

# Keeyask Generation Project

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## **Summary of Round Three of the Public Involvement Program**

The following sections describe Public Involvement Program (PIP) Round Three activities focused on engagement of potentially affected and interested Aboriginal and other communities and organizations beyond the Keeyask Cree Nations (KCNs). This engagement process has been directed by the 2007 Public Involvement Plan (Appendix 1A of the Public Involvement Supporting Volume of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)) approved by the Partnership and used as the basis for the involvement process implemented for the Keeyask Generation Project (the Project). PIP Round Three communication products and events are described below. In addition, a summary of the key perspectives and themes identified through PIP Round Three is provided.

Through established processes, Manitoba Hydro meets with the Cross Lake First Nation (Pimicikamak Cree Nation), the Manitoba Metis Federation and Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation. In recognition of these on-going processes, the way in which Manitoba Hydro, on behalf of the Partnership, engaged with Cross Lake First Nation (Pimicikamak Cree Nation), the Manitoba Metis Federation and Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation with respect to PIP Round Three differed from the other peoples, communities and groups who were invited to participate in PIP Round Three. These processes are described separately below.

Documentation of Round Three of the PIP is provided in the Public Involvement Supplemental Report and the Addendum to the Supplemental Report which can be found on the [www.keeyask.com](http://www.keeyask.com) website.

## **Aboriginal and other people, communities and groups**

Notification packages were sent in April 2013 to notify target audiences of the upcoming PIP Round Three. The notification packages consisted of an introductory letter and several copies of the Round Three newsletter, the EIS Executive Summary and the DVD with the video *Keeyask: Our Story*. The Partnership followed up with telephone contacts of potential participants to determine interest in participating in PIP Round Three.

In total, meetings were held with the leadership in six communities and public information sessions were held in six communities. Public open houses were held in Thompson and Winnipeg. There were three meetings held with organizations and one workshop in Winnipeg with non-government organizations (NGOs) and representatives of organizations that have received Participant Assistance Program funding for the Keeyask Clean Environment Commission Hearings. This Summary Report provides a summary of the PIP events held during Round Three.

**Table 1: Round Three Public Involvement Program Events**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Meetings with Chiefs and Councils/Mayors and Councils</b>		
4/29/2013	Gillam Mayor and Council Meeting	Council Chambers, Gillam
5/1/2013	Cross Lake Mayor and Council Meeting	Town Office, Cross Lake
5/8/2013	Leaf Rapids Mayor and Council Meeting	Council Chambers, Leaf Rapids
5/14/2013	Churchill Mayor and Council Meeting	Council Chambers, Churchill
5/22/2013	Thicket Portage Mayor and Council Meeting	Council Office, Thicket Portage
6/6/2013	Shamattawa First Nation Chief and Council Meeting	InterGroup's Office, Winnipeg
<b>Community Information Sessions</b>		
4/29/2013	Gillam Community Information Session	Gillam Community Centre, Gillam
5/8/2013	Pikwitonei Community Information Session	Recreation Centre, Pikwitonei
5/8/2013	Leaf Rapids Community Information Session	Town Centre Complex, Leaf Rapids
5/14/2013	Churchill Community Information Session	Town Complex Overpass Gallery, Churchill
6/11/2013	Shamattawa First Nation Community Information Session	Band Office, Shamattawa
7/10/2013	O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation Information Session	Community Hall, South Indian Lake
<b>Meetings with Organizations</b>		
5/17/2013	Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Leadership Meeting	MKO Office, Thompson
5/17/2013	Northern Association of Community Councils Leadership Meeting	Canad Inns (Polo Park), Winnipeg
5/22/2013	Keewatin Tribal Council Leadership Meeting	KTC Office, Thompson
<b>Open Houses</b>		
5/16/2013	Thompson Open House	Thompson Regional Recreation Centre, Thompson
5/23/2013	Winnipeg Open House	Norwood Hotel, Winnipeg
<b>Workshop</b>		
5/23/2013	Winnipeg Workshop	Norwood Hotel, Winnipeg

The Local Government District of Mystery Lake, City of Thompson, as well as the communities of Wabowden, Ilford, Granville Lake, and Nelson House informed the Partnership that there was no requirement to meet for PIP Round Three.

The Norway House Cree Nation and Norway House Community Council were unable to identify time to schedule a meeting within the Round Three schedule. The Partnership continues to be willing to meet and discuss the PIP Round Three information with interested communities.

### **Public Involvement Communication Products**

The types of public involvement communication products used in Round Three are described below.

A **newsletter** was provided to those who attended the meetings, open houses and workshop and was available on the Keeyask website ([www.keeyask.com](http://www.keeyask.com)). The newsletter, prepared specifically for Round Three, built on past PIP newsletters and provided a general description of the Project, the Partnership, the status of the environmental impact assessment process and results with respect to prominent themes raised in PIP Round Two. Prominent themes included employment and training; flooding, erosion, sedimentation and debris; water quality; mercury, fish and human health; lake sturgeon; and caribou. The newsletter also provided information about how to contact the Partnership regarding any questions, concerns or issues about the Project.

**Summary sheets** regarding PIP Round Two were developed for each community and organization who participated in PIP Round Two as well as for the workshop held in Round Two. These sheets provided an overview of the main topics of interest raised by the respective community/organization in PIP Round Two and noted where in the EIS information regarding that topic could be found. Communities/organizations who participated in Round Two were provided with the summary sheets in advance of and during Round Three meetings. The Round Two workshop summary sheet was available at the Round Three workshop.

**Information panels** were used to communicate, in a visual and summarized form, the newsletter content for community information sessions, open houses and the workshop.

**The Keeyask Hydropower Limited Partnership website** ([www.keeyask.com](http://www.keeyask.com)) was developed in 2011 to distribute information about the Project and the Partnership to the general public. The website includes overview information about the Partnership, the Project and the EIS. The website also includes information specifically related to PIP including advertisements for upcoming public involvement events and public involvement documents such as Rounds One and Two summary reports, newsletters and information panels. Other Project information includes news, information, and links to the Job Referral Service site and the Partners' websites. Visitors are able to directly submit questions, comments, or issues about the Project and the website is monitored for visitation activity and usage.

Up-to-date project information, including information regarding the PIP, is also available at the Keeyask Project page of the Manitoba Hydro website (<http://www.hydro.mb.ca/projects/keeyask>).

## **Public Involvement Events**

The types of public involvement events in Round Three were generally consistent with those completed in PIP Rounds One and Two and described below. Where changes in event format were made in Round Three, this information is also included below.

**Meetings with Chiefs and Councils/Mayors and Councils** provided an opportunity to discuss in a small group setting the purpose of Round Three of the Keeyask Generation Project PIP, the format and content of the EIS, how input from each community that participated in Round Two was used in the EIS, the environmental assessment process and supplemental information. Each group was provided with the opportunity to view the video *Keeyask: Our Story*. Copies of the Round Three newsletter, the Executive Summary of the EIS and a DVD with the video *Keeyask: Our Story* were provided to participants. A digital copy of the EIS was also provided to the community leadership. Participants asked

questions, offered perspectives and identified any issues or concerns. Summary meeting notes were recorded and sent to the council contact person for review.

**Community information sessions** provided an opportunity to inform and have dialogue with a wider audience of interested community members about the format and content of the EIS, how input from each community that participated in Round Two was used in the EIS, the environmental assessment process and supplemental information. Copies of the newsletter, the Executive Summary of the EIS and a DVD with the video *Keeyask: Our Story* were provided to participants. Information panels were on display, and the video *Keeyask: Our Story* was shown on loop throughout the events. Public notices (posters) and a meeting confirmation letter were sent to community contacts in advance of community information sessions to provide notice within the communities. During the community information sessions, participants were guided through a series of information panels designed to provide information about the Project. In addition to in-person discussions, comment forms were available at these meetings to allow participants an opportunity to provide comments. Participants were encouraged to ask questions and share perspectives about the Project.

**Meetings with organization** representatives provided an opportunity to discuss in a small group setting the format and content of the EIS, how input from each organization that participated in Round Two was used in the EIS, the environmental assessment process and supplemental information. Each organization was provided with the opportunity to view the video *Keeyask: Our Story*. Copies of the newsletter, the Executive Summary of the EIS and a DVD with the video *Keeyask: Our Story* were provided to participants. A digital copy of the EIS was provided to the organization. Discussion occurred throughout the presentation. Summary meeting notes were recorded and sent to an organization contact person for review.

**Public open houses** provided an opportunity for the broader public to engage with Partnership representatives regarding the format and content of the EIS, how input from PIP was used in the EIS, the environmental assessment process and supplemental information. Public open houses were held in Winnipeg and Thompson. Open houses were publicized through local newspaper advertisements, local radio stations, and posters were also used in Thompson. Information panels were on display and the video *Keeyask: Our Story* was shown on loop throughout the events. Partnership representatives were available to members of the public for discussion and to answer questions. Participants were encouraged to complete comment forms and to speak to members of the Partnership. Any information requests that were raised which could not be addressed by those in attendance were documented during the open house, forwarded to the appropriate person to respond to the request and followed up as required.

**A Workshop** was held with invited participants in Winnipeg. The seven NGOs who participated in the Round Two workshop were contacted to determine if there was interest in attending the Round Three workshop. In addition, representatives of the organizations and groups that received Participant Assistance Program funding for the upcoming Clean Environment Commission hearings for the Project were invited to the workshop. Invitees were informed that the workshop would be an opportunity to review the format and content of the EIS and how the Round Two input was used in the EIS. Workshop

participants were provided with copies of the newsletter, the Executive Summary of the EIS and a copy of the DVD with the video *Keeyask: Our Story*.

The format of the Round Three workshop differed from the format used in previous PIP rounds. Participants had the opportunity to review the Project information panels, displayed at open houses and community information sessions, and discuss the Project with Partnership representatives. After an introduction, the video, *Keeyask: Our Story* was shown. This was followed by an overview about the format and content of the EIS and how Round Two participant input was used in the EIS. Partnership representatives were introduced and participants were encouraged to discuss the Project and ask questions of the representatives in attendance.

## **Key Perspectives and Themes**

The following highlights the main perspectives and themes identified by potentially affected and interested communities and groups during PIP Round Three. The information has been organized into themes. The statements are not verbatim, but reflect the key perspectives and themes identified during Round Three. A complete list of the issues and perspectives, responses provided, and the PIP event where the issues and perspectives were raised, is provided in the Public Involvement Supplemental Report and the Addendum to the Supplemental Report.

### **Perspectives and Themes about the Environmental Impact Statement**

- Discussions regarding the environmental assessment process and methodological approaches used, including the cumulative effects assessment.
- There was considerable dialogue about the information included in the video *Keeyask: Our Story*.
- A participant was supportive of seeing future projects like Keeyask enhance positive project impacts in addition to mitigating adverse effects.
- Positive comments about the use of Aboriginal Tradition Knowledge (ATK) in the environmental assessment.
- High interest in the draft environmental protection program and proposed monitoring/management plans.
- Interest expressed in the Aboriginal traditional knowledge monitoring program.
- Interest expressed in the KCNs Environmental Evaluation Reports.

### **Perspectives and Themes about the Regulatory Review Process**

- Interest in regulatory timelines.
- Interest in the Clean Environment Commission process and information.
- Questions asked about the provincial and federal Section 35 Crown consultation processes.
- Interest in the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (2012)* and other new legislation and potential implications to the Project.

### **Perspectives and Themes about the Keeyask Hydropower Limited Partnership**

- Questions about the Partnership signatories.
- Interest in the Keeyask Partnership community approval process.

- Interest expressed in the types of benefits for the KCNs.
- Positive comments with regards to the Partnership approach.

### **Perspectives and Themes about the Public Involvement Program**

- Inquiries about the breadth of Public Involvement Program.
- Positive comments regarding the information presented during Round Three.

### **Perspectives and Themes about the Project Description and Physical Environment**

- Interest in the general Project layout of the physical structures.
- Interest in the sources of materials to be used for construction.
- Interest in the proposed access roads.
- Interest in the mitigation plans outlined in the Joint Keeyask Development Agreement.
- Questions about alternative use possibilities for timber and peat salvage.
- Inquiries into Project planning and construction timelines.
- Interest in Project operation for both domestic and export purposes.
- Interest in the potential changes to Provincial Road 280.
- Questions regarding the need for the Project.
- Some questions and discussions about the predicted hydraulic zone of influence.
- Questions about the potential for system-wide effects as a result of the Project.

### **Perspectives and Themes about the Aquatic Environment**

- Interest in the general potential to affect fish, particularly lake sturgeon.
- Numerous questions with regards to aquatic mitigation.
- Interest in the proposed aquatics monitoring plans.

### **Perspectives and Themes about the Terrestrial Environment**

- Interest in the types of caribou found in the Project region.
- Interest in caribou migratory patterns and effects of the Project.
- Discussions with regards to use of both Aboriginal traditional knowledge and technical science regarding caribou.
- Interest in the current moose population in the Project area.

### **Perspectives and Themes about the Socio-Economic Environment, Resource Use and Heritage Resources**

- Interest in the local, regional and provincial economic benefits.
- Discussions about potential negative worker interaction issues.
- Interest in learning more about the socio-economic monitoring plan.
- Mercury and human health was a prominent discussion topic, specifically the assessed conclusion and proposed mitigation and monitoring plans.
- Concern about a potential increase in traffic on PR 280 that could result in an increase in the risk of vehicle accidents.
- Interest in potential Project effects on community infrastructure and services.

- Discussions regarding the future of the Town of Gillam.
- Substantial interest in Project employment opportunities and employment timelines.
- Comments about the Job Referral Service; numerous participants shared their experiences with the recruitment process used for the Wuskwatim Generation Project and some suggested ways in which this process could be improved for Keeyask.
- Interest in the employee retention measures such as the cultural awareness training.
- Interest in training opportunities related to the Project and support expressed for the Hydro Northern Training and Employment Initiative.
- Interest in potential business opportunities related to the Project.
- Questions asked about how workers would be transported to the Project site.
- General discussions about potential Project impacts on local resource use.
- Questions about potential Project effects on traditional medicinal plants.
- Interest in the offsetting programs included in the KCNs Adverse Effects Agreements that provide access to alternate hunting and gathering areas.
- Questions about predicted water level fluctuations in the winter and potential effects to resources users.
- Interest in heritage resources salvaged during pre-construction activities.
- Interest in how known heritage sites would be protected during Project construction and/or operation and discussions about the Heritage Resources Protection Plan.

### **Perspectives and Themes about Other Topics**

- Many participants discussed their experiences with and observed impacts resulting from past hydroelectric development.
- Many participants discussed their experience with or knowledge of the Wuskwatim project.
- Interest in the status of the proposed Bipole III Project.
- Interest in the status of the planned Conawapa Generation Station Project.
- Interest in the upcoming Needs For and Alternatives To process that will be held with the Public Utilities Board in 2014. Some participants shared their perspectives with regards to the need for Manitoba Hydro to focus on alternative energy sources such as gas, wind and solar.
- Concern about the economic feasibility of the proposed and planned Manitoba Hydro projects.
- Concern regarding the cost of residential electricity.