



ENGAGEMENT PLAN

**BLUEFISH HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY
PLANT #122
BLUEFISH LAKE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

July 2020

DOCUMENT MAINTENANCE AND CONTROL

The Director, Health, Safety & Environment is responsible for the distribution, maintenance and updating of the Engagement Plan.

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1 INTRODUCTION

This Engagement Plan provides an engagement framework for the Bluefish Hydroelectric Facility. The Bluefish Facility is primarily located on Prosperous Lake, 39 km north of Yellowknife, NT, on the Yellowknife River system

The operation of the facility requires a water licence from the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) under the direction of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act and the Waters Act. As part of the water licence application process, NTPC is required to gather input from stakeholders on the application package and to continue engagement throughout the term of the licence. Engagement will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to contribute knowledge and solutions to the process, which is mutually beneficial to all parties involved.

This plan was developed through consideration of the MVLWB Engagement Guidelines for Applicants and Holders of Water Licences and Land Use Permits, and the MVLWB Engagement and Consultation Policy. It will be used in conjunction with the Engagement Plan that is in place for Bluefish Hydro land use permit MV2017X0005 for the operation of the facility and winter road.

1.1 BLUEFISH FACILITY

The Bluefish facility makes use of water from the Yellowknife River drainage basin. Prior to the damming of Bluefish Lake in 1940 and diverting of the Yellowknife River through the Bluefish facility, the Yellowknife River connecting Bluefish and Prosperous Lakes went over a waterfall at the outlet from Bluefish Lake. Prosperous Lake is approximately 38 m lower than Bluefish Lake.

The Bluefish Facility is the oldest hydro facility in the N.W.T. with the original Bluefish Lake Dam constructed in 1940 and the G1 generating plant and Duncan Lake dam completed in 1942. The original Bluefish Lake Dam was a timber crib structure buttressed on the upstream and downstream with rock fill that was constructed at a waterfall at the outlet of Bluefish Lake. The facility was constructed to provide electricity to operate the Cominco Gold Mine in Yellowknife. In 1994 the G2 generating plant was built 20m west of the G1 generating plant Duncan Lake, 20 km north east of the Bluefish Lake, provides the majority of the water storage for the Bluefish facility. Water from Duncan Lake and the Yellowknife River flows into Bluefish Lake where it enters the intake head gate. The intake leads to a 760 m long unlined rock tunnel. From the tunnel, a 3 m diameter, 150 m long steel penstock bifurcates and connects to two powerhouses each containing a single unit. NTPC generally operates the new unit and utilizes the old unit as a variable flow generator when the electrical demand exceed the capacity of the new unit. There are several additional buildings located near the powerhouses, including two trailers housing operations employees.

The main storage reservoir for the Bluefish Facility is at Duncan Lake. Water flows from Duncan Lake through the Duncan Lake Dam along the McCrea River to Neck Lake, then to Short Point and Angle

Lake. Water from Angle Lake flows into Quya Lake where the McCrea River system joins the Yellowknife River system, and then on to Bluefish Lake.

The primary purpose of the Duncan Lake dam is to provide a water supply for power generation at the Bluefish Plants. The Duncan Lake control dam was originally built in 1942 as a rockfill timber crib structure, It was relocated and replaced in 1974 with a concrete gravity dam consisting of a stoplog opening and overflow spillway, and repaired in 1994, 2007, and 2017.

The Bluefish Hydroelectric Facility is outlined in Figures 1 and 2. Figure 1: Existing Taltson Hydroelectric Facility.

Figure 1: Bluefish Hydro Facility- General Site Location

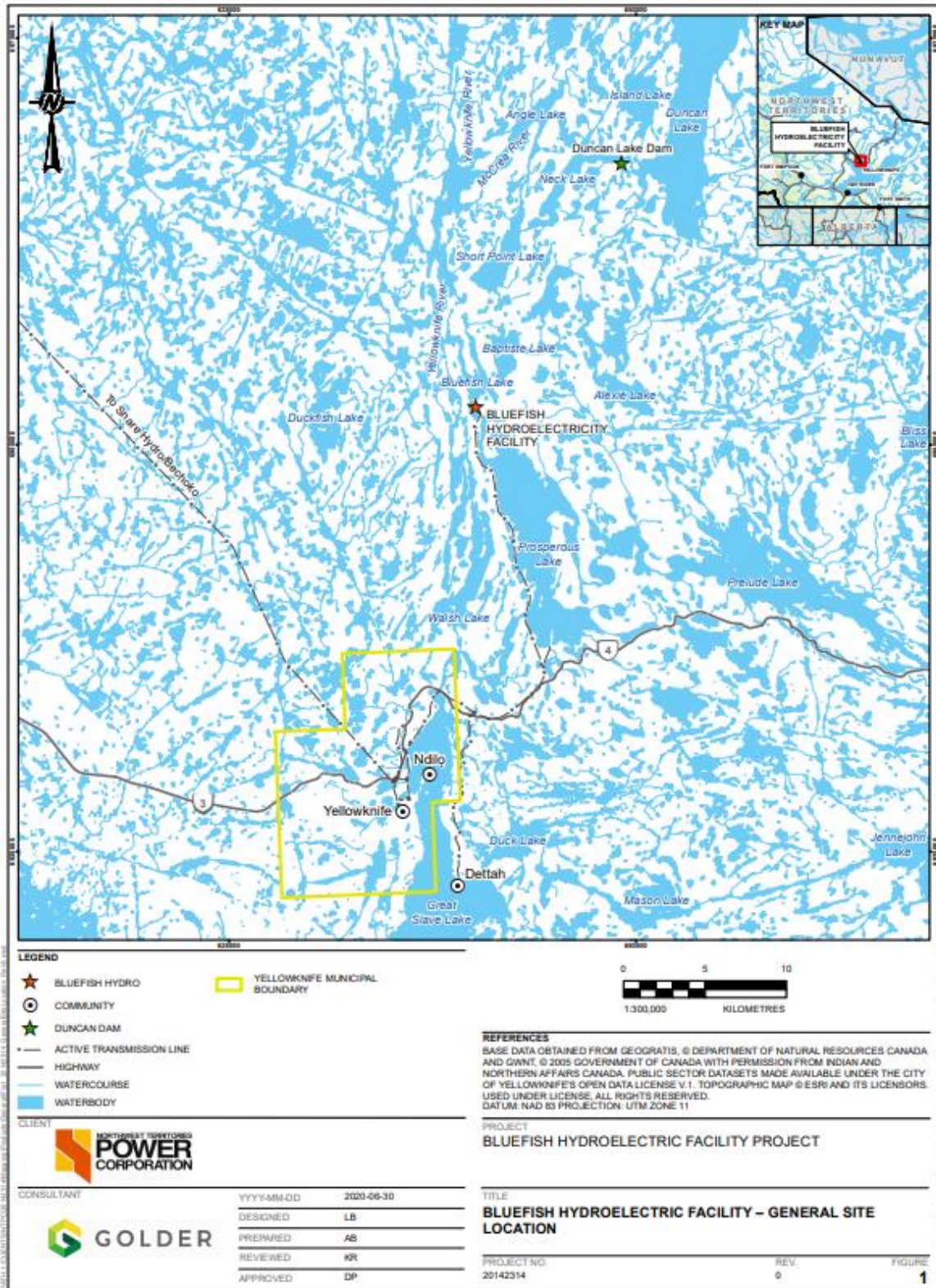
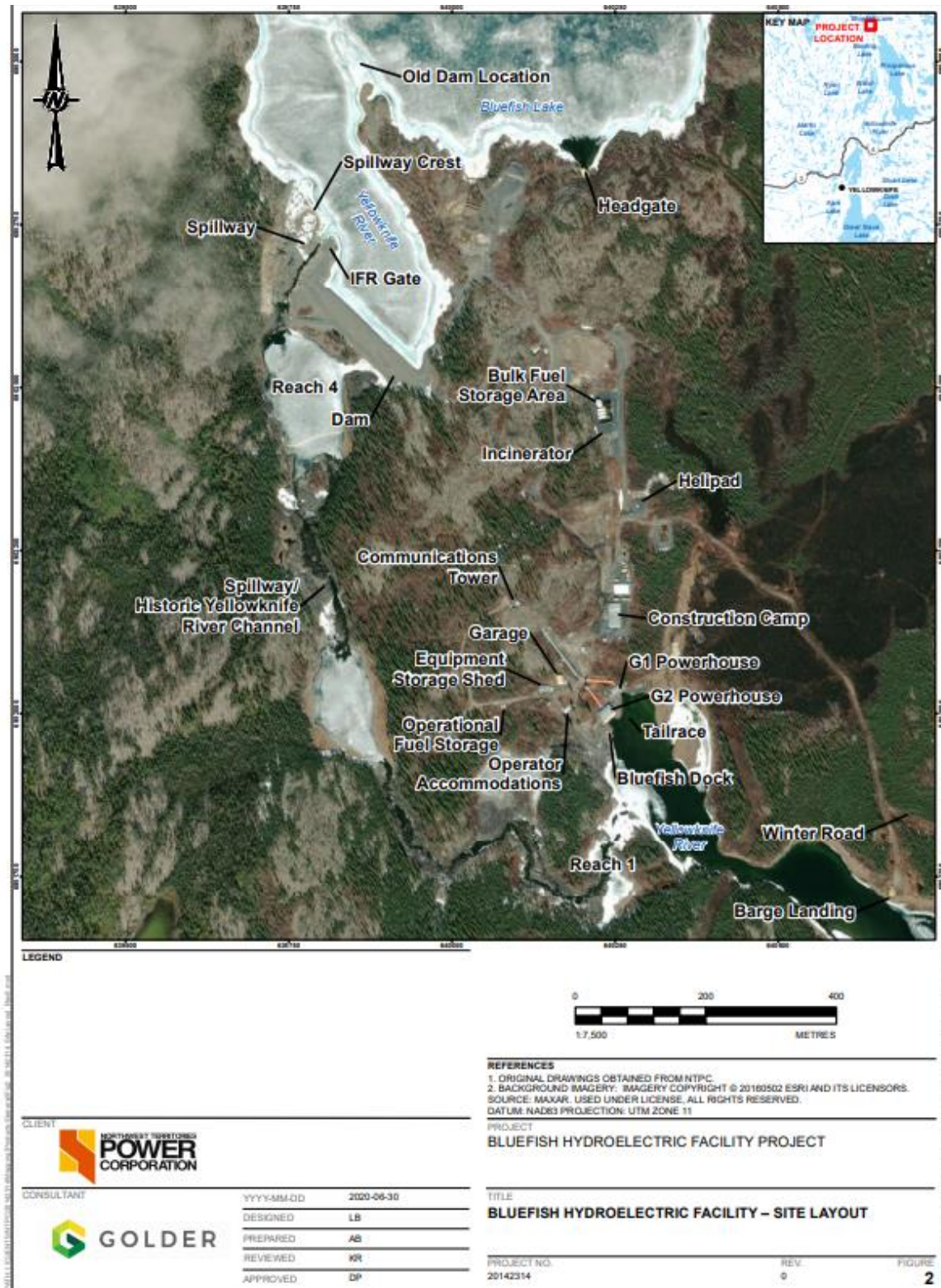


Figure 2: Bluefish Hydro Facility



1.2 CORPORATE CONTACT INFORMATION

NTPC contact information for the Taltson Hydro- Construction of Replacement Facilities land-use permit is as follows:

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2 OBJECTIVES

Engagement, as defined by the Engagement and Consultation Policy of the Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley, is “the communication and outreach activities a proponent undertakes with affected parties prior to and during the operation of a project.” Engagement is required as part of the land-use permitting and water licensing process and the Boards require that proponents provide both an Engagement Record and an Engagement Plan as part of an application package.

Objectives of the engagement process are listed below along with NTPC’s commitment to fulfilling these objectives.

Table 2-1: Engagement Objective and Commitments

	Engagement Objectives	NTPC Commitment to the Public
1.	<p><u>Inform</u> by providing information to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify stakeholders of any issues/operational decisions. • Assist stakeholders in understanding the operation and issues that may arise. • Prepare stakeholders for more intensive forms of engagement should they be required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep the public informed. • Proactive, timely communication. • Help stakeholders understand the undertaking.
2.	<p><u>Listen</u> to stakeholders and their feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the needs and priorities of the stakeholders so that decisions can be made with these needs and priorities in mind. • Build cooperative and inclusive relationships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledge when and how public input influenced decisions. • Understand views, concerns, interests and expectations.
3.	<p><u>Involve</u> work directly with stakeholders to jointly resolve issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledge when and how concerns and aspirations are reflected in the design of the operation.

3 OPERATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

NTPC will ensure all reporting requirements under the water licence and land-use permit are met. GNWT Department of Lands and Department of Environment will complete inspections under the land use permit and water licence. NTPC will assist in these inspections when possible and follow up on any action items required from the inspections.

NTPC openly engages with the public regarding the North Slave electrical system by:

- Providing information about electricity generation, transmission and distribution on the NTPC website (www.ntpc.com);
- Providing information about outages, safety, employment opportunities, community donations and other matters through:
 - NTPC Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/NTPC-Northwest-Territories-Power-Corporation-591764887576712/>);
 - Twitter (https://twitter.com/ntpc_news?lang=en);
- *Issuing news releases on significant issues;*
- Having NTPC staff attend trade shows, conferences and job fairs to engage directly with members of the public; and
- Placing paid advertising in the media (radio and print) to provide information about matters of public interest.

4 LICENCE APPLICATION ENGAGEMENT

As part of the water licence application process and throughout the life of the licence some key tools employed in the engagement process are:

- Electronic mail (email)
- Phone conversations and teleconferences
- In-person meetings with representatives of affected organizations, if requested
- Community public meetings with affected communities, if requested

4.1 ENGAGEMENT TRIGGERS

There are standard triggers at key milestones related to operations authorized under the permit that will trigger engagement. Table 4-1 presents the structure for engagement that includes the triggers, methods and expected dates for engagement. All engagement activities will be recorded in the Engagement Record and submitted to the MVLWB.

Table 4-1: Engagement Structure for Bluefish Hydro Facility

Engagement Trigger	Purpose for Engagement	Organization to be Engaged	Format of Engagement	Approximate Date
Pre-submission of water licence renewal application	To inform parties that NTPC is planning to for apply for a Type A Water Licence for Bluefish Hydro Facility's	Refer to Table 4-2	Emails with corresponding letter with application information, information package, engagement meetings, online public session	May and June 2020
Application submitted to the MVLWB	Inform parties of how to stay engaged through the MVLWB process	Refer to Table 4-2	Email with link to the MVLWB Public Registry site with the complete application	July 2020
Issuance of WL	Inform parties that WL has been issued.	Refer to Table 4-2	Emails.	Spring 2021
Any operational changes outside of normal operation procedures outlined in application and WL	Inform parties of operating conditions outside of normal operation procedures outlined in application and WL.	Refer to Table 4-2	Emails and/or phone calls	As required
Application to MVLWB for Water Licence amendment, extension or assignment	Inform parties of possible changes to the Water Licence	Refer to Table 4-2	As requested, including emails, phone calls and in-person meetings or information sessions	As required
Ongoing engagement	Inform parties of ongoing related to the operation of the Bluefish Facility	Refer to Table 4-2	As requested, including emails, phone calls and in-person meetings or information sessions	As required.

4.2 PARTIES TO BE ENGAGED

NTPC has identified a number of aboriginal, municipal, territorial and federal governments and governmental organizations as parties to be engaged as part of the land-use permit. These parties and organizations are presented in Table 4-2.

Table 4-2: Parties to be Engaged

Organization	Organization
Akaitcho IMA Implementation Office	INAC - NWT Inspectors
Bathurst Inlet Development Ltd.	INAC - Yellowknife
Bathurst Inlet Lodge	Katlodeeche First Nation
Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency - NWT Region	Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation - Chief or Wildlife, Lands and Environment
Cassidy Point Association	Local Lease Holders
CIRNAC-CARD	Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
City of Yellowknife	Manitoba Denesuline
Dene Nation	MVLWB
Deninu K'ue First Nation	New Discovery Mines Ltd.
Det'on Cho Corporation	New Nadina Explorations Limited
Environment and Climate Change Canada	North Slave Metis Alliance
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Northwest Territory Metis Nation
Fort Resolution Metis Council	NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines
Forward Mining	NWT- OROGO
GNWT - ENR (Environment and Natural Resources)	Salt River First Nation
GNWT - ENR - EAM (Environmental Assessment and Monitoring)	Smith's Landing First Nation
GNWT - ENR - North Slave Region	Tlicho Government
GNWT - Executive and Indigenous Affairs	Tlicho Lands Protection Department
GNWT - INF (Infrastructure)	Tlicho Regulatory Specialist
GNWT - ITI (Industry, Tourism and Investment)	Town of Fort Smith
GNWT - Lands	Town of Hay River
GNWT - Lands - North Slave Region	Wek' eezhii Renewable Resources Board
GNWT - MACA (Municipal and Community Affairs)	West Point First Nation
GNWT - PPCA (Policy, Planning, Communications and Analysis (w/in ITI))	WLWB
GNWT - PWNHC (Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (w/in ECE))	Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Hamlet of Fort Resolution	

5 FOLLOW-UP REPORTING

During engagement activities, NTPC will track comments, concerns or inputs, received relating to a permitted or licensed activity and will provide a summary as detailed in Section 4 above. In order to process comments, concerns and input throughout the engagement process, NTPC will endeavor to respond in a timely manner, respecting the nature of the input.

Reporting on an engagement after it has been completed is an important step in the engagement process. All Engagement Logs will acknowledge those that participated and will provide an accurate record of the engagement process, and how final decisions were reached.

5.1 ENGAGEMENT RECORD

A summary of all engagement undertaken for the Application is listed in the Engagement Record. The Engagement Record includes an entry for each engagement, including the following information:

- Date of engagement;
- Name of party or group;
- Format of engagement;
- Individuals attending;
- Issue or topic of discussion;
- Comments received by NTPC; and
- Description of issues that were jointly resolved or which remain outstanding.

Relevant documents from each engagement will also be included in the Engagement Record including presentations, handouts and posters.

6 COMMUNICATING THE PLAN

Communicating the Engagement Plan is an important element to the success of the engagement process. NTPC intends to use engagement methods already familiar to them but also recognizes that not all potentially affected parties are the same and that what might work for one particular group or individual may not be the best method of engagement for another. NTPC is open to applying methods that work best for a particular situation and affected party in order to keep lines of communication open, build rapport, and establish trust.

7 PLAN REVIEW

It is important that engagement efforts be monitored. Where a method does not appear to be effective or when the scope of importance of an issue changes, it will be necessary to modify the Engagement Plan. Evaluating the effectiveness of the engagement process is a fundamental part of the Engagement Plan as it is important to understand what was done well and what could be improved upon moving forward. NTPC and the affected parties will assess the effectiveness of its engagement efforts over the course of time and will make necessary changes on a case by case basis. Any revisions to the Engagement Plan will be forwarded to the MVLWB.