



PREFACE

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Keeyask Generation Project (the Project) is submitted to Canada and Manitoba by the Keeyask Hydropower Limited Partnership (the Partnership), which consists of Manitoba Hydro and four Cree Nations (referred to collectively as the Keeyask Cree Nations or KCNs): Tataskweyak Cree Nation (TCN) and War Lake First Nation (WLFN), acting collectively as the Cree Nation Partners (CNP), York Factory First Nation (YFFN), and Fox Lake Cree Nation (FLCN).

The Partners agreed early on that there would be a Keeyask Cree Nations evaluation process as well as the government regulatory environmental assessment process for the Project.

In the KCNs' process, each of the KCNs, assisted by Manitoba Hydro, evaluated the impact of the Project on their communities and Members in terms of their own worldview, values and experience with past hydroelectric development. This process supported conclusion of the Joint Keeyask Development Agreement by the Partners.

The Partnership's EIS response to the government regulatory environmental process was undertaken by Manitoba Hydro with the support of the KCNs. In summary, the EIS consists of:

- A video, Keeyask: Our Story, which presents the Keeyask Cree Nations' history and
 perspectives related to hydroelectric development. Presented through the lens of their
 holistic Cree worldview, it explains the journey taken by the KCNs as they evaluated
 their concerns about the Project, the nature of their participation as Partners, and the
 decisions they ultimately made to support the Project;
- The executive summary;
- A Response to EIS Guidelines issued by Canada March 30, 2012 in response to an
 application by the Partnership for environmental approvals under the government
 regulatory environmental assessment process. This response includes findings and
 conclusions¹, with charts, diagrams, and maps to clarify information in the text, and a
 concordance table to cross reference requirements of the EIS Guidelines with
 information in the EIS; and
- The KCNs Environmental Evaluation Reports providing each of the KCNs' own
 evaluation of the effects of the Project on their community and Members and including
 Aboriginal traditional knowledge (ATK) relevant to the Partnership's response to the
 EIS Guidelines.

¹ Technical supporting volumes are also provided, as developed by the Manitoba Hydro environmental team in consultation with the KCNs and their Members, to provide details on the Project Description and on the research and analysis of the following topics: Public Involvement Program, Physical Environment, Aquatic Environment, Terrestrial Environment, Socioeconomic Environment, Resource Use, and Heritage Resources.



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Public Involvement Supporting Volume (PI SV) is one of six technical volumes produced in support of the Keeyask Generation Project (the Project) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS has been developed by the Keeyask Hydropower Limited Partnership (the Partnership) as part of the regulatory review of the Project under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act and The Environment Act (Manitoba).

The EIS consists of the following:

- A video, Keeyask: Our Story, which presents the Keeyask Cree Nations' history and
 perspectives related to hydroelectric development. Presented through the lens of their
 holistic Cree worldview, it explains the journey taken by the KCNs as they evaluated
 their concerns about the Project, the nature of their participation as Partners, and the
 decisions they ultimately made to support the Project;
- The executive summary;
- A Response to EIS Guidelines issued by Canada and Manitoba in response to an
 application by the Partnership for environmental approvals under the government
 regulatory environmental assessment process. This response includes findings and
 conclusions, with charts, diagrams, and maps to clarify information in the text, and a
 concordance table to cross reference requirements of the EIS Guidelines with
 information in the EIS; and
- The KCNs Environmental Evaluation Reports providing each of the KCNs' own
 evaluation of the effects of the Project on their community and Members and including
 Aboriginal traditional knowledge (ATK) relevant to the Partnership's response to the
 EIS Guidelines.

The six supporting volumes were developed by the Manitoba Hydro environmental team in consultation with the KCNs and their Members, to provide details about the Project Description and about the research and analysis of the following topics: Public Involvement Program, Physical Environment, Aquatic Environment, Terrestrial Environment, Socioeconomic Environment, Resource Use, and Heritage Resources (the latter three topics are included in one volume). The supporting volumes have been reviewed, commented on, and, as appropriate, finalized in a manner consistent with the arrangements of the Partnership.



1.1 PURPOSE AND CONTENT OF THE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SUPPORTING VOLUME

The EIS Guidelines ask the proponent to provide information about its Public Involvement Program (PIP).

The information in this PI SV provides information about the public involvement activities undertaken for the Project with potentially affected Aboriginal people (e.g., Cross Lake First Nation (CLFN) and Pimicikamak Cree Nation (PCN), Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN), the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF)) and other northern Aboriginal communities and groups (Norway House Cree Nation (NHCN), O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation (OPCN), Shamattawa First Nation (SFN), Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO) and Keewatin Tribal Council (KTC)); other potentially affected people and groups in the general public (e.g., City of Thompson in northern Manitoba); and other interested groups (e.g., environmental non-government organizations). Federal and provincial government agencies with responsibilities for licensing and approvals of the Project were also consulted. Communities targeted by the public involvement program are shown in Appendix 1B.

The extensive involvement of the KCNs in the EA process is set out in Chapter 2 of Keeyask Generation Project: Response to EIS Guidelines. As detailed there, the KCNs and their Members have been involved in Project planning discussions with Manitoba Hydro for more than a decade. The KCNs participated together and separately in multi-year negotiations of a Partnership agreement with Manitoba Hydro which resulted in the Joint Keeyask Development Agreement (JKDA). This multi-year process has included an extensive community consultation process in each of the KCNs' communities. This process is described in Chapter 2 and in each of the KCNs Environmental Evaluation Reports.

The JKDA was negotiated between 1998 and 2009. These negotiations shaped the key features of the Project and the terms of the Partnership between the KCNs and Manitoba Hydro, including governance of the Partnership and financing and management of the Project. Among other matters, the JKDA also addresses the KCNs' potential income earnings, training, employment, business opportunities, and involvement in the Partnership's environmental and regulatory affairs. The JKDA was signed in May 2009 by representatives from each KCN and Manitoba Hydro.

In addition to the involvement noted above, the KCNs, as affected communities, have also received the same information provided to other communities participating in the PIP (e.g., newsletters, presentations).



2.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

2.1 KEEYASK GENERATION PROJECT INVOLVEMENT PURPOSE AND PROCESSES

Public involvement has been an integral part of the environmental assessment (EA) process. The overall purpose has been to provide Aboriginal and other interested communities and groups, particularly those potentially affected by the Project, with opportunities to receive information, provide input and influence the Keeyask Generation Project (the Project).

This Supporting Volume provides information about the public involvement activities carried out by the proponent, including the timing of activities, the communication tools used, meeting notes, and summaries of each round of public involvement activities.

The Project proponent, initially Manitoba Hydro, and subsequently, the Partnership, engaged in discussions in a variety of forums to gain an understanding of Project-related issues, concerns and potential effects on individuals and communities.

As the Project environmental assessment was initiated specific audiences were identified to learn about issues and concerns they may have about the Project. These target audiences are described in the next section.

The Public Involvement Plan and outcomes are documented in Appendix 1. The issues, concerns and perspectives raised during the Keeyask PIP process to date have been considered by the Partnership and where appropriate, incorporated into the Project design and the EA process. The issues and perspectives raised in Round One and Two of the PIP are documented in Issues Concordance Tables in Appendix 1C and can be found in the notes from the meetings, open houses and workshops in Appendices 2 and 3.

2.2 Involvement Processes with Targeted Audiences

The PIP provided for, and will continue to provide, meaningful opportunities for involvement with the following broad groups:

Potentially affected and interested Aboriginal communities and groups –
 Aboriginal people beyond the KCNs who may potentially be affected by the Project.

 This includes, CLFN (PCN) due to obligations under the Northern Flood Agreement (NFA), NCN and the MMF. It also includes NHCN; OPCN; SFN; MKO; and KTC.



- Other potentially affected and interested communities and groups Other communities and groups potentially affected by the Project.
- Federal and provincial government departments -- The federal and provincial government departments that are responsible for project licensing have also been engaged in discussions with the Project proponent during the EA process.

The involvement with these groups to date is summarized in Keeyask Generation Project: Response to Guidelines, Chapter 3, and in the remaining sections of this PI SV.

2.2.1 POTENTIALLY AFFECTED ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

2.2.1.1 Cross Lake First Nation and Pimicikamak Cree Nation

Manitoba Hydro, along with the governments of Canada and Manitoba and the Northern Flood Committee, signed the Northern Flood Agreement (NFA) in 1977 to address impacts of the Churchill River Diversion and Lake Winnipeg Regulation hydroelectric development projects on five First Nations. Since that time, comprehensive implementation agreements have been signed with four of the five communities (not CLFN). Consultation with CLFN remains governed by Article 9 of the NFA.

Under the NFA, the Northern Flood Committee, of which the Cross Lake band was a member, represented the Cross Lake Band of Indians and dealt with the Cross Lake Reserve and the collective community resident on the Cross Lake Reserve. Under the Indian Act the Cross Lake Band of Indians formally registered a change of its name to the Cross Lake First Nation. Subsequently, the Cross Lake First Nation, through its Chief and Council, advised Manitoba Hydro that for many purposes the Nation had moved to a traditional form of government, Pimicikamak Cree Nation (PCN), consisting of an Executive Council, who are elected and who also serve as Chief and Council of the Band under the Indian Act, a Womens' Council, an Elder's Council and a Youth Council.

To date, discussions with CLFN (PCN) have focused on an overview of Project description and environmental effects assessment information. Several meetings have been held with CLFN (PCN) representatives to introduce the Project, the program of environmental studies, including VECs, and potential environmental effects. Meetings also have been intended to learn about the concerns and issues of CLFN (PCN) related to the Project.

Examples of topics discussed, to date, with CLFN (PCN), include the following:

- A request to review a list of study reports Manitoba Hydro provided a list of study reports, including the Keeyask annotated reference to field studies and the Keeyask environmental study reports and technical memoranda.
- A request to review component studies in draft form prior to integration into the EIS and to receive a list of VECs - Manitoba Hydro considered CLFN's (PCN's) request and



provided access to selected studies, but otherwise took the position that releasing studies in draft form would require approval from the limited partners of the Proponent, for which approvals had not yet been obtained. A list of VECs was provided.

- A recent request that Manitoba Hydro fund a two-year land use and occupancy study, for which a proposal is currently under consideration.
- A concern that any effects of the Project be considered cumulatively with the Lake Winnipeg Regulation and the Churchill River Diversion.
- A concern that the study area is not broad enough and the whole of CLFN's (PCN's)
 traditional territory should be considered Manitoba Hydro's position is that the study
 area comprises areas that could be substantively affected by the Project.

Further details about consultation with CLFN (PCN) (i.e., contact information, territories, the process undertaken to date, content of those discussions and disposition of issues and concerns) can be found in Appendix 4.

2.2.1.2 NISICHAWAYASIHK CREE NATION

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) (formerly known as Nelson House First Nation) was one of the original signatories to the Northern Flood Agreement. In 1996, NCN entered into a comprehensive agreement with Canada, Manitoba and Manitoba Hydro to implement most of the NFA obligations. In 2006, NCN and Manitoba Hydro entered into a Project Development Agreement to plan, construct, and operate the Wuskwatim Generation Project through a limited partnership -- the Wuskwatim Power Limited Partnership. NCN and Manitoba Hydro have agreed to enter into a separate process with respect to NCN's involvement in the Keeyask Project. To date, NCN has provided comments during the federal guidelines process and has identified issues that are of particular interest to NCN.

2.2.1.3 Manitoba Metis Federation

The MMF is an organization that asserts that it is the sole authority responsible for the representation of Metis interests in Manitoba. Manitoba Hydro, acting on behalf of the Keeyask Partnership, has met with the MMF to explore the interests of its members in the Project area. The Keeyask Generation Project is located in a region where the MMF asserts that Metis rights, interests and way of life will be impacted by the Project. The MMF further asserts Manitoba Hydro as a Crown agent has commitments generally to Aboriginal peoples in the Keeyask Joint Development Agreement (JKDA). (Note: The JKDA is a private contract between five parties, including Manitoba Hydro, to facilitate the planning, licensing, construction and operation of the Keeyask Generation Project).

Since meeting with the MMF in 2008 during Round One of the public involvement process, the MMF and Manitoba Hydro have participated in a series of meetings to describe the Project and discuss the development of a workplan for the MMF to develop and carry out a



research program. But to date, no consensus has been achieved, and the parties are continuing to work toward an agreement for such a study. The program would seek to understand how Metis people make use of the area potentially affected by the Project.

Further information about the series of meetings with the MMF is provided in Appendix 5.

2.2.1.4 OTHER POTENTIALLY AFFECTED ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES AND GROUPS

Concerns from other potentially affected Aboriginal communities and groups were also sought. These communities and groups included: NHCN; OPCN; SFN; MKO; and KTC. Contact information is provided in Appendix 1B.

In general, the Partnership sought to involve Aboriginal communities within the Churchill-Burntwood-Nelson area that has been affected by the Churchill River Diversion and Lake Winnipeg Regulation projects; it is from within this area that qualified Aboriginal workers will be drawn as a first preference for construction employment. The PIP also sought to identify potential users of land and resources affected by the Project. To date, the Partnership has been unable to meet with NHCN and OPCN, but continues attempts to establish meetings. The Partnership met with SFN to provide information about the Project and to determine if use was made of the area affected by the Project.

Other potentially affected Aboriginal political and/or advocacy organizations, including MKO and the KTC, were contacted by the Partnership as part of the PIP. MKO is an advocacy organization that provides a collective voice on issues of inherent Treaty, Aboriginal, and human rights for the citizens of the 30 First Nations it represents in northern Manitoba; and the KTC is a tribal council that represents 11 First Nations in northern Manitoba. KTC participated in Round One and Round Two of the PIP and MKO participated in Round Two.

While First Nations are identified in this section, it is also apparent that Aboriginal people reside in other communities within the Churchill-Burntwood-Nelson area, including Northern Affairs communities and the communities of Thompson, Gillam, Leaf Rapids, Churchill and LGD of Mystery Lake (highlighted in the next section). The PIP was designed to invite participation by Aboriginal people from throughout the area.

Further information about the outcome of the involvement process to date is provided in Appendices 1, 2 and 3.

2.2.1.5 OTHER POTENTIALLY AFFECTED People and Groups

Since Manitoba Hydro is a Crown Corporation that provides electricity to all Manitobans, it was acknowledged that the general public would have an interest in the Project. Steps were taken in the planning process to inform the general public throughout Manitoba and to continue to have opportunities to learn about the Project and to provide input into the EA



process. Three rounds of public involvement are anticipated in the Public Involvement Plan, with the first two rounds already undertaken and the third to occur after the filing of the EIS. The three rounds of public involvement are described below.

The following sections describe activities focused on engagement of potentially affected and interested Aboriginal and other communities, organizations and individuals beyond the KCNs. This engagement process has been directed by the 2007 Public Involvement Plan (Appendix 1A) that was approved by the Proponent and used as the basis for the involvement process implemented for this Project. A list of all targeted audiences and meetings to date are listed in Appendix 1B.

2.2.2 SUMMARIES OF ROUND ONE AND TWO OF THE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

2.2.2.1 ROUND ONE OF THE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

Round One PIP activities occurred between June 2008 and December 2008, focusing on communities in northern Manitoba and potentially affected and interested organizations (Aboriginal and other). Its purposes were to:

- Introduce the public to the proposed Project;
- Learn about any issues or concerns the public had about the Project; and
- Hear from the public about how they wished to be consulted in future rounds of the PIP.

The Keeyask PIP Round One Summary Report is attached as Appendix 2A and provides an overview of the PIP, a description of the Round One activities (including the dates and locations of all meetings held), and a summary of the key issues and perspectives that were raised.

During Round One of the PIP a variety of documents and communications tools were used to communicate with participants. These documents are attached as Appendix 2B. This includes materials that were used to describe the Project to participants. Letters used to plan and organize meetings and finalized meeting notes from each event are included in Appendices 2C, 2D, 2E and 2F.

2.2.2.2 ROUND TWO OF THE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

Round Two of the PIP took place between February 2012 and early May 2012. Results are reported up to May 1, 2012. This Round focused on meeting with potentially affected and interested communities and groups (Aboriginal and other) who were contacted in Round One to:



- Describe Project features and changes since Round One;
- Discuss preliminary results of the EA and receive input regarding these results;
- Obtain input about possible mitigation measures; and
- Document public input to be considered for the Project.

The Keeyask PIP Round Two Summary Report is attached as Appendix 3A and provides an overview of the PIP for the Project, a description of the Round Two activities (including the dates and locations of all meetings held), and a summary of the key issues and perspectives that were raised during Round Two discussions.

During Round Two of the PIP a variety of documents and communications tools were used to communicate with participants. These documents are attached as Appendix 3B. This includes materials that were used to describe Project effects and possible mitigation measures (e.g., newsletter, information panels, PowerPoint). Letters used to plan and organize meetings and meeting notes from each event are included in Appendices 3C, 3D, 3E and 3F.

2.2.2.3 ROUND THREE OF THE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

Round Three of the PIP will be implemented following the submission of the EIS. The objective will be to communicate how the EIS is structured, provide a summary of main findings and conclusions, and communicate about any supplemental information. This last round of involvement activities will address questions raised during Round Two and results from this process will be documented and submitted in a supplemental filing to the EIS.

Manitoba Hydro and the KCNs have made an ongoing commitment to meet with interested parties in the Project region and with other interested communities or groups to examine, together, ways to address specific concerns.

The materials related to Round Three of the PIP will be provided as a supplemental filing (i.e., after the EIS has been submitted).

2.2.3 GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

In 2005, prior to the formation of the Partnership, Manitoba Hydro initiated discussions with federal and provincial government agencies regarding the Project. Since that time, a variety of meetings have occurred with government agencies regarding the Project and the environmental review process. In April 2008, the members of the then-proposed Partnership (including representatives of Manitoba Hydro and the Keeyask Cree Nations) met informally with representatives of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA), Transport Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Manitoba Conservation and Manitoba Water Stewardship. The purpose of this meeting was to introduce the Project and



to alert government agencies to Round One of the PIP, which occurred in the spring and summer of 2008. Also in 2008, informal meetings occurred with CEAA, DFO, Transport Canada and the federal Major Projects Management Office (MPMO) to learn more about the role of the MPMO in the assessment process. In addition, a meeting was held with CEAA and Manitoba Conservation to learn about the type of environmental assessment that would be required for the Project.

In May of 2010, the Partnership provided an updated presentation about the Project, the anticipated timelines for the environmental assessment process and the PIP to the same federal and provincial government agencies.

In May of 2011, the Partnership provided an updated presentation about the Project as well as the VECs proposed for the environmental assessment, to representatives of the following agencies: Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism, Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs, Manitoba Local Government, Manitoba Health, Manitoba Innovation, Energy and Mines, CEAA, Environment Canada, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, Natural Resources Canada and DFO.

The Partnership provided MPMO with the MPMO Project Description on July 5, 2011.

Technical meetings among DFO, Manitoba Water Stewardship and the Partnership began in September 2009 and are ongoing (an initial Project description meeting was held in July 2005). Topics covered at these meetings have included: the Project description; hydraulic modeling; alternative means of carrying out the Project; an overview of aquatic field studies; and results of detailed analyses of aquatic habitat and the fish community, including lake sturgeon, in the existing and post-Project environments. Effects and mitigation related to construction activities were also discussed. In addition, planned mitigation and compensation measures, including the construction of compensatory habitats and a stocking plan for lake sturgeon, as well as issues such as fish passage and turbine effects, were discussed. In addition to participating in meetings, DFO took part in two field trips to the Project site: one in the spring of 2010, and the other in the fall of 2011.

On behalf of the Partnership, Manitoba Hydro met with the Province of Manitoba's Water Power Licensing Section on August 18, 2011 to describe the Project and to establish an understanding of the licensing process under the *Water Power Act*. Subsequent coordination meetings have occurred.

On behalf of the Partnership, Manitoba Hydro met with Transport Canada on November 4 2011 to describe the Project and to discuss the licensing process under the *Navigable Waters Protection Act*.

The Partnership met with the provincial and federal governments' Section 35 Consultation Steering Committee on December 19, 2011 to provide a description of the Project, a summary of the main environmental effects and a summary of all public involvement activities to date.



The Environment Act Proposal Form and Scoping Document for the Environmental Assessment of the Keeyask Generation Project (the Scoping Document) were submitted by the Partnership in December 2011. The first meeting of the Partnership with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for environmental review of the Project was held on January 25th, 2012. The meeting included representatives of Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs, Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism, Manitoba Justice and Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation. Representatives from federal agencies included CEAA, DFO, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC), MPMO, Transport Canada, Health Canada and Environment Canada. The purpose of the meeting was to present and discuss concerns and questions about the Scoping Document.

Final Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines for the Keeyask Generation Project were received from the federal government in March 2012. Technical meetings with federal and provincial government agencies continued in 2012.



