



York Factory Future Development Conawapa Update

May 2013

Conawapa Key Facts

Conawapa will look like the Limestone Dam on the outside:

- The dam will be about one meter higher
- The powerhouse will have the same number and type of turbines

The powerhouse will be built into the Lower Nelson River's north shoreline

Conawapa will produce slightly more power than Limestone

Construction Period: 8.5 years

Flooded area : about 5 square km

Projected Cost: \$ 10.2 Billion

Target in-service date: 2025
(when the first turbine will start producing electricity)

Megawatt Capacity

Conawapa: 1,485 megawatts

Keyask: 695 megawatts

Limestone: 1,340 megawatts

Kelsey: 250 megawatts (potential 464 megawatts)



Chief and Council and Future Development need your ideas and guidance on York Factory's participation in the Conawapa Project. We want to know:

What have you heard about the Conawapa Project?

What is your number one concern about the Conawapa Project?

What is the best way for you to share your ideas with Chief and Council about the Conawapa Project?



*Signing the Conawapa Process Agreement,
December 5, 2006*

York's Participation in Conawapa

In 2006, YFFN and Manitoba Hydro signed a **Conawapa Process Agreement** to provide York Factory with the funds to plan and prepare for the Conawapa Project. These funds are used to pay for office space, utilities, equipment, materials, travel, salaries, and advisory services.

The Process Agreement outlines these main topics for discussion between York Factory and Hydro:

- Project Description
- Environmental and Regulatory Matters
- Training, Employment and Business Opportunities
- Possible participation by York Factory in the ownership of Conawapa and other project income opportunities
- Adverse effects arrangements



Conawapa Site at Horseshoe Bay

What We've Talked about with Hydro so far:

Since 2006, Hydro has shared a large amount of information about the Conawapa Project with York Factory representatives at meetings called "Conawapa Project Description Committee". They have also shared many of its environmental studies' reports with York Factory in meetings called "Environmental Studies Working Group" (ESWG) on topics such as the water, ice, lands, vegetation, wildlife, fish and cultural heritage in the Conawapa area. To date, Manitoba Hydro has produced 142 Aquatic reports, 95 Physical Environment reports, and 27 Terrestrial reports.

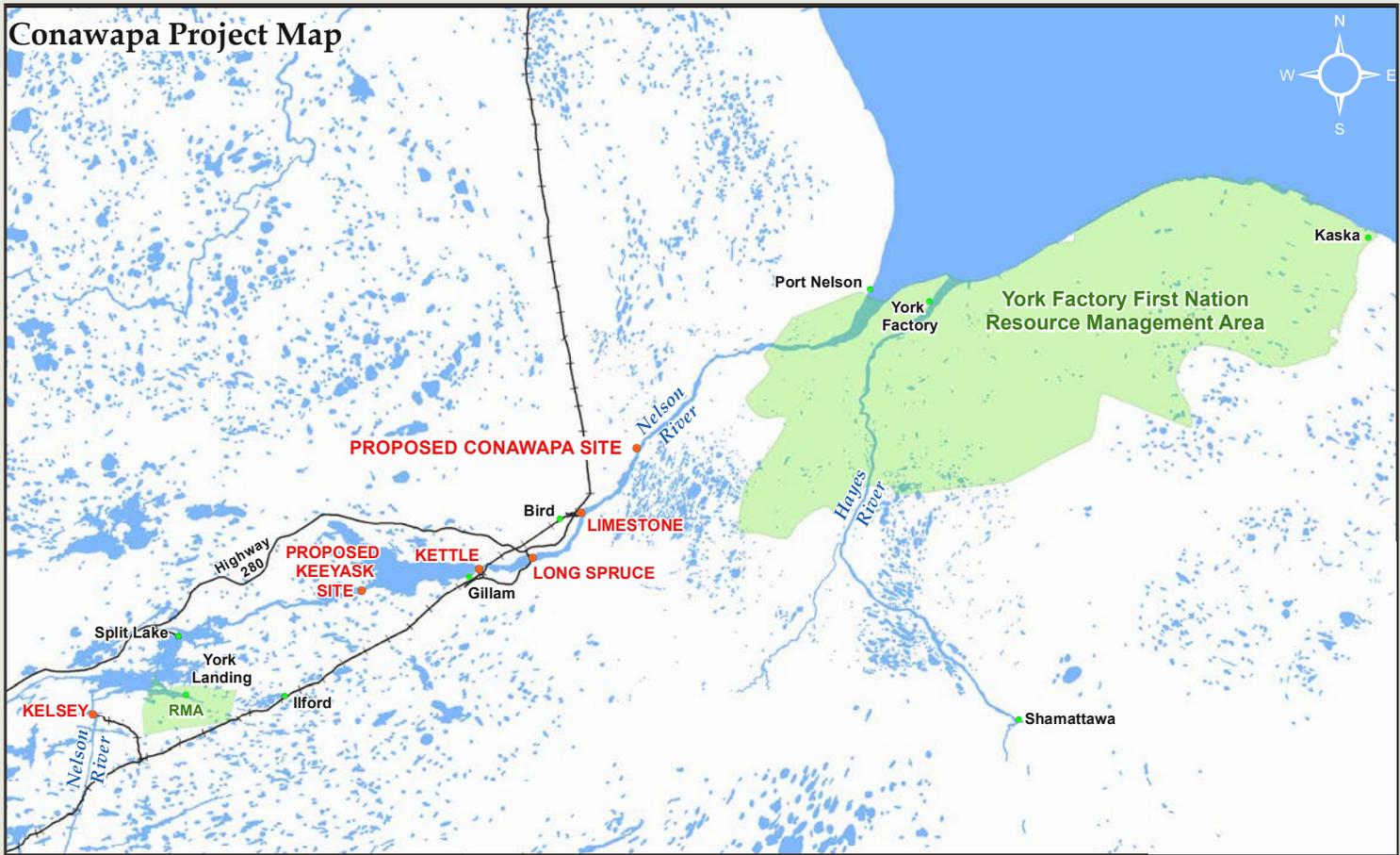
But it is still unclear what all this information means to York Factory. York Factory Chief and Council, Future Development staff, and community members will get a better understanding as Hydro prepares the environmental impact statement and shares more specific information with York Factory. The most recent discussions with Hydro about Conawapa happened at the December 19, 2012 community meeting in York Landing. More meetings are expected in the months ahead. There will be conversations with Hydro about training, employment and business opportunities, York Factory's participation in Conawapa, and potential adverse effects.

Hydro has started talks with Fox Lake

Manitoba Hydro has started talks with Fox Lake about Fox Lake's participation in the Conawapa Project. In February, York Factory Chief and Council wrote a letter to Manitoba Hydro expressing frustration that Hydro has not yet had discussions with York Factory about its participation in Conawapa. Hydro has continued to hold off discussions, but has encouraged York Factory to continue to prepare for Conawapa negotiations.

York Factory and Fox Lake have also talked about Conawapa

York and Fox Lake representatives (Chiefs, Councilors, staff and community members) have met twice (March 11th & 26th, 2013) to discuss potential business opportunities, environmental, social and economic issues of concern.



Communicating with York Factory Members about Conawapa

Community Meetings

Chief and Council held community meetings on April 16th and May 1st, 2013. Here is a summary of what was heard at the meetings:

- Community members want to be more involved in understanding the Project and giving feedback
- Younger community members have been missed and need to be engaged
- Some community members are opposed to Conawapa
- Community members want Chief and Council and the Future Development Team to take a stronger approach with Hydro
- Some community members suggested that Chief and Council create a new team to work on Conawapa and talk to Hydro

More Conawapa meetings are planned for June 5 & 6, 2013 in York Landing.

Newsletters and Website

More newsletters will be produced to keep people informed.

Community members can also go to Future Development's website to get information on Conawapa and other Hydro projects (www.yffd.ca).

Engaging Younger Community Members

Based on feedback from members at the April 16th and May 1st meetings, Chief and Council have started a program to engage younger community members to get their thoughts on the Conawapa Project. Evelyn Beardy will soon be sending out a pamphlet to youth and getting them to share ideas in new ways.



Exploring former settlement sites



Boating on the Hayes

York Factory Conawapa Studies

Conawapa Community Studies Agreement

In 2006, York Factory and Hydro signed a Conawapa Community Studies Agreement to provide financial support to YFFN to undertake and complete community environmental studies for the Conawapa Project. These studies will help YFFN understand what the Conawapa Project means to community members and how it might affect (positively or negatively) York Factory members, the community's goals, and York Factory's Resource Management Area and larger coastal area. These studies will help York Factory's leadership and community members make better decisions about the Conawapa Project.

Research to date

Future Development has already conducted a great deal of research over the last seven years about York Factory's history, interests, land use and traditional knowledge in the lower Nelson River and coastal area. There are several reports that community members can read at the Future Development Office, including;

- *Initial Community-based Overview – Proposed Keeyask Hydro Project, May 2002*
- *Community-Identified Socio-Economic Conditions and Future Priorities, April 2004*
- *Socio-Economic Baseline and Sustainability Indicators, September 2004*
- *Traditional Economy: Land, Water, Fish & Wildlife, June 2006*
- *York Factory Traditional Values, Occupancy and Community History Project, March 2010*

Over the last several months, YFFN has started to plan and conduct more research with community members. Ryan Pengelly (HTFC) recently met with several of YFFN's Resource Management Board (RMB) representatives to get guidance on York's Conawapa Community studies. These RMB representatives have helped plan for interviews, mapping, and fieldtrips.

More research to come

Future Development will soon hire a Community Researcher to help with these studies about wildlife (caribou, moose, fish), resource use (trapping, hunting, fishing, gathering), community history, and heritage resources. More interviews are planned for the weeks ahead.



Traditional Knowledge Interview with Pat Spence