

COURSE OF ACTION DECISION FOLLOWING THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE WUSKWATIM HYDRO GENERATION PROJECT

NR-CA-08-xxE

5 March 2009

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and Transport Canada (TC) have taken the following course of action decision on July 1, 2006 following the completion of the Environmental Assessment for the proposed Wuskwatim Generation Project. A Comprehensive Study was conducted by DFO and TC, the responsible authorities, in accordance with the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA) (Federal Environmental Assessment Index number 31130). The comprehensive study concluded that the project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects, taking into account the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures.

The 200 MW Wuskwatim Generation Project, proposed by Manitoba Hydro in partnership with the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN), is located on the Burntwood River, about 45 km southwest of Thompson and 35 km southeast of the NCN community of Nelson House. Approximately six years will be required to build the \$1.1 billion generating facility.

A comprehensive study of the project under CEAA was triggered both when DFO determined that an authorization would be required under subsection 35(2) of the *Fisheries Act* for the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat and when TC determined that an approval would be required under paragraph 5(1)(a) of the *Navigable Waters Protection Act*. DFO and TC, as the responsible authorities under CEAA, were required to ensure that a comprehensive study report was prepared and provided to the Minister of the Environment.

On June 21, 2006, the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of the Environment and Minister responsible for the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, announced that the proposed Wuskwatim Generation Project in northern Manitoba did not require further assessment by a review panel or mediator under CEAA. The Minister referred the project back to the responsible authorities for an appropriate course of action.

DFO and TC determined, in accordance with section 37(1)(a) of CEAA, taking into account the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, that the project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects and may exercise any power or perform any duty or function that would permit the project to be carried out.

For more information about the Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the *Fisheries Act*, please visit: <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca>

For more information about Transport Canada and the Navigable Waters Protection Act, please visit: <http://www.tc.gc.ca>

For more information about projects undergoing environmental assessment under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, please visit: <http://www.ceaa.gc.ca>

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