Hydro, we would have had access to
16 those programs, for the youth to do something, but
17 there isn't anything. It is hard for one person
18 to try to convey messages for other people when
19 you take information down, like when I went to the
20 hearing in -- I think the last one I went to was
21 in Mystery Lake, Mystery Lake Hotel, but it is the
22 same group of people, but different panel, the
23 Environment Commission. So there again we keep
24 providing information for you to use when you are
25 making your submission for the licence that's

1 required to make that operational. We want to be
2 part of the working module that you guys have.

3 We don't have that many elders in our
4 community. People that have history are gone, we
5 have maybe four or five people that we can label
6 as elders in our community.

7 Our community has been around for many
8 years, even before Thompson was ever developed.
9 Thicket Portage was the hub of the development of
10 Thompson. And if you ever want to find out the
11 history of Thompson, you will notice there was a
12 train, tractor train, winter tractor train from
13 Thicket Portage hauling supplies to build the City
14 of Thompson.

15 So there again the resources within
16 our area have been extracted but no acknowledgment
17 to the traditional land users from that area. And
18 that's the province, they have taken away -- Paint
19 Lake was our fishermen's lake. They took that
20 away from us because they wanted to use it for
21 recreational purposes for the residents of
22 Thompson. And the fishermen lost their licence to
23 fish. They had good catch over there, the waters
24 were really good. So that's part of the history
25 of Thicket Portage.

1 Now we have the Hydro line that's
2 going through there, Bipole III line. We have
3 traditional land and territory that the trappers
4 are registered land users, there again we have not
5 been acknowledged in a way to try to work out a
6 formula that will benefit, you know, the people
7 that are affected by the change.

8 When you have water on the land there
9 is erosion, there is land mass changes, the fur
10 bearing animals move. There is pollution, you
11 know, in our lands. Animals get sick, people get
12 sick. I don't know, maybe that's why we have a
13 high number of cancer people in our northern
14 communities because of what has been happening the
15 last 40, 50 years. Something is going to give.

16 The other thing too is you have
17 agreements with the land owners, the farmers, they
18 get monies from Hydro because they are going
19 through their land. Why can that not be available
20 for us in our community? Because we make a
21 livelihood of our area, and that's taken away from
22 us now. There is a lot of research and
23 archeological work that we could do, but we don't
24 have the money for that. We have identified that
25 to Hydro and the Province, but their word is "we

1 will get back to you." And this is already four,
2 five years since the last hearing that I attended.

3 I have never seen any recordings of
4 your Commission hearings, documents that you may
5 have of other people saying things, expressing
6 their views and points. So -- I'm not saying that
7 in a negative way, but that is a fact, I have
8 never seen it. You may tell us where we can have
9 access to it, but then again a lot of us are not
10 computer literate people. We talk from here, from
11 our heart, and we feel it.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Can I ask you a few
13 questions? How many people live in Thicket
14 Portage.

15 MR. COOK: We have about 120, 130
16 people.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: I think it was during
18 the Bipole III hearings, it was here in this room,
19 we had a number of people come from I think it was
20 Thicket Portage, and they made presentations and
21 they talked about a trapping program, taking kids
22 out on the land. Are they still doing that?

23 MR. COOK: They were going to do that,
24 but there again when we made a proposal to Hydro
25 we never got anything back. We tried to do that

1 with the school program.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

3 MR. COOK: And the youth have to learn
4 the traditional ways of our -- of their parents,
5 their ancestors.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Um-hum.

7 MR. COOK: They have that in Thompson.
8 There was a number of people that have knowledge
9 of where to get the monies from.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: And when you mentioned
11 earlier at the outset of your comments about
12 fluctuating water levels, is that on the Nelson
13 River or on Landing Lake?

14 MR. COOK: Landing lake and Wintering.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Wintering Lake. Are
16 those lakes that have people from Thicket fish on?

17 MR. COOK: Yes, they are the ones that
18 we fish on, yeah.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: And what causes the
20 water fluctuation? Are they affected by the
21 Nelson River and the regulation at Jenpeg?

22 MR. COOK: The regulation, because we
23 have erosion in our Wintering Lake, we have trees
24 falling into the lake and that's dangerous because
25 of people traveling there in the evening,

1 nighttime, or even winter time on their skidoos
2 and that, when the water is low you see the reefs
3 that weren't there before, and they are there now.
4 I have pictures of all of this stuff that I'm
5 talking about.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: You also mentioned that
7 Thicket Portage doesn't have an agreement with
8 Hydro and the Manitoba province, as a number of
9 other communities have. And I think you said you
10 thought it was because Thicket Portage, being a
11 Northern Affairs community, gets its funding from
12 the province. I think there are other Northern
13 Affairs communities that do have agreements, if
14 I'm not mistaken.

15 MR. COOK: Well, Cormorant has one,
16 they have an agreement.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

18 MR. COOK: That's the only ones that I
19 know of. And also Grand Rapids because it is a
20 LGD, because of the dam right there.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Doesn't Easterville
22 have one?

23 MR. COOK: Well, Easterville, yeah,
24 Cedar Lake, yeah.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Doesn't the Northern

1 Affairs communities like Easterville have an
2 agreement?

3 MR. COOK: They have -- that's the
4 agreement from the Grand Rapids dam where they
5 flooded Cedar Lake, they had to relocate the
6 residents from Easterville up to higher and dryer
7 ground.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm aware of that. But
9 I think there is a precedent for Northern Affairs
10 communities to negotiate agreements, I'm not
11 saying you will be successful, but I think it is
12 probably worth looking into.

13 MR. COOK: Yeah, like we had another
14 manager that came to us and said how come you guys
15 are not a reserve? You have a high number of
16 people that are band members from different
17 communities. There again, like that came from the
18 manager, and then you say, well, I think he wants
19 us to go that route, but it is up to the elected
20 people that are elected, how they view the
21 community and what their future plans are. I
22 can't speak on their behalf.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: And that's far beyond
24 our mandate, that's Federal legislation, Federal
25 government.

1 And you also mentioned about no
2 compensation for loss of land use like farmers
3 have in the south?

4 MR. COOK: Yeah.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: I think Hydro does have
6 a trapping program, don't they?

7 MR. COOK: They do have one, but I
8 think -- I don't know if that was before I went to
9 Thicket, I had heard there was some people that
10 got compensation. And like the only one that
11 recently that we got money from Hydro was for the
12 community land trappers. But for individual take
13 overs for a certain parcel of land in the area,
14 no, they never got anything. I may be wrong, but
15 not to my knowledge. Someone might correct me on
16 that if I'm wrong.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: I think those are my
18 questions. If you have more to say, Mr. Cook, go
19 ahead.

20 MR. COOK: The other thing I wanted to
21 express is personally I see all of these
22 developments that are happening, you know, we want
23 to be part of it, we want to be included, not
24 excluded. We have traditional territorial land
25 that we have occupied, and we try to maintain

1 that, because that's the way of life. And it is
2 slowly going away. People move for economic
3 reasons, education, medical. But when you hear
4 stories from people, you know, maybe somebody will
5 have a change of heart in their submission to the
6 Province. Let's work with this group here, we
7 don't do anything for them, that's what I would
8 like to hear, you know.

9 I have other members from our
10 community that came with me, and they are in the
11 audience, and if you have anything that you would
12 like to add, they are more than welcome.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: They certainly are.

14 MR. COOK: And I thank the panel for
15 listening and the staff members that came along to
16 assist you in getting the information that's
17 required. And I could speak a lot longer, but I
18 want to show some courtesy for others.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Well, thank you,
20 Mr. Cook. Just one more thing, you mentioned our
21 records and our transcripts. Our transcripts
22 would be available, but there are thousands and
23 thousands of pages. What we do have and you don't
24 need to look at a computer, we do have reports
25 from all of our projects. We have reports, ones

1 we have done in northern Manitoba, hydro projects
2 in the last decade, Wuskwatim and Bipole III and
3 Keeyask, and we have produced reports for all of
4 those. They are maybe 150, 200 pages long, but
5 they address a lot of concerns we heard from
6 people, and they include our recommendations to
7 the Minister. So if you ever wanted to look at
8 those, they are available online, but we also have
9 hard copies we could send you if you wanted. You
10 just be in contact with our staff and we can send
11 them to you.

12 MR. COOK: The reason I'm asking now
13 is I did have a copy of the Commission's report,
14 but all of my personal and household effects have
15 been destroyed by a fire on January 2nd.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: This year?

17 MR. COOK: Yes. I have no history of
18 any -- like, I keep records and documents that I
19 have obtained from these meetings, but nothing is
20 left. I have to start from scratch.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: If you want copies of
22 those reports, just let us know and we can send
23 them to you. Thank you very much.

24 MR. COOK: Thank you for listening.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Thanks for coming out.

1 Anybody else have a presentation they would like
2 to make? Thoughts you would like to share with us
3 or questions you would like to ask of us?

4 We will relax then until others come
5 in, if other people come in and wish to say
6 something. Well, if any of you wish to say
7 anything, just let us know and we will hear you
8 out. Otherwise, we will relax for a few minutes.

9

10 (Concluded at 7:39 p.m.)

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OFFICIAL EXAMINER'S CERTIFICATE

Cecelia Reid, a duly appointed Official Examiner in the Province of Manitoba, do hereby certify the foregoing pages are a true and correct transcript of my Stenotype notes as taken by me at the time and place hereinbefore stated to the best of my skill and ability.

Cecelia Reid

Official Examiner, Q.B.

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