



Keeyask Generation Project

CEC Hearings - Environmental Impact Statement



Voices of the Hearing

Selected excerpts from the CEC Hearing Transcripts

January 9, 2014

Task Facing the CEC

“Our task in the next few weeks is for each of us to play a role in ensuring that the Keeyask Generation project, if it is to be built, does not result in any serious and ongoing damage to the environment of our Province.”

CEC Chair, Terry Sargeant, October 21, 2013

The Proponent

“...when you look back at this hearing what you will remember best is that we are a partnership; two languages, two cultures, two ways of looking at the world woven into one project and one partnership....”

Doug Bedford, October 21, 2013

Cumulative Effects

“Mr. Williams questioned why the Partnership did not have a cumulative effects panel. Well, the answer is simple, cumulative effects assessment is woven throughout the Environmental Impact Statement. We do not view it as a stand alone topic.”

Vicky Cole, October 23, 2013

VEC-Based Approach

“Throughout, efforts were consistently made to review and assess these VECs individually and as part of the ecosystem in which they are found. In short, the VEC approach required by the EIS Guidelines, and provided in the EIS, examined how everything is connected - how environmental components are linked together, and how effects of the Keeyask Project can flow through these links to impact several different VECs.”

Vicky Cole, October 23, 2013

Spatial Scoping

**MS. ROSENBERG: "And what you say is that:
"Boundaries for cumulative effects assessment at a
project specific level should be established where the
impacts of that project are no longer detectable."**

DR. NOBLE: "That's right."

November 12, 2013

Significance

“The significance assessment concluded that there were no significant effects of the project, but this was not because the potential for significant adverse effects did not exist. Rather the Partnership worked hard through an iterative process to address potential significant effects as they were identified.”

Vicky Cole, October 24, 2013

Uncertainty

MR. WILLIAMS: "Would you agree with the proposition that good practice CEA, good practice CEA, that appropriately outlines its level of confidence, as well as its limitations and uncertainties, is environmental assessment as it should always have been?"

....

MS. COLE: "...good practice assessment does talk about the level of confidence in the findings, the limitations in the findings, as well as any uncertainties. And I think we are all in agreement that we are quite confident that the Keeyask EIS has done that. We have identified where we think there are limitations. We have identified monitoring. We have identified uncertainty."

October 24, 2013

Two-Track Approach

“To avoid confusion, it is essential to emphasize that the two processes are different in scope, methods, values and concepts. Equally important, both approaches, but particularly the Cree assessment process, needs to be recognized and respected as being different, equal and separate in the EIS itself. Aboriginal traditional knowledge and an Aboriginal assessment based on the Cree world view and values are completely different matters.”

Joe Keeper, October 23, 2013

Public Engagement Process

"...as a proponent we take very seriously any concerns raised by communities or individuals or groups about the project, we take them seriously. And we seek to respond to them. We have a flexible and adaptive public involvement program, and have worked very hard to be responsive and to provide information when we are aware that individuals or communities are interested about the project."

Vicky Cole, October 24, 2013

“Manitoba Hydro is interested in any impacts that arise in the project area, and that's something that we're dealing directly with. And to the extent that the study that the MMF produces reveals impacts, reveals something that we need to consider, we'll look at it in that context.”

Elissa Neville, October 22, 2013

Pre-Cautionary Approach

“9. Acknowledging Caution and addressing Uncertainty - Acknowledge and respect the caution that many KCN members have about predictions of environmental effects of hydro-electric development (e.g., uncertainty associated with predictive models). It is important to employ a precautionary approach that identifies knowledge gaps and recognizes the uncertainty of predictions.”

ATK Principles, Response to EIS Guidelines

Caribou

“In the EIS we identified the fourth grouping of caribou called summer resident caribou. This was the precautionary approach that basically bridges the gap between what we understand to be regulatory for the system, and what the Aboriginal traditional knowledge says, and what science is saying. And by definition, we call the summer resident group, it can either be woodland, coastal, or both, as a precautionary measure when we looked at the EIS.”

Robert Berger, October 30, 2013

Lake Sturgeon

MR. SHAW: "... is the Partnership committed to stocking and/or other compensation measures until a self-sustaining population is established sort of regardless of the number of years it would take?"

MS. SCHNEIDER-VIEIRA: "Yes, that was stated in the environmental impact statement, and that is a commitment that the Partnership has made."

October 30, 2013

Mercury & Human Health

"I was quite impressed with the document. Scientifically it's very good. We do have issues only with some of the assumptions that were made in that human health risk assessment, but the overall methodology is correct and state of the art and up to date, so that was impressive."

Dr. Brown, November 26, 2013

Worker Interaction

“So it's important, in looking at a community like Gillam, it's important that all parties are working together and looking at these types of issues, and keeping track of them and strategizing together as to what measures to take.”

Janet Kinley, November 4, 2013

Monitoring & Follow-up

“It is important that our community representatives, elders, youth, resource users and knowledge holders continue to participate in the Keeyask project's next phases, including construction, operation, environmental monitoring and adaptive management.”

Ted Bland, November 6, 2013

Sustainable Development

“Because the Keeyask environmental assessment process followed two tracks, it was possible for the Keeyask Cree Nation to participate in and plan the project within the framework of how they understood the world. We believe this provided an important contribution and foundation for the project's sustainable development focus.”

Joe Keeper, October 23, 2013

Fox Lake Cree Nation

“We are partners in this Project because for the first time in history, this is not their project, but theirs and ours. That is the revolutionary concept.”

George Neepin, October 21, 2013

“We trust that this Commission will support our rights as the First Peoples of the territories in which the Keeyask will operate, so that we finally may benefit from the use by others of our resources which for so long have been the monopoly of non indigenous people. Our people have lived in the area of the Keeyask project since time immemorial... It has nurtured us in many ways and it is a part of who we are.”

Chief Walter Spence, October 21, 2013

York Factory First Nation

“York Factory First Nation chose to support Keeyask, not only so our people could benefit from employment, business and investment opportunities. We chose to become a partner so we could have a voice in how the project is developed and managed. We want to be on the inside and influence the project.”

Chief Louisa Constant, October 21, 2013

“By adding our voices, values, and traditional knowledge to the Keeyask Generation Project, we hope to positively impact the project, reduce adverse effects, and continue to be stewards of the land and the waters.”

Ted Bland, October 21, 2013

Cree Nation Partners

“Some may find it puzzling that a hydroelectric development which has caused such devastation to our lands and waters will now be proposed by us as a way forward to a better future of our children and grandchildren... This partnership gives us an opportunity of hope, to provide hope to our people and to our children and their grandchildren.”

Victor Spence, October 21, 2013

“We deserve the benefits that come with Hydro development, be it through employment, training, business arrangements, social, economic, you name it, we deserve that.”

Chief Michael Garson, October 21, 2013

“It is also a source of pride to us that Keeyask is being developed in a way that will better protect the environment.”

Chief Betsy Kennedy, October 21, 2013

"The lands, the waters, and the resources have provided for us in the past. These waters and their power could once again help to provide for our people."

William Beardy, Tataskweyak Cree Nation Elder