



aishihik relicensing

Yukon Energy's proposal for a long-term renewal of the Aishihik hydro facility water use licence has been submitted to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board.

participate in the process

Yukoners are encouraged to share their views and to be a part of the *Yukon Environment and Socio-economic Assessment Act (YESAA)* process to review Yukon Energy's long-term proposal for continued operation of the Aishihik hydro facility.

The YESAA review process is expected to last between 6 and 12 months. At the end of the evaluation, the assessment agency will provide a report and recommendation about the proposal, and the territorial and federal governments will make a decision on whether and how the generating station will continue to operate. The Yukon Water Board and Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans will then address licence and authorization terms and conditions. The water use licensing process will provide Yukoners with further opportunities to share their views about Yukon Energy's long-term relicensing application.

The YESAB Designated Office in Haines Junction will seek feedback about the project proposal sometime after July 2020.



Since 1987, Yukon Energy has owned and operated the Aishihik hydro facility. The hydro facility is a key power plant in Yukon's electricity system, providing 25% of the renewable electricity available on the Yukon grid. It also plays an important role in winter months, providing 40% of the energy Yukoners need when demand for electricity is greatest.

Yukon Energy's last long-term water use licence renewal for the Aishihik hydro facility ended on December 31, 2019.

In 2019, Yukon Energy applied for a short-term 3-year licence renewal. After a one-time 60-day renewal, the Yukon Water Board approved a 3-year renewal of the water use licence in February 2020.

In early July, Yukon Energy submitted a YESAA project proposal for the long-term renewal of its water licence.

working with others

For the past five years, Yukon Energy, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, and other governments, organizations, and individuals have been working together to better understand the effects of the Aishihik hydro facility and how the facility may be used in the future.



Champagne and Aishihik First Nations completed a detailed socio-cultural study with support from Yukon Energy and has **shared traditional knowledge** of the area.



Technical experts have **provided scientific data** about fish populations and water conditions, wildlife and wetlands.



All of this information has been **carefully reviewed and considered by Yukon Energy** as part of its proposal for a long-term renewal of the water use licence.



summary of the long-term water use licence proposal

Yukon Energy's proposal to continue operation of the Aishihik hydro facility for up to a 25-year term aims to address the growing energy needs of Yukoners, prevent significant adverse environmental or socio-economic effects, and provide other environmental and socio-economic benefits/ enhancements, where feasible.

THE ASSESSMENT WILL CONSIDER

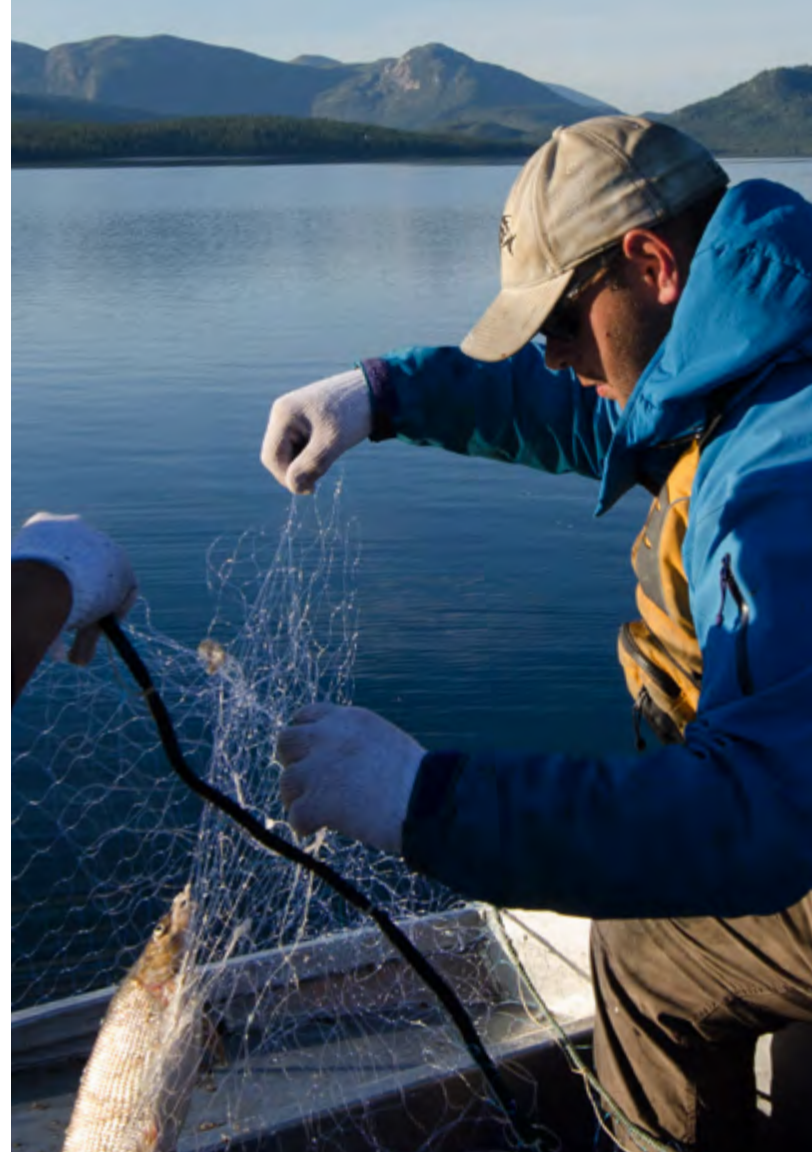
- » Yukon Energy's continued operation of the Aishihik hydro facility with the same conditions as today, except for reducing the summer aesthetic flows at Otter Falls. The proposed change at Otter Falls is not expected to have significant adverse effects on fish, the look of the Falls, or other related interests.
- » Yukon Energy, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Yukon government representatives are working together to finalize a framework for a new Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan that includes monitoring and management of the Aishihik hydro facility's effects on the land, environment and people over the long-term licence.
- » Ongoing involvement of Champagne and Aishihik First Nations in the monitoring and adaptive management activities, including socio-cultural monitoring as well as new monitoring activities in the environment downstream of the Aishihik hydro facility.



Downstream of Aishihik Lake Control Structure – looking upstream

addressing interests and concerns

Over the last five years, Yukon Energy has heard from Citizens and local land users about some specific concerns about the operation of the Aishihik hydro facility. Our proposal for a renewed water use licence addresses these concerns as described on the next page.



FISH AND WILDLIFE

- » We recognize that hunting, trapping and fishing are important to Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Citizens, local residents and many Yukoners, as is outdoor recreation and wilderness tourism.
- » We've studied the health of the fish in the Aishihik and Canyon lakes. The studies show that the fish and fish populations are healthy.
- » We have made it easier for fish to move through the fishway at the Aishihik Lake Control Structure (Dam) and are working to make additional improvements to increase opportunities for upstream fish passage from Canyon Lake to Aishihik Lake (downstream fish migration appears unaffected).
- » The Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan will continue to define what fish and wildlife data will be used to measure the impact of the hydro facility (e.g., fish populations), what studies should be done to measure impact and how often those studies should be done.

WATER FLOWS

- » Yukon Energy and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations acknowledge that there are icing and wintertime flooding issues downstream of the Aishihik hydro facility.
- » The Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan will define measures that may include how water should flow downstream of the Aishihik hydro facility to help reduce winter flooding and potential winter erosion.
- » More work is required on this piece of the plan. We will engage additional experts later this year to further this work.

IMPACTS ON SETTLEMENT LAND AND TRADITIONAL LAND USES

- » We recognize that Aishihik Lake and the surrounding areas are culturally important to Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Citizens.
- » The long-term proposal outlines requirements to monitor Settlement Land affected by icing.
- » Our Heritage Resources Management Plan will be updated by February 2021. Heritage Resource Overview Assessments will be conducted for any work areas not previously assessed.
- » The *Yukon Waters Act* provides a process for compensation as part of the licence renewal proceedings.

timeline

JANUARY 2016

Yukon Energy and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations start working together on a long-term licence renewal.

2016–2018

Interests and values are identified.

Technical and traditional knowledge studies are conducted.

Public information meetings are held in Haines Junction and Whitehorse.

2019

An application for a 3-year renewal of the existing water use license is submitted.

Yukon Energy and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations begin to re-engage on a long-term licence renewal.

DECEMBER 2019

Yukon Water Board issues a 60-day renewal to Yukon Energy's Aishihik water use license to prevent it from expiring.

FEBRUARY 2020

Yukon Water Board approves a 3-year renewal to Yukon Energy's existing Aishihik water use license.

FEBRUARY 2020

Yukon Energy, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Yukon government begin focussed work on the long-term relicensing process.

JULY 2020

Yukon Energy submits a Project Proposal for a long-term water use licence renewal to YESAA.

2020–2021

Yukon Energy, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Yukon government teams continue work to develop the Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan.

YESAA assessment. Public views and information are sought.

We are here

2021 (ESTIMATED)

Yukon Energy submits a Water Licence Renewal Application to the Yukon Water Board and a *Fisheries Act* Authorization Application to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

The YESAA Designated Office issues its Evaluation Report and Recommendation regarding the Project Proposal.

2022 (ESTIMATED)

Yukon Water Board hearing process and licence decision. Department of Fisheries and Oceans authorization.

stay involved

Learn more about our long-term relicensing proposal, ask questions or provide us with your input.

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