

Whitehorse Rapids Generating Station Project Description



The **Whitehorse Rapids Generating Station (WRGS)** hydro facility is a “run-of-the-river” hydro generating plant, located within the City of Whitehorse. The WRGS is located at the mouth of Schwatka Lake on the Yukon River in Whitehorse, within the Traditional Territories of Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN) and Ta’an Kwäch’än Council (TKC).

Water in the Yukon River, which is used to generate hydroelectricity at the WRGS, comes from Marsh, Tagish and Bennett lakes, as well as from Atlin and other parts of the Southern Lakes area. These lakes are located within the Traditional Territories of KDFN, TKC, Carcross/Tagish First Nation (C/TFN) and Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN).

Who is Yukon Energy?

Yukon Energy Corporation, owned by Yukon Development Corporation, generates electricity needed by Yukoners. It operates as a business at arms-length from the Yukon government. A Board of Directors, appointed by Yukon Development Corporation, sets the strategic direction and provides general oversight. The Yukon Energy Board includes Director positions appointed by Yukon First Nations.



What about the Fish!

A **fish ladder** was first operated in 1959 to provide fish with a safe path around the Whitehorse Dam. Chinook salmon and other fish use the fish ladder during their annual migration up the Yukon River to their spawning grounds in rivers around Marsh Lake. A nearby visitor centre provides opportunities for conservation education, cultural programming, and scientific research. There is work currently underway with First Nation governments to examine and enhance the effectiveness of fish passage through the fish ladder.



The WRGS is a key piece of renewable energy infrastructure in the Yukon, generating about 80% of electricity Yukoners use during the summer months, and about 25% of electricity needed during the winter.

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What is the WRGS Relicensing Project?

Though we own the Whitehorse hydro facility, we do not own the water that passes through the facility to generate electricity. We have a water use licence from the Yukon Water Board that provides us permission to use that water. Our current licence expires on May 31, 2025.

This project is the path we're taking to renew our existing water use licence and put long-term processes in place that will allow us to continuously monitor and adapt to changing climate conditions, respond to community input, and minimize our impact on the environment over the long-term.

We are currently having discussions with First Nations governments in the project area and with the Yukon government about the Project. We are also gathering public input as well to better understand values and interests in the operation of the Whitehorse facility.

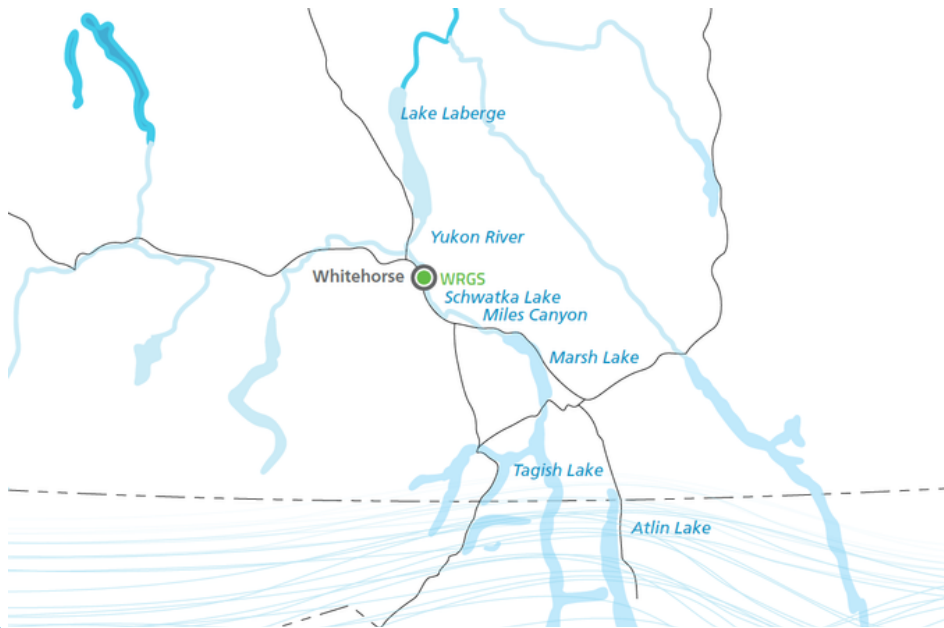
How is Water Use Regulated?

To generate electricity, we must have a **Water Use Licence from the Yukon Water Board** to give us the permission to use the water from the Yukon River that flows through the Whitehorse hydro facility to generate electricity. It also outlines the guidelines and regulations that we must follow to protect the water and the Yukon River.

The existing Water Use Licence contains several rules ("conditions") that we must follow:



Where is the WRGS Located?



Licensing Process Timeline

2023

Engagement

- Open Houses
- Mailer
- Technical working group
- Community advisory group

2023 - 2024

Assessment

- YESAA project proposal
- FAA request for review
- Evaluation
- Decision

2024 - 2025

Permitting

- Water use licence application
- FAA application
- Navigable Waters Act
- Approval application
- Process and hearing
- Licence issued

2025 onward

Monitoring & Mitigation

- Ongoing Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan
- Project Agreements