



TALTSON WINTER ROAD

ENGAGEMENT PLAN

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

April 2019

DOCUMENT MAINTENANCE AND CONTROL

The Director, Health, Safety & Environment is responsible for the distribution, maintenance and updating of the Engagement Plan. This document will be reviewed annually, or when engagement practices are changed at the request of an engaged party. Changes in phone numbers, names of individuals, etc. that do not affect the intent of the plan are to be made as required. Additional copies can be provided by the Director, Health, Safety & Environment.

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1 INTRODUCTION

This Engagement Plan provides an engagement framework for the Taltson Winter Road (WR) between Fort Smith and 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. A winter road is required to transport equipment and materials to the facility. NTPC plans to reconstruct the historical Taltson Winter Road from Fort Smith to Taltson that was used in the 1960s and 1970s to access the site for construction, maintenance and upgrades.

The construction and operation of a WR will require a land-use permit and a water licence through 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 and 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 licence and 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.

1.1 TALTSON FACILITY

The Taltson Facility is an 18 MW hydroelectric facility located within the Taltson River watershed 56 km northeast of Fort Smith in the Northwest Territories. The facility 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 facility is a fly in access only using the airstrip or landing on the Twin Gorges Reservoir. The facility operates under the MVLWB water licence MV2011L4-0002.

1.2 TALTSON WINTER ROAD

Maintenance overhauls for the Taltson Facility are scheduled to be completed throughout 2020-2023 for some of the key infrastructure such as the turbine in the generating station, the roads, airstrip and staff camp facilities. To complete the required overhauls the winter road must be reopened to transport material and equipment to and from site

The proposed winter road route from Ft. Smith to Taltson follows the historical route used when the facility was first built. The road was operational from 1964 to 1979 and was cleared and partially constructed in 2009/2010.

The Taltson WR is approximately 56 km long. The start point is a temporary laydown area at the northeast corner of the Fort Smith airport. The end point is a temporary laydown area at the southern end of the airfield at the Taltson Facility (refer to Figure 1.1). The Taltson WR consists of 11 over land portions (portages) and 10 over ice portions (lakes/rivers). The total length of portages is approximately 45.3 km (81%) and the total length of lakes/rivers is 10.7 km (19%). The Taltson WR is required to support an overhaul of key infrastructure at the Taltson Facility and is tentatively scheduled for construction and operation for three to five seasons, beginning in December 2019.

The regional project location is provided in Figure 1 and a map of the proposed route is provided in Figure 2.

Figure 1: Regional Project Location Taltson Winter Road

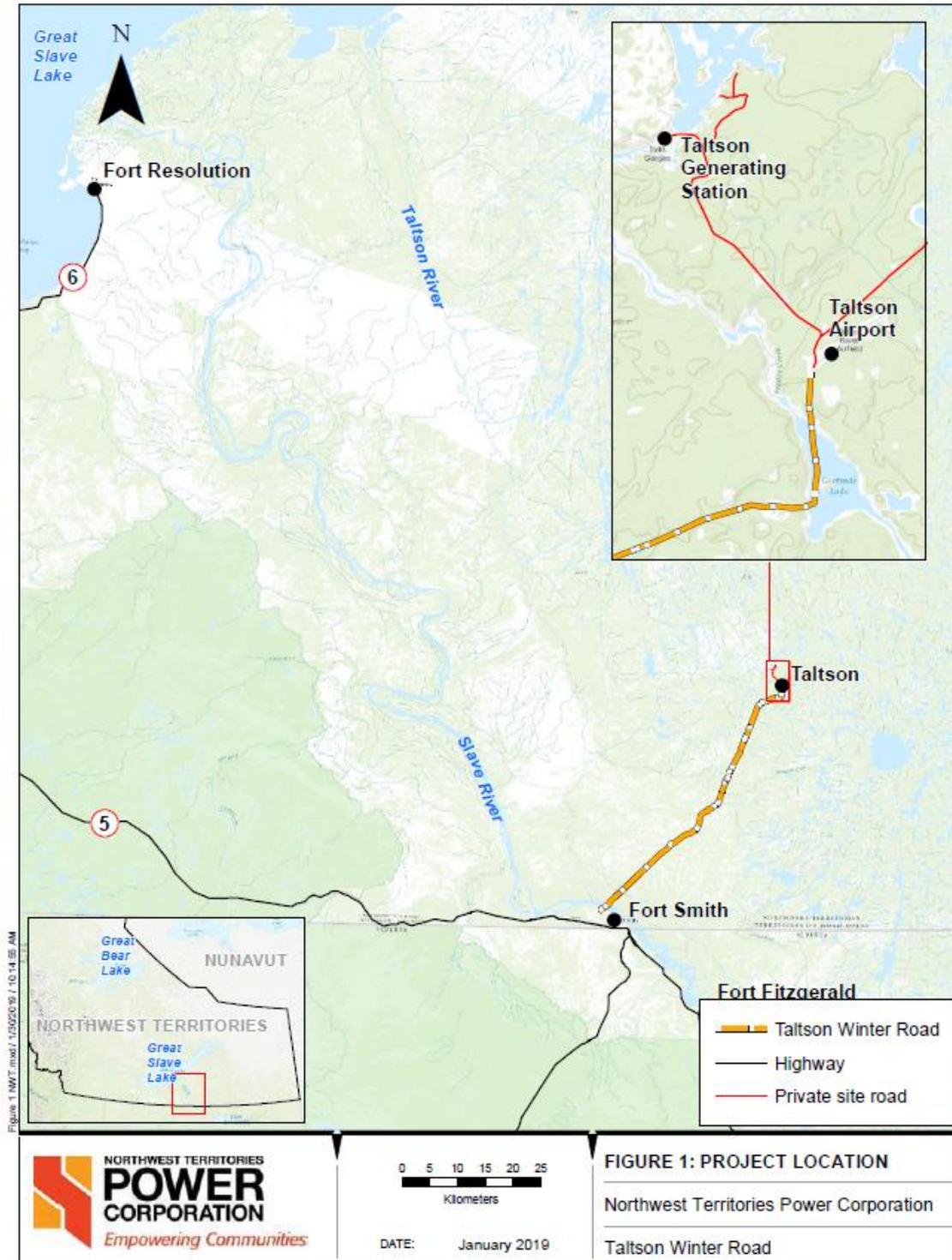
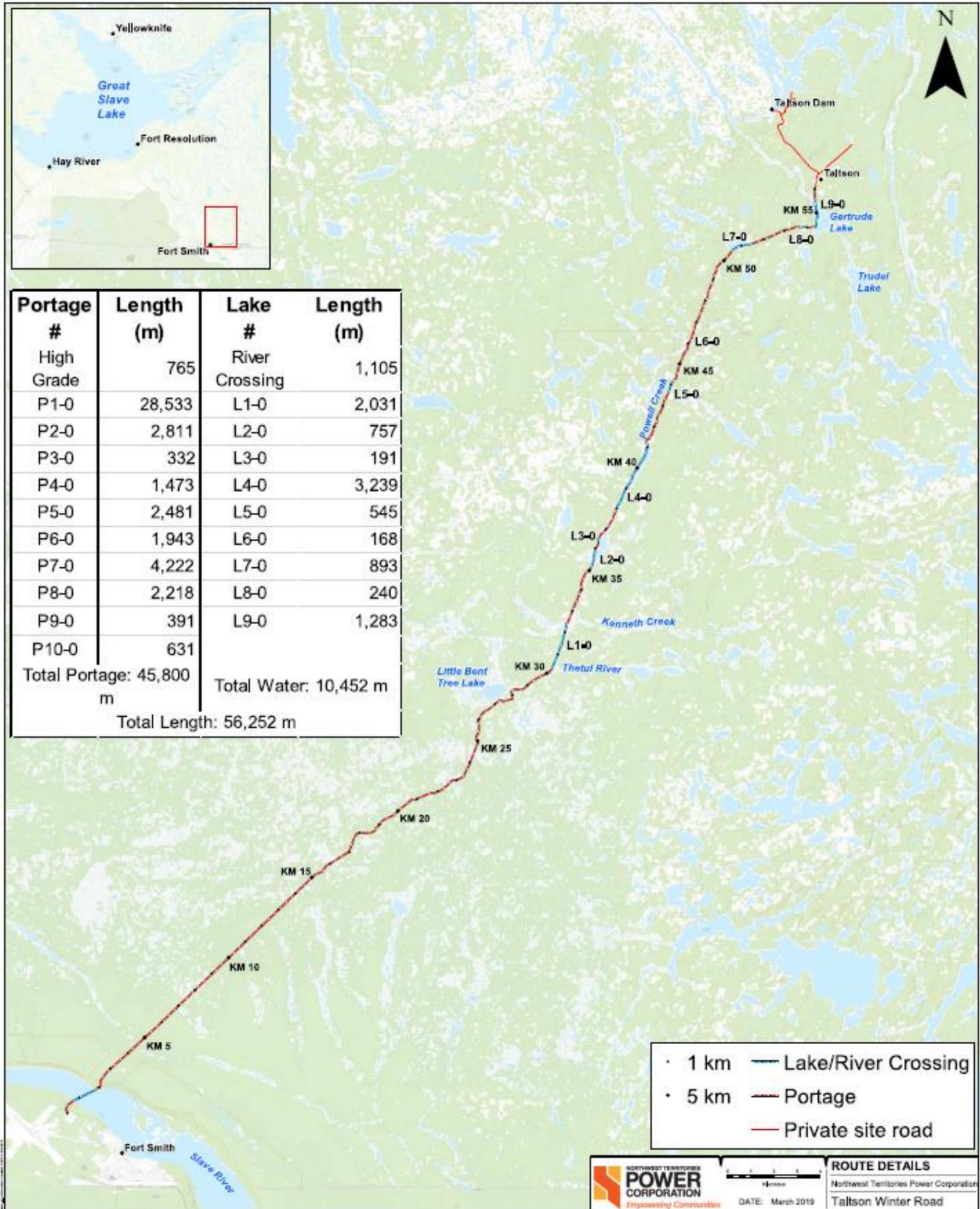


Figure 2: Taltson Winter Road Details



1.3 CORPORATE CONTACT INFORMATION

NTPC contact information for the Taltson winter road water licence and 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 Taltson WR will follow the engagement framework that NTPC follows for the Taltson Facility which is regulated under MVLWB water licence MV2011L4-0002.

NTPC will ensure all reporting requirements under the WR land-use permit and water licence are met. Annual reports of water usage, operational upgrades, environmental work and revisions to standard operating procedures will be submitted to the MVLWB. The Government of Northwest Territories Department of Environment and Natural Resources will complete inspections under the water licence and 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);
 - Email alerts (<http://ntpc.com/safety-outages/outage-alert-signup>);
- 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.

Public engagement regarding the Taltson WR will employ the above practices of engagement as well.

4 LICENCE APPLICATION ENGAGEMENT

As part of the WR water licence and land-use permit application process and throughout the life of the licence and 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 and water licence 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 WR

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 B Water Licence and Type A Land-Use Permit for Taltson Winter Road near Fort Smith, NT	Refer to Table 4-2	Email with corresponding letter with application information including map of road, phone calls, in-person meetings	January 2019 - April 2019
Public Information Sessions	To inform parties of details of Type B Water Licence and Type A Land-Use Permit for Taltson Winter Road and to accept input from public on application.	Refer to Table 4-2	Public Information Session in Yellowknife (advertised through newspapers, Facebook and Twitter) With specific parties upon request	March 2019
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	Application will be submitted by April 18, 2019
Start of construction on Taltson Winter Road	Inform parties that construction on Winter Road has started but road is closed to public.	Refer to Table 4-2	Email information for road. Will also be advertised through newspapers, Facebook and Twitter	November/ December of each year road is in operation
Opening of Taltson Winter Road	Inform parties that Winter Road is open and of weight limits and radio call in requirements.	Refer to Table 4-2	Email with information for road. Will also be advertised through newspapers, Facebook and Twitter	January/ February of each year road is in operation
Closing of Taltson Winter Road	Inform parties that Winter Road is Closed	Refer to Table 4-2	Email with road closure information. Will also be advertised through newspapers, Facebook and Twitter	March/ April of each year road is in operation
Water licence/land-use permit issuance, amendment, extension or assignment	Inform parties of possible changes to the water licence or 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 operations	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 Taltson WR land-use permit and water licence application. These parties and organizations are presented in Table 4-2.

Table 4-2: Parties to be Engaged

Organization
Akaitcho IMA Implementation Office
Dene Nation
Deninu K'ue First Nation
Fort Resolution Metis Council
Fort Smith Metis Council
GNWT - ENR - South Slave Region - Fort Smith
GNWT - INF
GNWT - Lands - South Slave Region - Fort Smith
Hamlet of Fort Resolution
Katlodeeche 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.