

PROPOSED MAYO HYDRO ENHANCEMENT PROJECT (MAYO B)



Newsletter #2.

Looking to the Future

Yukon Energy is planning for the future; we are looking for new sources of clean, renewable energy. Before building new dams, we want to find ways of maximizing the use of all our existing hydro infrastructure, including that in Mayo. That's why we are looking at a project called Mayo B. By building a new plant downstream from the current one, we believe it is possible to double the amount of hydro power produced at Mayo without making changes to the Wareham dam. No decisions have been made at this time about whether to proceed with this project.

Hearing from You

Over the last few months, Yukon Energy has met with various stakeholders, including the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun and the Village of Mayo, among others, to hear their views on our proposal for the Mayo facility. We have also held a public information meeting and an Open House in Mayo, along with an Open House in Whitehorse. This newsletter summarizes many of the questions we were asked during those public events and provides answers to them. We thank the people who took the time to come to one of our information sessions: your input is essential in helping us determine whether we should move forward with this project.

Your Questions:

When will this project be built?

No decisions have been made about whether to proceed with this project. Yukon Energy is simply studying the option and consulting with you to ensure the project makes sense from an engineering, financial, social-economic and environmental perspective. If we do go ahead with this project, the earliest possible in-service date will be 2011 or 2012. No construction will begin until permits and funding are in place.

Will our power rates go up if the project goes ahead?

Yukon Energy recognizes that with the small population base in the territory, Yukoners cannot bear the full cost of projects like Mayo B. Currently the Yukon government is working with Ottawa to secure funding. Mayo B will not go ahead unless sufficient money can be found to make this an affordable project for Yukoners.



Mayo control structure

See page 2 for more questions and answers.

Will there be more power outages if this project goes ahead?

Mayo B, coupled with the completion of the Carmacks-Stewart transmission line, will allow Yukon Energy to connect our two transmission systems. This will allow us to manage our system as a whole and should lead to a more reliable service. We are also putting more effort into upgrading our existing equipment, to reduce the number of outages that occur.

Will a fish ladder be a part of this new project?

Yukon Energy will ensure good spawning and rearing habitat for all fish species is available in the Mayo River downstream from the Wareham dam. We will also create a new salmon spawning and rearing channel downstream from the proposed new plant.

Will there be local job opportunities with this project?

Yes. Yukon Energy's goal is to maximize local opportunities. Jobs such as road construction, site clearing and preparation, heavy equipment operation, trucking, camp facilities and catering are the types of jobs that are likely to be available.

How safe is the Wareham dam?

The Wareham dam is very safe. Earth filled dams get stronger as they get older; they settle and become more compacted.

Yukon Energy follows a rigorous dam inspection program for all our dams, including the Wareham dam. The program follows guidelines set out by the Canadian Dam Association and includes regular inspections by both qualified staff and independent experts.

Yukon Energy also electronically monitors the dam 24 hours a day/seven days a week. The monitoring equipment is connected to our control centre in Whitehorse so if there is a potential problem detected, we will know about it immediately and can take the appropriate action.



Wareham Lake spillway

How will this project affect the flow of water downstream?

In general the pattern of water flows will be similar to what they are now. The new plant will allow us to generate more energy with the same amount of water.

There is already flooding in low-lying areas. Will this project make things worse?

Yukon Energy is aware of current flooding issues and is committed to working with the community to find solutions.

Do you have questions that were not addressed in this newsletter? Are there comments you would like to make on this project? Contact:

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