



New Post Creek Project News

Newsletter #6

February 2011

Welcome from Chief Job

Wachay! Welcome to the latest New Post Creek Project newsletter. Coral Rapids Power has come a long way since the partnership with Ontario Power Generation began. Each new study helps the project team get more information about the potential to generate electricity from the New Post Creek area. The Taykwa Tagamou Nation continues to support the New Post Creek project, and I hope that this newsletter will help inform TTN members about the project's progress and how to get involved to make the project a success.

Chief Linda Job
Taykwa Tagamou Nation

Key Project Updates Ecological Integrity/ Parks Issue

The New Post Creek project offers a unique challenge because the proposed project location is within the boundaries of the Little Abitibi Provincial Park. To address this issue, and to allow for the necessary lands to be removed from the park, TTN has identified replacement lands that can be added to the existing waterway park in exchange for the necessary land requirements for the project. Several parcels of land were suggested as replacement lands, and the Taykwa Tagamou Nation (TTN) indicated their preference for the current replacement land option in the Spring of 2009. The project team has had to assess both the park land and the replacement lands in order to demonstrate that the replacement lands were equal or better in terms of ecological value and size.

From September 27 to October 6, 2010, Beacon Environmental completed an Ecological Integrity Assessment which compared the land needed to be removed from the park and the identified replacement

land. As part of the assessment, Beacon Environmental interviewed Mr. Stan Sutherland Sr. and Mr. Peter Archibald Sr. about traditional activities on the land. In addition, Mr. Paul Archibald Sr. was hired as a Field Assistant for the study to assist the consultants. Beacon Environmental found that the proposed land exchange would increase the size of the park and enhance its ecological integrity. The transaction would be consistent with the provisions of the *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act* that will allow for the deregulation of land to facilitate the New Post Creek Project.

Hydrology Studies

Understanding the hydrology of the New Post Creek study area will help the project team understand the availability of water to generate electricity. In 2009 a water flow gauge was installed near the proposed water intake and weir to give the team accurate water flow data. The flow gauge continues to provide data, and the information will be compared to other flow data from the New Post Diversion dam, as well as differences in flow between the Abitibi Canyon GS and the Otter Rapids GS. Two consul-

tants recently used the available flow data, including historical flow data, to estimate the available flow for the New Post Creek project. This analysis will help the project team design the generating station. As more information becomes available from the new gauge, more accurate projections will be made to help further determine the generating capability of the project.

Funding Update

As the project moves deeper into the development phases, the CRP team and TTN leadership are both actively seeking funding and financial support from a variety of provincial and federal sources, includ-

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Paul Archibald Sr. working with Beacon Environmental researchers to collect soil samples

ing Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation, FedNor, and the Ontario Financing Authority. These funds will help pay for technical studies and to purchase equity in the project. Obtaining financial support from these programs will help the Taykwa Tagamou Nation, as a partner, to contribute its share to cover costs during the project development and construction.

There are a number of other agencies and departments that may provide funding and support, and CRP will continue to work with its partner, and with government agencies, to move the project forward. Examples of government funding obtained to date include the support from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada for the geotechnical and geophysical studies completed in 2009/2010, and the update to the feasibility study also completed in 2010.

Co-Planning Permitting Requirement Completed

The “co-planning” requirement was initiated in 1993 by then Minister of Natural Resources Bud Wildman who stated in a letter that there could not be any hydro-electric developments in the Moose River Basin north of Highway 11 until there is a co-planning process in place. This process would involve MNR and the three First Nations of the region: MoCreebec, Moose Cree First Nation and the Taykwa Tagamou Nation. The purpose of this co-planning requirement was to ensure that no new hydro-electric developments would take place until the three First Nations in the region were ready to accept hydro development in their respective territories.

The co-planning requirement has since been further clarified by MNR in that proposals for new hydro development could be advanced only when proposed by the local First Nation and/or their development partner. TTN recently received a letter of support for the New Post Creek Project from Chief Randy Kapashesit of MoCreebec. Chief Linda Job initiated and completed discussions with Chief Kapashesit to gain their support for the New Post Creek Project, while Moose Cree First Nation’s support was achieved as part of the Lower Mattagami discussions.

Employment: Are You Ready?

Freda Ouellette, CRP Employment and Training Coordinator, has the task of providing Taykwa Tagamou Nation members with information about employment opportunities. Freda encourages TTN members interested in working on the project to give her resumes and to fill out the Needs Assessment Surveys for inclusion on the Human Resource Inventory (HRI). With this employment tool, Freda will be able to assist TTN members who need training, would like more information on employment programs, and identify TTN members who are job ready and may be available for work as it becomes available. If you are interested in working on any of the projects that TTN has entered into, your name and resume should be listed in the HRI.

Next Steps for the New Post Creek Project

The development of the project can generally be broken into four phases: The Concept Phase, Definition Phase, Execution Phase and the Operation Phase. To this point the development team of CRP and OPG has been working within the Concept Phase to determine the overall technical and economic feasibility of the Project, as well as to satisfy a series of conditions precedent to move into Definition Phase that were part of the negotiated partnership agreements. The project team is now in the final stages of the Concept Phase and is developing a business case that will release the necessary funds to continue into the Definition Phase. The team expects to be into this phase in the near future.

In the Definition Phase we expect to gather more data, undertake design and costing for the project and also select a contractor to build the project. During the Definition Phase an Owner’s Engineer will be hired to advance the design and engineering of the project. Advice will also be provided to the owners regarding how to address certain technical issues. The project team will also be hiring an Environmental Assessment (EA) Consultant to complete the Environmental Assessment processes. Following Definition Phase, the project can move into the Execution Phase.

For project information please contact:

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