

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
9TH ASSEMBLY, 7TH SESSION**

TABLED DOCUMENT NO. 13-82(1)

TABLED ON FEBRUARY 12, 1982

Tabled Document No. 13-82(1)
Tabled February 12, 1982

NOTES REGARDING THE OPERATIONS
OF NORTHERN CANADA POWER
COMMISSION IN FIELD, BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Legislative Assembly
Government of the Northwest
Territories

Research Officer: David Gladders
Date: February 12, 1982

1. Summary of Telephone Conversation, Thursday, February 11, 1982 with IAN DONALDSON, Parks Canada employee representing 60-70 of the approximately 80 residents of Field, British Columbia.

Field, British Columbia is located on the Trans Canada Highway, in Yoho National Park, near the Alberta/B.C. boundary line.

In October of 1981, Mr. Donaldson started inquiries into the price of electricity charged by the Northern Canada Power Commission to residential consumers in Field. As of yesterday's date, Mr. Donaldson stated that residents in that community were being charged 18.5¢/k.w.h. and a supposed increase is to come into effect March 26, 1982, which will increase residential rates by 15.2% plus 2.95¢/k.w.h. which will bring the rate up to 23¢/k.w.h.

Hydro consumers in other British Columbia communities pay approximately 4.9¢/k.w.h. for the first 500 k.w.h. with the price dropping to approximately 3.5¢/k.w.h. for usage above 500 k.w.h. (Mr. Donaldson couldn't give precise figures as his research material was at his home. He was contacted at a Parks meeting in Revelstoke and wasn't returning to Field until the evening of February 12, 1982.) Power rates in B.C. are equalized throughout the system including those 18 communities receiving power from diesel generators.

Meetings held in February with Social Credit B.C. cabinet ministers (Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, Robert McClelland; Minister of Lands, Parks and Housing, James Shabot who is also the M.L.A. for the riding of Columbia River where Field is located) resulted in his being informed that the problem is a Federal matter as the community is located in a National Park. The Federal Minister of the Environment, Mr. John Roberts advised no subsidy was possible because of the danger of setting a precedent.

As a result residents in Field have refused to pay their last two power bills, the money has instead been deposited in a Trust Account. For the first of the two boycotted periods, 60 residents deposited funds in the account, and for the second period 70 consumers made deposits.

Field receives power from N.C.P.C. because of a 1959 decision of the Federal government necessitated by C.P.R. opting out of providing electric power to communities on the railway line. At that time West Kootney Power and B.C. Hydro were unable to provide electricity to the community. Mr. Ian Donaldson can be reached in Field, B.C. at 1-604-343-6385 (home), or 1-604-343-6324 (office).

2. Summary of Telephone Conversation, Friday, February 12, 1982 with Mr. Marcus Simpson, Rate Design and Administration Supervisor for Power Rates, B.C. Hydro, Vancouver, British Columbia, 1-604-663-3645.

Residential Rates on:

- (a) Integrated Service Area: Hydro generated.

: Basic Service charge of \$5.00 for a two month period if you use less than 500 k.w.h.

: first 500 k.w.h. the rate is 4.903¢/k.w.h.

above 500 k.w.h. the rate is 3.403¢/k.w.h.

- (b) Diesel Serviced Area

: Basic Service charge again \$5.00 for two month period.

: first 550 k.w.h. - 4.5¢/k.w.h.

additional use up to a maximum of 3000 k.w.h. the rate is 3¢/k.w.h.

Anything above 3000 k.w.h. is charged at 5.5¢/k.w.h.

NOTE: Diesel areas are subsidized by the Integrated System for both political reasons and because of the water licensing system in British Columbia.

3. Summary of Telephone conversation Friday, February 12, 1982 with Mr. Bill Christie, Northern Canada Power Commission, Edmonton, Alberta, 1-465-3377.

the current rates charged for Domestic/Residential consumers in Field,
B.C. (Diesel generated)

(a) Domestic Non-Government:

- minimum bill \$4.00/month
- Rate: 12.4¢/k.w.h. - basic rate
 6.03¢/k.w.h. - fuel clause adjustment
 18.43¢/k.w.h.

(b) Domestic - Governments:

- minimum bill \$4.00/month
- Rate: 17.6¢/k.w.h.
 6.034¢/k.w.h.
 23.634¢/k.w.h.