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The Yukon Electrical Company Limited
An **ATCO** Company

Backgrounder: Yukon-wide Electricity Conservation Plan

Context:

We expect unprecedented growth in Yukon over the next decade and with it, a large increase in our need for electricity. Electricity conservation plays a vital role in helping reduce that increased need and gives Yukoners a resource they can be a direct part of.

In 2009, Yukon Energy and the Yukon Electrical Company Limited received direction from the Yukon Utilities Board to consult with Yukoners and jointly develop a territory-wide electricity conservation/efficiency plan (otherwise known as a Demand Side Management or DSM plan). The utilities subsequently consulted with stakeholders and the public through events including public opinion polls and territory-wide public meetings to find out Yukoners' views about electricity conservation and what they were looking for in a plan.

It became clear that Yukoners want electricity conservation to be among the top choices in providing for the growing electricity demands of the territory. In response, Yukon Energy has included DSM as an integral component of its latest 20-year Resource Plan.

In 2011, Yukon Electrical Company Limited and Yukon Energy, along with the Yukon government, formed a DSM Steering Committee and Working Group. The shared goal was to work together for sustainable and secure electricity supply for Yukon. As an early step in their work, they commissioned a Conservation Potential Review. This report examined how Yukoners are currently using electricity, how much electricity they will use in the future with the expected growth in the territory and where the greatest gains might be in terms of electricity conservation/efficiencies. A summary of the report, as well as the full technical report, can be found on the websites of both utilities and of the Yukon government's Energy Solutions Centre.

The savings opportunities identified were then bundled into potential programs and each was subjected to further research specific to the Yukon market. This provided the details needed to design the specific programs and initiatives being presented in the plan.

Based on the results of the Conservation Potential Review and the follow-up research, the utilities have committed to saving 8.5 gigawatt hours of electricity in five years. Pending approval by the Yukon Utilities Board, the target will be met through various initiatives and programs administered and delivered by both utilities under the brand “inCharge”.

Summary of Programs/Initiatives:

The **residential program** consists of four program elements.

1. LED lighting and automotive heater timer rebates - the utilities will pay a flat amount of money per unit to shoppers after they purchase a timer for a block heater, car warmer, and/or battery blanket as well as LED lamps or fixtures selected from a list of eligible products.
2. Low cost energy efficient products – the utilities will prepare and disseminate information on products that generate electricity savings but do not have a perceptible price increment as compared with the baseline equipment. The utilities will disseminate information through point of purchase displays and brochures in retail stores, and through community engagement. Certain low-cost items will be provided by the utilities to community volunteers to test and showcase: for example certain LED lamps, low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators, etc. The utilities will give out a limited number of these items free of charge; volunteers will try them out, fill out a scorecard and send it back. The results will be fed back first to the store managers, and then to the consumers through point of purchase displays and brochures and through community engagement.
3. Cold climate heat pumps/ground-source heat pumps – the utilities will pilot these systems to ensure their application in our northern environment. If the pilots are successful the utilities will look at incentives for this technology.
4. Public engagement, education and communication – the utilities will share information and receive feedback from Yukoners through various means, including through partnerships and direct engagement with retail store managers, point-of-purchase displays, partnerships with non-profit and community groups, outreach and participation in community events, identifying and enrolling electricity efficiency community network, direct engagement with contractors and house developers, and sharing information in local media and on the utilities’ inCharge website.

The **commercial program** will consist of five program elements.

1. Lighting redesign and equipment incentive – the utilities will pay an incentive to building owners/managers to have a lighting redesign study done in their building. The purpose is to design the best lighting system for the existing space

in terms of visual comfort, ease of maintenance, and electricity savings. The utilities will pay an incentive to building owners/managers who retrofit their lighting systems.

2. High efficiency refrigeration incentive – the utilities will pay an incentive to building owners/managers who retrofit their refrigeration systems.
3. ENERGY STAR computers incentive – the utilities will pay an incentive to participating Yukon-based companies or organizations that buy computers and related equipment that meet ENERGY STAR requirements.
4. New-construction incentive – the utilities will pay an incentive to new building owners/managers for high performance new buildings.
5. Engagement, training and communication – the utilities will share information, train and receive feedback from building owners/managers and other people involved in the building industry through a variety of ways, including but not limited to direct engagement (emails, phone calls and in-person meetings), hands-on courses for local building industry representatives, project-specific heating and ventilation (HVAC) technical support, trade events, support for building owners/managers to do asset management planning and decision-making about implementation, procurement and tendering, and various public relation activities including joint events with interested trade/commerce/non-profit/community organizations.