



What we heard – Faro diesel plant

On June 19, 2023, we held an open house in Faro to listen to community concerns and answer questions about our diesel plant in Faro.

It was also an opportunity for us to share information about general energy planning in the territory and why we need diesel generators, as well as recruit for two plant operators in Faro.

Below is a summary of the key concerns and questions that we heard during the open house.

Primary concerns

The primary concern that was raised during the open house, and that we've heard from residents before, was noise. While diesel generators have been in operation in Faro since the town's initial construction, recent demands on the grid have required more frequent use of diesel generators (both permanent and rental units) in the winter. As such, some residents are frustrated with the noise and air emissions from the diesel generators.

Noise

- There needs to be sound monitoring under conditions that the generators run (i.e., in the winter when temperatures are colder than zero degrees Celsius), and in more locations (ideally Upper and Lower Bench).
- Can Yukon Energy plant trees as sound barriers?
- There needs to be some sort of sound wall(s) and/or muffler(s) installed.

Yukon Energy response:

- We are exploring the possibility of installing two additional sound monitoring stations, in addition to the one that is being installed at the Del Van Gorder school.
- We changed the orientation of four of the seven rental units so that their air intakes and exhaust face away from the community.
- We are looking into installing a sound wall for the radiators at one of our permanent diesel generators (FD7) and are looking into options for the rental diesel generators.
- We are also adopting the best available technology for the replacement of the approximately 5 MW of capacity of one of the permanent diesel units that has reached end-of-life (FD1). The new units (2 x 2.5 MW each) will be quieter than the rentals and have lower air emissions.
- We are investigating other sound reduction options for the site, including potentially transplanting large conifers along the site's southern fence line.
- We are also looking into the stacking order, or the order in which we run different generation sources, to determine if we can reduce how often the diesel generators in Faro are run.

Air emissions

- The air quality, particularly for residents on Upper Bench, is poor.
- Residents can see smoke hanging over town and can sometimes smell/taste it.





Yukon Energy response:

- We are installing air quality monitoring equipment at the Del Van Gorder school to monitor representative air emissions in the community, including the contribution from the Faro diesel plant when it is operating.
- If results from the air quality monitoring are found to exceed the permissible levels outlined in the Yukon Ambient Air Quality Standards, and if these exceedances can be attributed to Yukon Energy's electricity generating activities (as opposed to forest fires, home heating wood smoke, etc.), Yukon Energy will be required to develop an air quality management plan.
- We are also looking into the stacking order, or the order in which we run different generation sources, to determine if we can reduce how often the diesel generators in Faro are run.

Permitting

- Given the modifications to the Faro diesel plant (i.e., replacing FD1 with two, newer, cleaner diesel generators that total the same capacity and reducing the number of rental diesel generators), will Yukon Energy be required to go through a YESAB assessment?

Yukon Energy response:

- No. A contemporary YESAA Decision Document already exists and allows the regulator to authorize modifications to the facility that are covered by the scope of that previous assessment and Decision Document.
- Given we are replacing older diesel generators with cleaner ones, an assessment would not result in outcomes that have worse environmental or human health effects than what has previously been assessed.
- In other words, because we are making modifications to the diesel plant that will result in fewer emissions, the existing Decision Document can be used by the Regulator to authorize the modifications.

Other

- It would be great if the diesel plant could be beautified, potentially through murals and/or vegetation.
- Why are bills so high? What's in the ratepayer's control and what's not?
- Why are there so few outhouses between Carmacks and Faro? Can more be added?
- Can something be done about the overgrown vegetation along the Robert Campbell Highway near Little Salmon Lake?

Yukon Energy response:

- We are exploring the idea of mural(s) on the side(s) of our permanent diesel units.
- The amount of electricity an individual uses is within their control. Generally speaking, the more electricity an individual uses, the higher their bill will be.
- Some of the additional line items on bills are there to highlight changes in utility rates since 2011. Other line items are there to reflect changes in fuel prices. For more information on the different components of your bill, visit: yukonenergy.ca/customer-service/accounts-billing/reading-your-bill.
- Brushing (removing vegetation on the sides of the highway) and outhouse concerns have been directed to the Government of Yukon.

