

Sahtu Hydro Symposium

Final Report

February 16-17, 2010
Déline, NT



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Host

The Symposium was hosted by the Déline Land Corporation and held at the Déline Cultural Center.

Sponsors

The Déline Land Corporation would like to thank the main sponsor of the Symposium, the NWT Energy Corporation (03) Ltd for providing the funding that made the Symposium possible.

Participants

The Déline Land Corporation was pleased with the tremendous turnout we had for the Symposium. The Symposium included representatives from the following Sahtu organizations (a full listing of delegates is included as Appendix A):

- Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated
- Sahtu Dene Council
- Déline First Nation
- Déline Land Corporation (Host)
- Kasho Got'ine Charter Community
- Yamoga Land Corporation
- Fort Good Hope Metis Land Corporation
- Behdzi Ahda First Nation
- Ayoni Keh Land Corporation
- Tulita Dene Band
- Tulita Land and Financial Corporation
- Fort Norman Metis Land Corporation
- Norman Wells Land Corporation

Other participants included representatives from the NWT Energy Corporation (03) Ltd., Northwest Hydro Corporation, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment and Sigma Engineering. Many other residents of Déline attended and participated in the Symposium, including many elders and youth.

The Déline Land Corporation would also like to thank Danny Gaudet and Dolphus Tutcho who agreed to serve as Co-Chairs for the Symposium. Richard Bargery and Danny McNeely worked as staff to organize the Symposium. The Déline Land Corporation would also like to thank their staff, the staff of the Grey Goose Lodge for their hard work in making the Symposium a success.

Summary of Symposium Discussions

The meeting began with an opening prayer by a Déline elder.

The Symposium heard welcoming remarks from the Chief of the Déline First Nation, President of the Déline Land Corporation, Chair of the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated and the Grand Chief of the Sahtu Dene Council.

Co-Chairs provided an overview of issue with hydro in Déline from their perspective – high cost, community based rates, no ownership. These are reasons Déline pursued its own mini-hydro project.

Richard Bargery and Peter Lennie-Misgeld provided a brief overview of the agenda and the objectives of the Symposium.

February 16th Discussions

Day 1 discussions focused on presentations delivered by officials representing the GNWT and NTEC. The following presentations (all presentations are included as appendices to this report) were made:

- Hydro Strategy and Renewable Energy (Scott Wray – ITI)
- NT Hydro Corporation (Peter Lennie-Misgeld – NTHC)
- Hydro Technology and Development (Vlado Cancar – Sigma Engineering)
- Overview of Sahtu Hydro Assessment (Vlado Cancar–Sigma Engineering)
- Case Studies NWT Hydro Projects
 - Lutsel’ke Mini-Hydro (Andrew Stewart – NTEC)
 - Taltson Expansion Project (Dan Grabke – NTEC)
 - Fort Simpson Pilot Project (Peter Lennie-Misgeld – on behalf of NTPC)

Comments and Issues

- The community of Deline has been working on hydro for a long time and the community knows the Great Bear River has a lot of hydro potential. It is important to share information and work together as the Sahtu region considers hydro and renewable energy development.

- Hydro symposium is a good example of how face to face discussions and information sharing can be done with communities. Future meetings/consultations should be held in a similar way.
- If hydro development moves forward in the Sahtu region, ownership structure must include the Sahtu.
- The price of diesel generated power in Deline and Sahtu communities is high, and development of hydro combined with Sahtu partnership/ownership in hydro and renewable energy projects may help to reduce power costs for businesses and residents.
- Hydro projects take a long time to develop and it is not a quick fix for diesel generated power. Extensive engineering, environmental, economic and community work has to be done before a project can be constructed. It often takes 5-10 years before projects become a reality.
- The opportunity to consider hydro development on a variety of levels, from small scale local community projects up to larger scale projects to serve the broader Sahtu region, all scales of hydro development need similar baseline information about impacts on the fish, water and habitat and on the benefits in order to be evaluated properly.

February 17th Discussions

Comments and Issues

On day 2, delegates had a roundtable discussion of the information provided the previous day. The primary focus of the discussion was on the Sahtu Hydro Assessment and the potential for hydro in the Sahtu.

- At this time, the oil and gas and mining sectors are not active in the Sahtu and the economy in the region has felt the impacts. People living in the region have a high cost of living and new ways to reduce the cost of living should be considered.
- The Sahtu region should be providing input into hydro and renewable energy projects. More meetings or workshops should be held to help people understand hydro and renewable energy.
- NTPC has a monopoly for selling power to Sahtu residents and elders and residents cannot often afford to pay high power rates.

- The population of the Sahtu region has increased compared to earlier days. The lifestyle of people living in the region has changed and future generations and their power requirements need to be considered.
- NT Hydro and NT Energy Corporations are not at the workshop to have a discussion about developing a specific project in the Sahtu region right now. Areas of hydro potential need to be identified and environmental and traditional knowledge information collected now in order to prepare for any future hydro development.
- Many delegates noted that the assessment done by Sigma focused mostly on work that was done in the 1970's. There was a general view that this work needed to be updated. Specifically, delegates were interested in seeing more immediate work done on key issues such as fish studies, potential environment issues and an updated economic analysis of projects such as the Bear River.
- While delegates were open to the potential of pursuing larger-scale hydro development in the Sahtu, it was on the understanding that a great deal more work on key concerns and much more consultations must occur with communities.
- Delegates agreed that communities may also want to pursue specific community projects:
 - Déline is working on a mini-hydro project on Bear River;
 - Tulita has recently approached the NTEC about undertaking hydrology studies on the Willow (Brackett) River to determine its feasibility for a small hydro project;
 - Other communities wanted to explore potential for small hydro development or other alternative energy projects.
- Many delegates made the point that it was important that any development minimize the impact on the environment. Delegates had a great deal of interest in run of river technology for hydro development in the Sahtu.
- Delegates from all communities raised issues about electrical rates in their communities. Delegates raised issues about the high cost of electricity, disconnect notices that people, often elders, received from the NTPC. Many delegates said that these costs were a good basis for communities and the

region to look at new energy options for the region, including hydro development and other alternative options.

- It was noted that the implementation of new rate zones as recommended in the Northwest Territories Electricity Working Group Report would mean lower electricity rates in the Sahtu.
- Many delegates noted that there needed to be a better understanding in communities about the programs that are currently available. It was suggested that community workshops that focused on hydro potential and alternative energy options for the regions, particularly the potential for solar or wind energy projects.

Next Steps and Outcomes

The Co-Chairs wrapped up discussions on Day 2 by providing an overview of the discussions. Delegates reviewed and accepted the following recommendations:

1. Establishment of a Sahtu Regional Working Group on Hydro

Delegates recommended that a Sahtu Regional Working Group on Hydro be established to review and report on community and regional priorities. The Working Group should be comprised of one representative from each of the following organizations:

- Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated
- Sahtu Dene Council
- Déline First Nation
- Déline Land Corporation (Host)
- Kasho Got'ine Charter Community
- Yamoga Land Corporation
- Fort Good Hope Metis Land Corporation
- Behdzi Ahda First Nation
- Ayoni Keh Land Corporation
- Tulita Dene Band
- Tulita Land and Financial Corporation
- Fort Norman Metis Land Corporation
- Norman Wells Land Corporation

The Working Group should also select one elder from each community to provide advice and traditional knowledge.

Delegates asked the Northwest Territories Hydro Corporation to prepare a draft Terms of Reference for the working group to be reviewed at its first meeting.

2. Community Workshops

Many delegates noted that the information provided during the Symposium was very useful and should be provided in similar format in each Sahtu community. Delegates requested that the Northwest Territories Energy Corporation provide \$20,000 to each community to host a similar type of workshop in each community for community residents.

The purpose of the workshops would be to provide more information on potential hydro developments in the Sahtu and on potential alternative energy options for communities.

3. Report to Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated Assembly in Déline in July

Delegates recommended that each community report back to the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated Assembly in Déline in July with an update on their priorities for hydro development and/or alternative energy options.

4. Second Sahtu Hydro Symposium

Delegates recommended that the Sahtu Regional Working Group on Hydro organize a second Sahtu Hydro Symposium to be held in August, 2010. The 2nd Sahtu Hydro Symposium would set regional and community priorities for hydro development and alternative energy projects to be provided to the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Northwest Territories Energy Corporation.

The Symposium finished with a closing prayer.

APPENDIX A

AGENDA

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

11:00 - 11:10 am Opening Prayer

11:10 - 11:20 am Introduction of Co-Chairs, Delegates and Guests

11:20 – Noon Welcoming Remarks

- Chief Raymond Tutcho, Déline First Nation
- President Peter Menacho, Déline Land Corporation
- Grand Chief Frank Andrew, Sahtu Dene Council
- Chairperson Ethel Blondin, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated

Noon – 1:00 pm Lunch

1:00 – 1:15 pm Overview (Objective of Workshop)

- Rick Bargery – Déline Land Corporation
- Peter Lennie-Misgeld – NT Hydro

1:15 - 1:45 pm Hydro Strategy and Renewable Energy (Presentations)

- Draft NWT Hydro Strategy – Industry Tourism and Investment Energy Planning, Scott Wray, GNWT
- NT Hydro Corporation – Peter Lennie-Misgeld, NT Hydro

1:45 - 2:30 pm Hydro Technology and Development (Sigma Engineering)

- Types of Hydro Technology
- Scales of Hydro (mini-hydro, small hydro, large hydro)
- Hydro in Canada
- Hydro Development Challenges and Opportunities
 - Long planning periods
 - Investments at risk
 - Cost
 - Environmental impacts
 - Business opportunities

2:30 - 3:00 pm Health Break

- 3:00 - 4:00 pm** Overview of Sahtu Hydro Assessment (Sigma Engineering)
- Potential Sahtu Hydro Sites
 - Community input and suggestions for investigation of other sites in Sahtu region
- 4:00 - 5:00 pm** Case Studies of NWT Hydro Projects
- Lutsel K'e Mini Hydro - Andrew Stewart, NWT Energy Corporation
 - Taltson Expansion Project - Dan Grabke, NWT Energy Corporation
 - Fort Simpson Pilot Project - Peter Lennie-Misgeld NT Hydro

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

- 9:00 - 9:10 am** Opening Prayer
- 9:10 - 9:30 am** Summary of Day 1 Results (Co-Chairs)
- 9:30 – 10:15 am** Roundtable Discussion on Hydro and Energy Alternatives
- 10:15 – 10:30 pm** **Health Break**
- 10:30 – 11:30 am** Roundtable Discussion - Is Hydro a potential option for sustainable energy development in the Sahtu Region? Are workshop participants interested in having future dialogue on Hydro Development?
- 11:30 – Noon** Next Steps
- Establishment of hydro/renewable Working Group?
 - Structure, Mandate
 - Timing
- Noon - 12:15 pm** Workshop Wrap-up and Outcomes
(Co-Chairs, Facilitator)
- 12:15 pm** Closing Prayer

APPENDIX B

List of Delegates

Co-Chairs

Dolphus Tutcho (Déline FN)
Danny Gaudet (Déline FN)

Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated

Chairperson Ethel Blondin – Andrew

Sahtu Dene Council

Grand Chief Frank Andrew

Déline First Nation

Chief Raymond Tutcho
John Yukon
Dolphus Baton
Andrew John Kenny
Charlie Neyelle
Russell Kenny (Déline Renewable
Resource Council)
Jimmy Dillon (Déline Renewable
Resource Council)

Michael Neyelle (translator)

Déline Land Corp (Host)

President Peter Menacho
Leonard Kenny

Richard Bargery (facilitator)

Kasho Got'ine Charter Community

Chief Arthur Tobac

Yamoga Land Corporation

President Edwin Erutse
Isadore Manuel

Fort Good Hope Metis Land Corp

Charles McNeely
Nora Allard

Behdzi Ahda First Nation

Joseph Kochon

John B. Gully

Ayoni Keh Land Corporation

George Oudzi
K. Gully

Tulita Dene Band

Chief Frank Andrew
Brian Menacho
Wade Karkayre

Tulita Land and Financial Corp

Vice-President Doug Yellee
Violet Wrigley
Joe Horassi
Fred Andrew Jr.
Morris Mendo

Fort Norman Metis Land Corporation

Dyanne Doctor
Wilfred Lenny

Norman Wells Land Corp

President Rodger Odgaard
Norman Hodgson (Norman Wells
Renewable Resource Council)
Valerie Yakeleya

NWT Energy Corp (03)

Dan Grabke
Andrew Stewart

Northwest Territories Hydro Corp

Peter Lennie-Misgeld

Industry, Tourism & Investment

Scott Wray
Leanne Taniton

Sigma Engineering

Vlado Cancar

