

MANITOBA CLEAN ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

LAKE WINNIPEG REGULATION REVIEW
UNDER THE WATER POWER ACT

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Transcript of Proceedings
Held at Pine Dock Community Centre
Pine Dock, Manitoba
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 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
Melissa Hotain - Community liaison

MANITOBA HYDRO

Dale Hutchison

MANITOBA CONSERVATION AND WATER STEWARDSHIP

Bob Matthews

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1 TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2015

2 UPON COMMENCING AT 6:30 P.M.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: So on that note, I
4 guess we will get down to business.

5 Good evening, and thank you all for
6 coming. I understand that we have people from
7 here and Pine Dock, but also from Princess Harbour
8 and Matheson Island. Thank you for coming out to
9 the session tonight. I just said in response to
10 this crack about the road, that it has been over
11 30 years since I have driven the road, and it has
12 been over 30 years since I was last in Pine Dock.
13 While my memory is getting sketchier, it does look
14 a lot different and bigger than when I was last
15 here.

16 I would like to introduce the other
17 members of the panel who are with us tonight. On
18 my right is Edwin Yee, and to my left is Neil
19 Harden. We have a number of staff people with us;
20 our recorder, Cece Reid, our report writer, Bob
21 Armstrong, and at the back of the room, the
22 Commission secretary, Cathy Johnson, and the
23 Commission administrator Joyce Mueller, and our
24 community liaison person, Melissa Hotain.

25 We are here tonight because in 2011

1 the Minister of Conservation asked the Clean
2 Environment Commission to provide a forum to hear
3 evidence from the public about the impacts of
4 Manitoba Hydro's regulation of Lake Winnipeg. We
5 were asked to hold meetings in communities
6 surrounding or around both the north and south
7 basins of Lake Winnipeg, as well as in the City of
8 Winnipeg.

9 We were asked to look at the reasons
10 why Lake Winnipeg regulation came into being in
11 the first place, whether or not it has succeeded
12 or failed in meeting the goals that were
13 envisioned in 1970, and also to look at the
14 effects and the impacts of Lake Winnipeg
15 Regulation since its first operation in 1976.

16 When we hold community meetings we
17 like to keep them as informal as possible just to
18 encourage people to come up and say their piece.
19 They will be recorded, this is required by the
20 Environment Act that we record all of our
21 hearings. A transcript of our proceedings, a
22 verbatim transcript of our proceedings will be
23 produced and posted on our website in a few days
24 from now.

25 Anyone in the room who wishes to share

1 stories or opinions or information with us is more
2 than welcome to. If you feel comfortable being
3 with somebody else to say it, that's not a problem
4 either. What we want to hear from you is who you
5 are. We would ask you to introduce yourselves,
6 and just tell us how Lake Winnipeg Regulation
7 might have impacted you or your community. Tell
8 us your views on the project, if you have any
9 opinions, and what should be done about it, please
10 tell us that as well.

11 We more or less limit presentations to
12 15 minutes, but in the rural communities, that's
13 not really an issue. If you want to say something
14 and then a few minutes later you think of
15 something else, that's fine too, we are open to
16 that as well.

17 As well, if you or anybody else you
18 know wants to say something, but you don't feel
19 comfortable speaking in public, or you think of it
20 after the meeting is over tonight, you can submit
21 your thoughts in writing. That can be as simple
22 as a letter or an email to us, or if you get fancy
23 and you want to write a bit of a report or a
24 couple of pages, you can mail it or email that to
25 us as well. Our contacts are listed on our

1 website. What we are going to do tonight is, I
2 have finished the brief introductory comments that
3 I was going to make, we will now ask Dale
4 Hutchison from Manitoba Hydro, who will talk for a
5 few minutes just about what Lake Winnipeg
6 Regulation is. And then after that I will throw
7 the floor open to any of you that wishes to say
8 anything. So, Dale.

9 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: You look pretty
10 young, so you probably don't know too much.

11 MR. HUTCHISON: Seems to be a feisty
12 crowd already.

13 Actually, I'm going to switch these
14 two banners because they are out of order, and
15 that will mess me up. So actually I have been to
16 Pine Dock about four times now. The first time in
17 the winter, though.

18 I guess the last time I was here must
19 have been the summer before last. And I guess
20 there was an open house that same summer at
21 Matheson Island, so I think I recognize a few of
22 the same faces. And it is good to see that we
23 have Princess Harbour as well here, as well as
24 people from Matheson Island and Pine Dock.

25 So thank you for inviting me to talk

1 about Lake Winnipeg Regulation. I have been
2 working with Manitoba Hydro for 15 years to
3 understand our impacts on the waterways and the
4 people that we share these waterways with.

5 I'm going to present about the
6 Manitoba Hydro system, Lake Winnipeg and Lake
7 Winnipeg Regulation. I will use these four
8 banners, and actually if there is breaks later and
9 you want to look closer, I will keep these up, so
10 if you can't see something right now it will be
11 available for later.

12 So, first of all, the Manitoba Hydro
13 system: A huge area from the Rockies in the west,
14 to the edge of Lake Superior in the east, and
15 south into the Red River Valley of the United
16 States drains into Lake Winnipeg. The shape of
17 the land is like a million square kilometre bowl,
18 and that's what makes hydroelectric development
19 possible on a large scale in Manitoba. We have
20 got 15 generating stations to take advantage of
21 the water that flows through Manitoba. These are
22 shown by the blue dots on the map, and the size of
23 the dots, small medium and large, shows how much
24 electricity they can produce. So on the Winnipeg
25 River we have six smaller stations, we have a

1 medium sized station on the Saskatchewan River at
2 Grand Rapids, and then you have got the Nelson
3 River that flows into Hudson Bay. We have a small
4 generating station at Jenpeg. North of the Nelson
5 River is the Churchill River which also flows into
6 Hudson Bay. Rather than putting generating
7 stations on this far northern river, its waters
8 were diverted into the Nelson through a project
9 called the Churchill River diversion. This
10 project involved putting a control structure,
11 shown by this orange box, at the outflow of
12 Southern Indian Lake, raising the level of the
13 lake nine feet, and flowing most of the waters of
14 the Churchill into the Nelson River at Split Lake.
15 Wuskwatim, the newest generating station is on
16 that route.

17 Now the main hydroelectric benefit of
18 having Churchill River Diversion is that from
19 Split Lake downstream you have got the advantage
20 of two rivers. And this is where all of our major
21 generating stations are, our really big ones,
22 Kettle, Long Spruce and Limestone. These three
23 stations alone produce 70 per cent of all of the
24 electricity in Manitoba. Keeyask, which is
25 currently under construction, is on this stretch

1 of river downstream of Split Lake.

2 To get the electricity from these
3 stations down to the south we have got two high
4 voltage bipole lines that run 1,000 kilometres
5 from a converter station near Gillam to a
6 converter station outside of Winnipeg. There is a
7 third Bipole III line that is currently being
8 constructed that you probably heard about.

9 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: Is that the one
10 with BP on it?

11 MR. HUTCHISON: Yes. From this
12 converter station near Winnipeg, there is actually
13 100,000 kilometres of distribution lines that take
14 the electricity to homes and businesses in
15 Manitoba. We also produce electricity from
16 natural gas in stations in Brandon and Selkirk.
17 In an emergency we can also use coal to produce
18 electricity at our station in Brandon. And we
19 purchase electricity from wind farms at St. Leon
20 and St. Joseph. You might have seen these if you
21 have traveled south to the States.

22 Now, let's go on to Lake Winnipeg.
23 Oh, I wanted to point out that 95 per cent of all
24 of the electricity of the Manitoba Hydro system
25 uses water to produce electricity, that's a key

1 point.

2 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: Is that taking
3 all of the water from our area? Can't be, because
4 we are getting flooded out.

5 MR. HUTCHISON: It is taking advantage
6 of all of the water flowing through Manitoba, but
7 I will be getting to flooding.

8 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: We should get
9 some money coming back to us because our docks are
10 under water and the whole bit.

11 MR. HUTCHISON: It is all part of the
12 presentation.

13 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: I will let you
14 carry on. Just letting you know.

15 MR. HUTCHISON: Appreciate it. So
16 Lake Winnipeg is the tenth largest freshwater lake
17 in the world. It is Manitoba's great lake. There
18 are over a dozen rivers that flow into Lake
19 Winnipeg, and there is only one natural outlet,
20 the Nelson River. This means that it is easy for
21 the lake to flood. The Nelson River, during the
22 winter, ice can build up and it can really
23 restrict the flow of the water out of the lake.
24 And this would -- over time this has caused
25 problems for people living around the lake;

1 highways were closed, farmers crops were lost,
2 homes and cottages were damaged.

3 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: Docks are under
4 water.

5 MR. HUTCHISON: Docks are under water,
6 exactly. So this next banner shows Winnipeg Free
7 Press headlines and photos of recent flooding
8 events. You have got, you know, 1927, 1950, 1955,
9 1966, 1968, 1969, 1970. This put -- all of this
10 flooding put a lot of pressure on government to do
11 something about it. So in 1970, the province, the
12 Premier of Manitoba, announced a plan to proceed
13 with Lake Winnipeg Regulation for flood control on
14 Lake Winnipeg and power production on the Nelson
15 River.

16 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: Is there anybody
17 here from government?

18 MR. HUTCHISON: From government?

19 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: Any government
20 official here?

21 MR. HUTCHISON: I believe we have one
22 at the back, we have Rob Matthews.

23 MS. JOHNSON: Let's not start with
24 this right now.

25 MR. HUTCHISON: I will do my

1 presentation and then you guys are good.

2 Okay, so Lake Winnipeg Regulation
3 involved digging a second outflow for Lake
4 Winnipeg, along with two other channels to get
5 more water out of the lake. Now, if you just dug
6 these three channels alone you would essentially
7 drain the lake, so there is a control structure at
8 Jenpeg that regulates the amount of water that
9 flows down the west channel of the Nelson River.

10 Before we could build Lake Winnipeg
11 Regulation, first we needed a licence from the
12 province. This is similar to getting a building
13 permit if you are -- before you build a house.
14 And in the case of a Hydro dam, it is a licence
15 under the Water Power Act, and the initial licence
16 is called an interim licence. So in order to get
17 this, first we had to provide information to the
18 province about what we plan to build and the
19 effect it would have on the water levels and
20 flows.

21 The province granted us an interim
22 licence in 1970, which gave us the approval to
23 build Lake Winnipeg Regulation, but they also had
24 some operating rules for us, and there were three
25 types. The first one were operating ranges for

1 Lake Winnipeg and some of the downstream lakes.
2 So for instance, on Lake Winnipeg between the
3 elevation 711 and 715 above sea level, Manitoba
4 Hydro could decide how much water to flow through
5 Jenpeg in order to meet electricity demands.
6 Above elevation 715 we have to let as much water
7 out of the lake as possible. It is called Maximum
8 discharge. And below elevation 711 the Minister
9 of Conservation and Water Stewardship will tell us
10 how much water to flow out of the lake.

11 The second rule is that we always have
12 to have a minimum amount of water flowing through
13 Jenpeg, like out of Lake Winnipeg.

14 And the third rule is we can't change
15 the water flow out of Jenpeg too fast.

16 So we agreed with these rules and
17 built Lake Winnipeg Regulation by 1976.

18 I wanted to give an example. I have
19 got this faucet, tub and drain. Now, if all of
20 the -- these dozen rivers, in a flood, if they are
21 all represented by the water drop entering the
22 lake, this drain represents the natural outflow,
23 the Nelson River. And you can see the water drop
24 under it is smaller than what the water drop would
25 be in flood times. And what this means is that

1 more water enters the lake than can leave it, so
2 the water level rises and the lake floods. That's
3 where all of these pictures come from.

4 In this lower diagram, there is a
5 second drain and this represents the LWR channel,
6 and it is half the size of the natural outlet.
7 But you can still see that these two water
8 droplets together are still smaller than the
9 faucet water drop. This means that in flood times
10 more water will still enter the lake than can
11 leave it, the lake level will still rise and
12 flood, however it won't rise as high and it won't
13 flood as long.

14 To use -- I hate to have to refer to a
15 chart because everyone hates them, but they really
16 are the only way to show water levels over time.
17 This chart demonstrates how Lake Winnipeg
18 Regulation is reducing flooding on Lake Winnipeg
19 by comparing the water level with LWR. LWR is
20 Lake Winnipeg Regulation, it gets tiring to repeat
21 it all of the time. So the water with LWR
22 compared to what the water level would be without
23 LWR. So on the one side of the chart we have got
24 the elevation above sea level. On the bottom of
25 the chart we have got 40 years since 1977, which

1 is the first full year that LWR was in operation.

2 The blue line represents the actual water level
3 with LWR, and the red line represents what the
4 water level would be without LWR.

5 Now you probably noticed that in the
6 last ten years or so, it has been very wet. There
7 has been a lot of water flowing into Lake Winnipeg
8 and down through the Nelson River. What this sort
9 of comparison shows is that in flood years like
10 1997, 2005, 2011 and 2014, the lake would have
11 been two feet higher and flooding would have
12 lasted a lot longer without LWR.

13 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: What was the
14 first year you said?

15 MR. HUTCHISON: 2005. Sorry, 1997.

16 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: So did they
17 regulate it before that?

18 MR. HUTCHISON: It was built in 1976.

19 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: So what was the
20 year that was the highest?

21 MR. HUTCHISON: Since regulation the
22 highest it has been was 2011, and that's when it
23 got to 716.9 feet.

24 Now, what I'm trying to show here, you
25 don't see these headlines right now, highways

1 haven't been cut off, farmer's crops lost, some
2 homes on average are lost, but it is not making
3 headlines like it used to. So this is
4 demonstrating, from our point of view, that LWR is
5 meeting its goal of providing flood relief on Lake
6 Winnipeg.

7 Now what happens downstream, there are
8 20,000 people that live on the Nelson River
9 downstream of Lake Winnipeg. Land and water is
10 extremely important to their identity and
11 livelihood. The extra water that Lake Winnipeg
12 Regulation sends downstream during the winter and
13 during times of flood causes a lot of problems for
14 people downstream.

15 I missed my little part, I was going
16 to say how all Manitobans benefit from having
17 reliable low cost electricity. People around Lake
18 Winnipeg benefit by having the flood relief
19 provided by LWR. However, people downstream from
20 Lake Winnipeg have suffered because they have
21 gotten more water. And this change in water flow
22 caused significant impacts to the cultural,
23 commercial, recreational and spiritual pursuits of
24 people living downstream. Now working together,
25 in Cree this is called witasosketowin, with the

1 people who live on the Nelson River, Manitoba
2 Hydro is addressing impacts of Lake Winnipeg
3 Regulation through agreements and other
4 arrangements with the communities, First Nations
5 and resource user groups along the Nelson River,
6 through projects like the Cross Lake Weir, through
7 programs for access and navigation, resource
8 harvesting, archaeology and heritage resources and
9 recreation, like all the pictures show in this
10 diagram, we have been working to address all of
11 these downstream impacts.

12 So that's the presentation, I hope you
13 have a productive meeting with the commissioners
14 of the Clean Environment Commission, and thank you
15 very much.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Now it is your
17 turn. Anybody -- you are going to need that. We
18 have to record everything and we need to have a
19 mic so it is recorded. Tell us your name.

20 MR. DAVID MONKMAN: My name is David
21 Monkman from Princess Harbour. I was wondering
22 when you first started with the presentation here
23 on this Hydro system, like when you were in the
24 Cross Lake area there, you were saying that you
25 raised the lake nine feet to bring the water back.

1 So what happened to those people in that area?

2 Did you flood them out?

3 MR. HUTCHISON: Yes, that lake was
4 about nine feet.

5 MR. DAVID MONKMAN: And the next
6 question is, what did it cost Hydro after it
7 flooded them out for compensation? And how much
8 down the line, right to the other end, when you
9 got it here, you know, and who pays for all of
10 that? Is it the taxpayer that's paying for it?

11 MR. HUTCHISON: It would be the
12 ratepayers of Manitoba Hydro that would pay for
13 mitigation, it is called mitigation, so everything
14 that we do to address impacts of hydroelectric
15 development to mitigate the impacts, that costs
16 more to the ratepayers.

17 MR. DAVID MONKMAN: Certain areas on
18 Lake Winnipeg, they get compensated for high water
19 and damage that has been done. But in this area,
20 we don't seem to get anything for any part of what
21 happens in these high water situations.

22 MR. HUTCHISON: Is it okay if I just
23 talk or do I need a microphone?

24 THE CHAIRMAN: You should use a
25 microphone.

1 MR. HUTCHISON: I can say that
2 Manitoba Hydro has not done any mitigation or
3 compensation on Lake Winnipeg for the impacts of
4 our Hydro developments.

5 MR. DAVID MONKMAN: Why is it not,
6 when other areas are getting the compensation for
7 the damage that has been done to their areas, and
8 we, us as commercial fishers, you know, our lives
9 are affected quite a bit by what happens with
10 stuff like this, not only with the fishing but
11 with our equipment and our -- with the flooding of
12 our docks and stuff with the high water. Like,
13 you know, pretty well all of the docks are ruined.
14 And we have got that at our own expense. Can't
15 get no money from anybody to repair our stuff.

16 MR. HUTCHISON: Actually our -- the
17 monitoring we do does show there has been more
18 water flowing into Lake Winnipeg, why that is we
19 don't know exactly, but there is more water
20 flowing into Lake Winnipeg. And the reason we
21 don't provide compensation and mitigation on Lake
22 Winnipeg is because the project itself provides a
23 benefit to people around Lake Winnipeg by reducing
24 the magnitude -- like, how high the water gets
25 during a flood and for how long it floods. That

1 was one of the reasons -- it was a key reason why
2 the project was built, actually.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: We didn't -- you need
4 to use the microphone. Sorry, we will pass it
5 around.

6 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: My name is
7 Bernard Selkirk, like I had a private harbour down
8 here for quite a few years, and like it has been
9 up and down. Like we have been flooded out like,
10 okay, spring comes around, the water is coming up
11 and you can't even get to the boat. So by the
12 time -- like, the fall season the fishing is over,
13 maybe you can get back out to your boat. I mean
14 it is just a ridiculous thing. So where is the
15 regulation of the water?

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Can you tell us just a
17 bit more about what the problem is?

18 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: The problem is
19 they kept raising the harbour. We built the dock,
20 I remember years ago it was like there was
21 actually back in probably the early 80s, there was
22 no water down there, we could drive right across
23 to the beach, which is like a mile, half a mile
24 across. And like it happened one year. Next year
25 the water at our docks, you know, maybe there is

1 five feet of water, like below the dock level, now
2 these last few years, like it is two feet under
3 water.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: The docks are two feet
5 under water?

6 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: Yes. And try to
7 make a harbour there to protect it, like now
8 harbour authority moves in, they say, okay, they
9 built a dock and everything there, but it is not
10 enough to accommodate everybody in this community.
11 We have had that for years. My dad is 80 some
12 years old now. He fished since he was ten years
13 old, and he has had that dock forever. And now
14 this dock is under water, and it has been under
15 water all of this summer too. And now like maybe
16 there is one foot sticking out this fall. What is
17 it going to be like next year?

18 THE CHAIRMAN: How long has it been
19 under water?

20 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: Probably for the
21 last two, three years, it has been up and down,
22 maybe more. It has been actually more than that,
23 it has fluctuated for maybe the last five years.
24 But he has been, you know, I wish he was here to
25 tell you right now, he is home, he has the flu, so

1 I can't, you know, I was going to speak up for
2 what I know.

3 Like, there is all of these things.
4 Like this year, what is going to happen this year?
5 Is Hydro going to regulate it? Right now there is
6 a foot of our dock sticking out, but we have to
7 buy floating docks next year because it is up and
8 down, it is iffy. One day you go out there and
9 you need another boat to get out to your boat, a
10 raft or something.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Now is the same thing
12 happening all around this area?

13 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: Yes, pretty
14 much.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: You are saying it is
16 happening in Princess Harbour, the same thing?

17 MS. MONKMAN: We don't even have docks
18 any more. It is all gone.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: How about at Matheson,
20 is it the same thing?

21 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: Same thing, they
22 are all under water. When the water comes up this
23 fall, they are all under water. Like do we get
24 compensated for it? No. The people that live up
25 north are, you know, you have to live on a reserve

1 or whatever. It is not a reserve, there is lots
2 of Treaty people here, we can't block the lake.
3 Maybe if we were all Treaty here we could block
4 the lake and say, okay, let's stop the flow, you
5 know. Like, we have been around here for quite a
6 few years. Like, you haven't been here for 30
7 years, things change.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: It certainly has, like
9 I said.

10 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: But, you know,
11 do we get any compensation for it? No, because we
12 are not Treaty. Maybe some of us are but we are
13 not living on a reserve.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: I don't think that's
15 the real reason that other communities are getting
16 compensated.

17 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: If you live on
18 the island maybe you can get compensated for it
19 because you are on an island. But here we seem to
20 get nothing.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: You talked a bit about
22 the time of the year. Does it change at the time
23 of the year?

24 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: Well, I fished
25 this spring and fall and it has been the same, my

1 dock has been under water. I have been walking in
2 my boots, like because the top of my boots -- some
3 days I can't even get out to my boat because I
4 don't have a floating dock.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: But it has been the
6 same year --

7 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: It has been like
8 this for the past ten years.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: But it is also
10 throughout the year. The docks aren't out of the
11 water at some time of the year and under water
12 other times of the year?

13 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: All this year, I
14 seen my dock this fall, like towards the last week
15 of fall fishing, you know. But other than that,
16 it has been under water. And can I build it up?
17 No. Harbour authority will step in and say we
18 have got our docks here. Well, we got -- we have
19 a harbour there too, and why can't we use our own
20 because it is our own private one? Is it because
21 I built it and the government didn't do it? Is
22 that the reason? Why not let me, you know, why
23 can't I get some compensation. I can do the work
24 to build it up and make it my own, like to have
25 your own private harbour, which is all it has been

1 for the last -- like, my dad has lived there for
2 50 years, you know, so what changes it?

3 THE CHAIRMAN: And why is the water
4 high?

5 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: Well, because
6 they opened the outlet from Lake Manitoba, let
7 more water in, and that's where we felt a lot of
8 fish -- different species came into our lake
9 because of that.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: That outlet was only
11 open for a few months.

12 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: Yeah, but a lot
13 of water came down there.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: I don't know this for
15 certain, but I have read that it only raised the
16 level of Lake Winnipeg about one inch, the water
17 from Lake Manitoba.

18 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: How come it
19 raised it four feet in my dock?

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Was that all from Lake
21 Manitoba?

22 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: I don't know.
23 And we never had a lot of rain this last year.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: No, but the amount of
25 water that came in to Lake Winnipeg from other

1 areas. Lake of the Woods, they all have the same
2 problem as you except they are all gazillionaires
3 and they can afford to fix them.

4 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: I don't know
5 about that either.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Maybe not the
7 fishermen, but a lot of the cottage people in the
8 Lake of the Woods had the same problem with docks
9 because they had more water than they have ever
10 had. There is more water than ever coming from
11 North Dakota and Minnesota. I don't think that's
12 been the case for the Saskatchewan River but -- I
13 mean there is a lot more water coming into the
14 lake in the last few years.

15 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: 35 years ago I
16 seen the lake level higher than this.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, I think '66 was
18 the highest ever, when it hit 719 or almost 720.

19 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: And it was
20 probably, I'm going to say 1981, 1982 when it was
21 the lowest ever.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: It was pretty low in
23 the '80s. It was pretty low in '03 as well, 2003
24 was very low.

25 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: Not as low --

1 THE CHAIRMAN: There was a drought.

2 Actually the early '80s, there was a long period
3 of drought.

4 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: Like I say, the
5 water keeps coming up and coming up and they say
6 they are regulating it, we are just hoping can get
7 out to our boat to go fishing or not. Like, where
8 is the control?

9 THE CHAIRMAN: The control is that
10 they can let more out. I mean Dale showed those
11 two little drops there, but also on the chart, up
12 by Berens River, not Berens, Warren Landing where
13 they built that 2-mile channel, 50 per cent more
14 water can leave the lake now than before they put
15 that in.

16 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: And when did
17 that come about, though?

18 THE CHAIRMAN: That was 1976.

19 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: How come now,
20 this year, I wouldn't say only this year, last
21 year too, our docks were under water, the last two
22 years, so where is the regulation?

23 THE CHAIRMAN: It is water coming in
24 from other --

25 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: Like I said,

1 there is not a whole lot coming in this last year.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: No, but I think, I
3 don't know if Dale has the water level figures for
4 the last two years, but they have only been
5 slightly higher on average than over the whole 40
6 year period.

7 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: So is there
8 anything that we can do to get compensation for
9 like buying floating docks for our own use or not,
10 or is it just harbour authority says, no, you
11 can't do this, you can't do that, or can we, you
12 know, what is the scoop here?

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, that I don't know
14 because that's not the area we work in. We
15 represent -- we are a Provincial Government
16 Commission, we are --

17 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: And you are
18 regulating the water flow?

19 THE CHAIRMAN: No, we are not
20 regulating. We have been asked to look at the
21 regulation to ask people about concerns and
22 whether they have been negatively impacted by the
23 regulation.

24 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: What you will
25 hear from here is that everybody has been

1 negatively impacted.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. And as far as
3 compensation, I don't know.

4 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: There is none
5 probably.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: I don't know that. You
7 would have to talk with -- I don't know what
8 department of the government, perhaps
9 infrastructure.

10 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: You know, like
11 when you guys are here calling a meeting to
12 regulate it and you want to find out the concerns,
13 well, so what are you going to do with it, to
14 compensate for those concerns?

15 THE CHAIRMAN: We are not here to
16 offer compensation. What we will do is, I mean we
17 will hear your concerns, in a few months we will
18 write a report that goes to the Minister. In our
19 report we will note that we heard these concerns
20 in Pine Dock.

21 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: And they will
22 say there is only a few people there, don't worry
23 about them, you know.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Part of the problem is
25 that a lot of the water in the lake the last few

1 years is natural. It is not because of Manitoba
2 Hydro, it is not because of the channel from Lake
3 Manitoba, it is natural. There is just more water
4 coming in in part because of global warming,
5 perhaps in large part because of global warming,
6 there is just more water in the lake. But I
7 mean -- I don't understand why harbour isn't
8 letting you build up your docks. That seems odd
9 to me.

10 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: It has been
11 there forever, so why would they want us -- like
12 they want to stop it, you know, then tell us to
13 stop it. But like they have got to have enough
14 room for everybody to be docked there, right? So
15 it is kind of like saying, okay, you are in
16 government tomorrow, okay, you can't be here.
17 Right? Same thing. You are sitting here today,
18 and somebody tells you, okay, you can't be there
19 tomorrow. What does that say to you?

20 THE CHAIRMAN: No, I understand what
21 you are saying.

22 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: That's our
23 livelihood, right? Fishing, got the harbour right
24 down the hill, what could you ask for better,
25 right? So that's like a slap in the face, you

1 know.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: How many people live in
3 Pine Dock?

4 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: Right now I
5 would say maybe 35, 40. 58 on our list. But I
6 don't know there is that many here.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: And how many in
8 Matheson these days?

9 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: There is
10 probably about 80.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: And Princess Harbour?

12 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: Eight.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: And how many of those
14 people -- so that's altogether 8, 80, 50 -- 140
15 people. How many are commercial fishers?

16 MR. DAVID MONKMAN: About three
17 quarters of them.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

19 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: You are
20 saying -- I am stating a fact, okay, we had this
21 harbour forever, let's say 40, 50 years, and
22 somebody is coming and saying you can't build it
23 up anymore, you can't use your harbour anymore.
24 That's just like saying, okay, you go to work
25 tomorrow and somebody says, okay, you don't have a

1 job any more, same thing.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: That's happened to me
3 before.

4 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: Well, maybe it
5 could happen again.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: I hope not too soon any
7 ways.

8 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: I better pass
9 the mic on to somebody else. You know what I
10 mean?

11 THE CHAIRMAN: I hear what you are
12 saying and we will note that in our report that
13 you have these specific concerns. Anybody else?
14 Does anybody else have anything to say?

15 MR. KEN MOWATT: Hi, I'm Kenny Mowatt.
16 I have been a Fisher for 35 years, and I noticed
17 that they said that the digging of the channel at
18 the north end of Lake Winnipeg would have no
19 effect on the fishers, but that's definitely
20 wrong, because before that was dug, you could get
21 a 20-mile an hour or 15-mile an hour northwest
22 wind, and you go out to your nets and you were
23 guaranteed there was a north current. But now
24 today after that channel was dug, you can go out
25 there with a 15 or 20 mile an hour northwester and

1 there is still a south current, a strong south
2 current. It shows that with that new outlet there
3 is more water flowing that way, so it does have
4 effect on our livelihood.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Where do you fish, Ken?

6 MR. KEN MOWATT: I fish right in the
7 channel area here all of my life.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: I had never heard that
9 before until yesterday when we were in Fisher
10 River and they told us the same thing.

11 MR. KEN MOWATT: Definitely. And
12 especially in the fall, you have to have the north
13 current or you might as well stay home and not
14 even go check your nets.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: If there is no north
16 current, there is no fish around?

17 MR. KEN MOWATT: No, they come from
18 the north in the fall, and you have got to have
19 that north current. And that definitely changed
20 since they dug the channel in the north end. I
21 worked out there before I became a fisher, I used
22 to dock at the Nelson River, I could see the
23 amount of flow that was going through there,
24 narrow in spots, and now when they made that
25 channel, I don't know how wide it is at Mossy Bay

1 there, but it definitely changed the current
2 systems in our lake here. That's all I would like
3 to say right now. I'm sure other fishers would
4 agree with me.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Hang on for a second, I
6 just want to finish writing a note and I want to
7 ask you a question. So, this is -- pardon me.
8 This reverse current, this happened when they put
9 that channel in?

10 MR. KEN MOWATT: Yes, it happened
11 definitely in Mossy Bay there, and it --

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Which channel
13 now? The channel at the north end of the lake,
14 the 2-mile?

15 MR. KEN MOWATT: Yes, the north end of
16 the lake.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: The 2-mile channel?

18 MR. KEN MOWATT: Yes.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. As I said, we
20 heard about it yesterday and we are going to make
21 some inquiries about it, because I had never heard
22 it before.

23 MR. KEN MOWATT: That is the truth,
24 yeah.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Just --

1 MR. KEN MOWATT: Definitely a big
2 effect on our fishing system.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: It is good to hear from
4 you, besides the other people that we heard from
5 yesterday. We may hear from other people as well.
6 We are going to Berens in a couple of weeks.
7 Thank you again. Anybody else?

8 MR. MICHAEL MONKMAN: Hi, I'm Michael
9 Monkman, I'm a fisher here from Pine Dock. And I
10 have been fishing for a while. And this fall I
11 noticed that usually when we get a south wind the
12 water drops here. It didn't have no where to go
13 this fall, I think everybody agrees with that. So
14 obviously something is coming from the north
15 obviously, because every time we get a south wind
16 here the water usually goes down, and sometimes it
17 comes up. So can you tell me what is wrong with
18 that?

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Sorry, I can't.

20 MR. MICHAEL MONKMAN: Anybody? Hydro?
21 Obviously something is spilling up there, you
22 know.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: The normal is when you
24 have a south wind the water drops here, it gets
25 pushed north.

1 MR. MICHAEL MONKMAN: Usually, yeah.

2 And I think if you want to know anything about the
3 lake you should be talking to some fisherman, not
4 some politician that is sitting in office, because
5 he doesn't know nothing about the lake.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: That's why we are out
7 here. I think part of the problem right now might
8 be that the lake is fuller than it has been for a
9 long time.

10 MR. MICHAEL MONKMAN: I believe you
11 because the water has got no where to go. I
12 talked to some of the older guys in the community
13 and they told me the same thing. Thank you.

14 MR. GORDON MONKMAN: Hi, my name is
15 Gordon Monkman. I want to ask about your lake
16 regulation, you claim it is a regulation, and yet
17 all around us they are doing work to speed the
18 water up that's coming into this lake, and do
19 nothing to speed the water up that's going out.
20 So how do you call it a regulation?

21 THE CHAIRMAN: When they say they are
22 doing everything to speed up, are you referring to
23 the channel from Lake Manitoba or other things as
24 well?

25 MR. GORDON MONKMAN: Other things as

1 well. On farm lands, they get rid of the water
2 just to make more farmland for themselves, and
3 that is a lot of land from here to Alberta or the
4 Rockies. And where did all of that water that
5 flooded out Calgary, where did that hit this
6 watershed or did it?

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, it definitely would
8 have, because that was the Bow River, and the Bow
9 flows into the South Saskatchewan, which then
10 flows into the Saskatchewan at Grand Rapids. So
11 that definitely would have come into this lake.

12 MR. GORDON MONKMAN: And how many
13 rivers and streams that the banks have been
14 reshaped and dyked up to speed the flow of the
15 water coming into here? Like it is, get the water
16 out of our area and push it into Lake Winnipeg,
17 well, it is in Lake Winnipeg now and where is it
18 supposed to go?

19 THE CHAIRMAN: You have actually hit
20 on a very important issue.

21 MR. GORDON MONKMAN: I know I have.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: And the farm runoff is
23 one part of it. The increased water coming from
24 south and east through Lake of the Woods and
25 through the Red River are part of it. And then as

1 you just said, the Calgary flood from a year ago,
2 that was a huge amount of water that would have
3 come into this lake. So it just adds to all of
4 the water that then fills up the lake and causes
5 the effect that Michael was telling us about a few
6 minutes ago.

7 MR. GORDON MONKMAN: But if you can't
8 regulate it, how can you call this a Lake Winnipeg
9 Regulation?

10 THE CHAIRMAN: That's a good question
11 and I don't have the answer.

12 MR. GORDON MONKMAN: I don't have any
13 more questions either.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: No, no, but I'm glad
15 you said that because we will make note of that,
16 and put that into our report, because that's an
17 important point.

18 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: Just off the
19 speaker, because I just have one simple question.
20 Who do we go for compensation for docks and stuff?

21 THE CHAIRMAN: That, I'm sorry, I
22 really don't know.

23 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: Is there a
24 disaster board or some kind?

25 THE CHAIRMAN: There is a disaster

1 assistance.

2 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: Isn't there a
3 Government official here from the province?

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Not from -- he is with
5 the province, but he is with the water services
6 branch that licences this project. He wouldn't --
7 I suspect he doesn't know any more than I do where
8 you would go for compensation. The disaster
9 assistance fund I don't --

10 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: I feel we are
11 getting left out in the cold here because
12 everybody else is compensated like through Hydro
13 and all of this and everything, but we get
14 nothing.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Have you talked to
16 government? Have you asked government about
17 compensation for your docks, the Provincial
18 Government? Have you talked to your MLA?

19 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: No, I never
20 talked to them but --

21 THE CHAIRMAN: That might be a place
22 to start, that's what he gets paid for is to help
23 people.

24 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: Okay, I will
25 tell him Terry Sargeant said.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: You do that.

2 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: Is there any
3 back up by Edwin or Neil? Okay, yeah.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: You go to him and ask
5 him.

6 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: Because they
7 always talk regulation, and for how many years,
8 like, I have been fishing for, you know, like 25,
9 30 years, and I'm thinking there has never been
10 any regulation.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Were you five when you
12 started?

13 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: How old do you
14 think I am? I'm probably close to your age. I'm
15 55 so.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: You sure don't look 55.
17 You are a lucky guy.

18 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: We will move on
19 here. To the back there.

20 MR. DAVID MONKMAN: David Monkman here
21 again. You are coming out and you are getting
22 this information on this meeting that you are
23 having here and stuff, so what is going to happen
24 with this after? Is it going to go anywhere or is
25 this just a process that you are going through

1 because you have to go through it or -- if that's
2 what it is, well, people are just wasting their
3 time here.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: I don't think that you
5 are wasting your time. We do this often. Not
6 always on Lake Winnipeg Regulation, but we do
7 other reviews, we have done reviews on other Hydro
8 projects, we have done reviews on sewage treatment
9 plants and the hog industry, we write reports, we
10 spend a lot of time with the panel members and
11 some of our consulting staff talking about the
12 issues and concerns that we have heard, and we put
13 those into our reports. And we will often make
14 recommendations. And for the most part, our
15 recommendations have been accepted.

16 Now, I should make a clarification,
17 because on this project, you know, recommendations
18 that we make specific to this project wouldn't
19 affect or help you at all. But we also do make
20 what we call non-licensing recommendations, and
21 the Minister doesn't always accept them, but he
22 often does, particularly if they are reasonable
23 recommendations.

24 Now as far as offering compensation
25 for your docks, that's not something that we -- we

1 will note that we heard that, but we wouldn't make
2 a recommendation in that regard. We may well make
3 a recommendation about looking at the water, like
4 the issues that Michael brought up, was it Michael
5 or Gordon at the back? Gordon. Yes, Michael is
6 in front of you there. I can't get all of these
7 Monkman's straight. But we may well make
8 recommendations addressing some of the concerns
9 that Gordon talked about, about too much water
10 coming into the water or water being sped up
11 coming into the lake but not being sped up getting
12 out of the lake. And those, I mean those types of
13 things are solvable, but not quickly, and probably
14 not cheaply. But --

15 MR. DAVID MONKMAN: I know how that
16 works. I have been involved in some of these
17 commercial fisher meetings and trying to get some
18 regulations on fishing and stuff and it is
19 supposed to go to the minister, but you wonder if
20 it ever gets there, because you never hear
21 anything about them. This is probably going to be
22 the same way.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Our stuff does get to
24 the Minister. And in recent years the Minister
25 has accepted our recommendations, and some of them

1 have been put in place, actually we have been
2 surprised at how fast they have been put in place.
3 That's not always the case, but some of them it
4 is. And I think if we come up with some kind of
5 recommendation built around for the whole water
6 system in Manitoba, and some of the issues around
7 the whole water system, that that will get
8 attention from the Minister. I can't guarantee
9 anything in this life, but I think it will.

10 MR. DAVID MONKMAN: Seeing that we are
11 on the water levels and the drainage into the
12 lake, the one that comes in from Lake Manitoba to
13 Lake Winnipeg, that has a big play on our fishing.
14 Because I talked to some of the fishermen up that
15 way, and there is a silt blanket that's in certain
16 areas and the current and the wind changes, they
17 are getting fish when they are outside of that
18 silt blanket, but as soon as the current changes
19 and the wind changes and it comes into where their
20 nets are, well then there is no fish. They move
21 outside where it is clear again and they start
22 getting the fish, and that just keeps moving
23 further and further south.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: It is a silt blanket of
25 some kind?

1 MR. DAVID MONKMAN: Yes, it is the
2 dirt and stuff that's coming out of the lake, or
3 through the channel that it is running down.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: The first channel was
5 built under emergency measures, so they didn't
6 have to do any environmental assessment. This
7 permanent channel that's being planned right now,
8 will require an environmental assessment.
9 Hopefully, it will be referred to us and we will
10 come out again into probably this community and
11 others, to hear people, what they have to say
12 about it. But that's probably a year or two down
13 the road before an environmental assessment on
14 that is completed. And an environmental
15 assessment would look exactly at that issue, among
16 many others.

17 MR. DAVID MONKMAN: So you have been
18 up to Dauphin River, so you should know what it is
19 like.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: I haven't been to
21 Dauphin River for many years, but we have been in
22 Fisher River yesterday and they told us about
23 similar issues.

24 MR. DAVID MONKMAN: You say that
25 regulated channel that they are going to build

1 there, what is going to happen to the channel that
2 they have already built? Is that going to be left
3 to keep doing what it is doing now?

4 THE CHAIRMAN: It is closed off now,
5 isn't it?

6 MR. DAVID MONKMAN: I don't know.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: I don't think it is
8 draining into the lake right now. But it -- I
9 don't know if it will become part of the permanent
10 channel or not. The government hasn't decided the
11 route yet to my knowledge.

12 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: I thought that
13 this was regulated by the lake level, so if
14 anything overflows, then it flows down there.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: It flows, but I don't
16 think --

17 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: Because they dug
18 a channel from Lake Manitoba up to Lake St. Martin
19 to relieve pressure. So anything overflows --

20 THE CHAIRMAN: I think it is sealed
21 off right now. Because under the emergency
22 measures they could only keep it going for so long
23 and then they had to seal it off. Now they have
24 to go through this longer process where they do
25 the planning and environmental assessments.

1 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: So, if we don't
2 get any fish next year you will hear from us
3 before two years.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. We will wait for
5 that. And if you get a lot of fish, we will come
6 back up and you can give us a big feast.

7 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: As long as you
8 keep the lake level lower.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, let's hope that
10 some of the excess water slows down a bit.

11 MR. DAVID MONKMAN: I have a question
12 for the guy from Manitoba Hydro here. So can
13 there be anything done to make the water flow
14 faster out of there and at what cost would it be
15 to have it done? I want figures now.

16 MR. HUTCHISON: I think what you are
17 asking is could you make a bigger channel or more
18 channels? Right now there is 2-mile channel, if
19 it was made bigger or something?

20 MR. DAVID MONKMAN: What do they all
21 (inaudible)

22 MR. HUTCHISON: There is three
23 channels, 2-mile is the first one and then there
24 is 8-Mile and there is Ominawin, so it is these
25 three channels together that allow this 50 per

1 cent more water to flow out of the lake. If you
2 were to make channels bigger, it could cost a lot.
3 These channels were the easy way to pick fruit.
4 It was the easiest way to get more water out of
5 the lake. If you try to make them bigger, it
6 would be more difficult, because you are talking
7 about probably blasting a lot of rock, of course,
8 now you would need an environmental assessment to
9 do anything like that. Also we have to remember
10 there is all of these people downstream. So the
11 more water -- right now they are suffering from
12 all of this additional water that's sent down the
13 river. If you make it bigger, it is only going to
14 exacerbate that problem.

15 MR. DAVID MONKMAN: That doesn't seem
16 to have any effect on anybody upstream from us,
17 they don't think of that when the water is coming
18 our way and they want to send it faster.

19 MR. HUTCHISON: That is a big
20 question.

21 MR. DAVID MONKMAN: Another question
22 then, what would that do for the fishing in that
23 area, the fish industry in that area if those
24 channels were dug wider?

25 MR. HUTCHISON: I don't know. There

1 has been some research done to see how it might be
2 affecting whitefish, and the study at that point
3 demonstrated that they didn't see that it was
4 having an impact. I can't speculate on what might
5 happen if the channels were made bigger and --

6 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: Langford will be
7 looking for you then.

8 MR. HUTCHISON: Yes, Mr. Saunders from
9 Norway House at the co-op, I do know him well. He
10 gave me a hat one time.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Can one of you tell me,
12 is this problem other places on the lake? I mean
13 here we have got sort of a smallish area, we have
14 Princess Harbour, Matheson Island, Pine Dock sort
15 of in a smallish area. Is it the same further
16 north or further south?

17 MR. KEN MOWATT: Same lake, so I'm
18 sure they must be having the same problem.

19 MR. ALFRED LEE: This is the area that
20 produces a lot of the higher grade fish.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: I know that.

22 MR. ALFRED LEE: And the channel that
23 he is talking about is the channel out here, not
24 the 2-mile channel down --

25 MR. DAVID MONKMAN: See, in the

1 fishing industry they wanted to divide the lake
2 into two areas, the south and the north. And I
3 fought with them over that. And I told them no,
4 it is three areas. It is the north, the channel
5 and the south, why do they want to cut out the
6 channel? I said the south won't want us and the
7 north won't want us, so leave the channel alone,
8 so we still got us a channel area.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Do you know that at one
10 time when they were considering this Lake Winnipeg
11 Regulation they seriously considered putting a
12 control right out here in the narrows?

13 MR. DAVID MONKMAN: Yes, they tried
14 that.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: It was going to cost
16 gazillions to build and gazillions to operate, but
17 that would have been dumb. But that was -- they
18 gave that serious consideration. Sorry, just for
19 the record, what was your name?

20 MR. DAVID MONKMAN: David Monkman.
21 No, this gentleman in the front.

22 MR. ALFRED LEE: Alfred Lee.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Anybody else have
24 anything to say?

25 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: I'm sure that

1 people have lots to say, speak up.

2 MR. MICHAEL MONKMAN: Okay, this is
3 Michael Monkman again. I was wondering what was
4 going on with the Dauphin River fishermen there?
5 They have been flooded out for so long, are you
6 guys going to buy them out or are you going to fix
7 their problem?

8 THE CHAIRMAN: That's beyond our
9 scope. We don't have any authority in that
10 respect. We haven't heard anything from Dauphin
11 River, but also that's not part of our mandate.

12 MR. MICHAEL MONKMAN: It is not
13 flooding now, we can't see why we can't fish in
14 the winter.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: I am sorry, I can't
16 answer that.

17 MR. MICHAEL MONKMAN: I just wanted to
18 get it on tape.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: That's fine.

20 MR. ALFRED LEE: Yes, Alfred Lee
21 again. With the increase of the water on the
22 lake, what amount of revenue has come back into
23 the province versus going out for the
24 compensation, if there is any? Like, you are
25 asking for more water, are you not, to go beyond a

1 certain number of years?

2 THE CHAIRMAN: We are not asking for
3 the water. Hydro needs a certain amount of water
4 to run their generating stations. If they get too
5 much, then it is just wasted, if there is too much
6 like there has been for the last couple of years
7 at least, they spill it over their spillways at
8 each of the generating stations, and that's wasted
9 water, it just ends up in the bay.

10 MR. ALFRED LEE: But that's what your
11 regulations are for, to maintain a consistent flow
12 either way?

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Maintain a consistent
14 flow out of the lake, yes. And it does keep the
15 high levels lower than before, but it keeps the
16 low levels a little higher than natural.

17 MR. ALFRED LEE: But the higher the
18 lake, does that provide Hydro with more revenue at
19 the end of the day?

20 THE CHAIRMAN: I think if it is sort
21 of a normal flow, which would be about 713 and a
22 half, is more or less the average height I think,
23 that provides them with as much revenue as they
24 can generate. If it gets below that -- in 2003,
25 the level was quite a bit lower, there was a

1 serious drought, it was only a one year drought,
2 but it was a serious drought and Hydro lost about
3 \$400 or \$500 million just because of low water.
4 If it is normal, all they need to generate the
5 maximum amount is about 713 and a half. When it
6 is higher and they are spilling it, they don't get
7 any extra revenue because it ends up being wasted
8 water.

9 SPEAKER: Why do the hydro rates go up
10 to cover it?

11 THE CHAIRMAN: That's not our issue.
12 Yes, that's another board.

13 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: Got another
14 question. Like, so you are regulating like the
15 water, you know, the regulation of the water, so
16 how many years prior to this year has it been this
17 high or close?

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, he does have a
19 bit on the graph there, but that shows the
20 extremes. You know, this graph on the third
21 banner shows you sort of the highest levels in
22 that particular year. It doesn't really show the
23 averages for the year.

24 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: Would you say
25 the last two, three years higher than --

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, the inputs into
2 the lake have been higher in the last couple of
3 years and the suspicion suspension is it is
4 because of global warming, and we do know there is
5 more water coming up the Red and Winnipeg River.

6 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: I noticed that,
7 let's say in the last -- well, this last couple of
8 years when it blows really hard from the south and
9 the water usually goes down lots, but there hasn't
10 been, and when it blows really hard from the north
11 the water usually rises two, three feet in this
12 area, and it has been staying pretty much the
13 same. So what is happening there? You know, guys
14 that have fished on this lake all of their lives
15 have noticed that. So why the difference in the
16 currents and like the water coming up and down?
17 It seems like ever since that channel was opened
18 from Dauphin River, it made a big impact on this
19 area.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: The Dauphin River
21 channel was only open for a few months. I mean,
22 that water would have got here anyway.

23 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: Okay.

24 (Sound problems)

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Where were we?

1 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: We were with the
2 Dauphin River thing.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, that channel, that
4 water would have gone into Lake Winnipeg anyway,
5 it just got here a little more quickly because of
6 that outlet at Lake St. Martin. I mean, if the
7 Assiniboine River had been able to hold that
8 water, it would have gone through the Assiniboine
9 and into the Red and into Lake Winnipeg and got
10 here sooner or later. It just got here a little
11 quicker that year because they diverted it into
12 Lake Manitoba and then out of Lake Manitoba.

13 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: That's probably
14 why it changed the current too because it came in
15 the north basin --

16 THE CHAIRMAN: That I don't know. We
17 have heard from a few people, these currents have
18 been changed for many years. You were saying
19 that.

20 MR. KEN MOWATT: Yes, when that
21 channel was open.

22 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: Other than that,
23 you guys can regulate this a little bit better.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Well, our hope is that
25 we can provide some good advice to the government

1 to help regulate it better. Then it is up to Dale
2 all by himself to fix everything.

3 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: Okay. Being
4 from Hydro, he probably doesn't have any money.
5 Okay.

6 MR. GORDON MONKMAN: I have a question
7 for -- Gord Monkman, I have a question for Hydro.
8 On that Bipole III line, how many people are you
9 compensating for that line? Like from the north
10 tip to the south tip, and how come they get
11 compensated and the fishermen on this lake don't
12 get bugger all?

13 MR. HUTCHISON: Actually that's
14 definitely a question that I don't have the
15 knowledge to answer, because I'm from the water
16 side of the company, not the transmission side.
17 But I can say that Manitoba Hydro has a policy to
18 compensate or mitigate anyone who is adversely
19 affected by our projects. So if there are people
20 who are getting compensation from the Bipole line,
21 it is because they have been adversely affected
22 from it.

23 MR. GORDON MONKMAN: From running a
24 200 white line across their property, they are
25 going to be compensated the rest of their lives?

1 MR. HUTCHISON: I don't know the
2 details, but there would be some compensation.

3 MR. GORDON MONKMAN: Some place this
4 compensation I think should be made for everybody
5 that's affected by it, not just by a certain
6 number of them. I would think anyways.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: I think Hydro's
8 response would be that they do compensate anybody
9 who has been affected by a Hydro project. But
10 they will argue that people on Lake Winnipeg have
11 not been negatively affected by a Hydro project.
12 There are other -- I can't really speak for Hydro,
13 but --

14 MR. GORDON MONKMAN: Hydro would argue
15 black is white, if it didn't have to pay for it.
16 I mean, you would too.

17 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: Isn't that what
18 this is all about, isn't it their regulations on
19 the lake levels and now you are saying they have
20 no say in it or --

21 THE CHAIRMAN: No, what I'm saying is
22 that they will and have argued that Lake Winnipeg
23 Regulation has not negatively impacted people
24 living on the lake.

25 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: I think if you

1 talk to the fishermen around here -- my dad fished
2 for 73 years and he probably has a lot to say
3 about that.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: I mean that's why we
5 are here. We want to hear those things.

6 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: Maybe if he
7 didn't have the flu he would be here to tell you.
8 I mean, you know, like you are just sitting back
9 there saying Hydro doesn't have anything to do
10 with it.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm saying that's what
12 they would argue, and they have. They produced a
13 document for this review that we are doing and in
14 it they say that the average lake level has only
15 changed about two inches.

16 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: My boots are a
17 little bit higher than two inches, we need hip
18 waders, chest waders more like it, from 10 years
19 ago. So where is that regulation? I guess
20 pictures will only prove a little bit more.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. But they would
22 argue that it is other causes, not them.

23 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: Well now, yeah,
24 like they open the channel and like -- I don't
25 have any further questions right now.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.

2 MR. DAVID MONKMAN: My name is David
3 Monkman. This bipole III that's going down the
4 west side there, like it is, they say to get Hydro
5 to where, Ontario and down to the States, is that
6 what this power line is for?

7 MR. HUTCHISON: From what I
8 understand, and I'm not, as I mentioned, from the
9 transmission side of the company, but I understand
10 the reason for Bipole III is for reliability.
11 Right now we have got two bipole lines that go
12 right down, they are side by side in the
13 Interlake. They are very susceptible if there was
14 an ice storm or any other impact. And in order
15 for us to market our electricity we have to say it
16 is reliable. And it is not -- or I should say the
17 Bipole III makes it more reliable so we can
18 guarantee that we can always have electricity to
19 provide.

20 MR. DAVID MONKMAN: For who?

21 MR. HUTCHISON: For Manitobans and the
22 export market.

23 MR. DAVID MONKMAN: What does that do
24 for our Hydro? We pay more for it and they pay
25 less?

1 MR. HUTCHISON: It is actually the
2 reverse. The reason that Hydro rates are as low
3 as they are in Manitoba, amongst the lowest in
4 North America, is because we can sell the
5 electricity on the export market. If we couldn't
6 sell electricity on the export market, our cost to
7 the ratepayers would be a lot more.

8 MR. DAVID MONKMAN: We shouldn't be
9 paying more, we should be paying less.

10 MR. HUTCHISON: If you look to your
11 neighbours in Saskatchewan and Ontario, you will
12 find that they are paying a lot more for their
13 electricity.

14 MR. DAVID MONKMAN: Where is it coming
15 from?

16 MR. HUTCHISON: They would have
17 different ways of producing it, not as much hydro,
18 definitely, hydro electricity.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. We have a few
20 minutes more before our time is up. If anybody
21 has more to add?

22 MR. BERNARD SELKIRK: One of the
23 questions for the Hydro guy, do you know Brian
24 Short?

25 MR. HUTCHISON: Brian Short, no.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Anybody else have more
2 to say? Well, maybe we will close off the formal
3 part of the meeting and we will stick around for a
4 few minutes, and if you want to chat a little bit,
5 or if you have more questions or you want to talk
6 about these boards, Dale will be glad to answer
7 all of the tough questions, and if you have easy
8 questions, you can talk to me.

9 So, I just want to thank you all for
10 coming out. I think we have had a good
11 conversation tonight, we heard a lot of good and
12 interesting points. And I'm sure if you read our
13 report when it comes out you will see some of your
14 issues contained in it, at least what we heard.
15 We may not be able to resolve your problems, but
16 we have heard what you have said. So again thank
17 you very much for coming.

18 MS. L. MONKMAN: I'm Lori Monkman, I
19 am the CEO of the Pine Dock council, and I want to
20 say thanks for everybody coming out here tonight
21 and bringing your concerns here. This is what
22 this is all about, and I don't know if we will see
23 them again. But thank you very much.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

25 (Concluded at 8:00 p.m.)

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OFFICIAL EXAMINER'S CERTIFICATE

I, CECELIA J. 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 J. Reid
Official Examiner, Q.B.

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