

Yukon Energy Mayo Generating Station Relicensing Project

What We Heard Report

June 2024



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1.0 PROJECT OVERVIEW

As part of its ongoing work to provide Yukoners with sustainable, reliable, and cost-effective electricity, Yukon Energy will be submitting a proposal to renew its existing water use licence and *Fisheries Act* Authorization in Mayo. These authorizations are needed to operate the Mayo Generating Station. Yukon Energy's ability to generate more than 90% renewable electricity is largely due to its hydro facilities in Aishihik, Whitehorse and Mayo. To support and inform its proposal to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB), Yukon Energy undertook extensive engagement to share information about the project and solicit valuable feedback. The following report is a summary of what was completed during the engagement and what was heard.

1.1 GOALS

Between January 2023 and April 2024, Yukon Energy completed engagement to inform the development of its project proposal to YESAB. The goals of the engagement process that are specific to Yukon Energy engagement, as outlined in the Consultation Plan that was developed by Yukon Energy, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and the Government of Yukon, were to:

- Develop a deep understanding of the impacts, concerns and opportunities, related to the Mayo Generating Station (MGS) project from the perspectives of the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun (FNNND), Mayo residents, stakeholders, and government entities.
- Distinguish between immediate, short-term and long-term concerns and align the scope and strategic approach of the relicensing process among Yukon Energy, the FNNND, and the Government of Yukon.
- Effectively communicate the role of the Mayo facility in providing renewable, sustainable, and affordable electricity, while exploring the adverse impacts to wildlife and ecosystems, and their interrelationships.
- Respond to community input to the extent possible in the project proposal and via monitoring and follow-up programs.

2.0 PROCESS AND COLLABORATION

Yukon Energy committed to using this project as an opportunity to reshape the relationship between Yukon Energy and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun. This commitment was grounded in the intent to establish and foster positive long-term relationships, based on partnership, respect and reconciliation as it relates to the operations of the project, Yukon's electricity sector more broadly, and other electricity infrastructure within the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun's Traditional Territory.

In June 2022, Yukon Energy convened a leadership meeting with the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Chief and Council to discuss the Mayo Generating Station Relicensing Project (the Project) and objectives for the Project, including:

- Setting the foundation for ongoing collaboration on the Project;
- Ensuring opportunities for Citizen and public engagement on the Project; and
- Creating, building, and supporting a long-term relationship between the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and Yukon Energy.

This then led to the establishment of multi-party groups with the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun (FNNND) and the Government of Yukon (YG). These multi-party groups included the Technical Working Group and the Senior Officials Group. As a result of these multi-party groups, the engagement methods described below were largely undertaken by Yukon Energy in collaboration with the FNNND and YG.

It should also be noted that the FNNND gathered feedback from Citizens in additional ways to what is described below, and the information from those activities is not included in this report. This report includes information from activities that were either led or jointly hosted by Yukon Energy and includes feedback from both FNNND Citizens and non-Citizens.

The feedback included in this report has been summarized into key themes. How Yukon Energy is addressing this feedback can be found in Chapter 4 of the Project Proposal. More detailed feedback can be found in Appendix 4A.3 Stakeholder and Public Meeting Notes.

3.0 ENGAGEMENT METHODS

During the engagement for the Project, several different methods were used to share information and gather feedback: community-wide and targeted notifications, in-person community meetings, stakeholder meetings, surrounding property outreach and acceptance of both online and emailed comments.

The follow section details all engagement methods used throughout this project.

3.1 NOTIFICATIONS

To notify interested parties about the Project and upcoming engagement opportunities, the following notification methods were used.

3.1.1 Community-wide mailers

An informational mailer was sent by Yukon Energy to residents in Mayo in January 2024. The purpose of this mailer was to share information about the project and invite Mayo residents to attend the open houses. It also included other ways people could provide their feedback, such as through the website or via email. A copy of this mailer and the Canada Post Statement of Mailing (SOM) has been included in Error! Reference source not found. Error! Reference source not found..

A separate informational mailer was also sent to FNNND Citizens with details of Citizen-specific engagement opportunities. It also included a paper copy of a Citizen survey that was developed by the FNNND. The results from that survey have not been included in this report. A copy of this mailer has been included in Error! Reference source not found. Error! Reference source not found..

3.1.2 Stakeholder e-mails

E-mails were sent to all stakeholders identified in **Table 1 – Stakeholder List** in September 2023. The purpose of these e-mails was to share a brief overview of the project and invite the stakeholders to meet with the project team. A copy of the email has been included in Error! Reference source not found. Error! Reference source not found..

Follow-up emails were sent in January 2024 to advise of the open house dates, and again in February 2024 to advise of the change in date for the community meeting. A copy of these emails can also be found in Error! Reference source not found. Error! Reference source not found..

Table 1 – Stakeholder List

Yukon First Nations Salmon Stewardship Alliance
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Yukon Chapter
Mayo Renewable Resource Council
Klondike Placer Miners Association
Village of Mayo

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Yukon Conservation Society
Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board
Yukon Salmon Sub Committee
Yukon Chamber of Mines
Yukon River Panel
Yukon Trappers Association
MLA for Mayo-Tatchun area, Hon. Jeremy Harper

3.1.3 Surrounding property letters

To ensure all property owners surrounding the Mayo Generating Station were adequately notified of the Project and opportunities to provide feedback, a letter was mailed to all properties within the local study area (5 km buffer around Daghro Män/Mayo Lake, Tadze Nyäk/Mayo River and Wareham Lake). The mailing list for properties to be contacted was based on maps from Yukon Energy and Morrison Hershfield. The number of properties can be found in **Table 2 – Surrounding Property Notifications**. A copy of the letter can be found in in Error! Reference source not found. Error! Reference source not found..

Table 2 – Surrounding Property Notifications

Distance from Project Area	Properties Notified
5 km	23

3.1.4 Other

In addition to the notification methods described above Yukon Energy also completed a variety of other notifications.

Project website



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To share background information about the Project about upcoming engagement opportunities, Yukon Energy prepared a project-specific landing page on their website (yukonenergy.ca/mayo). A copy of this web page has been included in Error! Reference source not found. Error! Reference source not found..

Media

As shown in **Table 3 – Media advertisements**, using Facebook, printed posters, and local newspapers, Yukon Energy shared a variety of notifications regarding the Project and upcoming engagement sessions. A copy of these advertisements has been included in Error! Reference source not found. Error! Reference source not found..

Table 3 – Media advertisements

Description	Date
Facebook organic event	Created January 16, 2024 and February 16, 2024
Facebook organic posts (on main Yukon Energy page and on Mayo community page)	Jan 16, Jan 24, Feb 2, Feb 16, Feb 27, March 21, April 1, April 3, 2024
Poster for original community meetings	Emailed to the FNNND and Village of Mayo Jan 12, 2024
Poster for April FNNND meetings	Emailed to the FNNND March 7, 2024 Posted around community April 28, 2024
Newspaper ads (Yukon News)	Jan 19 and Feb 23, 2024

3.2 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

During the onset of this project, a list of stakeholders were identified jointly with the FNNND. These stakeholders were chosen based on their existing relationships with Yukon Energy and/or the FNNND, their interest in past or similar projects and/or their role in the community. As outlined at a high level in **Table 4 – Stakeholder Engagement Summary**, all stakeholders were sent notifications about the Project and its engagement process, as well as offered opportunities to meet with the project team to further discuss the Project and share their feedback. As shown, meetings were held with the Yukon First Nations Salmon Stewardship Alliance, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (Yukon chapter), Klondike Placer Miners Association, Village of Mayo, Yukon Conservation Society, Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board and the Yukon Salmon Sub Committee.

All comments received from stakeholders have been summarized in Section 4.1 Key Themes and can be found in Appendix 4A.3.

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Table 4 – Stakeholder Engagement Summary

Stakeholder	Engagement	Materials Presented	Date
Yukon First Nations Salmon Stewardship Alliance	Notifications		September 7, 2023 January 10, 2024 February 20, 2024
	Online meeting	N/A – causal conversation only	September 14, 2023
Mayo Renewable Resource Council	Notifications		September 6, 2023 January 10, 2024 February 20, 2024
	Chair of Council attended in person open house		February 28, 2024
CPAWS	Notifications		September 6, 2023 January 10, 2024 February 20, 2024
	In-person meeting	PowerPoint presentation	September 19, 2023
Klondike Placer Miners Association	Notifications		September 6, 2023 January 10, 2024 February 20, 2024
	Online meeting	PowerPoint presentation	September 29, 2023
Yukon Conservation Society	Notifications		September 7, 2023 January 10, 2024 February 20, 2024
	In-person meeting	PowerPoint presentation	September 20, 2023
Village of Mayo	Notifications		September 6, 2023 January 10, 2024 February 20, 2024
	Online meeting	PowerPoint presentation	September 18, 2023
	Councilors and CAO attended in person open house		February 28, 2024
Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board	Notifications		September 6, 2023 January 10, 2024 February 20, 2024
	In-person meeting	PowerPoint presentation	December 7, 2023
Yukon Salmon Sub Committee	Notifications		September 6, 2023 January 10, 2024 February 20, 2024

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Stakeholder	Engagement	Materials Presented	Date
	In-person meeting	PowerPoint presentation	March 15, 2024
Yukon Chamber of Mines	Notifications only (meeting not requested)		September 6, 2023 January 10, 2024 February 20, 2024
Yukon River Panel	Notifications only (meeting not requested)		September 7, 2023 January 10, 2024 February 20, 2024
Yukon Trappers Association	Notifications only (meeting not requested)		September 7, 2023 January 10, 2024 February 20, 2024
MLA for Mayo-Tatchun	Notifications only (meeting not requested)		January 24, 2024

3.3 COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND OPEN HOUSES

3.3.1 Purpose

The presentation used during community meetings was designed to provide an overview of Yukon’s electrical system and the Project prior to discussing known concerns such as fish passage and other environmental studies, and the work being done by the Technical Working Group (TWG) to assess them. The presentation was modified after the first community meeting to address feedback that the presentation was too long and technical. Copies of both presentations have been included in Appendix 4A.2 Presentations.

3.3.2 FNNND Citizen Meetings

At the request of the FNNND, separate meetings were held for FNNND Citizens, to allow the FNNND to collect Citizen-specific feedback. The meetings below were attended by representatives from Yukon Energy, the FNNND and the Government of Yukon. While these meetings were advertised for FNNND Citizens, some non-Citizens may have attended. As such, the number of attendees may include non-Citizens.

February 6, 2024 – meeting for FNNND Citizens in Whitehorse

Attendees: 3 people

On February 6th, 2024, Yukon Energy hosted an in-person community meeting from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the IRP (Inspire Reconciliation Potential) Khutan Room in Whitehorse. The goal of this meeting was to provide a brief description of Yukon Energy’s electricity system, an overview of the project, and gather feedback. As described in Section 4.1 Key Themes, participants during the in-person meeting expressed



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concerns about the Mayo Generating Station's impact on the environment and wildlife, as well as trust and relationships between the FNNND and Yukon Energy.

April 3, 2024 – meeting for FNNND Citizens in Mayo

Attendees: 10 people

On April 3rd, 2024, the Technical Working Group (the FNNND, Yukon Energy and the Government of Yukon) hosted an in-person community meeting from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the FNNND Government House in Mayo. The goal of this meeting was to provide a brief description of Yukon Energy's electricity system, what has been heard to date, and to discuss how Traditional Knowledge has been considered and included in the Project planning and Project Proposal. As described in Section 4.1 Key Themes, participants during the in-person meeting had concerns about dam safety, impacts to the environment, and high electricity bills. They also brought up alternatives to hydro dams and had questions about future energy planning and how the FNNND can be involved in this.

April 4, 2024 – meeting for FNNND Citizens in Mayo

Attendees: 24 people

On April 4th, 2024, the Technical Working Group (the FNNND, Yukon Energy and the Government of Yukon) hosted an in-person community meeting from 12:00 to 1:00 pm at the FNNND Government House in Mayo. The goal of this meeting was to provide a brief description of Yukon Energy's electricity system, what has been heard to date, and to discuss how Traditional Knowledge has been considered and included in the Project planning and Project Proposal. As described in Section 4.1 Key Themes, participants during the in-person meeting had concerns about high electricity bills, power outages, and the loss of jobs in the community as a result of the Mayo Yukon Energy office closing.

3.3.3 Public Open Houses

February 5, 2024 – open house in Whitehorse

Attendees: 5 people

On February 5th, 2024, Yukon Energy hosted an in-person public open house from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Mount McIntyre Recreation Centre. As described in Section 4.1 Key Themes, participants during the open house meeting expressed concerns about ice on the Tadze Nyék/Mayo River and fish passage. There were also some questions about general energy infrastructure and wetlands.

February 28, 2024 – open house in Mayo

Attendees: 9 people



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On February 28th, 2024, Yukon Energy hosted an in-person open house from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at the Community Hall in Mayo. This meeting was originally scheduled for January 29th but had to be rescheduled due to icy road conditions. As described in Section 4.1 Key Themes, participants during the in-person meeting expressed concerns or comments about flooding on their property, energy planning, fish passage and Yukon Energy's ice setting protocol.

3.4 SITE TOUR

On April 4, 2024, Yukon Energy hosted a tour of Mayo B and the Wareham Dam for FNNND Citizens. Three Citizens attended the tour. During the tour, participants asked questions about how the facility works and the day-to-day role of the plant operator. Participants also expressed thanks for the opportunity and recommended that Yukon Energy should offer additional site tours in the future.

3.5 SUBMITTED COMMENTS

During engagement, all interested parties were encouraged to submit comments and questions using the online comment form on the Yukon Energy project website, or the project email address (communications@yec.yk.ca).

In total, 0 comments were submitted through these methods.

4.0 FEEDBACK GATHERED

This section provides a review of the feedback gathered throughout engagement activities that were led by Yukon Energy, or jointly hosted with Yukon Energy. While it includes feedback from both FNNND Citizens and non-Citizens, it does not include the feedback from FNNND-lead engagement activities. Information on FNNND-led Citizen engagement and the feedback received through those activities can be found in section 4.5 of Chapter 4 of the Project Proposal.

4.1 KEY THEMES

4.1.1 Fish passage

Overall, both Citizens and non-Citizens are keen to see Yukon Energy install fish passage at both the Mayo Lake Control Structure and at Wareham Dam. They expressed the importance of fish, and that Yukon Energy should be planning around them. FNNND Citizens shared that the initial construction of the dam by the Northern Canada Power Commission, which was done at a time before Aboriginal titles and rights were recognized in the Yukon and without FNNND involvement, has impacted fish and that these impacts are still felt today. Both Citizens and non-Citizens were supportive of the return of *lyok det'aw*/salmon to the watershed in Mayo.

4.1.2 Energy planning and climate change impacts

Whenever Yukon Energy undertakes an engagement process, comments are received about energy planning in general. Both Citizens and non-Citizens were interested in understanding the options Yukon Energy is considering for the future and stressed the importance of reliable and sustainable options. Some stakeholder groups were interested in the long-term plan for the Mayo Generating Station, and whether it would ever be decommissioned. Both Citizens and non-Citizens wanted to understand the impact of climate change on Yukon Energy's infrastructure and operations, and what Yukon Energy is doing about this. Finally, some FNNND Citizens were interested in ownership options for past and future energy projects and generally were interested in more FNNND participation in the energy sector.

4.1.3 Trust and relationships

Particularly during the FNNND Citizen community meetings jointly hosted by Yukon Energy, FNNND Citizens questioned what benefits the community had received since the dam was built and what Yukon Energy is doing or going to do to reduce the environmental impacts of the infrastructure. This included concerns about the closing of the Yukon Energy office in Mayo and the loss of jobs in the community, as well as perceptions about Yukon Energy's relationship with nearby mines (i.e., the perception that the Mayo dam was built to supply the mines with electricity, but it is Mayo residents who are left to deal with the dam's impacts). FNNND Citizens also brought up commitments they said had been made about ownership or equity in energy projects and promises of free or less expensive electricity. Overall, Citizens

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expressed the importance of working together moving forward and the opportunities of being partners in the Yukon's energy future.

4.1.4 Project Elements

Both Citizens and non-Citizens were interested in various elements of the Project, or proposed items that they believed should be included in the Project. This included:

Boat launch

Both Citizens and non-Citizens are eager to see the boat launch improved and ideally would like to see it extended to accommodate larger boats. They also expressed concerns about personal and equipment safety, and the boat launch's overall accessibility.

Ice setting protocol

Yukon Energy currently has an ice setting protocol to reduce the risk of winter flooding in the lower Tadze Nyäk/Mayo River. The Village of Mayo expressed wanting to see this included in the water use licence so that it is mandatory for Yukon Energy to follow each winter.

Changes to the land or water

Some stakeholder groups were interested in understanding if Yukon Energy would be adding infrastructure that could affect placer miner claims. Both Citizens and non-Citizens were interested in understanding if Yukon Energy was still considering lowering the low supply level of Dagthro Män/Mayo Lake, as proposed in the Mayo Lake Enhanced Storage Project. Yukon Energy is not currently proceeding with the Mayo Lake Enhanced Storage Project due to lack of support from the FNNND.

4.1.5 Access to environment

At a public open house, one person expressed concerns about accessing their trapline. They also were interested in learning about the studies Yukon Energy is conducting and how this information might mitigate access issues. More information can be found in Appendix 4A.3 Stakeholder and Public Meeting Notes. Difficulty accessing the wetland hunting/gathering areas, as a result of changing water levels, was echoed by FNNND Citizens as well.

4.1.6 Cost of electricity

Whenever Yukon Energy undertakes an engagement process, comments are received about the high cost of electricity. Both Citizens and non-Citizens questioned why they pay for electricity that the nearby mines use and why their electricity bills are so high. Concerns were also raised about the complexity of electricity bills and that it is not clear where all costs come from.

4.1.7 Emergencies

Both Citizens and non-Citizens were concerned about the possibility of a dam failure, and how long it would take for the community to flood or how long they would have to evacuate. They wanted to know details about Yukon Energy's dam safety plan, had interest in practicing the plan and receiving safety or emergency items. FNNND Citizens emphasized that the plan must be tailored to different demographics (i.e., Elders).

There were also concerns about prolonged power outages, especially in the winter. Some FNNND Citizens wanted Yukon Energy to provide back-up generators for individual homes as well as surge protectors to protect appliances, while some Citizens wanted Yukon Energy to compensate residents for meat that had gone bad or damaged appliances/electronics.