



# New Post Creek Project News

Newsletter #12

Fall 2014



Stan Sutherland assisting with the archaeology field work.



An example of an artifact found during the field work.

## President's Message

*Wayne Ross, President*

Newsletter #11 was issued in early 2014 and many events have occurred since then. Here's a condensed version of several key events and the path forward.

Kiewit, the FEED Phase Contractor and their sub-contractors Aecom and Knights Pieshold have been busy optimizing the design, cost and schedule for the Newpost Creek Project. Geo-tech studies and an archaeological program were completed over the summer. The construction phase contract will be negotiated and brought to our boards for approval in late 2014.

The TTN Engagement Plan was completed, presented and approved by Chief and Council earlier this year. It contains processes for business contracts and employment opportunities for TTN on the Newpost Creek Project. Several RFPs were issued to the registered TTN Joint Ventures in August. Meetings with the unions affiliated with the construction phase are being held to negotiate preferential hiring and training for TTN members on the project.

The project team is currently corresponding with several people in the Ministry of the Environment about concerns of potential methyl mercury contamination of fish in the projects head pond. A site visit is being planned for the end of September for key representatives of the various agencies. Several meetings are being held with various governmental agencies to address these concerns.

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## Employment and Training Update

*Freda Ouellette, Employment and Training Coordinator*

As the CRP Employment and Training Coordinator, I am currently working with individual training plans for interested TTN members. If you are interested in gaining employment and/or apprenticeships for the NPC Project please stop by my office so that we can identify your requirements and training needs.

If you are already in the union please keep up with your union dues and keep your name on the Out of Work List. If you have successfully obtained any employment and/or training certificates recently, please notify the Employment and Training Coordinators so that we can update your ARMS file.

CRP is maintaining the TTN Business Registry. For current TTN businesses that are registered, please update your information so that I can make any needed changes.

I have been attending meetings for the NPC Project, such as the TTN Steering Committee which is implementing the TTN Engagement Plan. I have been meeting with the Building Trade Unions in order to ensure that we have all the right information regarding requirements, training, and union dues. I have also been working closely with Apatisawin Employment and Training to ensure that they are involved in the training that needs to take place.

If you require clarification and/or have any questions please contact me by phone, email or stop by the office at Apatisawin.

## Environmental Assessment Update

Work on environmental approvals and the Environmental Assessment has continued throughout the Front End Engineering and Design (FEED) phase. The Environmental Assessment was completed, and the Statement of Completion was filed in May 2014. In parallel, Coral Rapids Power/Ontario Power Generation (CRP/OPG) have been working with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOE) to address an outstanding concern they identified regarding a potential increase in mercury and the possible establishment of a pike population in the proposed headpond. Currently the project site does not have a pike population, or other sport fish, and it is unclear if and when a sport fish population may establish itself in the proposed headpond location. In response to the MOE request for more local baseline information, the Ministry of National Resources (MNR) collaborated with CRP/OPG and conducted a field program to sample fish on the Little Abitibi River in the headpond of the Diversion Dam. George Ross and Stan Sutherland worked with MNR to undertake the sampling program in August 2014.

One of the outcomes of the FEED design/price optimization work was a shift in the location of the spillway, intake, penstock and power house approximately 500 meters south of the original design. This required the Environmental Assessment team to reassess the changed footprint and undertake relevant field work (aquatic, terrestrial and archaeology) so that a Supplementary Report can be prepared for the MOE that identifies the net environmental effects of these changes. Field work to support this assessment was completed over the summer, including an archaeological assessment of the new footprint. The environmental team is still finalizing the various field reports and believes that the proposed design changes will not have new negative environmental effects. Once the Supplementary Report is drafted, it will be circulated to the Joint Working Group (CRP, TTN, MCFN and OPG) and to MNR for review and then a final report will be sent to MOE.

## Engineering Update

Over the past six months, the team has made significant progress on the Front End Engineering & Design (FEED) Phase of the Project. Kiewit, our Design Build Contractor and their design engineers, recently completed the initial review of the concept design for optimization opportunities and put forward an updated project plan. CRP and OPG, with the assistance of our engineering consultants (KGS Group) have reviewed and accepted the proposed concept design by Kiewit. Kiewit has recently submitted the final concept design drawings package and this is now being reviewed by CRP and OPG. In June, Kiewit completed the sediment sampling analysis fieldwork at site and completed additional site geotechnical investigation of the proposed footprint in September.

## Financing and Funding Update

Access Capital Corp., CRP's advisors on financing, has been analyzing this project and has proposed some ideas that will help to maximize the revenues for CRP and TTN. Access Capital is a financial advisory company based in Toronto with experience advising First Nations on financing energy projects. Access Capital's mandate is to protect and enhance the returns to CRP and TTN.

Access Capital has primarily been working on the Aboriginal Loan Guarantee Program for CRP. The loan guarantee will help CRP access loans for its purchase of equity in the project. While the actual loan will come from a private lender, such as a bank, the Government of Ontario provides a guarantee that the loan will be repaid if there are any problems. The guarantee reduces the interest rate of the loan, and this can significantly increase the revenue to CRP and TTN.

CRP is pleased to date with the advice received from Access Capital. The recent financial presentations to the CRP Board and to the TTN Chief & Council were well received.

CRP is continuing to work with its advisors to consider other methods of maximizing the revenue to TTN on this project and identifying potential grants or funding for this project.



One test pit excavated during the archaeology work.

## President's Message continued

The HESA agreement (the way the project earns income) for the project is still being negotiated with the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) and we expect significant progress over the next few months.

The anticipation of the start of construction is mounting as this year draws to a close. Your support and participation in achieving this important milestone is very much appreciated.

Please do not hesitate to contact Freda or me if you have any concerns or questions regarding the project.

Thank you!

**For project information please contact:**

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