



# NEWS RELEASE

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## ***NCN Welcomes Recommendations of CEC***

NELSON HOUSE, Manitoba – October 4, 2004 – Chief and Council of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) today welcomed recommendations by the Clean Environment Commission that support construction of the Wuskwatim Generating Station and Transmission projects. NCN would be a partner with Manitoba Hydro in the generating station.

The report found that Manitoba Hydro and the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation have adequately justified the projects and concluded they are viable and economic. The CEC report also stated that, if managed in an appropriate manner, the benefits for Aboriginal people, northerners and all Manitobans could be significant.

The recommendations follow nearly four months of public hearings on the projects that concluded early in June.

“We are pleased the Commission was able to separate fact from fiction in reaching its conclusions and apparently was not swayed by some of the arguments against the project that were driven by ideology or political agendas,” said NCN Councillor and Future Development Portfolio Holder W. Elvis Thomas who represented NCN at the Clean Environment Commission hearing.

“Our First Nation will be reviewing the full report in detail with our legal, environmental and economic consultants as well as our partner in the project, Manitoba Hydro.

“Our People followed the CEC hearing closely and will be very interested in the report. We will make sure they have the opportunity to review and understand it. They are interested because our partnership with Hydro represents a new way of doing business that ensures the people of our First Nation, and other northern communities and Aboriginal people closest to the resources, have a share in the benefits of development.”

### **Next Steps Towards a Wuskwatim Partnership**

NCN and Manitoba Hydro are close to completing details of the Project Development Agreement (PDA), that includes the terms of the proposed Wuskwatim Power Partnership, in which NCN can own up to one third of the Wuskwatim generating station. With regulatory approval of the project, construction can begin if NCN Members ratify the PDA in a secret ballot vote, NCN and Manitoba Hydro agree on all terms, and Hydro decides to proceed.

The Wuskwatim Generating Station would be built on the Burntwood River at Taskinigup Falls in NCN's resource management area, about 40 kilometres southeast of Nelson House, Manitoba. The earliest date the project could begin producing power is 2010.

*Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation is based in Nelson House, Manitoba, about 800 kilometres north of Winnipeg and 80 kilometres west of Thompson. NCN has close to 5,000 members living in Nelson House, South Indian Lake, Thompson, Brandon and Winnipeg.*

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