



## STAFF REPORT

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| <b>Company:</b> Northwest Territories Power Corporation (NTPC) |   |
| <b>Location:</b> Snare Hydro Hydroelectric Facilities          | <b>Water Licence:</b> N1L4-0150         |
| <b>Date Prepared:</b> September 6, 2006                        | <b>Meeting Date:</b> September 12, 2006 |
| <b>Subject:</b> Aquatic Study of the Snare Hydro System        |   |

### 1. Purpose/Report Summary

The purpose of this report is to present to the Board for review and approval the plan and implementation schedule for an aquatic study of the Snare Hydro System. This document is a requirement of Part C, Item 1 of the Surveillance Network Program annexed to NTPC's Water Licence N1L4-0150:

*"The Licensee shall submit to the Board for approval by December 1, 1999, a plan and implementation schedule for an aquatic study that has the objective to obtain environmental information which will provide an understanding of the present status of the Snare River system from the Big Spruce Reservoir to Strutt Lake inclusively.*

*The study should include fish, sediments and water. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development's document titled "Guidance for Northern Aquatic Effects Monitoring" dated October 1, 1997 can provide additional guidance for the development of the study design."*

### 2. Background

NTPC submitted the plan and implementation schedule for the aquatic study on December 1, 1999 in accordance with the water licence requirements. However, it appears that this document never underwent the review and approval process once it was received by the NWT Water Board. In the absence of direction from the NWT Water Board, NTPC proceeded with fulfilling the terms outlined in the plan and implementation schedule.

NTPC commissioned Rescan Environmental Services (Rescan) to complete the necessary sampling and data analysis which was summarized in a report titled "Biological Characterization of the Snare River System, April 2001". This report was submitted to the MVLWB on August 3, 2001 but does not require Board approval.

#### **4. Comments**

Given that NTPC fulfilled their obligations under the water licence and the long period of time that has passed since the study was required, Board staff consider it acceptable for the Board to acknowledge that the requirements of Part C, Item 1 of the Surveillance Network Program have been fulfilled. Furthermore, Rescan is a reputable consulting firm with a long history of working with northern projects and they are bound by professional standards.

#### **5. Recommendation**

I recommend that the Board acknowledge that the requirements of Part C, Item 1 of the Surveillance Network Program have been fulfilled.

#### **6. Attachments**

- Plan and implementation schedule for the aquatic study (December 1999)
- Report titled "Biological Characterization of the Snare Hydro System, April 2001" (CD)
- Map

**Respectfully submitted,**



**Sarah Baines**  
**Technical Coordinator**