

# an update on Yukon Energy diesel projects in Dawson City

## providing reliable electricity

Demand for electricity is expected to double in Dawson City over the next five years. Our current and upcoming projects will help us provide Dawsonites with reliable electricity service in all types of situations, including during periods of peak electricity demand, emergencies and when renewable resources aren't available.

### **To reinforce reliability of the local system, we are:**

1. Renewing our air emissions permit that allows us to generate electricity using diesel in downtown Dawson City.
2. Upgrading and expanding our existing site in the Callison industrial area to house new diesel generators. To run these units, we're in the process of assessing and permitting this site.
3. Upgrading our power distribution system with our Voltage Conversion Project. Our current distribution system is reaching its limits. To make sure we can continue to provide electricity safely and reliably in Dawson City, we're converting parts of our distribution system – power lines, poles and transformers – from 4.2 kilovolts to 12.5 kilovolts.

At the same time, we continue to grow our renewable electricity generation. We're a Canadian leader in the production of renewable electricity, and we plan to keep it that way. We're continuing to research and plan for the right mix of resources needed, in the next 5 to 10 years as well as over the long-term, to meet growing demands for electricity in the winter, lower emissions in the Yukon's transportation and heating sectors, and generate an average of 93% renewable electricity each year.



## update on the downtown diesel generators

Currently, there are six diesel generators in downtown Dawson City, which are permitted to generate 7.1 megawatts of electricity. While these generators do not run very often, and usually for short periods of time, they help us to restore local power outages quickly as well as provide reliable electricity service during winter peaks, emergencies and whenever renewable resources aren't available. They also help us keep the lights on in Dawson City when the community is disconnected from the main grid, as was the case in the summer of 2023. Finally, diesel generation helps to provide firm backup electricity as more wind and solar projects are added in and around Dawson.

We are seeking to renew our air emissions permit, so we can continue to run the diesel generators and generate reliable electricity in Dawson City when required. To do this, we have submitted a Proposal to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Board's Dawson Designated Office.



You can view our Proposal by visiting [yesabregistry.ca](https://yesabregistry.ca) and searching for Project Assessment Number 2024-0093.

With the growing demand for electricity that we're seeing in Dawson City and across the Yukon, maintaining our ability to generate 7.1 megawatts of electricity in downtown Dawson City for the foreseeable future is important. We'll continue to operate, upgrade and refurbish specific units as needed. Our long-term plan is to relocate the generators from downtown to our Callison substation.

## update on the proposed diesel generators at our substation in Callison

Initially, we plan to have 6.5 megawatts of diesel generation installed at our substation in Callison. In future years, we expect more diesel generation at the substation as demand for electricity in Dawson City continues to grow, more sources of wind and solar power come online, and we move generating capacity from downtown to Callison. To prepare for that, we are assessing the potential long-term effects of up to 15.5 megawatts of diesel generation at the Callison substation.

This project is in the initial phases of undergoing an Executive Committee screening under the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Act*.

# what we've heard so far

Since this project was first proposed, we have completed multiple rounds of public and stakeholder engagement.

During our first round of engagement, we learned that the majority of Dawsonites were eager for us to move the diesel generators from downtown to our substation in Callison. We also heard that diesel is seen as an important backup source of electricity for the community and provides peace of mind to residents.

Since that initial engagement, the project scope has changed to 15.5 MW of diesel generation at our Callison substation. We have been having ongoing discussions with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, City of Dawson, stakeholders, and nearby property owners and residents to understand their concerns and address any questions.

Some of the concerns or questions we have received so far and how we are addressing them is summarized below. More information will be included in the final Project Proposal that is submitted to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Board (YESAB).

## **What project alternatives were explored?**

Within the Project Proposal, we will outline other potential generation resources such as solar, wind and hydro along with their associated constraints.

## **What is the timeline for the downtown diesel engines?**

We expect to need backup diesel power in downtown Dawson City for the foreseeable future. Our long-term plan is to relocate the generating capacity from downtown to our Callison substation.

## **What are Yukon Energy's backup plans in case things don't go as expected?**

The site will have a Fuel Spill Prevention Plan and an Emergency Response Plan.

The project itself will provide backup electricity to the community in the event Dawson City is disconnected from the main grid.

## **What are the operating conditions of the project?**

The diesel generators will be operated in accordance with Yukon Energy's air emissions permit, once received. Generally speaking, these diesel generators will help to provide reliable electricity during:

- winter peaks;
- emergencies;
- times when renewable resources aren't available; and
- times when Dawson City is disconnected from the main grid.

## **What is Yukon Energy doing to mitigate GHG emissions from the project?**

The diesel generators will be installed with technology to treat engine exhaust, ensuring compliance with current Tier 4 emission standards. Tier 4 emission standards are more stringent than Tier 2 or 3 emission standards, and therefore will help to reduce air emissions.

## **Heritage resources must be respected and protected. What is Yukon Energy doing to ensure that Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Settlement Lands, including water, animals and their homes, aren't harmed by the project?**

Any heritage resources found while working on the Traditional Territory will be reported to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Heritage Department.

While the project is not on Settlement Land, we recognize that Settlement Land is nearby and will follow best management practices as well as industry standards and regulations to handle waste, emissions and fuel carefully.

Our Fuel Spill Prevention Plan (included in the final Project Proposal) will also identify potential scenarios and effects to water, wildlife, human health, and mitigations to reduce the risk of these effects.

Finally, since the project area is on land that has already been cleared and levelled, no further vegetation removal is expected at this time.



If you would like to provide feedback on this project, you can do so through the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Act* process by visiting [yesabregistry.ca](https://yesabregistry.ca) and searching for Project Assessment Number 2023-0150.

## **Join us for our open house to learn about Yukon Energy projects happening in Dawson City.**

Come learn more about the projects mentioned in this mailer as well as our Voltage Conversion Project.

We look forward to seeing all Dawsonites there!

 **June 12**

 **6 to 8 pm**

 **Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Hall**

