



PO Box 32, Wekweètì NT X0E 1W0
Tel: 867-713-2500 Fax: 867-713-2502

#1-4905 48th Street, Yellowknife NT X1A 3S3
Tel: 867-765-4592 Fax: 867-765-4593
www.wlwb.ca

Work Plan

File Number	W2023L4-0001
Applicant	Northwest Territories Power Corporation (NTPC)
Project	Snare Hydroelectric Facility – Water Licence Renewal Application
Location	Snare River, NT
Activity	Power
Date of Work Plan	September 15, 2023
Work Plan Version	Version 2

Purpose of the Work Plan

To outline the processes and timelines to be followed for this regulatory proceeding.

Background

On June 29, 2023, the Applicant submitted a Renewal Application for its type A Water Licences N1L4-0150 and W2014L4-0001 (Licences) (the Application Package) to the Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board (Board). On July 10, 2023, the Application Package was deemed complete.

Scope of the Project

The scope of the Project includes the already licenced hydroelectric generation plants and associated structures at Snare Rapids, Snare Falls, and Snare Forks (currently under Water Licence N1L4-0150), as well as Snare Cascades (currently under Water Licence W2014L4-0004). NTPC is applying to combine the authorizations for the facilities into one Water Licence as outlined in the Application Package.

Guiding Principles

The following principles will guide the Board's regulatory proceeding:

- The Board will carry out the regulatory proceeding in a timely manner and in accordance with the Boards' [Rules of Procedure](#);
- The Board shall consider the impacts of the proposed Project on and the importance of conservation to the wellbeing and way of life of the Indigenous peoples of Canada (section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*);

- The Board will review the Application Package and develop the licence based on the evidence and rationale submitted by the Applicant and other Parties; and
- The Board will develop the licence in accordance with the Board’s mandate and applicable policies to ensure protection of the environment and, where possible, consistency in decision-making throughout the Mackenzie Valley.

Work Plan Objectives

The Work Plan objectives are:

- Compile a broad range of input through the review process;
- Ensure adequate information is gathered to complete the Board’s regulatory proceeding; and
- Facilitate a thorough, inclusive, and timely regulatory proceeding.

Opportunities for Community Engagement

- The Board requires the Applicant to engage with potentially affected parties – including communities and Indigenous organizations and governments – regarding the Application Package prior to submission;
- The Board will distribute the Application Package, a draft Work Plan, and a draft Licence for public review using the LWB Online Review System (ORS);
- The Board will place a notification(s) regarding the review process in the newspaper;
- The Board will coordinate a technical session to address specific issues that require more focused review and discussion;
- The Board will hold a public hearing and will place a notification regarding the hearing in the newspaper; and
- The Board will hold any other consultation or engagement activity that the Board considers appropriate.

Regulatory Proceeding Timelines

Subsection 47(1) of the *Waters Act* requires the Board to make a decision on a water licence application within a period of nine months after the day on which an application is deemed complete and the review process begins. Based on section 28 of the *Federal Interpretation Act*, this is equivalent to 275 calendar days. The Board’s day count stops whenever the Board requires the Applicant to provide information for the regulatory proceeding to continue (signified by the red shading in the table below). Once that information has been provided, the Board’s day count resumes (signified by the green shading in the table below). Significant milestones have also been bolded in the table below.

The Work Plan table below sets out the main process steps and indicates the responsible Party and the anticipated completion date for each item.

Work Plan

Task	Responsible Party	Date Due (Date Completed)
Application Package Submitted	Applicant	Thursday, June 29, 2023
Application Package Complete and Distributed for Review with Draft Work Plan	Board staff	Monday, July 10, 2023
Deadline for Comments on Draft Work Plan	All Parties	Monday, July 24, 2023
Deadline for Comments on Application Package and for Notices of Compensation Claims	Reviewers	Monday, August 14, 2023
Deadline for Applicant's Responses to Comments	Applicant	Monday, August 28, 2023
Preliminary Screening Determination	Board	September, 2023
Technical Session	All Parties [Yellowknife/Zoom]	Tuesday September 26, 2023
Distribute Technical Session Information Requests	Board Staff	Thursday, September 28, 2023
Deadline for Responses to Information Requests	All Parties	Thursday, October 05, 2023
Pre-Hearing Conference	All Parties [WLWB Office/Zoom]	Monday, October 16, 2023
Deadline for Interventions and for Compensation Claims	Interveners and Compensation Claimants	Wednesday, November 01, 2023
Deadline for Applicant's Response to Interventions	Applicant	Monday, November 13, 2023
Deadline for Interveners' Public Hearing Presentations	Interveners	Monday, November 20, 2023
Deadline for Applicant's Public Hearing Presentation	Applicant	Wednesday, November 22, 2023
Public Hearing	All Parties [Behchokò]	Tuesday – Wednesday, November 28-29, 2023
Distribute Public Hearing Undertakings	Board Staff	Thursday, November 30, 2023
Deadline for Response to Public Hearing Undertakings	All Parties	Thursday, December 7, 2023
Draft Licence Distributed for Review	Board Staff	Thursday, January 11, 2024

Task	Responsible Party	Date Due (Date Completed)
Deadline for Comments on Draft Licence	Reviewers	Thursday, January 25, 2024
Deadline for Applicant’s Comments on Draft Licence	Applicant	Thursday, February 01, 2024
Deadline for Closing Arguments	Reviewers	Thursday, February 08, 2024
Deadline for Applicant’s Closing Arguments	Applicant	Thursday, February 15, 2024
Board Meeting	Board	March 2023
Board Recommendation to the Minister	Board	Early April 2023
Minister’s Decision	Minister	Up to 90 days

Please note that the Work Plan has been created based on the information available and is subject to change at any time.

Work Plan Revision History

Version	Date	Rationale for Revision
1	July 25, 2023	To remove “Draft” watermark.
2	September 15, 2023	Removed the second day for the Technical Session.