



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
POWER
CORPORATION**

Empowering Communities

SNARE HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY

LAND USE ENGAGEMENT PLAN

**SNARE HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY
SNARE RIVER, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

October 2021

DOCUMENT MAINTENANCE AND CONTROL

The Senior Environmental Licensing Specialist 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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TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 SNARE HYDRO FACILITY	1
1.2 CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITES	2
1.2.1 Winter Roads.....	2
1.2.2 Quarries, Borrow and Storage Locations	3
1.2.3 Operation of Temporary Camps and Fuel Storage	3
1.2.4 Snare Falls Substation	3
1.2.5 Miscellaneous Construction Activities.....	4
1.3 CORPORATE CONTACT INFORMATION.....	8
2 OBJECTIVES	9
3 OPERATIONAL ENGAGEMENT	10
4 LUP APPLICATION ENGAGEMENT	11
4.1 ENGAGEMENT TRIGGERS	11
4.2 PARTIES TO BE ENGAGED	13
5 FOLLOW-UP REPORTING	14
5.1 ENGAGEMENT RECORD	14
6 COMMUNICATING THE PLAN	15
7 PLAN REVIEW.....	16

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2-1: Engagement Objective and Commitments.....	9
Table 4-1: Engagement Structure for Snare LUP	12
Table 4-2: Parties to be Engaged.....	13

Figures

- Figure 1. Snare hydroelectric system map
- Figure 2. Snare Hydro Quarries, Winter Roads and Transmission Lines
- Figure 3. Temporary Overflow Camps and Fuel Storage Locations

1 INTRODUCTION

This Engagement Plan provides an engagement framework for the proposed Snare Hydro Site Wide Land Use Permit. The Northwest Territories Power Corporation (NTPC) owns and operates the Snare Hydroelectric Facility (Snare Hydro) located on the Snare River, approximately 145 km northwest of Yellowknife, NT. The facility includes four hydro generation stations that provide power to the North Slave communities of Yellowknife, Behchokò, Dettah and N'Dilo along with the power generated by the Bluefish Hydroelectric Facility.

Snare Hydro currently operates under three Type A Land Use Permits (LUP) from the Wek' èezhii Land and Water Board (WLWB) for the construction and operation of the winter roads (WR's) and quarry and borrow sites. In the fall of 2021 NTPC intends to apply for a site-wide Type A LUP that will consolidate the current LUP's for Snare Hydro under one permit. This consolidated LUP will increase efficiencies for all regulatory undertakings related to land use at Snare Hydro, improving processes and interactions for the WLWB, GNWT Lands Inspectors, NTPC and all Snare Hydro stakeholders moving forward.

Snare Hydro operates under two Type A Water Licenses (WL) from the WLWB. These WL regulate the storage and use of water to generate power for the hydro generation units contained within the facility. WLWB Type A WL N1L4-0150 regulates Snare Rapids, Snare Falls and Snare Forks. WLWB Type A WL W2014L4-0001 regulates Snare Cascades which is owned by Dogrib Power Corp and operated by NTPC.

NTPC currently holds Engagement Plans under the WL's and the existing LUP's. The existing Engagement Plans were referenced to prepare the Snare Land Use Engagement Plan. 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 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. It will be used in conjunction with the Engagement Plan's that are in place for Snare WL's N1L4-0150 and W2014L4-0001 as well.

1.1 SNARE HYDRO FACILITY

The Snare Hydroelectric System comprises four power stations in cascade:

- Snare Rapids;
- Snare Falls;
- Snare Cascades, and
- Snare Forks.

Snare Rapids is the most upstream facility followed by Snare Falls, approximately 16 km downstream. The Snare Cascades station is located approximately 3 km downstream of Snare Falls while Snare Forks is located approximately 11 km downstream of Snare Cascades. The four hydroelectric sites and associated facilities are presented in Figure 1.

The Snare Hydroelectric System is a remote facility that is air access only for most of the year and has winter road access for some of the winter months. Air access to the facility is available year round and personnel and freight are delivered to the facility by aircraft which land on Big Spruce Lake and at the all-weather landing strip located near Snare Falls. The four Snare plants are connected by an all weather road and air access to the Facility is available year round.

1.2 CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

NTPC is applying for a Type A Land Use Permit to combine the existing land use permits under one site-wide permit and include upcoming activities at Snare Hydro Facility over the next 5 years that may trigger a Land Use Permit requirement. The existing and proposed land use activities to be included in the permit application are discussed in the following sections.

1.2.1 Winter Roads

Snare Hydro is air access only for most of the year, and relies on the annual construction, operation, and maintenance of the Snare Winter Road (WR) from Snare Forks to Wekweèti Winter Road Junction, linking the facility to Yellowknife via NWT Highway #3 to allow access for resupply of fuel, oversized equipment, and freight to be delivered to site. The Snare Winter Road operates under the Land Use Permit W2014F0002, which expires October 26, 2021. In addition to the Snare Winter Road, three additional winter roads are planned to be included in the Site Wide Land Use Permit:

- Strutt Lake WR connecting to three existing aggregate pits. This road is constructed as required, when crushing is completed at Strutt Lake Pits every 4-8 years. This winter road is authorized under Land Use Permit W2019Q0003, which expires on December 18, 2024.
- The Big Spruce Lake WR connecting Snare rapids to the Side Dams, and Snare 5B Spillway. The road is constructed every 10-20 years when major maintenance work is required at 5B or Side Dams. There is also a Big Spruce Lake WR 2 route that connects the side dams on Big Spruce Lake to the Snare site road using portages and local inland lakes. The Big Spruce Lake WR 2 route would be used if ice conditions on Big Spruce Lake were not sufficient for WR construction.
- The 5B Bridge route that will be constructed as a contingency route in the event that the 5B Bridge fails.

1.2.2 Quarries, Borrow and Storage Locations

Materials from 10 existing historical quarries and/or borrow locations across Snare Hydro will be excavated as required for future construction, resurfacing, upgrades and maintenance at the Snare Hydro Facility. All locations are existing historical borrow locations used intermittently since 1948 throughout the operation of the facility. Blasting would only occur at Snare Forks Rocks Quarry. Excavated aggregate will be stockpiled as needed at quarry and/or borrow locations, or alongside roadways or construction sites for blending and utilizing. In addition, there will be 4 designated stockpiles, storage and/or laydown locations at Snare Cascades Stockpile, KM 28, Snare Forks Laydown and the Wekweèti winter road junction.

Minimal vegetation clearing, overburden removal and/or disturbance to wildlife is expected throughout the quarrying, as all borrow locations have minimal overburden and vegetation present as they are historical borrow locations that have been used throughout the operation of the facility. Minor vegetation and overburden removal will be completed around the edges of the existing borrow locations when required. Acid Rock Drainage Testing for all Snare borrow locations and quarries will be completed as part of permit application.

The general location of the quarries, borrow and storage locations are shown in Figure 2 and Figure 3.

1.2.3 Operation of Temporary Camps and Fuel Storage

To accommodate additional personnel, 9 potential locations for temporary camps have been identified within quarry/borrow locations and at the start and end of the Snare WR. These proposed locations are presented in Figure 3. Temporary camps will be project specific and used as contingency only if resourcing levels exceed the capacity of the main camp. These camps may include accommodations, offices, washroom facilities, fuel and waste storage. Temporary camps would have a capacity of 4 to 20 people. All management plans and standard procedures for the Snare Land Use Permit would also apply to the overflow camps

Temporary fuel storage has been included to support any of the temporary camps or locations where crushing would take place but only used when required. Each location would include:

- 1 60,000L double walled diesel tank or another acceptable container for the storage of hydrocarbons.
- 1 double walled 1000L gas tank

1.2.4 Snare Falls Substation

The existing substation at the Snare Falls Generating Station will be relocated approximately 70 m southeast of its current location and a new access road, 50 m in length and 6 m wide, will be constructed to link the existing road to the new substation. In addition, pole structures will be

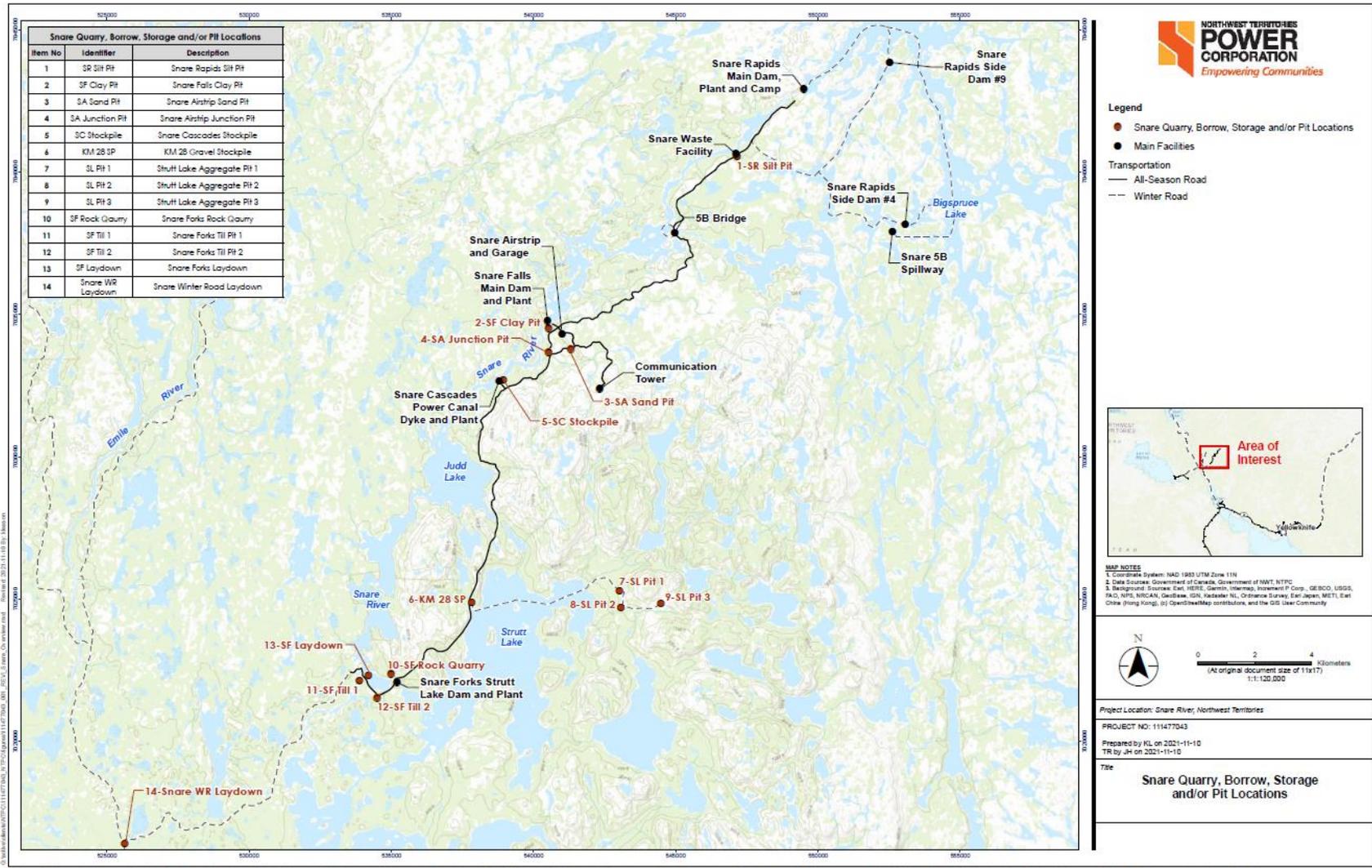
relocated and/or replaced to accommodate the new location. The area of the new substation will be approximately 475 m².

1.2.5 Miscellaneous Construction Activities

In addition to the above noted land use activities, the following upcoming activities are included under this permit application:

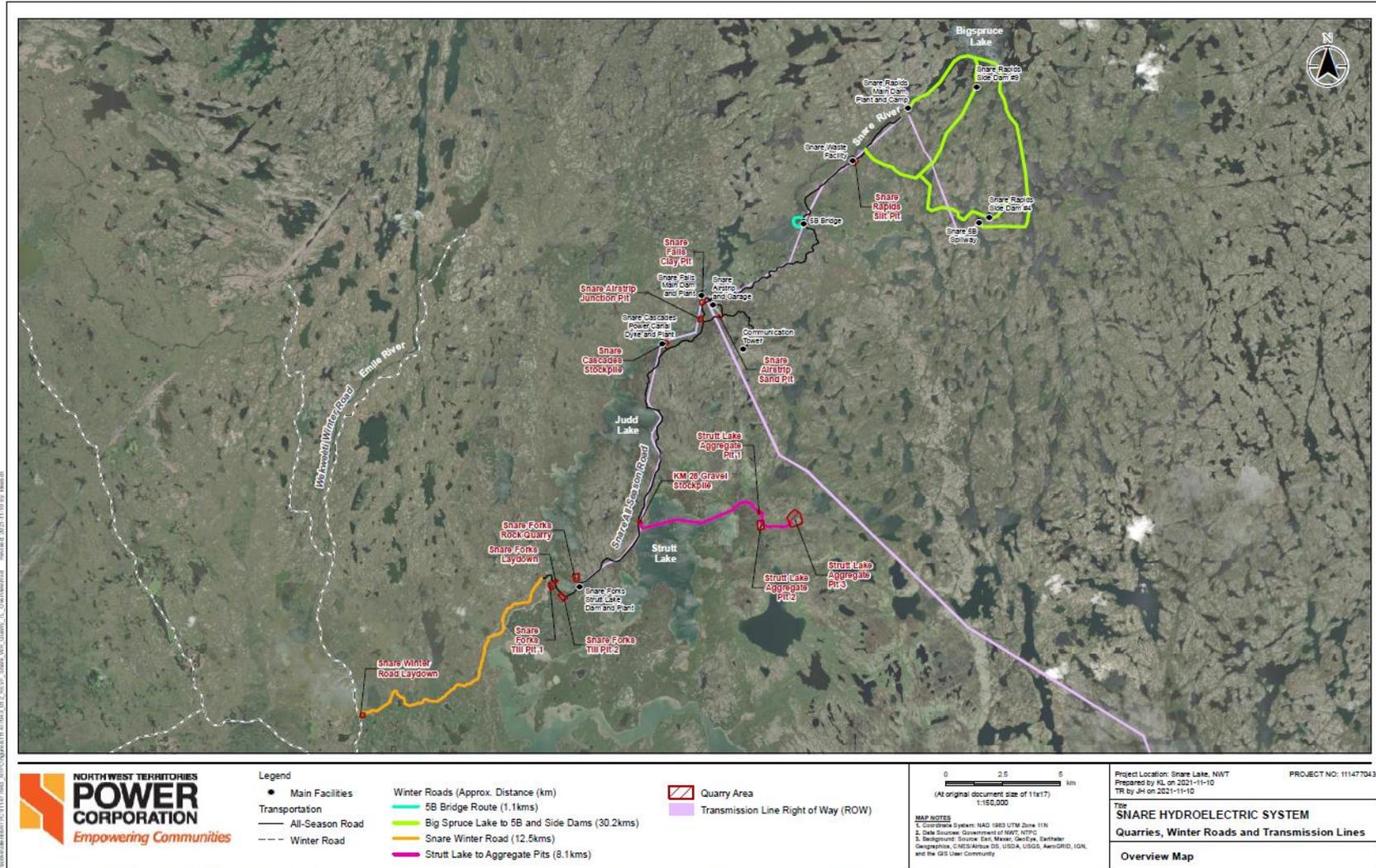
- Minor clearing for access roads and access to transmission lines for maintenance.
- Use of heavy equipment not on an existing Right-of-Way, including but not limited to:
 - Maintenance of site roads.
 - Maintenance of transmission infrastructure.
 - Maintenance of dams and side dams.
- Major civil works and construction upgrades over the next 5 years.

Figure 1: Snare hydroelectric system map.



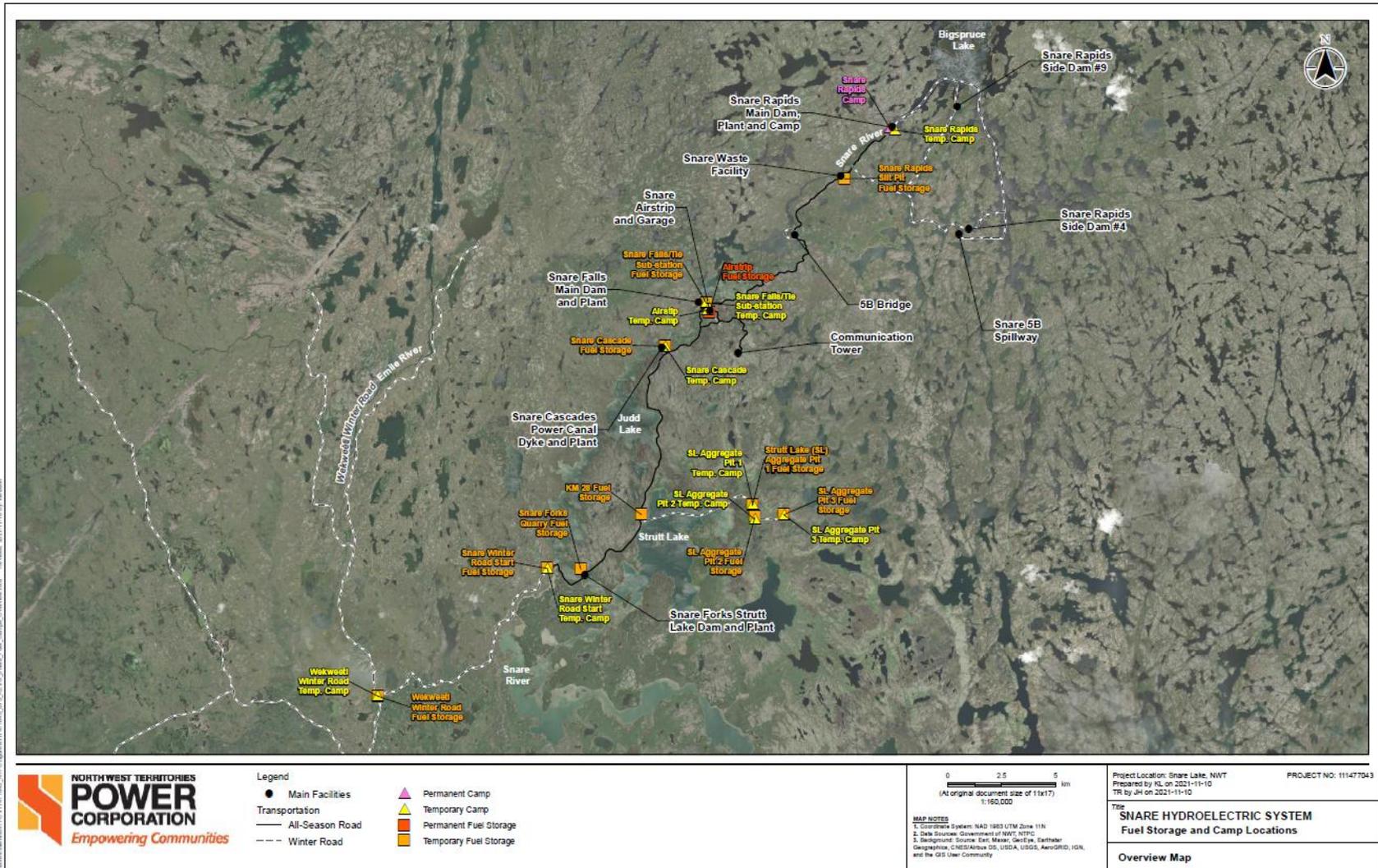
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Figure 2 Snare Hydro Quarries, Winter Roads and Transmission Lines



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Figure 3 Temporary Overflow Camps and Fuel Storage Locations



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1.3 CORPORATE CONTACT INFORMATION

NTPC contact information for the Snare Hydro LUP 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 Snare Hydro Site Wide Land Use Permit will follow the engagement framework laid out in the MVLWB Engagement and Consultation Policy (2013). 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 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);
 - Email alerts (<http://ntpc.com/safety-outages/outage-alert-signup>);
- 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.

Public engagement regarding the Snare Hydro Site Wide Land Use will employ the above practices of engagement as well.

4 LUP APPLICATION ENGAGEMENT

As part of the 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 WLWB.

Table 4-1: Engagement Structure for Snare LUP

Engagement Trigger	Purpose for Engagement	Organization to be Engaged	Format of Engagement	Approximate Date
Pre-Application Engagement	To inform parties of details of Type A Land-Use Permit for Snare Hydro and to accept input from public on application.	Refer to Table 4-2	-Email with Notification letter outlining details for Snare Hydro Site Wide Land Use Permit Application. -Information package outlining details of application. - Engagement meetings to review scope of application.	September, October 2021
Application submitted to the WLWB	Inform parties of how to stay engaged through the WLWB process	Refer to Table 4-2	Email with link to the WLWB Public Registry site with the complete application	Application will be submitted by November 2021
Any operational changes outside of normal operation procedures outlined in application and LUP	Inform parties of operating conditions outside of normal operation procedures outlined in application and LUP.	Refer to Table 4-2	Emails and/or phone calls	As required
Application to MVLWB for LUP amendment, extension or assignment	Inform parties of possible changes to the LUP	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 Snare Facility and LUP	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 Snare Hydro Land Site Wide Land Use in accordance with the WLWB - Wekeezhii WEST Pre-Submission Engagement Contact List. These parties and organizations are presented in Table 4-2.

Table 4-2: Parties to be Engaged

Organization
Tłı̄chǫ Government- Lands Regulation.
Tłı̄chǫ Government- Mines Liaison Coordinator
Tłı̄chǫ Government- Lands Protection
North Slave Métis Alliance
Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board
GNWT – Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre
GNWT – Department of Lands
Wildlife Biologist, Environmental Assessment/Habitat Environment and Natural Resources

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.

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 WLWB.