



YORK FACTORY FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

Keeyask Update

August 2013



The Keeyask Project

KEYYASK EIS SUBMISSION AND REVIEW

The Keeyask Partnership, made up of Manitoba Hydro, YFFN, FLCN, and Cree Nation Partners, submitted the Keeyask Generation Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to the provincial and federal governments on July 6th, 2012.

Keeyask EIS is available at the Future Development Office and online at <http://keeyask.com>.

Since then, the provincial and federal governments have been reviewing the Keeyask EIS. Once the federal government has completed its review, the federal department called the Canadian Environment Assessment Agency will provide a report (called a “Comprehensive Study Report”) to the federal Minister of the Environment.

In November 2012, the Manitoba Government asked the **Clean Environment Commission (CEC)** to conduct an independent public review of the Keeyask EIS.

The Keeyask Partnership, which includes YFFN, is the **proponent** in the review of the Keeyask EIS and the CEC hearings. A proponent is a person or group of persons proposing to undertake a development in Manitoba for which a license is required under a statute of the Province.

WHO IS THE CEC?

The CEC is a provincial government agency that provides opportunities for the Manitoba public to participate in the environmental review of large projects.

For more information, visit the CEC website at <http://www.cecmanitoba.ca>.

The CEC Panel for the Keeyask hearings consists of:

- Edwin Yee (Commissioner)
- Terry Sargeant (Chair)
- Jim Shaw (Commissioner)
- Judy Bradley (Commissioner)
- Reg Nepinak (Commissioner)



Bipole III CEC Hearing in Winnipeg

THE CEC HEARINGS

The CEC will hold a series of public hearings from September through November in Winnipeg, Thompson, York Landing, Gillam, Bird, Split Lake, and Cross Lake to gather public opinion on the Keeyask Project.

The CEC will hold a meeting in York Landing on September 26th to hear from community members about the project. All community members are welcome to attend and speak to the Panel. To prepare for September 26th, YFFN is planning a community meeting on September 16th in York Landing.

As a Keeyask partner, YFFN will have witnesses participating in these public hearings. They will speak on behalf of YFFN as a Keeyask Partner and answer questions from the CEC panel and registered Participants.

Within 90 days of finalizing the hearings, the CEC must provide a report to the Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship who will decide whether to license the Keeyask Project and what conditions to put in the license.

CEC HEARINGS SCHEDULE (subject to change)

HEARING PREPARATION

Aug. 26 - Sept. 30	Keeyask Partnership Prepares for Presentations
Sept. 30	Participants File Pre-hearing Evidence

NORTHERN HEARINGS

Sept. 23	Gillam - Evening Session
Sept. 24	CEC Field Day
Sept. 25	Bird
Sept. 26	York Landing
Sept. 30	Thompson - Evening Session
Oct. 1	Thompson - Full-day Session
Oct. 2	Split Lake
Oct. 9	Cross Lake

WINNIPEG HEARINGS

Oct. 21 - Nov. 12	Hearings
Nov. 15 - 22	Hearing Break (1 week)
Nov. 25 - 28	Final Arguments

CEC will issue a report and recommendations to the Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship within 90 days of the end of the hearing

WHO IS A PARTICIPANT?

A **participant** in a CEC hearing is an individual, community group, or not-for-profit organization that has applied for and received funding under the CEC Participant Assistance Program. To receive funding, participants have demonstrated an interest in the potential physical, social or economic effects of the development. For the Keeyask hearings, the funds provided to participants will be paid by the Keeyask Partnership.

There are several participants in the CEC hearings for the Keeyask EIS review:

- Kaweechiwasihk Kay-tay-a-ti-suk (York Landing Elders)
- Concerned Fox Lake Grassroots Citizens
- Manitoba Metis Federation
- Manitoba Wildlands
- Peguis First Nation
- Consumers Association of Canada
- Pimicikamak (Cross Lake)

WHO IS THE “KAWEECHIWASIHK KAY-TAY-A-TI-SUK” (KK)?

The Kaweechiwasihk Kay-tay-a-ti-suk is made up of YFFN Elders who have come together to participate in the CEC hearings. This group has a coordinator and consultant to assist them to conduct research, prepare for and attend hearings, give presentations, and ask questions of the Keeyask Partnership's representatives.



Martina Saunders



Ted Bland

YFFN'S REPRESENTATIVES AT THE HEARINGS

- Witnesses: Ted Bland & Martina Saunders
- Elder Representative: Sally Saunders
- Youth Representative: Meka Beardy
- Advisor: Jim Thomas
- Legal Counsel: Brad Regehr
- Additional elder and youth representatives may also attend

These individuals have been participating in a series of meetings to prepare for the CEC hearings.

Chief Constant and the Chiefs from Tataskweyak, War Lake, and Fox Lake, and Ken Adams (Manitoba Hydro Vice President) will make opening statements on the first day of the Winnipeg hearings. YFFN's Witnesses will participate on four witness panels in the hearings to explain YFFN's role in the Keeyask Partnership and YFFN's views on the environmental assessment.

There are many other individuals representing the Keeyask Partnership who will present and answer questions about the various topics such as sturgeon, caribou, water quality, etc.

KIPEKISKWAYWINAN

YFFN submitted its Keeyask report, called Kipekiskwaywinan (Our Voices), to the regulators as part of the Keeyask EIS. This means that the regulators and public will likely have questions during the CEC hearings about York Factory's decision to become a Keeyask partner and its views about the Keeyask Project that are shared in Kipekiskwaywinan. The hearings will be an opportunity for YFFN to explain Kipekiskwaywinan to the public.



Caribou in the Keeyask area, January 2013. Photo credit: Wildlife Resource Consulting Services Inc

KEEYASK & CARIBOU

In its March 2013 Newsletter, YFFN mentioned its concerns about caribou and the potential effects from several projects in the north including Keeyask, Bipole III, Conawapa, and other projects.

In July & August, YFFN met with Manitoba Hydro and the other Keeyask Cree Nations to discuss ideas about how to monitor and take care of caribou in addition to the mitigation measures described in the Keeyask EIS. These parties are looking at ways to bring together Hydro's Generation Department, Transmission Department, the four Cree Nations who are partners in Keeyask, and possibly Manitoba Conservation & Water Stewardship.

YFFD presented on this issue to community members on July 23rd, 2013 at George Saunders Memorial School.

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

The Keeyask Partnership will have a series of monitoring programs (technical and community monitoring programs) to monitor the effects of the Keeyask Project during its construction and operation.

As a partner in Keeyask, YFFN has been developing its own monitoring program. YFFN has talked about hiring staff to coordinate its monitoring program and establishing a Monitoring Steering Group to involve community members in YFFN's Monitoring Program. One part of YFFN's monitoring program will likely include field trips to the Keeyask Infrastructure and Generation Projects' sites.

YFFN's Monitoring Program will support YFFN's representative on the Keeyask Monitoring Advisory Committee (MAC). There will also be a Construction Advisory Committee (CAC) that will discuss Keeyask construction activities, and an Advisory Group on Employment (AGE) that will discuss Keeyask employment issues. The MAC, CAC, and AGE will start to function in the near future.

Chief and Council will be appointing one YFFN representative for each of these Committees soon.

WHAT IS THE MAC?

The MAC is an advisory group to the Keeyask Board that will be created in the coming months.

The MAC will be composed of five Hydro representatives and five from the Cree partners (two from TLN and one each from YFFN, FLCN, and WLFN).

YFFN will have one representative and one advisor on the Keeyask MAC.

The MAC will meet every two months during construction to discuss monitoring activities, results, and reporting under the various monitoring programs.