

### Government of the Northwest Territories Energy Initiatives

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has undertaken a significant number of energy initiatives since the release of the *Northwest Territories Energy Action Plan (Action Plan)* in 2013. These initiatives are intended to reduce energy costs, reduce the reliance on imported oil, and reduce greenhouse gas emission in the Northwest Territories (NWT) through energy conservation, increased use of renewables and enhanced energy infrastructure.

The GNWT has also taken steps to bring together GNWT energy expertise with the consolidation of energy functions into the department of Public Works and services. This will allow the GNWT to better focus on energy projects and solutions for Northerners.

Since the release of the *Action Plan*, the GNWT hosted the 2014 Energy Charrette in order to engage the public, stakeholders and experts to discuss the NWT's current energy challenges and propose actions. In the *GNWT Response to the 2014 NWT Energy Charrette Report* the government committed to a number of short term actions, as well as proposed longer term actions for the consideration of the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative assembly.

Specifically, the short-term actions to be initiated in 2015 as a result of the Energy Charrette include:

- The release of a discussion paper on an NWT energy efficiency act;
- Develop a report on the economics of using surplus power in the Taltson system for electric heating and electric vehicles; and
- Develop a discussion paper on changes to the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act* to allow communities to lend money to home owners for energy efficiency improvements for the consideration of the 18th Legislative Assembly.

The 2013 *Action Plan* committed the GNWT to undertake a feasibility study on the use of liquid natural gas in the North Slave. As a result of the low water levels in the North Slave, and as an outcome of the Energy Charrette, the GNWT shifted the focus of this project to investigate ways to improve the resiliency of an electricity system, such as its ability to withstand stresses like severe weather and supply failure.

The resiliency study will focus on three primary areas:

- 1) Identify and evaluate a range of technology options that can be deployed to improve the North Slave system;
- 2) Examine existing hydrology trends in the North Slave region and consider options for implementing enhanced monitoring tools and hydrological forecasting models; and

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**Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:**

- 3) Analyze electricity rate structure options in order to avoid rate shock when future droughts occur.

Potential technology options include an LNG generating station, a hydro capacity addition to the Bluefish hydro station, upgrades to the Jackfish diesel plant to increase capacity and improve efficiency, a battery system that could store reserve energy, and renewable energy options in the North Slave area. The results of this work will be presented to the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

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**Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:**

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