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Kaweechiwasihk Kay-tay-a-ti-suk-Inc.  
Introductory Comments – Keeyask CEC Hearings  
York Landing, Manitoba September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Tansi: and Good Afternoon to the Clean Environment Commission Chair and Panel Members.

Terry Sargeant – Chair  
Edwin Yee  
Jim Shaw  
Judy Bradley  
Reg Nepinak  
Mike Green  
Cathy Johnson- Secretary

For the record, I am Roy Beardy, and I am joined by Elders Flora Beardy, Elizabeth Beardy, Stella Chapman, Doreen Saunders, Obediah Wastesicoot and regrets to Elder Eric Saunders that will not be able to join us due to health issues. We are here today to representing the Interuenor Kaweechiwasihk Kay-tay-a-ti-suk Inc.

Kaweechiwasihk Kay-tay-a-ti-suk Inc. is not a not for profit organization incorporated under the laws of Manitoba. While the Kaweechiwasihk Kay-tay-a-ti-suk Inc. have been recognized in our ancestral lands since time immerial, the Kaweechiwasihk Kay-tay-a-ti-suk Inc. has incorporated under the laws of Manitoba in order to better engage with others outside of Kaweechiwasihk.

The Kaweechiwasihk Kay-tay-a-ti-suk Inc. are a group of concerned Elders who have questions regarding the Keeyask Environmental Impact Statement. They do not wish to oppose the Project, they are simply looking after York Factory First Nation (YFFN) interest. Kaweechiwasihk Kay-tay-a-ti-suk Inc. intends to generally “examine and test” the partnership submission. The Elders Group simply want a “fair stake” for our people to the benefits of Keeyask while fulfilling their duties as stewards of the lands and waters.

To illustrate the core interests of Kaweechiwasihk Kay-tay-a-ti-suk Inc., as well others matters, we will examine the four major topics reflected in our written information requests:

- a.) The manner and extent to which Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) was and will be in future – considered, included and treated with equal value and importance by the partnership and the regulators in:
- i) The project design, construction and operation;
  - ii) The environmental Impact Statement (EIS);
  - iii) The environmental protection plans;
  - iv) The environmental monitoring plans; and
  - v) The environmental and project management plans

Kaweechiwasihk Kay-tay-a-ti-suk Inc. is aware that these plans have been forwarded to the Regulators. These plans are still under development, particularly how ATK will be related to the environmental protection, monitoring, the environmental and management plans.

- b.) How the difference in the world views and conclusions between Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge and western science – based analysis were – and will be in future – treated by the Partnership and the regulators in:
- i) The project design, construction and operation;
  - ii) The EIS;
  - iii) The environmental protection plans; and
  - iv) The environmental monitoring plans; and
  - v) The environmental and project management plans.

Kaweechiwasihk Kay-tay-a-ti-suk Inc. will be questioning the difference and how the Partnership intends to address these differences. Kaweechiwasihk Kay-tay-a-ti-suk Inc. Possesses the knowledge of past hydro-development. We are concerned of Oschinewin – the sacred law that we can not disturb nature for the fear that it will come back on us. As for western science, it is not a problem until they have to prove it.

- c.) The consideration on innovation measures to protect in the areas of the Keeyask Project. As well as the consideration of measures to mitigate the impacts of hydroelectric developments on Lake Sturgeon, including considerations of measure to mitigate impacts at the Kelsey Generating Station, in part, by restoring the seasonal passage of lake Sturgeon and other species between Sipiwesk Lake area and Split Lake.

Kaweechiwasihk Kay-tay-a-ti-suk Inc. or rather York Landing Elders, participated in the "Review of Dealing with Fish Mortality Studies and Quantification of Fish Habitat for the Kelsey Re-Running Project". The "Report" was prepared by; Terry A. Dick, Phd – Arctic Fish Technology Inc.; Dr. Terry Dick was retained by the York Factory First

Nation (YFFN) to review reports dealing with survival and injuries to fish passed through a turbine at Manitoba Hydro's Kelsey Generating Station on the Nelson River as well as reports dealing with fish habitat quantification and a presentation by Richard Remnant, North South Consultants, to Manitoba Department of Water Stewardship and the community of the York Factory First Nation. At the request of York Factory First Nation, Michael Anderson provided technical support to Dr. T. Dick, as well as historical reference and imagery and commentary on the potential relevance and application of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) to assessment of the potential effects of the re-running project of the Kelsey Generating Station.

- d.) The recognition of the distinct herd of resident boreal woodlands caribou in the area of the Keeyask Project and nearby the other projects on the Nelson River and the consideration of measures to recognize and protect the herd and to mitigate the impacts of the Keeyask Project on the herd.

Kaweechiwasihk Kay-tay-a-ti-suk Inc. has reviewed the Bi-Pole III Transmission Project Supplement – Caribou Technical Report and is preparing an analysis for the Commission that will be reviewed and discussed in the November 2013 CEC Hearings.

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Kaweechiwasihk Kay-tay-a-ti-suk Inc. analysis requires consideration and application of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK)

Kaweechiwasihk Kay-tay-a-ti-suk Inc. is concerned with the Pequis and Pimichichamak-Notice of Motion – that was forwards to the Clean Environment Commission, in the matter of Keeyask Generating Project that was filed on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

To our understanding, the motion tends to delay the Keeyask – Clean Environment Commission hearings until a Regional Cumulative Effects Assessment (RCEA) is undertaken. The CEC wisely recommended this approach in its decision about Bi-Pole III, saying that no new hydro development licences should be issued until the regional assessment was done.

Conservation Minister Gord MacIntosh has said that he intends for this recommendation to be implemented, and that Manitoba will begin discussions with Manitoba Hydro about implementing this assessment.

To Kaweechiwasihk Kay-tay-a-ti-suk Inc. knowledge, York Factory First Nation (YFFN) has done some work on the cumulative Effects based on our own experiences with hydro-electricity development. But we have not collaborated broadly with other First Nation that has been effected by hydro-electricity development. Kaweechiwasihk Kay-tay-a-ti-suk Inc. agrees with the CEC, as set out in the Bi-Pole III recommendations.

Furthermore, Kaweechiwasihk Kay-tay-a-ti-suk Inc. would like to introduce a "snapshot" of our experience with high water levels on Split Lake in 2011. We feel that the information is relevant to the Cumulative Effects areas of interest and could serve as a discussion paper on the matter.

The Inc. intends to present expert information in support of its perspectives and interest on the matters and to participate throughout the hearings. Kaweechiwasihk Kay-tay-a-ti-suk Inc. looks forward to presenting its recommendations at the conclusion of the hearings. Kaweechiwasihk Kay-tay-a-ti-suk Inc. looks forward to receiving advice and direction from the commission regarding the timing, process and procedural matters regarding these presentations.

Customary Law - Kaweechiwasihk Kay-tay-a-ti-suk Inc. is making arrangements to bring in a colleague who is an expert on Customary Law related to dam building.

Kinanaskomitinawow, Thank you.