



360 Portage Ave (15) • Winnipeg Manitoba Canada • R3C 0G8  
Telephone / N° de téléphone : 204-360-4429 • Fax / N° de télécopieur : 204-360-6131  
spachal@hydro.mb.ca

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2013 10 17

Tataskweyak Cree Nation  
Attention: Chief Michael D. Garson

War Lake First Nation  
Attention: Chief Betsy Kennedy

York Factory First Nation  
Attention: Chief Louisa Constant

Fox Lake Cree Nation  
Attention: Chief Walter Spence

Re: Keeyask Cree Nation Involvement in Environmental Protection Program – Keeyask Project

The Keeyask Hydropower Limited Partnership (KHLP), and Manitoba Hydro as the general partner, are committed to ensuring that the Environmental Protection Program for the Keeyask Generating Station is comprehensive, substantial and respectful of the importance of both Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) and Western Science. In order to do so, the KHLP recognizes the need to work together as partners, gathering, sharing, utilizing, and applying ATK and Western Science in the on-going planning, development, operation and stewardship of Keeyask. There is a reciprocal commitment among the partners to work collaboratively with the necessary support and financial resources, to ensure that Project effects, anticipated and unanticipated, are understood, mitigated and managed.

Without derogating or abrogating any existing rights or agreements, it is recognized that each of the Keeyask Cree Nations (KCN) has a role and responsibility in relation to the Environmental Protection Program for the Keeyask Project. Each of the KCNs will develop and implement community-specific monitoring programs. It is understood that in giving their support to the Keeyask Project and the EIS the Keeyask Cree Nations are relying upon these programs having meaningful support and reasonable funding from the Keeyask Partnership.

This letter will confirm our agreement, on behalf of the KHLP and on behalf of Manitoba Hydro, to the following:

1. We shall provide reasonable funding during the life of the Keeyask Project to each KCN for the development and implementation of a community specific Monitoring Program, consistent with the statements contained in the Response to EIS Guidelines and relevant to the current phase of the Project.

2. We shall respond meaningfully to information and recommendations arising from the ATK Monitoring Program reports and ensure that the information and recommendations are given equal weight to western science in decisions made regarding the KHL P's environmental protection program consistent with the provisions of Chapter 8 of the Response to EIS Guidelines and any conditions of relevant licenses and authorizations.
3. It is acknowledged that it will be beneficial to all parties if the KCNs, and their respective Elders and other KCN knowledge holders, are able to collaborate with one another, sharing the methods, observations and findings of their respective Monitoring Programs and making joint reports and recommendations based upon the information derived there from. We agree that in addition to participating with and providing reasonable funding to each KCN with respect to their respective Monitoring Programs, we will participate in and reasonably fund each KCN's participation in a process to develop a mechanism satisfactory to all KCNs by which they can collaborate on monitoring and resolve conflicts and disputes that may arise with respect to such programs and also to fund the process' continued operation.
4. The KHL P also commits to support effective mechanisms and processes to foster an environment of meaningful sharing and collaboration, involving all partners, including Manitoba Hydro, Keeyask environmental managers, and the KCN, and their respective Elders and KCN knowledge holders, in undertaking environmental stewardship activities.

Yours truly,



Shawna Pachal  
Power Projects Development Division Mgr  
Power Projects Development

cc: Victor Spence  
Ted Bland  
Wayne Redhead  
Loretta Ross  
Jane Kidd-Hantscher  
Vicky Cole  
Carolyne Northover