

Deninu Kue First Nation

Presentation for Scoping Session
for the Proposed
Taltson River Expansion

Introduction

- Deninu Kue First Nation entered into a Treaty making concluded with the Crown on July 25, 1900.
- Deninu Kue First Nation is part of the Treaty Implementation negotiations with Yellowknives Dene and Lutsel Ke Dene First Nation.
- Our Treaty Rights among others include; the Right to Hunt, Fish, Trap and Gather to sustain our livelihood in our Traditional Territory.

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- Recent Supreme Court decisions have raised the obligation in terms of consultation and accommodation. The present system in place now does not meet the obligation set by the court. Government regulatory agencies must change the way they consult and accommodate.
- Deninu Kue First Nation *supports responsible development* in our Traditional Land Use area.
- We have concerns and recommendations that need to be addressed to ensure that this development is not or has minimal infringement or affect our Aboriginal and Treaty Rights.

Traditional Knowledge

- Study area too confined to an area, for instance, the Trudel Creek has a lot of emphasis on it. What about the areas up the watershed or downstream? The whole watershed must to be explored and properly assessed.
- Observations, distributions, frequencies and trapping and hunting. In this list there is no mention of aquatic fur-bearing animals. These animals such as the muskrats, beavers and minks are important to the Akaitcho Dene as a source of income and food. Deninu Kue First Nation feels these animals will be the most impacted.

- There is no reference to the anticipated impacts on trapping, hunting, and fishing. The flooding in the past has damaged vast areas of the Taltson River watershed, both up stream and down stream from the power generating plant.
- There is no mention of Fish habitat, shoals, or migration routes and how or if the unstable water levels are impacting.

- Unknown levels of natural mercury released by the flooding needs to be investigated to ascertain the impacts if there are any.

Transmission Lines

- Impacts from the transmission line needs to be explored intensively to assure the Dene that is not impacting the caribou migration, visual obstruction, the open corridor for migrating caribou.
- Assurance that the transmission line will not interfere with trapping, hunting, fishing of the Dene.

- Assurance that the project access roads are not going to open up the area for hunting, trapping, fishing and cottage industry.
- The hopes that the transmission line is to cross over to the mines sites via a strip of land between Lac de Sauvage and Lac de Gras, the proponent must keep in mind that this is a major caribou crossing and also a well documented archeological sites have been recorded for this area. Should the transmission line go across the narrow strip of land it will impact the migration south for the caribou. This will only be additional impact that the caribou already suffer.

- A large corridor will have to be cut to accommodate the transmission line in the tree line, this large section of land in question will have to be owned by the Federal Government, and regulated by the Mackenzie Valley Resources Management Act or Power Corporation? Would this process will only take away from the Akaitcho land withdrawal area, or does it sit outside the selected area?

- Staging areas on the Great Slave Lake to transport the transmission towers inland will have to be assessed, to assure that it will not have an adverse impact on the environment or interfere with the traditional way of life of the Akaitcho Dene of Deninu Kue First Nation.
- There is a strong need to explore other options for the proposed transmission line route. One option would be to run the transmission line from Enterprise where the Taltson Energy line already exists, this would eliminated all the environmental hurdles the other route would be challenge with. This option would also do away with the transporting of towers on the lake and than inland. Landing ports and chopper pads would have to be built to accommodate the air support for transporting the towers inland.

- Cumulative impacts from all the activities will have an affect on the environment and possibly the traditional way of life could be impacted.

Water

- Deze Energy provide schedules for the increase water flow.
- More ongoing studies and sampling of water to assure DKFN membership that the fish habitat is not impacted by the implementation of this project.

Culture

- The impact from the past flooding from the current structure needs to be properly assessed.
- On going traditional knowledge implementation with the development and implementation of this project.
- Treaty rights must be respected and implemented through out this project and its lifespan.

Air

- Air quality will be an issue during the construction phase of this project, how is this being monitored?
- Will this project assist in decreasing the amount of emission into the northern atmosphere?

Wildlife

- Caribou, moose, musk ox must be monitored through out the projects lifespan.
- Can Deze Energy bury transmission lines to accommodate major migration routes?

Marsi Cho!

- Deninu Kue First Nation would like to thank the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Review Board and Staff, Elders, Committee Members, and general public for their efforts in this process.