



WUSKWATIM IMPLEMENTATION NEWS

November 2012

An Historic NCN Milestone

Wuskwatim Generating Station Now in Full Service

As this newsletter goes to press, most construction work on and within the Wuskwatim Generating Station has been completed with everything expected to be wound up by the end of this year.

First power was produced on June 22 when turbine generator number 1 went into commercial service, followed by the completion of installation and testing of turbine generators 3 and 2 and related electrical and mechanical equipment. Since then a commissioning certificate was issued for turbine generator 3, which went into service August 22 and the final turbine generator 2 which went on-line October 6. Outside the plant, improvements to the service bay access road have been undertaken including initial installation of light posts, safety barriers and required signage.

First Power Officially Marked

First power was marked with a July 5 news conference at the site attended by Premier Greg Selinger, NCN Chief Jerry Primrose and Manitoba Hydro Board Chair Bill Fraser.

"This is an exciting time for us," Chief Jerry Primrose said.

"We expect long term benefits for NCN over the life of the project, which could be up to 100 years.

Premier Selinger said that it was the political and community-based relationships that made it happen: "It's a new way of doing business in northern Manitoba."

In addition, formal ceremonies were held August 14 to 16 involving NCN Citizens and Manitoba Hydro representatives.

Securing Funding for 33 Percent Ownership Now Our Focus

"Our immediate focus now is to secure the additional funding needed to ensure our 33 percent ownership by July 2013," Councillor and Wuskwatim portfolio holder,



On October 6, Chief Jerry Primrose and Councillor and Wuskwatim Portfolio Holder Marcel Moody used a computer command to start-up the final Wuskwatim turbine generator to bring the generating station into full operation.

Marcel Moody said. "We're in the process of going through the legal procedures necessary to access monies in the Nisichawayasihk Trust, which Citizens at our earlier public consultations directed us to pursue. There will have to be a vote by our citizens on this, however."

Site Rehabilitation Will Extend Over Next Two Summers

Now, with the project near completion, contractors have been demobilizing equipment and removing staff from the site as work nears completion in the various work areas.

Site clean-up and environmental rehabilitation activities will help restore portions of the site to a natural state. This work includes general earthworks, tree planting and decommissioning of the borrow pits. Much of the environmental work will take place over the next two summers.

Wuskwatim's Large Construction Camp Being Decommissioned – Camp to be Replaced by Staff House

Wuskwatim's main construction camp is being decommissioned in stages as construction winds down and the workforce disperses. Completed in 2008-09 with a capacity for 800 workers during peak construction, the camp was able to house more than 1,000 workers coming and going every month on their shifts.

Some dormitories and camp buildings have already been sold to other Manitoba Hydro projects and other parties and removed from site. Over time, all parts not required for station operations will also be removed and sold. As outlined in the partnership agreement, NCN has first right of refusal for camp assets before they can be sold to other parties.

◉ Camp Now Less Than Half Original Capacity

By September 2012, the downsized camp could still house more than 300 staff, less than half its original capacity. However, it was housing only about 100 to 120 workers at a time, with the population expected to continue to fall as construction activities end before the new year. The recreation centre, water treatment plant, fire and ambulance, along with a few outbuildings in the Manitoba Hydro yard will stay for operational use. Some support infrastructure originally intended as temporary, including construction power and the sewage lagoon, will also remain.

As part of decommissioning, supporting infrastructure will be removed including temporary power lines used



Several dormitory units have already been removed from the construction camp centre, most of the other camp buildings will eventually be removed and replaced

for construction, unused office space and contractor buildings not used by operations, as specified in the Environmental Protection Plan. As buildings and support infrastructure are removed, the site will be landscaped to return it to a more natural condition.

◉ Staff House to Replace Construction Camp

The camp will eventually be reduced to one 49-person and two 18-person dorms with a total capacity of 85. The kitchen/diner will be closed and the former lounge building will be remodeled to serve as the new kitchen facility.

TOLKO INDUSTRIES DONATES SEEDS FOR WUSKWATIM RE-VEGETATION PROGRAM

Tolko Industries, the forest products company with Manitoba operations in The Pas, has given Wuskwatim Power Limited Partnership a gift of white spruce seeds for regenerating forested areas disturbed by Wuskwatim construction. The seeds have been planted at a nursery and 60,000 seedlings are now growing.

"This was a very thoughtful and appropriate gift from Tolko

and we thank them," Councillor Ron D. Spence said at the event he attended with NCN Citizen and Wuskwatim Environmental Inspector Bill Yetman to accept the gift from Tolko Industries Divisional Forester, Paul Chapman. "It's nice to see such corporate cooperation and mutual concern for the environment in Northern Manitoba." A rehabilitation plan is being

prepared to determine areas where re-vegetation will be undertaken to restore forest habitat affected by project construction. Locations able to support white spruce are being identified as part of designating appropriate planting areas for the seedlings.

Planting began this fall and will continue next summer.





Aerial view of the Wuskwatim Generating Station with water in the forebay at full operating level.



NCN Citizen, Leona Linklater was hired for operational employment.

Wuskwatim Begins Operations Phase

With the Wuskwatim Generating station now in full service and construction essentially complete, the project is moving into the Operating and Maintenance phase.

20 Staff Hired for Wuskwatim Operations

About 20 staff positions are required to operate Wuskwatim, with most positions already filled. Operating and maintenance positions include:

- One Electrical-Operating Supervisor
- One Mechanical-Operating Supervisor
- Four Electrical-Operating Technicians
- Four Mechanical-Operating Technicians
- Four Utility Workers
- One Engineering Technician
- One Maintenance Planner
- One Storekeeper
- Two Admin Representatives

- One Community Liaison Officer
- NCN Citizens working in these positions are:
- Rick Linklater (*currently on sick leave*), Mechanical-Operating Technician
 - Ken Linklater, Utility Worker
 - Leona Linklater, Administration Representative
 - Gord Dumas, Community Liaison Officer.

The Operating Technicians (electrical and mechanical) are the lead front-line staff who must complete about six years of training. Electrical operating technicians complete a four-year Power Electrician apprenticeship program and technical operating technicians complete a four-year Industrial Mechanics apprenticeship program. Once their apprenticeship programs are complete, the candidates complete the two-year Manitoba Hydro operator training program, which requires

CONTINUED...

as seen in this August 2012 photo. Except for the recreation by a staff house that will accommodate 60 people.

This reduced camp will temporarily house plant operations staff, along with construction workers on site to build a permanent staff house with a capacity of 60. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2013 and be completed later in the year. After the staff house opens, the remaining temporary camp buildings will also be removed.

Staff houses are provided at most hydroelectric plants because of their remote locations and work schedules.



Tolko Industries Divisional Forester, Paul Chapman (centre), presents a package of white spruce seeds to Bill Yetman (right), Wuskwatim Environmental Inspector (AKO) and NCN Councillor Ron D. Spence (left).

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written lessons, projects and hands-on training for operating the station on the Manitoba Hydro system.

Utility workers are required to complete a three-year three-level training program.

Staff operating the station work an eight / six work cycle, meaning they work eight days on shift and six days off. Shifts change on Thursdays and the work day is almost 11 hours per day (07:00 – 18:30) or 85 hours over two-weeks.

Construction Camp Currently Housing Staff

Operations staff are currently living at the construction camp and will eventually live in the staff house expected to be completed by 2014. In their free time they can use the existing recreation hall with its gymnasium, two

racquetball courts, games area and two TV rooms. When completed, the staff house will be directly connected to the recreation hall.

Rigorous Operations and Maintenance Schedule Governs Operations

Typical daily activities of the Wuskwatim Generating Station electrical, mechanical and utility workers will be:

- Station surveillance and security related to safety, environmental, structural and water control
- Monitoring generator performance related to total power output, control and protection systems
- Monitoring auxiliary equipment including: water and wastewater treatment, station drainage, inspecting

and maintaining DC and AC power distribution systems, compressed air systems, and HVAC systems

- Routine powerhouse maintenance.

Even though the plant is new, a rigorous ongoing maintenance program is already in place that for the generating station and switch yard involves 40,000 person-hours of work over several years comprised of daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual and annual inspections and maintenance items.

The specific maintenance program for the generation equipment is continuous with prescribed inspections and/or maintenance activities identified for periods ranging from monthly to up to 20 years.

Congratulations to Johnathan L. Spence

Aski Kihche O'nanakachechikew Ltd. awarded it's annual scholarship this year to Johnathan Lloyd Spence, who graduated from NNOC Collegiate last June. He worked as a summer student with AOL this summer and is currently enrolled in ATEC's transition-year program. Scholarship recipients, who are nominated by teachers at NNOC, must have high grades and intend to enrol in environmental science programs at university or college. The scholarship awards \$1,000 per year for each year recipients are enrolled in their education programs. AOL, which funds the scholarships through company profits, intends to provide two awards next year, one each to a male and female graduate. Congratulations, Jonathan, and much success in the future.

NCN Citizens Complete Aboriginal Pre-placement Training Program

The December 2011 edition of Wuskwatim Implementation News reported on Hydro's Aboriginal Pre-placement (northern) Program and three Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Citizens – Leslee Joos, Rikki Linklater and Desmond Colomb who were currently enrolled. All three have now successfully completed the program and have moved on to Hydro's regular apprenticeship training programs.

Leslee completed the program at the Jenpeg Generating Station in the electrical operating trade field. Desmond was at the Kelsey

Generating Station in the mechanical operating trade field and Rikki was at Kettle Generating Station, also in the mechanical operating trade field.

More NCN Citizens Participating

In addition, two new NCN Citizens are now enrolled in the program: Rodney Saric is training in the mechanical operating trade at the Radisson/Henday Generating Station and Hunter Stoneman is training in the mechanical operating trade at Grand Rapids Generating Station.

○ Ten-month Program Helps Participants Find Their Aptitudes and Interests

The ten-month northern work-experience program provides hands-on training and skill development in the electrical and mechanical trades at Manitoba Hydro to help participants discover their aptitudes and interests if they continue with Manitoba Hydro after they complete the program.

The program starts with a comprehensive safety orientation and training followed by two four-month placements at various Hydro installations – one each in the electrical and mechanical trades. Although Hydro does not guarantee continued employment after completing the northern program, successful pre-placement trainees with proven job performance may be offered an apprenticeship position as an Operating Technician-Electrical or Operating Technician-Mechanical.

Manitoba Hydro's Aboriginal pre-placement program has been operating since 1998 and has accepted 154

participants into the program since its start. The program currently has seven Aboriginal participants including the two NCN Citizens, two from Cross Lake and one each from Split Lake, Cormorant and The Pas.

"Having the Wuskwatim Generating Station built in NCN's traditional territory has probably raised the profile and interest in employment at Manitoba Hydro and the Aboriginal Pre-placement program generally," Hydro's Northern Aboriginal Training Coordinator, Kelvin Hall, said.

NCN Citizens interested in the program should contact:

Kelvin Hall

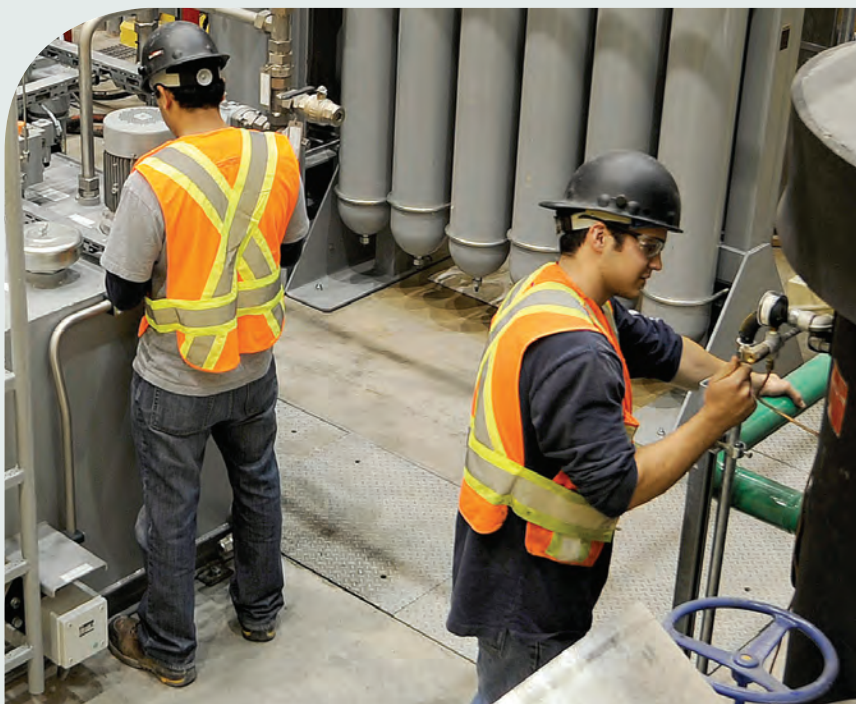
Northern Aboriginal Training Coordinator

Phone: (204) 778-1364

Cell: (204) 679-0024

Fax: (204) 778-0181

E-mail: khall@hydro.mb.ca



Aboriginal Pre-placement Program can Prepare for Work in Generating Station

"Technical training is required for technical-based or certificate positions at Wuskwatim. However, accessing the Manitoba Hydro Pre-placement Training Program would be the first step in starting a productive and challenging career choice that could lead to qualification as an operating technician, engineering technician, storekeeper, maintenance or operations supervisor or maintenance planner at a generating station," said Garry Ratushniak, department manager for the Kelsey, Laurie and Wuskwatim generating stations and the Churchill River Diversion.



"It's important that resource users are familiar with, understand and comply with the Access Management Plan to avoid problems."

– Jimmy Hunter-Spence,
NCN Citizen and WPLP Board Member

Gord Dumas Handles Access Liaison for Hydro

Manitoba Hydro has recently hired NCN Citizen Gord Dumas as Implementation/ Liaison Officer for the Wuskwatim Generating Station. He will be a key Hydro contact with the Implementation Office in Nelson House regarding such things as access management.

With the generating station now operating, the security gate on the Wuskwatim access road will remain part of a permanent control system for the area that includes regulations outlined in the access management plan.

New Operations Access Management Plan Controls Access to Wuskwatim Area

With Wuskwatim construction winding down and the generating station moving into the operations phase, an Operations Access Management Plan has been developed that includes rules that define who can access the site and for what purposes.

With construction almost complete, the needs and demands for access to the area will be quite different, so it's important to continue to have a comprehensive access plan and program in place to insure the security of the generating station and the safety of resource users and others.

The plan's objectives are:

- To provide safe, coordinated access to the Wuskwatim Generating Station for authorized users
- To provide safe, coordinated access to the Nelson House Resource Management Area for authorized users

- To support sustainable use through the protection of the area's natural resources
- To support the preservation of the socio-economic, cultural, spiritual and heritage values of Nisichawayasihk Nehethowuk within its Nisichawasi Aski (traditional territory).

The access road and generating station site are privately-owned by the Wuskwatim Power Limited Partnership. As with the construction phase, access will be controlled 24/7 by security staff at the control gate off PTH 391. Options for a key-card system with potential for periodic staffing at important times will be explored depending on operational needs. Only authorized persons will be allowed entry. The access plan identifies categories of personnel who may want to access the area, and in most cases, the plant manager or a designate must authorize their entry to the area.



For NCN, the plan identifies several potential groups who may seek access: chief and council; resource harvesters: commercial fishermen, trap-line holders and traditional resource harvesters; and NCN Citizens including Elders, youth and tour groups.

○ Plan Defines Firearm Restrictions

Firearms as well as long bows and crossbows are the main restricted items in the area, recognizing that indiscriminate use of weapons could harm wildlife populations and endanger people.

These restrictions apply to operational employees at the station, and those not complying face disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

The plan recognizes other NCN Citizens, mainly those engaged in commercial or domestic harvesting in the area or participating in spiritual ceremonies, may need firearms for protection from wildlife encounters. They are eligible to carry firearms under the following conditions:

- Firearms, long bows and crossbows, must be locked and cased while on the site, including on the access road right-of-way, and within a safe distance from the access road/site. A trapper needing to use a firearm in the buffer zone for emergency purposes, for example to deal with a wolf caught in a trap, must use a small-calibre firearm such as a 22 calibre.
- A “no shooting” buffer zone will be established on either side of the access road and around the Generating Station site where firearms cannot be unlocked

or uncased. NCN Citizens will be provided full and frequent safety information including rules established for the “no shooting” zone.

○ Enforcement will be Rigorous

To ensure the integrity of the area and access rules are effective, a wide-range enforcement program is in place with the following provisions:

- Staff at the control gate near PR 391 will serve as a major point of enforcement responsible for:
 - Ensuring only authorized users enter the area
 - Determining whether users have locked and cased firearms, long bows and crossbows
 - Distributing appropriate regulations to those entering the area.
- Other security staff will be responsible for patrolling the roadway
- Security staff will work with RCMP regarding trespassing on the right-of-way or other security issues like firearms
- Security staff will work with Manitoba Conservation staff regarding potential problems occurring on adjacent Crown land where Manitoba Conservation enforces regulations
- Awareness of firearms rules and the “no shooting” buffer zone will be

promoted through access-road signage, worker education and information sessions with NCN citizens.

If conflicts arise with those wishing to use the access road, a defined appeal process is in place.

○ Monitoring will be Important to Measure Impact

Monitoring tools will be used to provide an overview of impacts on the area and its use. Monitoring tools will include gate records (identifying users, time and purpose of entry and attempts at unauthorized access), security reports (unauthorized access and alternative entry) and voluntary reports from harvesters regarding wildlife sighting and harvest (species, quantities, locations).



Information on wildlife sightings and harvest will be collected to monitor human impacts and wildlife prevalence.

WPLP Year in Review Annual Report Highlights Final Full Year of Construction

The Wuskwatim Power Limited Partnership board approved its sixth annual *Year in Review* report at its August 30, 2012 meeting. This report, themed Countdown to First Power, covered the April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012 fiscal year, which is expected to be the final full year of construction.

○ Main Dam Last Major Construction Focus

By the beginning of the fiscal year, all major concrete structures were in place leaving construction of the main dam the final major construction focus. Started a year earlier and protected over the winter, construction restarted in spring 2011 and was completed that summer. Watering-up of the tailrace and intake followed, allowing the removal of upstream and downstream cofferdams that kept the riverbed dry during construction. At the end of October, the immediate forebay upstream of the powerhouse and main dam was allowed to fill with water, reaching its final elevation by mid-November.

This year, much of the labour activity shifted inside the powerhouse with installation of the three 68.5 megawatt turbine generators, and outfitting of the facility with the required controls, monitoring instruments and safety and support systems needed to run the plant.

○ Peak Employment Lower as Project Nears Completion

Because the project was moving into its final stages and major structures were complete, the project workforce this year was considerably smaller, peaking at about 540 workers, just over half the peak a year earlier. Since the start of construction, 37 percent of the project workforce has been Aboriginal. The project spent \$13.7 million this year through several contracts for goods and services from NCN-owned companies.

NCN Citizens running the cross-cultural contract for the project delivered 14 cross-cultural awareness

workshops this year, for a total of 106 workshops involving over 1500 workers during the six years of construction.

○ Monitoring Activities Continue

Environmental monitoring activities continued this year as required by regulatory agencies' conditions for building the project. Monitoring activities included the summer and fall Ethinesewin Tours that are an integral part of the traditional knowledge information.

The Monitoring Overview Report is available from the Implementation office or by download at www.wuskwatim.ca.

○ Transmission Project Complete

Although not part of the Generating Station project, all components of the transmission project connecting Wuskwatim to the Manitoba Hydro power distribution grid between Thompson and The Pas were complete by the end of summer 2011 except for minor work needed at the site following first power.

"It's very satisfying to see all the progress that's been made over the past six years to bring this project to reality," WPLP board member and former NCN Councillor Jimmy Hunter-Spence said.

The *Year in Review* report is available at the Implementation office or by download from the wuskwatim.ca website.



Cree Translations of Wuskwatim *Year In Review* and *Monitoring Overview* Reports Now Available

Once again the Wuskwatim Implementation Office has produced Cree audio translations for summaries of the *Wuskwatim Year in Review* and *Monitoring Overview*, this time covering the April 1, 2011 to March

31, 2012 fiscal year. NCN Citizen Henry Wood with assistance from Elders Sam Dysart and Alec Linklater provided the translation from English, and Henry recorded the narrations. The CD packages are intended for any NCN

Citizens who are more comfortable in the Cree language. If you haven't already received a copy and would like one, please contact the Wuskwatim Implementation Office.



Snapshot of 2011-12 *Monitoring Overview*

The Wuskwatim Power Limited Partnership approved its sixth annual *Monitoring Overview* report covering environmental and socio-economic monitoring activity that took place between April 1, 2011 and March 31, 2012. The 52-page report has been published with print copies available through the Implementation Office and digital versions in PDF format available for download on the wuskwatim.ca website. A Cree-language audio summary is available on CD from the Implementation Office.

Report Covers Sixth Year of Monitoring Activity

The Wuskwatim environmental monitoring process is comprehensive, covering both terrestrial and aquatic environments and all related parts including plants and specific animals and their habitats. The physical environment is monitored for climate, physiography, shoreline erosion, sediment transport and woody debris. Observations using NCN traditional knowledge – Ethinewewin – is also reported.

The intent for many monitoring initiatives is to create a database

starting before construction began, extending through construction, and continuing after construction to determine project impacts if any, and to design and implement corrective measures if needed.

Environmental monitoring and management programs continued this year in accordance with provincial and federal regulatory-agency approvals.

This year's key environmental activities included:

- Conducting an aerial survey to estimate the size of the Wapisi woodland caribou herd
- Undertaking aerial and ground surveys to locate beaver lodges and food caches



The ongoing environmental monitoring program measures project impacts on lands, waters, animals and plants at the station, upstream and downstream during and after construction.

and to assess beaver activity

- Conducting a breeding-bird study to determine bird nesting locations
- Mapping shoreline habitat and assessing invasive plant species using aerial and boat surveys
- Rehabilitating the road construction camp site by planting jackpine seedlings
- Placing rock and wetland vegetation in the forebay, and planting aquatic vegetation in a stream mouth on Wuskwatim Lake to create fish habitat
- Using soil bioengineering to stabilize shorelines at selected sites on Wuskwatim Lake
- Monitoring turbidity, sediment, bed load and erosion to measure pre-operation conditions and effects of construction activities in the water
- Conducting archaeological

assessments at Wuskwatim Falls Island, the north shore of Wuskwatim Falls and the south shore between the falls

- Engaging the provincial Historic Resources Branch to conduct heritage resources investigations with assistance from the project archaeologist and NCN archaeologist
- Having NCN conduct ongoing EthnieseWIN-based monitoring of the project site and surrounding areas.

○ No Special Socio-economic Monitoring Survey Conducted this Year

This year, no special socioeconomic monitoring surveys were scheduled, such as the worker and family survey conducted in spring 2009 and the indirect and induced economic impact surveys conducted among Nelson

House and Thompson businesses in 2008 and 2010.

"The detailed Monitoring Overview demonstrates the commitment of WPLP to the comprehensive environmental and socioeconomic monitoring program. The desire is to ensure Wuskwatim creates as small an environmental footprint as possible," Councillor, Wuskwatim

portfolio holder and WPLP board member Marcel Moody said.

NCN Citizens are encouraged to read the entire report for details.



Marcel Moody, Councillor, Wuskwatim Portfolio Holder and WPLP board member.



Comprehensive and varied monitoring activities take place at many locations in the project area.

NCN Citizens Can Contact ATEC to Register For Potential Keeyask Employment

NCN Citizens who worked on Wuskwatim and are interested in continuing their careers with related work, may be interested in working on the proposed Keeyask project or the Keewatinoow Converter Station project that is part of the proposed Bipole III direct-current transmission line. If so, they should contact the Atoskiwin Training and Employment Centre (ATEC), which remains an agency for the province's Job Referral Service, to register or renew their registrations.

Keeyask Infrastructure Project Now Underway

Although the Keeyask Generation Project is still awaiting review and approval, work on the Keeyask Infrastructure Project (KIP) began in early 2012 with an expected completion of mid 2014. The KIP will enable timely and efficient generating station construction, if the project proceeds. The infrastructure project involves:



Proposed Keeyask Generating station (Artist's Rendering)

construction of an access road from PR280 to Gull Rapids, construction of a temporary start-up camp near the junction of PR280 and the new access road and construction of the first phase of the main camp at Gull Rapids.

ATEC Executive Director Jim Moore said the Job Referral Service operates under the same procedures it did for Wuskwatim hiring. NCN Citizens interested in jobs on Keeyask or Keewatinoow must register with the referral service and renew their registrations every six months. Registrants are contacted before their registrations lapse to remind them to renew.



*Jim Moore, ATEC
Executive Director*

Like Wuskwatim, Keeyask operates under the Burntwood-Nelson agreement, which gives employment preference to qualified northern Aboriginal and other northern residents.

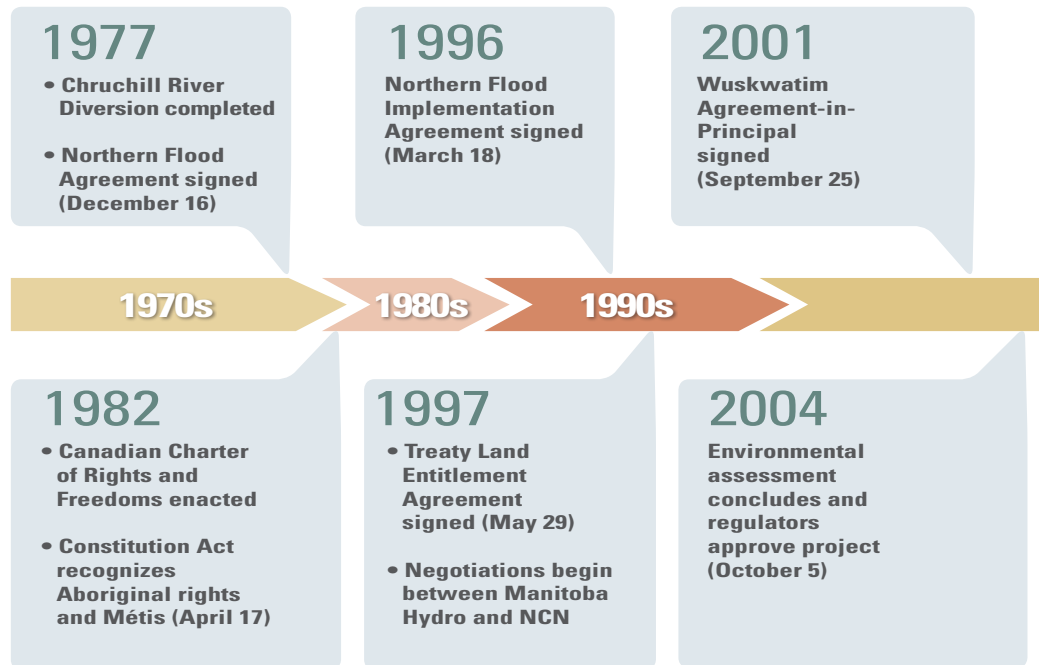
Early on, \$60 million was allocated for Wuskwatim and Keeyask training through the Wuskwatim and Keeyask Training Consortium but that program was completed in 2010. The program provided pre-project training at ATEC for NCN Citizens for Wuskwatim construction. ATEC is not currently offering any specific training programs related to Keeyask employment. However, Jim says ATEC is capable of setting up training programs under contract if skills gaps are identified as the project moves forward.

NCN Citizens wishing to register or renew their registrations should call ATEC at 204-484-2886 Toll free: 1 (866) 614-7686. They can also register through Job Referral Service offices across the province or online at www.gov.mb.ca/jrs/. The website provides complete registration information including JRS office locations and other options to register.



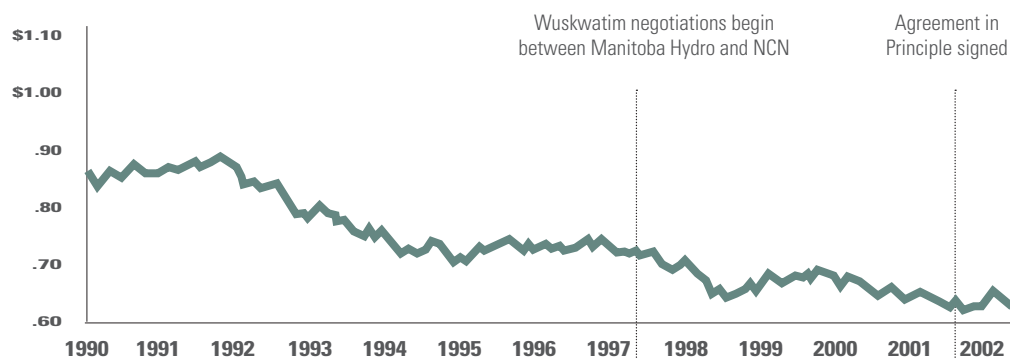
Wuskwatim generator hall (below).

Wuskwatim Hydro Project - Timeline of Events

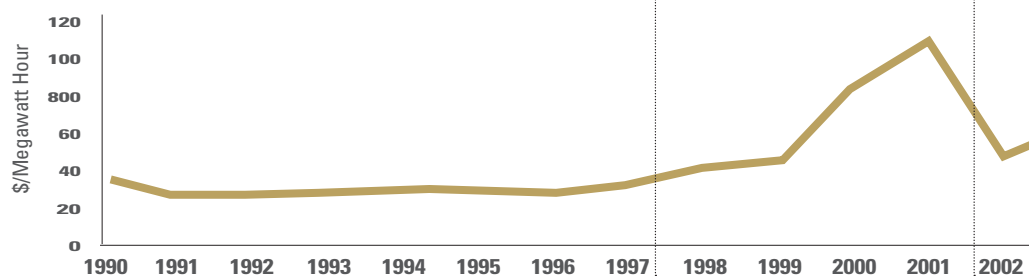


Economic Indicators 1990-2012

Value of the Canadian Dollar (1990 - 2012)



Canadian Electricity Export Prices (1990 - 2012)



1977 - 2012

2005

OPCN (South Indian Lake) becomes an independent First Nation (December 23)

2010

River closure of Taskinigahp Falls (August 7)

2000s

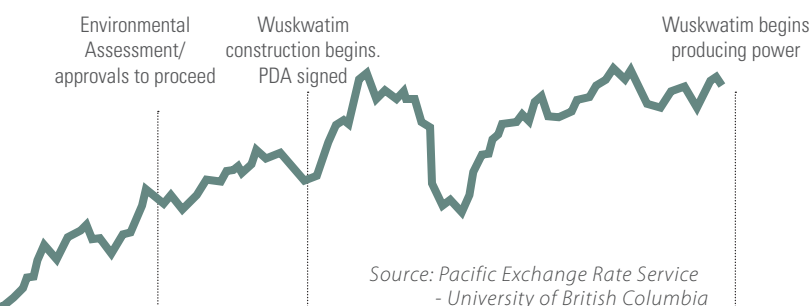
2010s

2006

- NCN citizens vote to approve Wuskwatim Project (June 7 & 14)
- Project Development Agreement signed
- Wuskwatim construction begins (August 11)
- ATEC opens (May 25)

2012

- Wuskwatim begins producing power (June 22)
- Final generator online (October 6)



2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012



2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012



Spring Ethinesewin Tour participants.

Sixth Year of Ethinesewin Tours Complete

Once again, NCN conducted spring and fall Ethinesewin tours involving Elders and youth to assess environmental impacts of the Wuskwatim project, as part of providing NCN traditional-knowledge input to the formal environmental monitoring process.

The spring tour was conducted July 9 to 20 involving: Elders

– Jimmy Hunter-Spence, Louie Bighetty, Rodney Spence, Sam Dysart, Christie Spence, Clara Hart, Dorothy Linklater, Eva Linklater; youth – Leah Spence, Gary Moore, Jonathon Brightnose, Doug Spence, John L. Spence; field technicians – Darcy Spence, Malcolm Spence, Sidney Spence, Maxwell Spence, Jeremiah Spence; kitchen personnel – Daniel Spence, Monica Linklater, Preston Linklater; and Manitoba Hydro/WPLP representatives– Greg Glennon (Camp Administrator) Harry Spence and Jason Bonner (Aboriginal Relations/Mitigation).



Fall Ethinesewin Tour participants.

The fall tour was held September 12 to 20 involving: Elders

– Jimmy Hunter-Spence, Rev. Nelson Hart, Sam Dysart, Henry Wood, Louie Bighetty, Rodney Spence, Eva Linklater, Leonard Spence, Jonathon Wood; youth – Jake Baker, Greg Culley, Henry Culley, Damon Yetman, Jonathon Spence; and technicians – Darcy Spence, Norman Spence, Maxwell Spence, Daniel Spence, Leah Spence, Jeremiah Spence, Monica Linklater, William Gamblin, Roderick Spence and Henry Wood.

As in past years, the tours assessed areas of land and water potentially affected by the Wuskwatim project including sites identified from past tours that required remedial work to assess the success of the work. Reports from the tours will be presented in the Wuskwatim Monitoring Overview 2012-2013.

NCN Citizens Mark Wuskwatim First-power Milestone August 14 to 16

NCN Citizens held ceremonial events August 14 to 16 to mark a historic milestone at the Wuskwatim site – the June 22 start-up of the first turbine generator to produce commercial power. That milestone was significant because it marked the deadline for NCN to become an equity partner in the project.

The event was held at the Cultural Centre on site with the large tepee serving as a focus for activities. The program included a pipe ceremony, round dance, drummers and a sweat lodge. A feast was held each day in the construction camp cafeteria. Busses ran daily from Nelson House or Citizens could stay in the camp set up for the event at the Wuskwatim Village. Many NCN Citizens attended over the three days.







Students were hired for various Wuskwatim jobs including tree planting.

NCN High-school Students Hired for Summer Jobs at Wuskwatim

For the fourth summer, the Wuskwatim Construction Department hired students from the 2012 NNOC Grade 12 graduating class as part of its student hiring initiative. Participants ranging in age from 18 to 21 included Ashton Gerard, Randy Linklater, Vezna Swanson and Shelby Wood.

The program's goal is to give local graduating students an opportunity to see the different employment opportunities within Manitoba Hydro. Applicants were interviewed by telephone to match skills and interests with opportunities. This year students participated in activities ranging from general labour to

environmental inspections along the lake to reforestation initiatives including tree planting at the various project sites.

The students worked for approximately seven weeks from July 3 to August 21. With project construction winding up this year, this will be the final year for the program.

Any of the students with the required educational qualifications interested in a career with Hydro will be able to apply to Manitoba Hydro's Aboriginal Pre-placement Training Program starting in spring 2013 when the next hiring campaign is underway.

Wuskwatim Implementation Office

NCN Portfolio Holder

Councillor, Marcel Moody

Staff

Norman Linklater, *Wuskwatim Implementation Coordinator*

Alvin Yetman, *Associate Implementation Coordinator*

Mark Linklater, *Environmental Socio-economic Coordinator*

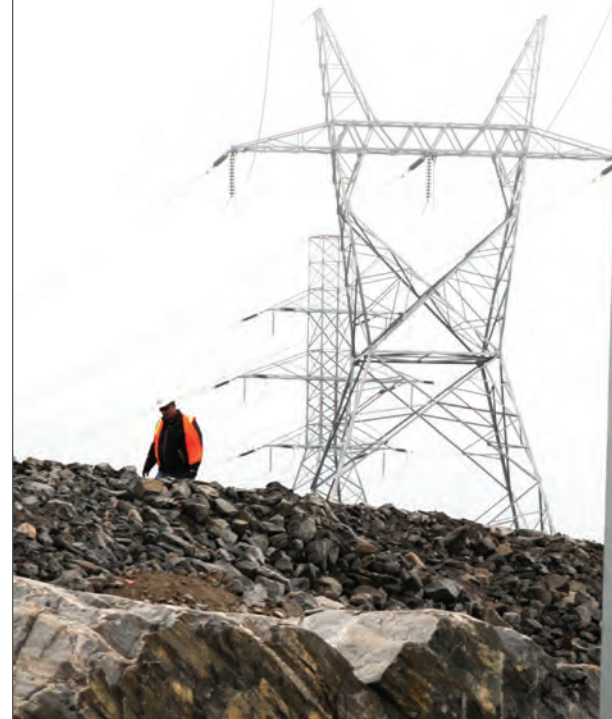
Lawrence Dysart, *Environmental and Socio-economic Assistant Coordinator*

Darcy Linklater Jr, *Contract/Finance Administrator*

Crystal Linklater, *Finance Administrative Assistant*

Annette Swanson, *Finance Administrative Assistant*

Eva Linklater, *Archaeologist*



Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

Wuskwatim Implementation Office

Ensuring the Future of Our Children & Our Children's Children...



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