

Southern Lakes Enhancement Storage Concept

August 2012 Update



Work Done to Date

Yukon Energy initiated engineering, environmental and socio-economic studies for the Southern Lakes Enhancement Storage Concept in 2010. Most of the engineering work and environmental baseline data collection is now done. We have studied the following:

- How the Southern Lakes are connected and which lakes would be affected by holding more water during the fall (Marsh Lake, Tagish Lake and Bennett Lake).
- Whether the Lewes control structure can handle the additional water in the fall and winter months (the answer is yes).
- Where are the lake shores eroding and where could a higher water level in the fall increase erosion?
- What are the ice conditions on the lakes and the Yukon River
- Groundwater levels near the lakes, and elevations of septic fields, crawl spaces, etc. in relation to fall water levels
- Summary of known information on aquatic life
- Chinook spawning and rearing areas in the Yukon River
- Freshwater fish survey in the lakes and representative tributaries
- Lake trout spawning areas in Marsh, Tagish and Bennett Lakes
- Mapping of wetlands and their connections to the lakes and Yukon River at different water levels
- Aquatic mammals (beaver, muskrat) surveys, water fowl and shore bird surveys, ungulate survey, amphibian survey, rare plant survey
- Land ownership around each lake
- Community workshops on lake use, ground water, erosion, aquatic life



Ongoing Work

Yukon Energy's work is ongoing in these areas:

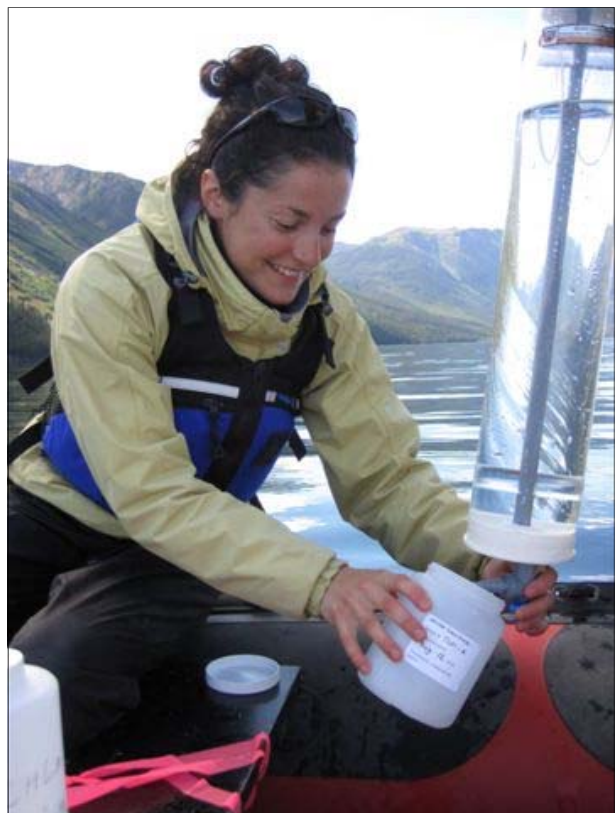
- Heritage assessment. Our archaeologist will go into the field next year with local First Nation people. The traditional knowledge and traditional lake use work will help selecting areas that need to be checked.
- More work on groundwater and how it might affect properties
- More work on erosion and how it might affect properties.
- More work on lake trout spawning.
- Ongoing First Nation and community discussion
- Environmental and socio economic effects assessment. Once we've finalized the baseline reports we need to look at the likely effects of the project.
- Determination of what if any technically and economically feasible mitigation measures are available to deal with any potential significant negative effects identified.



Decision Whether to Proceed

Later in 2013 when all the work described in this update is done and we have had a chance to explore the results and evaluation with governments, First Nations, NGOs and the interested public, Yukon Energy will have sufficient information to determine whether the Southern Lakes Storage Enhancement Concept is a viable project from an environmental, social and economic perspective.

If Yukon Energy decides to proceed with this as a project we will prepare a submission to the Yukon Environmental and Socio Economic Assessment Board along with making the necessary regulatory applications.



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