



WUSKWATIM IMPLEMENTATION NEWS

December 2006



NCN Member Alex Spence Jr.,
Operating Engineer



Preparations for
installation of
six-foot-diameter
culvert at first
stream crossing.



Installing granular
core on a seven-
kilometre stretch
of the Wuskwatim
access road is
a major focus
of current
construction
activity.



NCN Member Johnny Hunter,
Teamster

Construction on Wuskwatim Access Road Gaining Momentum

Construction of the 48-kilometre Wuskwatim access road from Mile 17 on PTH 391 to Taskinigahp Falls started August 11, 2006 by an NCN joint-venture contracting company NCLP/Strilkiwski Joint Venture.

To date, about 25 kilometres are under construction with both day- and night-shift crews installing the granular core for the road, working from the work camp northward towards PTH 391 and southward to the second stream crossing. Construction activity is intensive, involving 28 pieces of heavy equipment, including seven excavators, nine bulldozers, two graders and 10 rock trucks.

Recently, two, six-foot-diameter by 38-meter-long culverts were installed at the first stream crossing, which is about seven kilometres from PTH 391.

Clearing and grubbing operations are advancing on an additional 10-kilometre stretch of road to the third stream crossing approximately 25 kms from PTH 391. As part of the clearing operation, the merchantable timber salvage operation is delivering product to Thompson for shipping by rail to Tolko in The Pas, on behalf of NCN.

The contractor expects to hire more heavy equipment operators, rock truck drivers and labourers shortly as construction proceeds.

Early in the new year, the road is expected to be pushed through to the dam site with a granular base installed to provide all-weather access.

NCN Members Make up Majority of Workers on Wuskwatim Road Construction Crew

The majority of the approximately 45 hourly workers on the Wuskwatim road construction project are NCN Members, with most from Nelson House. Non-NCN workers come from Birch River, Leaf Rapids, Pikwitonei and Thompson.

Workers fall into three classifications: labourers, teamsters who drive the rock trucks and operating engineers who operate the bulldozers, scrapers and other heavy equipment.



Road construction camp R1 recently opened to house up to 50 workers.

Temporary Road-construction Camp R1 Now Operating

The first of two Wuskwatim road construction camps began operating the last week of October.

"The camp, which can house up to 50 workers, has eliminated the daily 45-minute, 35-kilometre van trip each way from Nelson House that has been necessary since construction started," Joint Venture Manager Greg Bunn said. "This will improve efficiencies by eliminating the long drive every day."

Temporary Camp R1 is located on the Wuskwatim access road about four kilometres south of PTH 391 junction. It will operate until the larger 200-person permanent road-construction camp, R2, opens by the end of the year.

Camp R1 houses five 10-person bunkhouses, one kitchen/diner complex, one wash/shower trailer, one Manitoba Hydro office trailer, one joint venture office trailer and one first aid and storage trailer.

Sewer and water services are provided by the NCN public works department and the site is powered by a diesel generator.

Camp operations, including catering, janitorial and security services are provided through a joint venture agreement between NCN and Sodexho.

Work Progressing on Camp R2

In early November, work commenced on Camp R2. The area has been cleared with a gravel pad placed over the site and sewer and water installations have begun. Numerous trades will be required to set up the camp including, carpenters, plumbers, electricians and labourers. Completion is planned before the Christmas shutdown.

When Camp R1 closes, its facilities will be moved to the dam construction site to house work crews who will undertake the main camp site development project.

NCN Member Job Registration Update

The Wuskwatim Implementation Office regularly receives requests from NCN Members for information about applying for jobs on the Wuskwatim project.

ATEC Executive Director, Ezra Bogle, says that ATEC is awaiting finalization of administration and set-up details before it can begin operating as an official Employment Training Service (ETS) job referral service in Nelson House. Manitoba Hydro has hired ETS, a branch of Manitoba Advanced Education and Training, to establish and manage the job referral service.

In the meantime, NCN Members in Nelson House have three options for applying for Wuskwatim Jobs:

1. Visit ATEC or call at (204) 484-2886 and have Fred Prince or Alvin Yetman register you.

2. Visit the Thompson ETS office and be registered there. The office is located in North Centre Mall and can be reached at 204-677-6667.

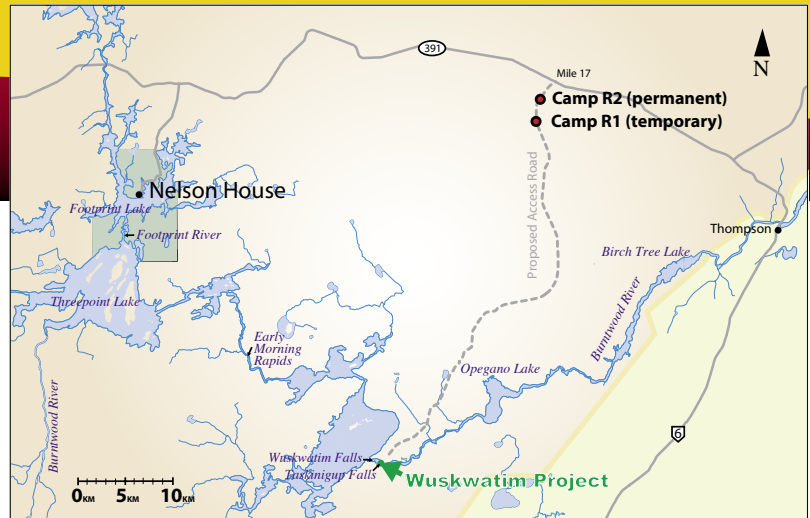
3. Go to the website <http://www.gov.mb.ca/jrs/index.html> to get the required employment registration forms. Click on 'Wuskwatim Generating Station Project' then click on 'How to register for work'. All forms on this page must be downloaded and filled out. The site gives details on options for submitting the forms: in person, by mail or by fax.

ATEC will need to verify that all registrants are Hydro Northern Training and Employment Initiative (HNTI) Pre-project Trainees.



Norman Linklater

The Wuskwatim access road will extend 48 kilometres to Taskinigahp Falls from the junction with PTH 391.



Wuskwatim Implementation Office Up and Running

With the completion of Wuskwatim negotiations, the positive ratification vote of the Project Development Agreement (PDA) and the signing ceremony, the Wuskwatim project moved into the implementation phase this summer with the opening of the Wuskwatim Implementation Office in mid August. The Implementation office took over space in Nelson House formerly used by NCN Future Development, which wound down its operations after Wuskwatim was ratified.



Marcel Moody

Marcel Moody Named Implementation Portfolio Holder

NCN Chief and Council has named Councillor Marcel Moody as Wuskwatim Implementation Portfolio Holder. Marcel was the former co-manager of the Wuskwatim Future Development Team.

Norman Linklater Appointed Implementation Coordinator

Norman Linklater, has been appointed Implementation Coordinator on a two-year contract to run the implementation office. Norman was co-manager of Future Development along with Marcel and both have a comprehensive knowledge of the Wuskwatim PDA process.

“These appointments will ensure we maintain continuity on Wuskwatim,” Chief Jim Moore said. “It eliminates the learning curve that would be necessary if individuals totally unfamiliar with the project were put in place.”

Office to Ensure Terms of PDA Are Met

Since the Wuskwatim project is a partnership between NCN and Manitoba Hydro, the role of the Implementation Office is:

- To ensure effective implementation of all agreed-to components of the PDA
- To ensure that the PDA commitments in contracts are honored as specified

- To ensure all parties fulfil responsibilities to NCN
- To gather information on project progress and communicate with NCN Members
- To maintain ongoing discussion and liaison with Manitoba Hydro.

Norman’s counterpart at Manitoba Hydro is Jane Kidd-Hantscher, Partnership Coordinator with the Crown corporation.

The Implementation Office is expected to operate throughout the Wuskwatim construction period, which is scheduled to take about six years.

Most Staff Now in Place

Staffing has been the main focus since the Implementation Office opened. New staff include:

- Hilda Anderson, finance/contract administrator along with Darcy Linklater Jr., finance administration assistant
- Susan Kobliski, cultural coordinator along with Joe Moose and Christine Sawatsky, site councillors to administer the cultural liaison function
- Alvin Yetman, full-time assistant to Norman Linklater.

The office will also retain professional advisors, such as lawyers, when needed.

“So far, we have been focusing on putting the people we need in place, getting our feet on the ground and responding to needs as they arise,” Norman Linklater said.

Environmental and Social Monitoring Planned

One of the first tasks for the office was to provide a Wuskwatim orientation briefing for the new Chief and Council following the August election.

Upcoming tasks include discussions with Manitoba Hydro regarding NCN’s ongoing role in project monitoring as set out in the PDA.

“We’re confident all the pieces are coming together in a timely way to ensure a smooth implementation process,” Marcel Moody said.



Hydro's Resident Engineer John Fogg, (left) with NCN Member Howard Hunter, NCN/Sodexo security supervisor.

Wuskwatim Cross-cultural Awareness Program Promotes Social Equality and Respect

All workers on the Wuskwatim Project are required to take part in a cultural-diversity awareness program developed by NCN archaeologist Eva Linklater for the Wuskwatim Partnership comprised of Manitoba Hydro and Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation.

The Wuskwatim Implementation Office will administer the program which will be run by Susan Kobliski cultural coordinator along with Joe Moose and Christine Sawatsky as site counsellors.

"What makes this program special is that the curriculum incorporates the Kiche'othasowewin (The Great Law of the Creator) of NCN, which was also a significant segment to the Wuskwatim Heritage Resources Protection Agreement," Eva said. "It takes an Aboriginal approach to teaching and learning, including self-reflection, respectful communication and establishing personal relationships. The program focuses on attitudes and feelings employees have about themselves and each other."

The program will help employees work together harmoniously. Greater social equality can result if employees learn to respect one another regardless of race, class, gender, or disability.



Looking for a Wuskwatim Job?

We can help.

Contact Tara Spence
or Fred Prince at the
Atoskiwin Training and
Employment Centre of
Excellence (ATEC)

PH: (204) 484-2886



For more information contact:



Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

Wuskwatim Implementation Office

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



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