



**CONSTRUCTION OF REPLACEMENT FACILITIES AND OVERHAUL
ENGAGEMENT PLAN**

**TALTSON HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY
TALTSON RIVER, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

April 2022

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 construction of replacement support facilities for the Taltson Hydroelectric Facility (Taltson Facility). The Taltson Facility is a hydroelectric facility located within the Taltson River watershed, ~56 km northeast of Fort Smith in the Northwest Territories that is owned and operated by the Northwest Territories Power Corporation (NTPC). An overhaul of key infrastructure within the generating station and camp is planned to begin in 2020 to ensure the continued reliability of power generation for the South Slave Region.

The construction of the replacement facilities, new storage facilities and operation of on site borrow locations and quarries will require a quarry permit from the Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT) Department of Lands and a land-use permit 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 land-use permit application process, NTPC is required to gather input from stakeholders on the application package and to continue engagement throughout the term of the permit. 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 Plans that are in place for Taltson Hydro water licence and Taltson Winter Road land use permit and water licence (see Section 3).

1.1 TALTSON FACILITY

The Taltson Hydroelectric Facility was built in 1965 to supply electricity to the Pine Point Mine. The mine was exhausted by the mid-1980's and the site was decommissioned and closed in 1986. Following the mine closure, the Taltson Generating Station has continued to supply power to the South Slave Region and is the sole source of power, with the exception of back up diesel generators, to the South Slave communities of Hay River, K'atlodeeche First Nation, Fort Smith, Fort Resolution and Enterprise.

The existing Taltson Hydroelectric Facility is comprised of the Twin Gorges Generating Station, Twin Gorges Forebay Reservoir, South Valley Spillway, Trudel Creek and the Nonacho Lake Dam and is outlined in Figure 1. The Twin Gorges Generating Station is an 18 MW hydroelectric facility located within the Taltson River watershed 56 km northeast of Fort Smith in the Northwest Territories. The facility operates under the MVLWB Type A Water Licence MV2011L4-0002. The facility is a fly in access only using the airstrip or landing on the Twin Gorges Reservoir. In the winter of 2019/2020 a historical winter road from Fort Smith was reconstructed which is operated under MVLWB Type B Water Licence MV2019L8-0008 and Type A Land Use Permit MV2019F0015.

The Taltson facility consists of a hydroelectric plant, substation and surge tower situated on the east side of the Taltson River 250m southwest of the main dam. The headgate house sits on the upstream side of the dam in the forebay.

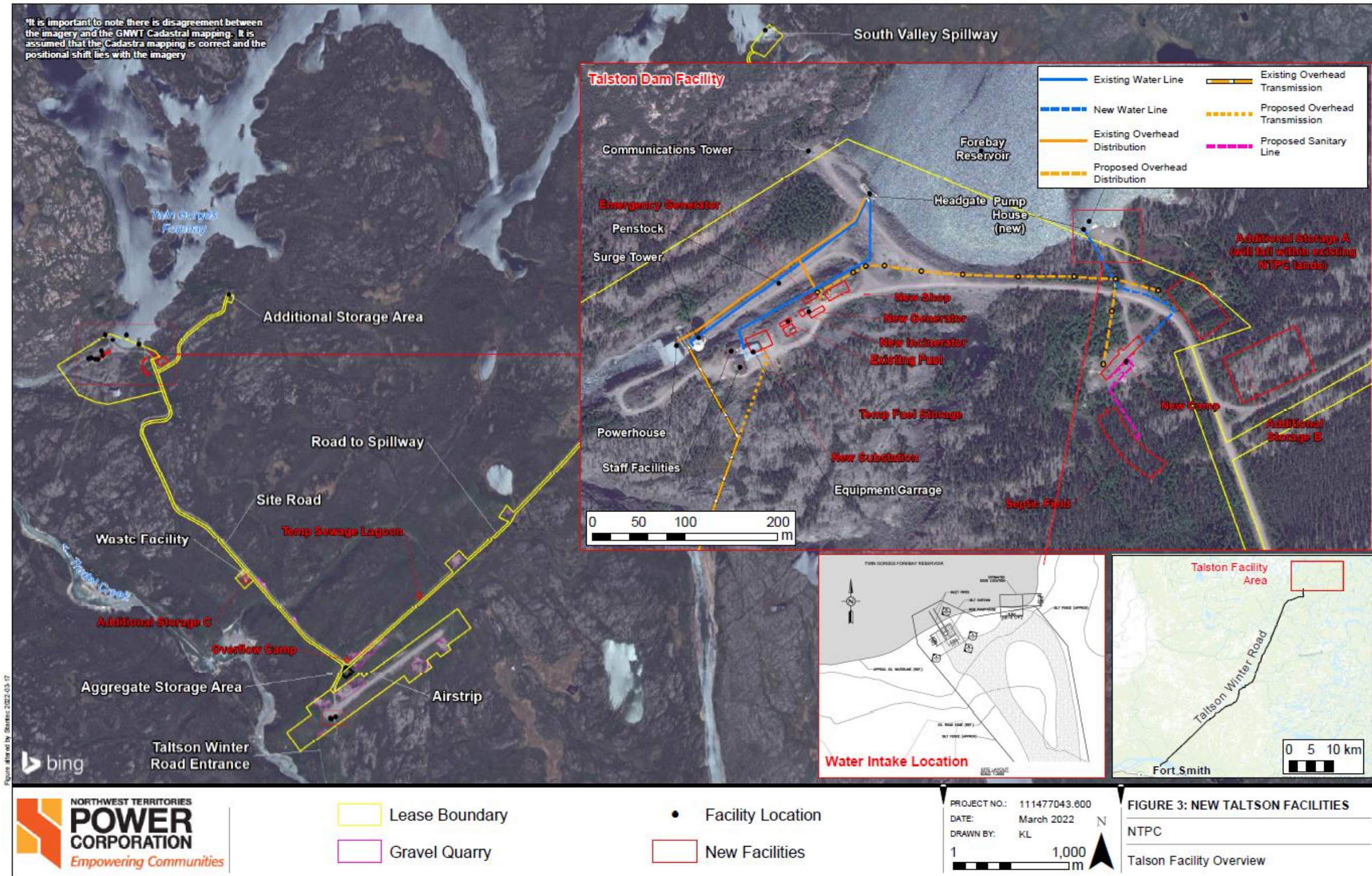
Support facilities include two staff houses and a garage are located east of the plant. The 800m airstrip is located 3km southeast of the plant with a storage shed and fuel storage building at its western end. The facility also includes a back up diesel generator, waste incinerator, septic field and fuel storage areas.

1.2 CONSTRUCTION OF REPLACEMENT FACILITIES

The Taltson Hydroelectric Facility was built in 1965 and a refurbishment of key infrastructure at the facility is required to ensure the continued reliability of power generation for the South Slave Region. This includes refurbishment of the generating station, replacement of the camp for staff lodging, replacement of the garage for vehicle and equipment storage/maintenance, replacement of the substation and construction of additional storage facilities. Maintenance overhauls and refurbishments for the Taltson Facility are scheduled to be completed throughout 2020-2024. Details for the refurbishment of key infrastructure at the facility are presented in the *Taltson Hydro Facility Construction of Replacement Facilities and Overhaul- Construction, Wildlife Management and Reclamation Plan* (NTPC, 2020) and the Taltson LUP MV2020X0004 Amendment and Modification Under WL MV2011L4-0002 Project Description (NTPC, 2022).

The Taltson Hydroelectric Facility is outlined in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Taltson Hydroelectric Facility



1.3 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

The engagement process for the construction of replacement facilities at Taltson will follow the engagement framework that NTPC follows for the Taltson Facility (MVLWB water licence MV2011L4-0002) and the Taltson Winter Road (MVLWB Type B Water Licence MV2019L8-0008 and Type A Land Use Permit MV2019F0015). These frameworks are presented in detail in the Taltson Public Engagement Plan for Affected Water Users (MV2011L4-0002) and the Taltson Winter Road Engagement Plan (MV2019L8-0008 and MV2019F0015).

NTPC will ensure all reporting requirements under the land-use permit are met. GNWT Department of Lands will complete inspections under the land use permit. 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 South 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.

3.1 TALTSON REFURBISHMENT COMMUNICATIONS

As part of the refurbishment of the Taltson Facility NTPC will be implementing a communications plan to notify customers in the South Region of the impacts of the refurbishment such as an extended period of reliance on diesel generation. This framework will be completed in addition to the operational engagement under the various land use permits and water licences.

Goals:

- Create a high level of public awareness of the refurbishment and its long-term benefits
- Create a high level of confidence that NTPC can continue to provide reliable electricity during the refurbishment
- Through the Arctic Energy Alliance, increase customer awareness of conservation measures to keep electricity demand low during the refurbishment.

Target Audiences:

In addition to the organizations outlined in Table 4-2 there are different groups that need to be notified in the South Slave such as:

- NWT Public Utilities Board
- Residential and commercial customers
- Electric heat customers in Fort Smith
- Indigenous and community governments
- Northland Utilities (NWT) Limited
- Arctic Energy Alliance

Key Messages:

- The Taltson refurbishment will ensure that South Slave customers continue to have access to clean and reliable electricity for the next 40 years
- The short-term need to rely on diesel generation is a reasonable price to pay to enable the Taltson refurbishment
- The impact of the project on electricity rates will not be known until the project has been completed and costs fully known
- There will be economic opportunities for local residents and businesses
- Customers can help keep their costs down by reducing electricity consumption
- NTPC remains committed to achieving the 25% reduction in GHG emissions in diesel communities outlined in the GNWT's 2030 Energy Strategy

Planned/Potential Activities:

- Letters/presentations to Municipal Councils in the South Slave
- Community open houses/presence at trade shows
- Bill stuffers/message on bill
- News release
- Newspaper and radio advertisements
- Social media postings

4 LICENCE APPLICATION ENGAGEMENT

As part of the land-use permit application process and throughout the life of the permit 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 Taltson Hydro- Construction of Replacement Facilities

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 Land-Use Permit for Taltson Hydro- Construction of Replacement Facilities	Refer to Table 4-2	Emails with corresponding letter with application information	February 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	April ,2020
Start of construction of replacement facilities	Inform parties that construction has begun.	Refer to Table 4-2	Emails.	Summer 2020
End of construction of replacement facilities	Inform parties that construction is ending.	Refer to Table 4-2	Emails.	2024
Land-use permit amendment, extension or assignment	Inform parties of possible changes to the land-use permit	Refer to Table 4-2	Email with link to the MVLWB Public Registry site with the complete application, follow up if required	As required
Ongoing engagement	Inform parties of ongoing related to the overhaul of the Taltson Facility	Refer to Table 4-2	As requested, including emails, phone calls and in-person meetings or information sessions	As required and as outlined below.

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
Akaitcho IMA Implementation Office
Athabasca Dëne Sųłıne
Dene Nation
Deninu K'ue First Nation
Deninoo Community Council
Fort Resolution Metis Council
Fort Smith Fishing Derby
Fort Smith Metis Council
GNWT - ENR - South Slave Region - Fort Smith
GNWT - INF
GNWT - Lands - South Slave Region - Fort Smith and Hay River
Hamlet of Fort Resolution
Katloodeeche First Nation
Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation - Wildlife, Lands and Environment
Nonacho Lake Fishing Camp
North Slave Metis Alliance
Northwest Territory Metis Nation
Salt River First Nations
Smith Landing First Nation
Taltson Bay Big Pike Lodge
Tlicho Lands Protection Department
Town of Fort Smith
West Point First Nation
Yellowknives Dene First Nation

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.