



## **ENGAGEMENT PLAN**

**BLUEFISH HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY  
PLANT #122  
YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

**January 2024**

## DOCUMENT MAINTENANCE AND CONTROL

The Director, Health, Safety & Environment is responsible for the distribution, maintenance and updating of the Engagement Plan.

DOCUMENT HISTORY				
Revision #	Revised Section(s)	Description of Revision	Prepared by	Issue Date
0	N/A	First Version	NTPC	January 2024

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

This Engagement Plan provides an engagement framework for the Bluefish Hydroelectric Facility. The Bluefish Facility is primarily located on Prosperous Lake, 39 km north of Yellowknife, NT, on the Yellowknife River system.

Land use operations at Bluefish Hydro are regulated under the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) Land Use Permit (LUP) MV2017X0005. This permit was issued on April 6, 2017 and expires on April 5, 2024. NTPC is applying for a LUP renewal for the facility in early 2024. As part of the LUP renewal application process, NTPC is required to gather input from stakeholders on the application package and to continue engagement throughout the term of the permit. Engagement will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to contribute knowledge and solutions to the process, which is mutually beneficial to all parties involved.

This plan was developed through consideration of the MVLWB Engagement Guidelines for Applicants and Holders of Water Licences and Land Use Permits, and the MVLWB Engagement and Consultation Policy. Engagement also occurs under the Bluefish Hydro land water licence MV2020L4-0002 for the operation of the facility.

## 1.1 BLUEFISH FACILITY

Bluefish Hydro is a remote hydroelectric power generating facility located 39 km north of Yellowknife on the north end of Prosperous Lake where the Yellowknife River enters Prosperous Lake from Bluefish Lake.

The Bluefish Hydro is the oldest hydro facility in the N.W.T. with the original Bluefish Lake Dam constructed in 1940 and the G1 generating plant and Duncan Lake dam completed in 1942. The facility was constructed to provide electricity to operate the Cominco Gold Mine in Yellowknife and has a generation capacity of 3.5 MW. The Bluefish G2 plant was built in 1994 and has a generation capacity of 4.0 MW. NTPC generally operates the new unit and utilizes the old unit as a variable flow generator when the electrical demand exceeds the capacity of the new unit. There are several additional buildings located near the powerhouses, including two trailers housing operations employees.

Duncan Lake is the main storage lake for the Bluefish system and is located upstream of the Bluefish Lake on the Duncan River System. The Duncan Lake control dam is situated at the outlet of the Duncan Lake and provides the water supply for power generation at the Bluefish Plants. The Duncan Lake control dam was originally built in 1942 as a rockfill timber crib structure, It was relocated and replaced in 1974 with a concrete gravity dam consisting of a stoplog opening and overflow spillway, and repaired in 1994, 2007, and 2017.

There is no all season road access to the facility. The facility is accessed by boat in the summer and an ice road is constructed across Prosperous Lake in the winter connecting the facility to NWT Highway #4. When the ice road or boat is not available the site is accessed by helicopter from

Yellowknife. The winter road allows for fuel, oversized equipment, and freight to be delivered to site. The facility also includes two staff housing buildings, equipment storage buildings and tents, a construction camp, waste incinerator, septic system, fuel storage areas and other storage buildings.

The power generated at Bluefish is part of the hydroelectric generation mix that provides power to the North Slave communities of Yellowknife, Behchokò, Dettah and N'Dilo along with the power generated by the four plants at the Snare Hydroelectric Facility.

The Bluefish Hydroelectric Facility is outlined in Figures 1 and 2.

Figure 1: Bluefish Hydro Facility- General Site Location

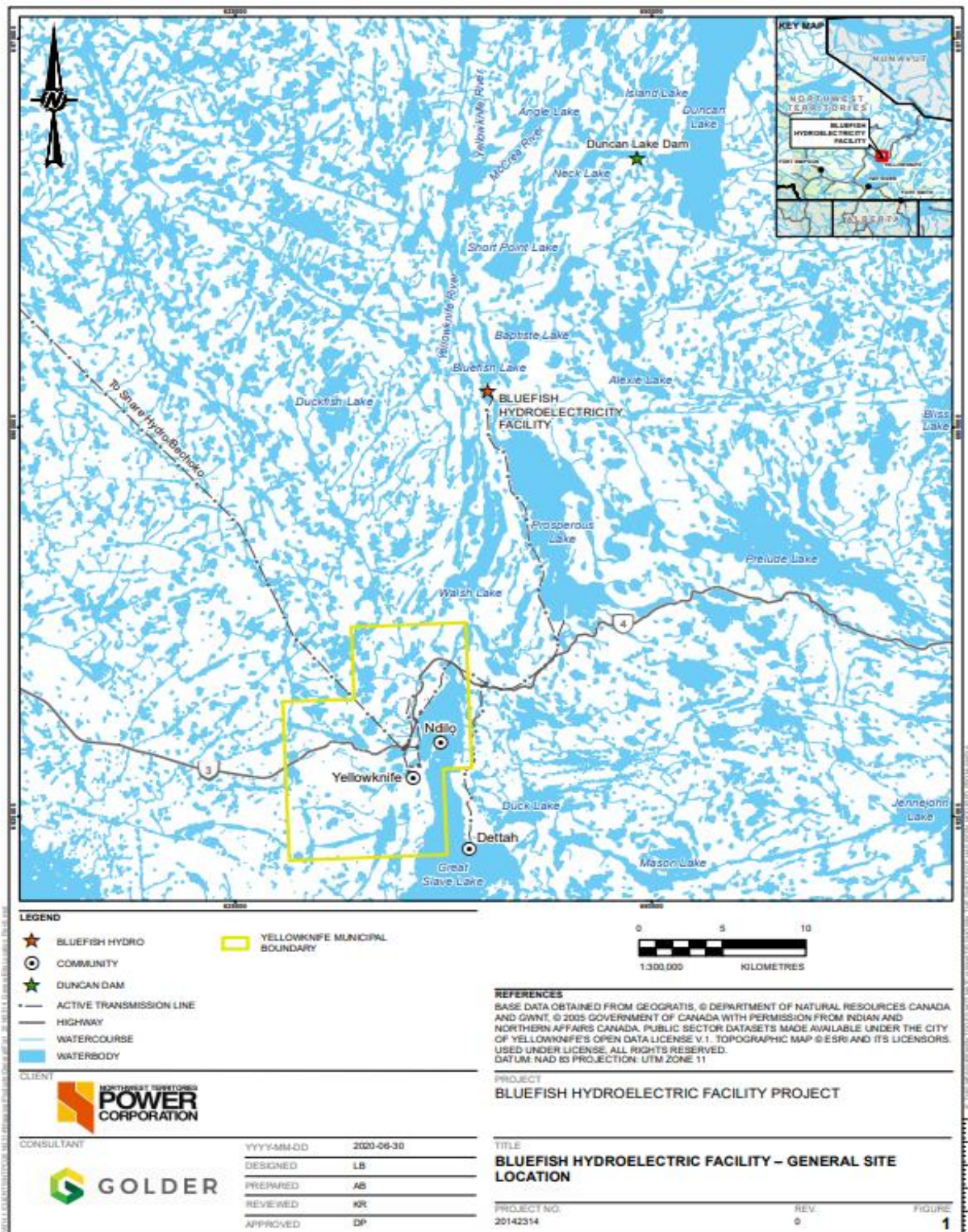
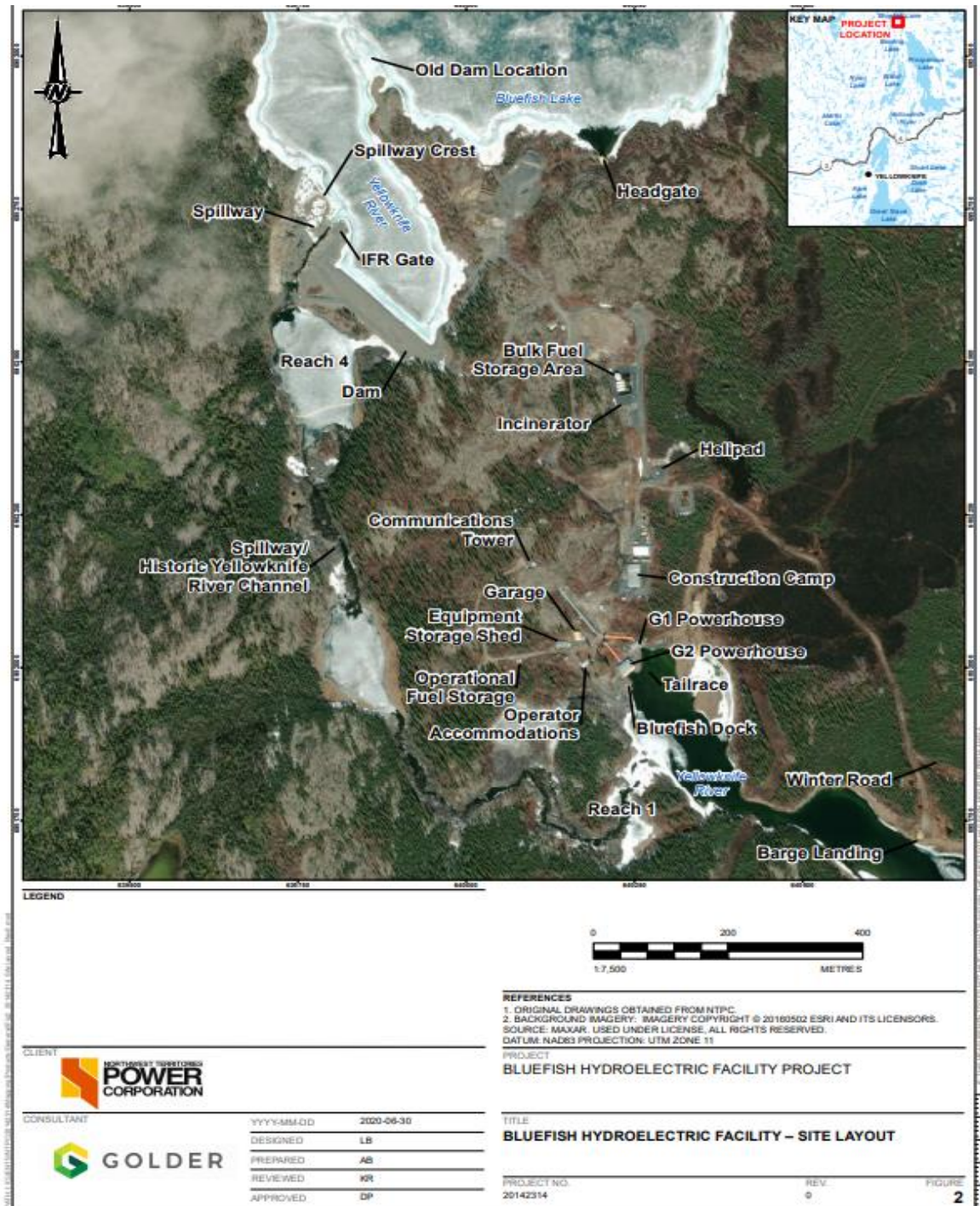


Figure 2: Bluefish Hydro Facility



## 1.2 CORPORATE CONTACT INFORMATION

NTPC contact information for the Bluefish LUP is as follows:

David Dewar  
Director, Health, Safety & Environment  
4 Capital Drive  
Hay River, NWT X0E 1G2  
Tel: (867) 875 0037 [ddewar@ntpc.com](mailto:ddewar@ntpc.com)

Eileen Hendry, C.E.T.  
Manager, System Control  
Northwest Territories Power Corporation  
P.O. Box 2250  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7  
E: [eileenhendry@ntpc.com](mailto:eileenhendry@ntpc.com)  
P: 1-867-669-3301  
C: 1-867-444-1170

Doug Prendergast  
Manager, Communications  
4 Capital Drive  
Hay River, NWT X0E 1G2  
Tel: (867) 874-5202 [dprendergast@ntpc.com](mailto:dprendergast@ntpc.com)



## 2 OBJECTIVES

Engagement, as defined by the Engagement and Consultation Policy of the Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley, is “the communication and outreach activities a proponent undertakes with affected parties prior to and during the operation of a project.” Engagement is required as part of the land-use permitting and water licensing process and the Boards require that proponents provide both an Engagement Record and an Engagement Plan as part of an application package.

Objectives of the engagement process are listed below along with NTPC’s commitment to fulfilling these objectives.

**Table 2-1: Engagement Objective and Commitments**

	<b>Engagement Objectives</b>	<b>NTPC Commitment to the Public</b>
1.	<p><u>Inform</u> by providing information to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notify stakeholders of any issues/operational decisions.</li> <li>• Assist stakeholders in understanding the operation and issues that may arise.</li> <li>• Prepare stakeholders for more intensive forms of engagement should they be required.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep the public informed.</li> <li>• Proactive, timely communication.</li> <li>• Help stakeholders understand the undertaking.</li> </ul>
2.	<p><u>Listen</u> to stakeholders and their feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the needs and priorities of the stakeholders so that decisions can be made with these needs and priorities in mind.</li> <li>• Build cooperative and inclusive relationships.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acknowledge when and how public input influenced decisions.</li> <li>• Understand views, concerns, interests and expectations.</li> </ul>
3.	<p><u>Involve</u> work directly with stakeholders to jointly resolve issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acknowledge when and how concerns and aspirations are reflected in the design of the operation.</li> </ul>

### 3 OPERATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

NTPC will ensure all reporting requirements under the land-use permit and water licence are met. GNWT Department of Lands and Department of Environment will complete inspections under the LUP and water licence. NTPC will assist in these inspections when possible and follow up on any action items required from the inspections.

NTPC openly engages with the public regarding the North Slave electrical system by:

- Providing information about electricity generation, transmission and distribution on the NTPC website ([www.ntpc.com](http://www.ntpc.com));
- Providing information about outages, safety, employment opportunities, community donations and other matters through:
  - NTPC Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/NTPC-Northwest-Territories-Power-Corporation-591764887576712/>);
  - Twitter ([https://twitter.com/ntpc\\_news?lang=en](https://twitter.com/ntpc_news?lang=en));
- Issuing news releases on significant issues;
- Having NTPC staff attend trade shows, conferences and job fairs to engage directly with members of the public; and
- Placing paid advertising in the media (radio and print) to provide information about matters of public interest.

Public engagement regarding Bluefish Hydro Land Use will employ the above practices of engagement as well.

## 4 LUP APPLICATION ENGAGEMENT

As part of the LUP application process and throughout the life of the permit some key tools employed in the engagement process are:

- Electronic mail (email)
- Phone conversations and teleconferences
- In-person meetings with representatives of affected organizations, if requested
- Community public meetings with affected communities, if requested

### 4.1 ENGAGEMENT TRIGGERS

There are standard triggers at key milestones related to operations authorized under the permit that will trigger engagement. Table 4-1 presents the structure for engagement that includes the triggers, methods and expected dates for engagement. All engagement activities will be recorded in the Engagement Record and submitted to the MVLWB.

**Table 4-1: Engagement Structure for Bluefish Hydro Facility LUP**

<b>Engagement Trigger</b>	<b>Purpose for Engagement</b>	<b>Organization to be Engaged</b>	<b>Format of Engagement</b>	<b>Approximate Date</b>
Pre-Application Engagement	To inform parties of details of Type A Land-Use Permit for Bluefish Hydro and to accept input from public on application.	Refer to Table 4-2	-Email with Notification letter outlining details for Bluefish Hydro Land Use Permit Application. -Information package outlining details of application. - Engagement meetings to review scope of application.	October, November 2023
Application submitted to the MVLWB	Inform parties of how to stay engaged through the MVLWB process	Refer to Table 4-2	Email with link to the MVLWB Public Registry site with the complete application	January 2023
Issuance of LUP	Inform parties that LUP has been issued.	Refer to Table 4-2	Emails.	April 2024
Any operational changes outside of normal operation procedures outlined in application and LUP	Inform parties of operating conditions outside of normal operation procedures outlined in application and LUP.	Refer to Table 4-2	Emails and/or phone calls	As required
Application to MVLWB for LUP amendment, extension or assignment	Inform parties of possible changes to the LUP	Refer to Table 4-2	As requested, including emails, phone calls and in-person meetings or information sessions	As required
Ongoing engagement	Inform parties of ongoing related to the operation of the Bluefish Facility	Refer to Table 4-2	As requested, including emails, phone calls and in-person meetings or information sessions	As required.

## 4.2 PARTIES TO BE ENGAGED

NTPC has identified a number of aboriginal, municipal, territorial and federal governments and governmental organizations as parties to be engaged as part of the land-use permit. These parties and organizations are presented in Table 4-2.

**Table 4-2: Parties to be Engaged**

Organization	Organization
Akaitcho IMA Implementation Office	INAC - NWT Inspectors
Bathurst Inlet Development Ltd.	INAC - Yellowknife
Bathurst Inlet Lodge	Katloodjeeche First Nation
Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency - NWT Region	Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation - Chief or Wildlife, Lands and Environment
Cassidy Point Association	Local Lease Holders
CIRNAC-CARD	Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
City of Yellowknife	Manitoba Denesuline
Dene Nation	MVLWB
Deninu K'ue First Nation	New Discovery Mines Ltd.
Det'on Cho Corporation	New Nadina Explorations Limited
Environment and Climate Change Canada	North Slave Metis Alliance
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Northwest Territory Metis Nation
Fort Resolution Metis Council	NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines
Forward Mining	NWT- OROGO
GNWT - ENR (Environment and Natural Resources)	Salt River First Nation
GNWT - ENR - EAM (Environmental Assessment and Monitoring)	Smith's Landing First Nation
GNWT - ENR - North Slave Region	Tlicho Government
GNWT - Executive and Indigenous Affairs	Tlicho Lands Protection Department
GNWT - INF (Infrastructure)	Tlicho Regulatory Specialist
GNWT - ITI (Industry, Tourism and Investment)	Town of Fort Smith
GNWT - Lands	Town of Hay River
GNWT - Lands - North Slave Region	Wek' eezhii Renewable Resources Board
GNWT - MACA (Municipal and Community Affairs)	West Point First Nation
GNWT - PPCA (Policy, Planning, Communications and Analysis (w/in ITI))	WLWB
GNWT - PWNHC (Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (w/in ECE))	Yellowknives Dene First Nation
Hamlet of Fort Resolution	

## 5 FOLLOW-UP REPORTING

During engagement activities, NTPC will track comments, concerns or inputs, received relating to a permitted or licensed activity and will provide a summary as detailed in Section 4 above. In order to process comments, concerns and input throughout the engagement process, NTPC will endeavor to respond in a timely manner, respecting the nature of the input.

Reporting on an engagement after it has been completed is an important step in the engagement process. All Engagement Logs will acknowledge those that participated and will provide an accurate record of the engagement process, and how final decisions were reached.

### 5.1 ENGAGEMENT RECORD

A summary of all engagement undertaken for the Application is listed in the Engagement Record. The Engagement Record includes an entry for each engagement, including the following information:

- Date of engagement;
- Name of party or group;
- Format of engagement;
- Individuals attending;
- Issue or topic of discussion;
- Comments received by NTPC; and
- Description of issues that were jointly resolved or which remain outstanding.

Relevant documents from each engagement will also be included in the Engagement Record including presentations, handouts and posters.

## 6 COMMUNICATING THE PLAN

Communicating the Engagement Plan is an important element to the success of the engagement process. NTPC intends to use engagement methods already familiar to them but also recognizes that not all potentially affected parties are the same and that what might work for one particular group or individual may not be the best method of engagement for another. NTPC is open to applying methods that work best for a particular situation and affected party in order to keep lines of communication open, build rapport, and establish trust.

## 7 PLAN REVIEW

It is important that engagement efforts be monitored. Where a method does not appear to be effective or when the scope of importance of an issue changes, it will be necessary to modify the Engagement Plan. Evaluating the effectiveness of the engagement process is a fundamental part of the Engagement Plan as it is important to understand what was done well and what could be improved upon moving forward. NTPC and the affected parties will assess the effectiveness of its engagement efforts over the course of time and will make necessary changes on a case by case basis. Any revisions to the Engagement Plan will be forwarded to the MVLWB.