
PUBLIC AND AGENCY CONSULTATION TECHNICAL SUPPORTING DOCUMENT FOR THE HOUND CHUTE PROJECT



Submitted To:

ONTARIO **POWER**
GENERATION

Submitted By:

Montreal River EA Consulting Team

March 2007

**PUBLIC AND AGENCY CONSULTATION TECHNICAL SUPPORT DOCUMENT
FOR THE HOUND CHUTE PROJECT**

Submitted to:

Ontario Power Generation Inc.
700 University Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M5G 1X6

By:

Hound Chute EA Consulting Team

Prepared by:	 Mr. Phil Shantz, SENES EA Consulting Team	16 March 2007 Date
Reviewed by:	 Dr. Donald Gorber, SENES EA Consulting Team	16 March 2007 Date
Approved by:	 Dr. Donald Gorber, SENES Project Manager EA Consulting Team	16 March 2007 Date
Reviewed by:	 Ms. Gillian MacLeod Environmental Lead Ontario Power Generation Inc.	16 March 2007 Date
Accepted by:	 Mr. Edward M. Dobrowolski Project Manager Ontario Power Generation Inc	16 March 2007 Date

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The new facility will continue to operate under the existing operating regime that has been long established and more recently formalized in the Water Management Plan for the Montreal River (OPG *et al.*, 2006).

In 2000, the Ontario *Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act* (LRIA) was amended to establish the statutory authority of the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) to order the preparation of a Water Management Plan for operation of waterpower facilities and associated control structures and ensure compliance with the Plan. The intent of the Water Management Plan is to provide certainty and clarity as to how waterpower facilities and control structures are operated with respect to levels and flows so as to balance environmental, social and economic objectives.

The Water Management Plan for the Montreal River system is the result of partnership between OPG, the MNR, Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) which operate hydroelectric generating facilities as well as flood control and civil structures along the river, as well as First Nations and the general public, which participated in the form of various advisory committees (OPG *et al.*, 2006).

The Water Management Plan was prepared in accordance with the Water Management Planning Guidelines for Waterpower (MNR, 2002), as approved by the Minister of Natural Resources on 14 May 2002. The *LRIA* requires compliance by facility operators with the operating regimes established in the Water Management Plan.

Current Facilities

The 3.6-MW Hound Chute GS is located on the Montreal River straddling the townships of Latchford and Coleman in the District of Timiskaming, approximately 10 kilometers southwest of the Town of Cobalt. This 4-unit plant, initially placed in service in the early 1900s, is accessed by Silverfields Road which is maintained by OPG but open to public use. Photograph 1.1 depicts Hound Chute GS.

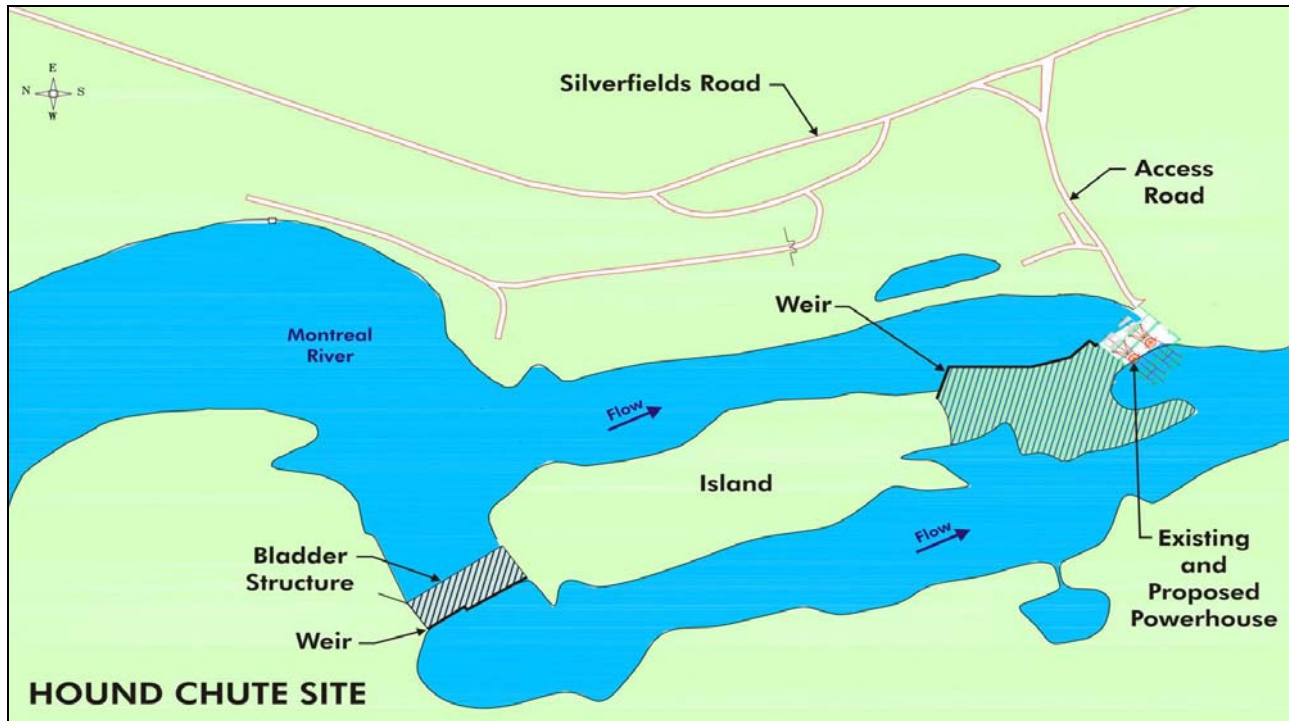
Photograph 1.1: Hound Chute Generating Station



The Hound Chute GS has a cement-capped rockfill weir and a concrete spillway terminating in abutments at each end. Flash boards are removed each spring prior to the freshet to help mitigate flooding upstream. The dam diverts the river through a 427 meters canal excavated along the east bank of the river, directly to the headgates (see Figure 1.2). The bottom of the large forebay is 0.3 meters deeper than the intake. Two underflow sluices built at the south end of the powerhouse are large enough to take all of the water during very low water flow conditions. At the intake of

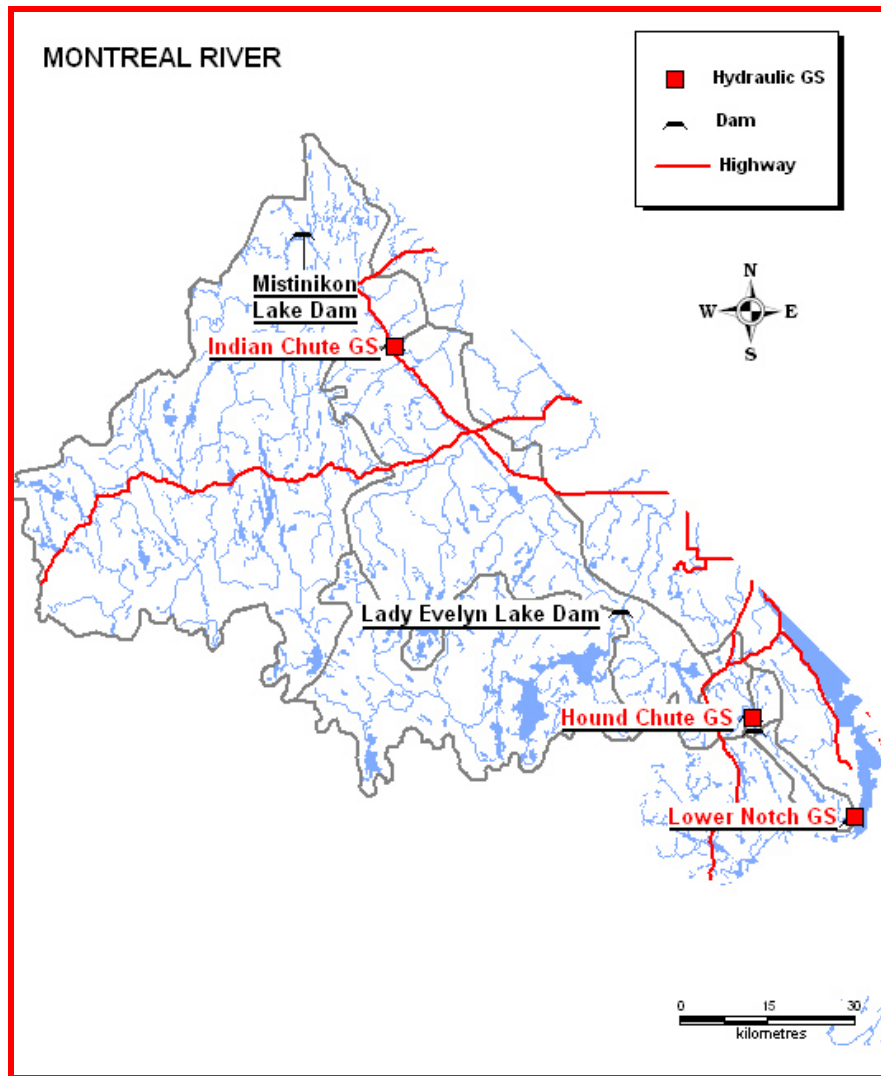
each turbine chamber, there is a gate 3 meters high by 4.6 meters wide with a pass and gate lifting apparatus as well as two stoplog checks.

Figure 1.2: Current and Proposed Facilities, Hound Chute Generating Station



Upstream storage is provided by the Lady Evelyn Dam which replaced the Mattawapika Dam on the upstream Lady Evelyn River in 1972 (see Figure 1.3). This dam, operated by OPG, consists of four sluices with sluices 2 and 3 having double stoplog gains so underwater flow is possible. The dam has an operating range of 5.1 meters and a capacity of 3,620 m³/s days. The Bay Lake Dam in Latchford is owned and controlled by PWGSC which operates it for the benefit of the power stations downstream except during the navigational season.

Figure 1.3: Montreal River Watershed and OPG Facilities



Proposed Facilities

The proposed Hound Chute GS is planned to be located on the same footprint as the existing powerhouse and will consist of two units with a total expected nameplate capacity of approximately 10 megawatts. The existing powerhouse will be demolished followed by the construction of the new facility.

Water would continue to be conveyed from the forebay along the existing canal into a direct intake in the new powerhouse.

A small amount of excavation and slope stabilization will be required for the new powerhouse foundation and underground tailrace canal. Geotechnical studies at the new powerhouse site and the nearshore of the new tailrace outlet location have been undertaken and the rock is not acid generating (Martin, 2006).

Refurbishments to the wing wall will be required and can be done in the dry while the powerhouse is being constructed. A new electrical substation will be built. The proposed facility will be connected to the existing 44 kV feeder.

The dam with flashboards on the western channel will also require rehabilitation and modifications. Once this dam is refurbished the water in the river will be directed down the western channel while the cofferdam at the forebay neck is built and subsequently the powerhouse constructed.

Table 1.1 provides a summary of the existing and proposed plant operating characteristics. The gross head, i.e., the difference in elevation between the water surface at the intake and tailrace, will remain the same. However, the rated flow through the Hound Chute GS will increase from 57 to 105 m³/s, decreasing the frequency of spill over the Obermeyer weir.

Table 1.1: Existing and Proposed Plant Operational Summary

Parameter	Hound Chute GS	
	Existing	Proposed
Number of Units	4	2
Capacity (MW)	3.6	9.5
Annual Energy Production (GWh)	26.2	50
Gross Head (m)	10.3	10.3
Rated Flow (m ³ /s)	57	105
Capacity Factor (%) ¹	74.0	55.0

¹ Ratio of the actual energy produced to the maximum energy which could be delivered under continuous operation at maximum rating.

2.0 CONSULTATION PLAN

A public consultation plan was prepared with the overall objective “to provide the public with an opportunity to have meaningful input on the project and address public concerns where possible and feasible.” The public consultation plan identified the following key components: two open house/public meetings; two project newsletters; a project website; ongoing public inquiries; and an, an issue tracking system. The Notice of Commencement was translated to French and copies were included in the local newspaper (Temiskaming Speaker. All the components of the public consultation plan have been implemented as planned. The consultation plan also identified a preliminary list of stakeholders and set of tasks for the duration of the project (e.g., establishment of the website, Open House #1).

3.0 COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

3.1 PUBLIC AND AGENCY DATABASES

A database of stakeholders who were to be notified about the project and the key consultation opportunities was developed based on OPG, consultation and agency knowledge and a review of property owners within 200 meters of the river and public submissions made throughout the course of the project. A total of 103 stakeholders were on the list at the time of the mailing for the second open house. In general the stakeholders were:

- Individual, corporation and government landowners within 200 meters of the river between Latchford and Hound Chute;
- Local municipal representatives from Coleman Township, Latchford, Cobalt and Temiskaming Shores;
- Local interest group representatives (Temagami Trappers Council, Marsh Bay Conservation Association etc.); and,
- Anyone who requested to be put on the mailing list.

This database was modified and updated during the course of the project.

All individuals on the database received a notification and newsletter for the first open house and a notification and newsletter for the second open house.

An Agency database was developed for all federal, provincial and municipal government representatives such as the Ministries of Natural Resources, Environment and Culture; federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Transport Canada, and Environment Canada and local municipalities.

4.0 OPEN HOUSE #1

A full report from Open House #1 together with the presentation panels, PowerPoint presentation and comment sheets received appears in Appendix C of this report. Outlined below is a short summary of the first open house.

The first public open house on the environmental assessment for the redevelopment of the Hound Chute Generating Stations was held on Thursday April 20th from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Latchford Community Center. The agenda and a brief description of the open house are as follows:

- 3:00 – 6:45 Open House
- 6:45 – 7:30 Presentation
- 7:30 – 8:00 Questions and Answers

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A total of 43 individuals attended the Open House, of which most attended the presentation. While there were a small number of individuals who had more general interests or represented agencies, the vast majority of individuals attending the Open House were residents in the Marsh Bay area. A reporter from the Temiskaming Speaker was the only media representative in attendance.



A total of eighteen Information Panels were available for the public to review and the Project Manger, Mr. Ed Dobrowolski from OPG and SENES staff were on hand to respond to questions. A PowerPoint presentation was then given at 6:45 by the OPG Project Manager, Ed Dobrowolski and Phil Shantz, SENES Consultants. The panels and presentation provided an overview of the proposed undertaking at and explained that an EA process was commencing. The material explained and identified the types of studies and field work that would be undertaken. The presentation also described the studies OPG was undertaking in order to better understand and address the issue of fluctuating water levels at Marsh Bay. Finally the project benefits were identified.

The overwhelming majority of comments made during the First Open House/Public Meeting were about the historic and existing concerns of Marsh Bay residents and fluctuating water levels that they experience at the properties upstream of Hound Chute. At this meeting OPG proposed the installation of an inflatable Obermayer Weir that would manage water levels automatically, and eliminate the need to manually install and remove flashboards,. This would reduce the fluctuation in water levels. There were a number of questions that focused on the Obermayer Weir, its operation and previous experience of the weir in Ontario's climate. The full list of these questions and comments is documented in Open House Report #1 which appears in Appendix C and the key issues raised in Section 7.

5.0 OPEN HOUSE #2

A full report from Open House #2 together with the presentation panels, PowerPoint presentation and comment sheets received appears in Appendix D of this report. Outlined below is a short summary of the second open house.

The second public open house on the environmental assessment for the redevelopment of the Hound Chute Generating Station was held on Tuesday October 17th from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Coleman Township office. The agenda and a brief description of the open house were as follows:

- 3:00 – 6:45 Open House
- 6:45 – 7:30 Presentation
- 7:30 – 8:00 Questions and Answers

A total of 17 individuals attended the Open House of these approximately ten attended the presentation. The attendees included individuals from Marsh Bay, local municipal representatives from Coleman Township and Latchford and individuals in the region interested in economic opportunities associated with the project and some representatives of local organizations.

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A total of twenty-seven Information Panels were available for the public to review and Mr. Ed Dobrowolski, the Project Manager from OPG and Mr. Phil Shantz (SENES) was on hand to respond to questions. A PowerPoint presentation was then given at 6:45 by the OPG Project Manager and SENES. The panels and presentation summarized the proposed undertaking, provided field results for fisheries, terrestrial, culture, archaeology, socioeconomics, air and noise, field investigations, Marsh Bay studies, summarized overall impacts and the proposed mitigation measures.

Based on comments made during the Open House/Public Meeting and via comments on the comment sheets, there was a great deal of support for the project, primarily because residents of Marsh Bay recognize that the redevelopment project will facilitate the inclusion of the inflatable automatically controlled bladder and that the project helps to address their concerns about fluctuating water levels. There were also some people with an interest in employment

and economic spin-off opportunities associated with the project. There were some general questions on how the facility will be staged in terms of construction and when the obermayer would be in place. The full list of these questions and comments is documented in Open House Report #2 which appears in Appendix C and the key issues raised by the public identified in Section 7.

6.0 ONGOING PUBLIC COMMENTS

Until the Environmental Assessment is submitted to MOE for approval, OPG will be open to any public comments raised by the public.

7.0 KEY ISSUES RAISED AND RESPONSES

Issues, questions and comments were raised by the public: during the formal Questions and Answers period at Open Houses; through the provision of comment sheets; in one-on-one discussions with OPG and SENES staff and very rarely as submitted comments. In the table below we have summarized the general comment, identified how many individuals raised the issue and the general response. Please note that individual questions and comments made on comment sheets and in the Question and Answer period are described in the Open House reports.

Issues Raised	Number of Individuals	Responses
Open House #1		
What would trigger the federal environmental assessment?	1	A Federal EA is triggered when a federal department or agency has to exercise its duty as described in Section 5 of the <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i> . The 4 triggers include, a) funding; b) regulatory duty i.e. it issues a permit, or authorization; c) has a land interest; and d) is a project proponent. For the purposes of this project, authorizations are required from DFO with respect to the <i>Fisheries Act</i> . Other federal departments relevant to the proposed redevelopment are Transport Canada, and Environment Canada. The relevant regulations pertaining to this redevelopment are the <i>Fisheries Act</i> , <i>Navigable Waters Protection Act</i> , <i>SARA</i> and <i>Migratory Birds Convention Act</i> . OPG has consulted with the Federal agencies noted including <i>CEAA</i> .
Are you concerned with fisheries?	3	We will study fisheries to see if there is some impact. We believe that as these are existing facilities there will be little to no impact. We know that this is a cool water fishery and that there are both walleye and pike.
Concerned with upstream fisheries, erosion and loon nests because of existing operating pattern.	5+	By having a more narrow operating band, this should produce an overall net benefit to upstream fisheries and loon nesting areas and reduce the potential for erosion.

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Issues Raised	Number of Individuals	Responses
Would an obermeyer weir (automatic control) be used?	several	Yes - this is discussed in the slide presentation where OPG discussed the obermeyer weir.
Concern about flooding on properties and homes.	10+	Concern is acknowledged, this is why we are trying to address Marsh Bay residents concerns through tighter operating control and installation of an obermeyer weir.
Comment: The river is a fragile ecosystem, particularly downstream.	several	OPG is undertaking extensive fisheries and aquatic studies all of which will be documented as part of the EA.
Can you make the operating regime a straight line? Consistent control of the river is good for the ecosystem.	1	We still have to deal with what mother nature gives us so there is likely to always be some fluctuations in the spring and throughout the year
Could a second Obermeyer be built?	1	We are not sure this would provide much added benefit and could represent a significant cost. OPG will consider looking at this.
Will this be operated out of Timmins?	1	Yes – it would be computer monitored in Timmins.
What is your average flow?	1	Showed operating regime graph.
How does obermeyer handle ice?	1	This has not been a concern in applications in Ontario
How long is the facility planned for?	1	90 years. OPG would negotiate a power purchase agreement with the Ministry of Energy.
What is the process for resolving outstanding issues with respect to Marsh Bay?	Several	There are really several different processes underway in parallel. First - property rights with Respect to Marsh Bay is a separate legal process that OPG has already initiated. Work on this has been EA underway as part of the Water Management Plan. The EA is assessing impacts attributed to the proposed undertaking. In this case, the Proposed Undertaking has included the addition of an obermeyer weir and additional spill capacity.
Best meeting we have had in three years. Positive step forward (two people commented on this). Pleased that the residents' concerns are being answered. The project will have a positive impact on the area.	Approx. 5	Acknowledged
Concerned about OPG's rights to flood.	Several	OPG has had considerable discussions and meetings about property rights with Marsh Bay residents, separate from the environmental assessment process. These discussions are ongoing, and relate to existing operations as well as future developments.
Concerned about having adequate spill capacity.	6	OPG believes based on our assessment that there will be sufficient spill capacity.
Concerned about debris after construction.	1	After construction, OPG will be returning the sites to their existing condition.

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Issues Raised	Number of Individuals	Responses
Open House #2		
Can the public have access for a boat launch at the closed road?	1	A. Bernard from OPG's Northeast Plant Group explained that OPG is very concerned with public access and that is why that access road was gated. E. Dobrowolski explained that OPG is very concerned about public safety in this location.
How long to construct the obermayer?	1	E. Dobrowolski stated about 2-3 months
How long will the obermayer last?	1	E. Dobrowolski stated that experience in Quebec is that they last more than 20 years.
DFO seems really concerned about the dewatering of the forebay but didn't care much about area up-river that gets dewatered – seems ironic.	1	Comment noted.
How long will the powerhouse last?	1	E. Dobrowolski stated 50-90 years
Where will workers stay?	1	E. Dobrowolski stated that there won't be a camp at the sites. It will be left up to the DBC.
Discussed with a retired Ontario Hydro employee who lived at the Hound Chute colony – the general location of the colony and whether there was anything identifiable remaining? He indicated that there is nothing remaining of the old colony – it was cleared and levelled.	1	Information was noted
A couple individuals inquired as to whether this would be a unionized project.	1	Yes – it will be a unionized project. Union rules (EPSCA) and Design-Build-Contract approach explained to members of public.
Positive reaction to the project and its development. Positive about the economic impact of the project in the short term.	1	OPG is proceeding with its environmental assessment, with the intent of building this project. Comment Acknowledged.
Concern regarding controlling river flow during the spring season and in adverse weather conditions.	1	The project is being planned so we can carry out construction operations with this in mind
Concern about littering that may be caused by the construction workers.	1	Site is to be returned to its existing condition. Littering is not to be tolerated.

8.0 GOVERNMENT AGENCY CONSULTATION

OPG has consulted with various municipal, provincial and federal government agencies throughout the environmental assessment process. Outlined below are the key consultation events.

- Meeting with Ministry of Natural Resources – Discussion of environmental assessment process and key issues – January 19, 2006.
- Meeting and several conference calls with Federal and Provincial Authorities – Discussion of Project Scoping and federal environmental triggers –, February 9, 2006. Agencies represented in person or on phone included the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Transport Canada, Environment Canada, Ministry of Natural Resources, and Ministry of the Environment. Follow-up phone calls have occurred to CEAA in September, October, November and December.
- Meeting with Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Ministry of Culture – Discussion on an overview of the project and any Culture or MMAH issues, February 23, 2006 and telephone conversations over the course of the project.
- Meeting with Department of Fisheries and Oceans – Overview of project and possible Fisheries Act implications, July 13, 2006.
- Teleconference with Ministries of Environment and Natural Resources – Status update on environmental assessment - September 27, 2006.
- Teleconference with Ministry of Natural Resources -- Discussion of First Nation and Aboriginal Issues - September 29, 2006; Dec 4, 2006, and Dec 20, 2006.
- Ongoing communications with MOE file coordinator.

9.0 OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER PUBLIC AND AGENCY CONSULTATION

Until the Environmental Assessment is submitted, OPG will be open to any public comments raised by the public.

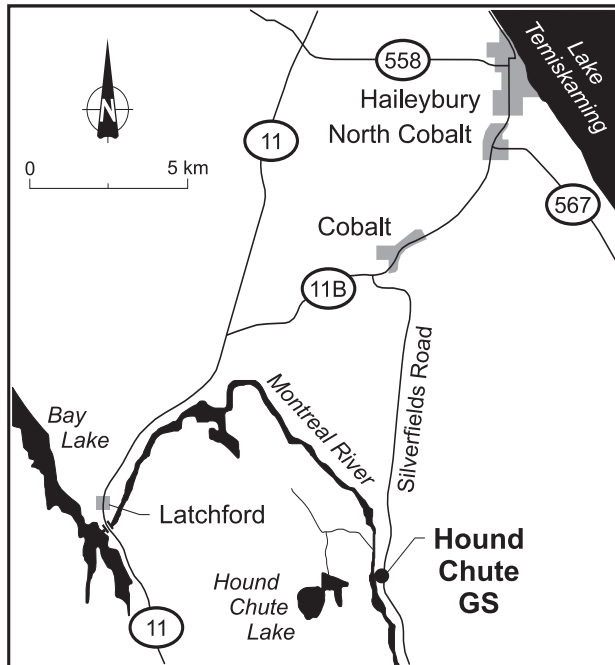
10.0 SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

The public and agency consultation process for the re-development of the Hound Chute Generating Station has been comprehensive and inclusive of all interested individuals and government representatives. It is our opinion that all public and government comments raised have been addressed.

Appendix A
Notifications

HOUND CHUTE HYDROELECTRIC GENERATING STATION REDEVELOPMENT

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) is proposing to redevelop the Hound Chute Generating Station located on the Lower Montreal River, east of the Town of Latchford on the site of the existing generating station. The Proposed Undertaking will replace the existing generating facility and when complete will provide an expected capacity of 10.2 MW from the existing 3.6 MW capacity. The generating station will connect to the local distribution system via an existing 44 KV feeder. Hound Chute is located about 10 km east of the Town of Latchford and 10 km south of the Town of Cobalt in the District of Timiskaming.



The Proposed Undertaking consists of two stages. During Stage 1, a new powerhouse will be built at the site adjacent to existing powerhouse. There will also be some refurbishments and modifications made to the existing civil works such as the dams. Once the newly built generating station is in commercial operation, Stage 2 will commence. At this time, the existing powerhouse and associated electricity connections will be decommissioned.

The new generating station will continue to meet operating requirements identified in the Water Management Plan for the Montreal River. The Proposed Undertaking will improve reliability, improve efficiency and increase capacity of the existing renewable resource, while reusing and upgrading existing civil infrastructure. The facility will continue to operate as a run-of-the-river facility and be managed so that there is no change to the water levels and flows.

The project is subject to the requirements of OPG's Class Environmental Assessment for Modifications to Hydroelectric Facilities under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act (EA Act)*. Discussions are currently being held with Federal authorities to determine if a federal environmental assessment is required. In addition, a number of environmental permits and approvals may be required including approvals from the Ontario Ministry of Environment and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND AN OPEN HOUSE ON APRIL 20, 2006

Through the environmental approval process OPG is committed to consulting with the respective First Nations, government agencies, the public and other interested stakeholders about the Proposed Undertaking. Input and comments will be considered and included in the preparation of the Environmental Assessment Report.

To encourage public participation OPG will be holding two public open houses in Latchford at key stages of the process to allow the parties the opportunity to speak directly with representatives of OPG and its environmental consulting team. **The first Open House will be held on April 20, 2006 at the Latchford Recreation Hall in Latchford from 3:00 – 8:00. A formal presentation will be given at 6:45 pm.** A second Open House will occur in the early fall of 2006.

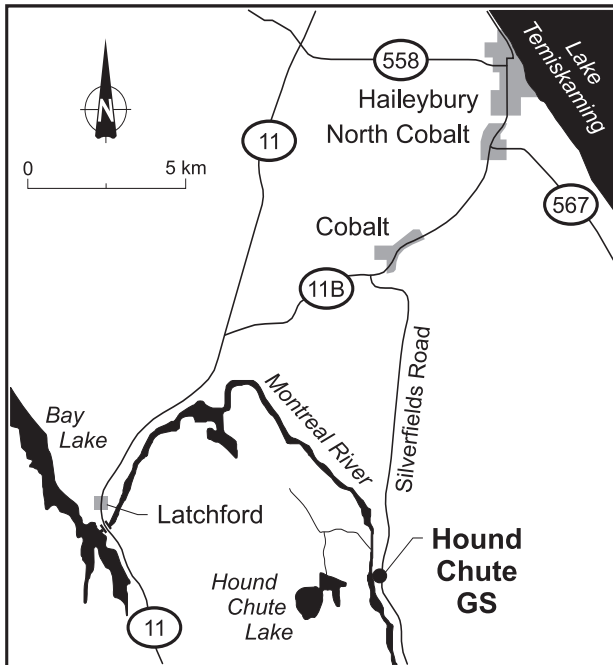
OPG has retained SENES Consultants Limited of Richmond Hill, Ontario to undertake the environmental assessment. For more information on the Hound Chute Hydroelectric Plant Redevelopment Project or to be put on our mailing list, please contact: **Ed Dobrowolski**, Project Manager, 700 University Avenue, H19 C16, Toronto, Ontario, M5G 1X6, telephone: (416) 592-3266, e-mail: ed.dobrowolski@opg.com; or **Phil Shantz**, Senior Planner, SENES Consultants Limited, 121 Granton Drive, Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4B 3N4, telephone: (905) 764-9380, e-mail: pshantz@senes.ca. More information about the project can be obtained from the web site: www.houndchute-ea.com.

Under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (1987) personal information will remain confidential unless prior consent is obtained.

Renseignements en français: (705) 267-7033 (ext. 2064).

HOUND CHUTE HYDROELECTRIC GENERATING STATION REDEVELOPMENT

Ontario Power Generation Inc. (OPG) is proposing to redevelop the Hound Chute Generating Station located on the Lower Montreal River, east of the Town of Latchford on the site of the existing generating station (the Proposed Undertaking). The Proposed Undertaking will replace the existing generating facility and when complete will provide an expected capacity of approximately 10 megawatts from the existing 3.6 megawatts capacity. The generating station will connect to the local distribution system via an existing 44 kilovolts feeder. Hound Chute is located about 10 kilometres east of the Town of Latchford and 10 kilometres south of the Town of Cobalt in the District of Timiskaming.



The Proposed Undertaking consists of the following: A new powerhouse will be built at the site. There will also be some refurbishments and modifications made to the existing civil works such as the dams. The existing powerhouse and associated electricity connections will be decommissioned.

The redeveloped generating station will continue to meet operating requirements identified in the Water Management Plan for the Montreal River. The Proposed Undertaking will improve reliability, improve efficiency and increase capacity of the existing renewable resource, while reusing and upgrading existing civil infrastructure. The facility will continue to operate as a run-of-the-river facility.

The project is subject to the requirements of OPG's Class Environmental Assessment for Modifications to Hydroelectric Facilities under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*. In addition, a number of environmental permits and approvals may be required including approvals from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND AN OPEN HOUSE ON TUESDAY OCTOBER 17, 2006

Consultation will take place through the environmental approval process. OPG is committed to consulting with the respective First Nations, government agencies, the public and other interested stakeholders on the Proposed Undertaking. Input and comments will be considered and included in the preparation of the Environmental Assessment Report.

To encourage public participation OPG will be holding an open house to provide the parties the opportunity to speak directly with representatives of OPG and its environmental consulting team. **The Open House will be held on Tuesday, October 17, New Coleman Township Office, Marsh Bay Road (behind the Cobalt Truckstop), 3:00 – 8:00 PM. Presentation will be given at 6:45 PM.**

OPG has retained SENES Consultants Limited of Richmond Hill, Ontario, to undertake the environmental assessment. For more information on the Hound Chute Proposed Undertaking or to be included in our mailing list, please contact: **Ed Dobrowolski**, Project Manager, 700 University Avenue, H18 C16, Toronto, Ontario, M5G 1X6, telephone: (416) 592-3266, e-mail: info@houndchute-ea.com; or **Phil Shantz**, Senior Planner, SENES Consultants Limited, 121 Granton Drive, Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4B 3N4, telephone: (905) 764-9380, e-mail: info@houndchute-ea.com More information about the Proposed Undertaking can be obtained from the web site: www.houndchute-ea.com.

In accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (1987)* personal information will remain confidential unless prior consent to disclose is obtained.

Renseignements en français: (705) 267-7033 poste 2064.

Appendix B
Newsletters

REDEVELOPMENT OF HOUND CHUTE HYDROELECTRIC GENERATING STATION WILL ADD CLEAN RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY



I'd like to invite and encourage you to participate in the environmental assessment process that is part of Ontario Power Generation Inc.'s (OPG) plan to bring more clean, renewable hydro power to Ontario. OPG is proposing to redevelop the existing Hound Chute Generating Station. This is a run-of-the-river hydroelectric generating station located about 10 kilometers southeast of Latchford on the Lower Montreal River. When completed, the capacity of the new generating station will increase from approximately 3.6 to 10.2 megawatts. OPG

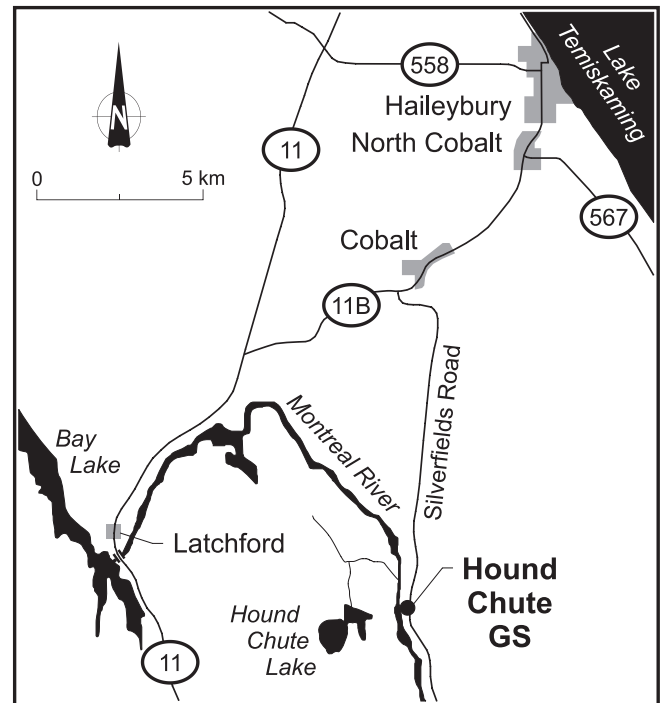
has a mandate from the Government of Ontario to "expand, develop and/or improve its hydroelectric generation capacity" and this project, will help do that. This can be done without any changes to the existing operating levels and flows as described in the Montreal River System Water Management Plan. Please take a few moments to read about this clean renewable energy project, and plan on attending our open house on Thursday April 20, 2006 at the Latchford Recreational Centre. There are phone numbers, and a web site listed below where you can learn more about the project.

ED DOBROWOLSKI, *Project Manager*

WHY REDEVELOP HOUND CHUTE?

There are several reasons why OPG wants to redevelop the Hound Chute Generating Station:

- The generating station is over 90 years old and the powerhouse is at the end of its current service life and requires replacement. Ongoing maintenance of the generating station will not provide a long-term reliable solution.
- Hound Chute Generating Station can continue to provide Ontario with a reliable, clean and renewable electricity.
- There is an opportunity to increase the power produced at Hound Chute by using modern technology and without changing the current and approved operating regime.



HOUND CHUTE AND LOCATION

OPG IS FOLLOWING THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The project is subject to the requirements of Ontario Power Generation's Class Environmental Assessment for Modifications to Hydroelectric Facilities under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act. In addition, a number of environmental permits and approvals may be required including approvals from the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Natural Resources. The environmental assessment will examine the effects of the projects on the:

- Aquatic Environment (*water, fish and other aquatic life*)
- Terrestrial Environment (*adjacent trees, vegetation and fauna*)
- Socio-Economic Environment (*local economy, local social and economic uses*)
- Archaeological and Built Heritage (*archaeological, building or structural resources*)
- Atmospheric Environment (*air and noise*)

Field work associated with assessing the environmental effects will be carried out in 2006 and the results will be presented at a future open house. The environmental assessment report will also identify how any negative impacts will be mitigated. Federal authorities are also reviewing the project to determine whether a federal environmental assessment is required.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

OPG has retained SENES Consultants Limited of Richmond Hill, Ontario to undertake the environmental assessment. For more information on the Hound Chute Project or to be put on our mailing list, please contact:

ED DOBROWOLSKI
Project Manager
Ontario Power Generation
700 University Avenue
H18 C16
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1X6
Phone: (416)592-3266

PHIL SHANTZ
Senior Planner
SENES Consultants Limited
121 Granton Drive, Unit 12
Richmond Hill, Ontario
L4B 3N4
Phone: (905)764-9380

email us at:

info@houndchute-ea.com

or visit the environmental assessment web site:

www.houndchute-ea.com

OPG IS SEEKING PUBLIC INPUT AS PART OF THE EA PROCESS

OPG is committed to consulting with First Nations, government agencies, the public and other interested stakeholders on the project. This will be done through the environmental assessment process. OPG wants to hear from people interested in the project. Your input and comments will be considered, documented and included in the preparation of the environmental assessment report.

To encourage public participation OPG will be holding Public Open Houses in Latchford. Stakeholders will have the opportunity to speak directly with representatives of OPG and its environmental consulting team.

The first open house will be held at the Latchford Recreation Centre on Thursday April 20, 2006 from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm. A presentation will be given at 6:45 pm.

Our plan is to hold a second open house in the fall of 2006, when the environmental fieldwork has been completed.

THE PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT WILL COMPLY WITH THE MONTREAL RIVER SYSTEM WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

A Water Management Plan for the Montreal River System has been developed and was the result of a partnership between OPG, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the Department of Public Works and Government Services and Canadian Hydro Developers that have facilities along the river and influence the river's levels and flows. The operation of the redeveloped Hound Chute Generating Station will be in compliance with the Water Management Plan. The generating station will continue to operate as a run-of-the-river facility and be managed so that there is no change to the water levels and flows.

The Water Management Plan was prepared in accordance with the Water Management Planning Guidelines for Waterpower, as approved by the Minister of Natural Resources on May 14, 2002. The Ontario Lakes and River Improvements Act requires compliance by facility operators with the operating regimes (required levels and flows) established in the Water Management Plans and a compliance monitoring program has been established.

UPDATE ON THE REDEVELOPMENT OF HOUND CHUTE HYDROELECTRIC GENERATING STATION



I'd like to update you on the status of Ontario Power Generation Inc.'s (OPG) project to redevelop the Hound Chute Generating Station which will bring more clean, renewable hydro power to Ontario. Since our public meeting held last April, OPG has undertaken a wide variety of studies to assess engineering, dam safety, environmental and hydraulic issues associated with the project. As you may be aware, Hound Chute is a run-of-the-river hydroelectric generating station (GS) located about 10 kilometers southeast of Latchford on the Lower Montreal River. The original Hound Chute Generating Station is almost 100 years old and has served the Province well. The proposed redevelopment will involve the complete replacement of the powerhouse on the same footprint as the existing one and will have a capacity of 10 megawatts of electricity. OPG has a mandate from the Government of Ontario to "expand, develop and/or improve its hydroelectric generation capacity" and this project will do exactly that. It also involves refurbishing the existing dam and weir and the installation of an automatic weir which will help reduce fluctuating water levels upstream in the Marsh Bay area. The proposed project has a number of benefits for the people of Ontario and Temiskaming District, these include:

Social, economic and environmental benefits of more strictly controlling the fluctuating water levels upstream of Hound Chute. This will benefit the residents of Marsh Bay and have a more stabilizing effect on the aquatic ecosystem.

Addition of more clean and renewable power in Ontario.

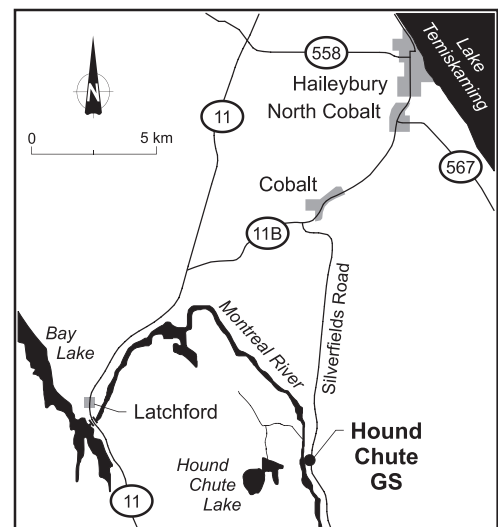
Local and provincial economic benefit through the construction phase of the three projects.

Local socio-economic benefit including employment and spending associated with continued operation of the redeveloped generating station.

We have completed our field work and findings to date indicate that the proposed redevelopment of the Hound Chute Generating Station will have temporary and minor effects on the environment. Reasons for this include the fact that the project is being done in compliance with the Water Management Plan, water levels are being more tightly controlled and the construction of the new powerhouse will be on the site of the existing one. Effects on the environment during construction can be mitigated through good planning and proper construction procedures.

To learn more about the project please attend our open house on Tuesday, October 17th at the New Coleman Township Office. There are phone numbers and a web site listed below where you can learn more about the project.

ED DOBROWOLSKI, *Project Manager*



HOUND CHUTE GENERATING STATION LOCATION

OPG IS FOLLOWING THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The project is being carried out to meet the requirements of OPG's Class Environmental Assessment for Modifications to Hydroelectric Facilities under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act* (EA Act). In addition, a number of environmental permits and approvals will be required from both the provincial and federal governments. Over the spring and summer a number of environmental specialists were out in the field undertaking studies. Some of the preliminary findings include:

Fisheries work upstream and downstream of the powerhouse has shown that no spawning or nursery habitat will be affected by the project. OPG is working with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the provincial Ministry of Natural Resources on plans for the location of cofferdams and the removal of an old submerged structure that is impeding the flow of water to the powerhouse. As the powerhouse is to be built on the existing footprint there will be no disruption of archaeological resources.

There will be very minimal clearing of trees and other vegetation for construction laydown areas. These areas have been disturbed by previous construction and operations.

The project will have a very positive local, regional and provincial economic effect during construction and will ensure economic benefits through continued operation.

Public use of the Silverfields Road will not be impacted during construction.

Based on the preliminary work the overall environmental impact of the project will be minor and temporary and can be mitigated through proper planning and the implementation of appropriate mitigation and monitoring measures. More detailed findings from the EA will be presented at the October Open House.

NEXT STEPS

- Obtain public feedback from the October Open House
- Prepare and finalize Technical Supporting Documents including Environmental Report
- Obtain stakeholder and Agency feedback
- Revised Environmental Report package submit to MOE for approval
- Obtain EA Approval (early 2007)

OPG IS SEEKING PUBLIC INPUT AS PART OF THE EA PROCESS

OPG is committed to consulting with First Nations, government agencies, the public and other interested stakeholders about the project. OPG wants to hear from people interested in the project. Your input and comments will be considered, documented and included in the preparation of the EA report.

OPG hosted a Public Open House in April. A newsletter was issued, and a website was setup where people could read about the project and also provide comments on the project. Any concerns expressed at the open house and or via the web site have been considered in the EA studies.

To encourage public participation OPG will be holding a Public Open House in Coleman Township. Stakeholders will have the opportunity to speak directly with representatives of OPG and its environmental consulting team.

The fall Open House will be held on Tuesday October 17, 2006 at the New Coleman Township Office, Marsh Bay Road (behind the Cobalt Truckstop) from 3:00 pm – 8:00 pm. A formal presentation will be given at 6:45 pm.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

OPG has retained SENES Consultants Limited of Richmond Hill, Ontario to undertake the EA. For more information on the Hound Chute Environmental Assessment or to be put on our mailing list, please contact:

ED DOBROWOLSKI
Project Manager
Ontario Power Generation
700 University Avenue
H18 C16
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1X6
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Appendix C

Open House #1: Open House #1 Report, Presentation Panels, PowerPoint Slides and Comments Received

REPORT ON OPEN HOUSE #1 FOR THE HOUND CHUTE PROJECT

Submitted to:
Ontario Power Generation Inc.
700 University Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M5G 1X6

By:

Hound Chute EA Consulting Team

Prepared by:

Mr. Phil Shantz, SENES Date
EA Consulting Team

Reviewed by:

Mr. Don Gorber, SENES Date
EA Consulting Team

Approved by:

Dr. Donald Gorber, SENES Date
Project Manager
EA Consulting Team

Reviewed by:

Gillian MacLeod
Environmental Lead
Ontario Power Generation Inc. Date

Accepted by:

Edward M. Dobrowolski
Project Manager
Ontario Power Generation Inc Date

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1.0 OVERVIEW OF THE OPEN HOUSE

The first public open house on the environmental assessment for the re-development of the Hound Chute Generating Station was held on Thursday April 20th at Latchford Recreation Centre in Latchford. The agenda of the open house was as follows.

3:00 – 6:45 Open House

- 18 Information Panels were available for the public to review.
- Public Comment Sheets, Newsletters and Copies of the Information Panels were distributed as hand-outs.
- Large scale maps, computer maps and water management planning information were available on computer for members of the public.
- OPG and SENES Consultants Ltd. staff were available

6:45 – 7:30 Presentation

- E. Dobrowolski gave a PowerPoint presentation on the project.

7:30 – 8:00 Questions and Answers

- Following the presentation, OPG and SENES Consultants Ltd. staff responded to public inquiries.

2.0 ATTENDANCE AND MEDIA COVERAGE

A total of 43 individuals attended the Open House. Most of the attendees were property owners in the Marsh Bay area upstream of the Generating Station.

Local media in attendance included a reporter from the Temiskaming Times.

3.0 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS DURING PUBLIC MEETING PORTION

Hound Chute Questions and Answers

Question: What would trigger the federal environmental assessment?

Answer: There are three possible agencies that would trigger the environmental assessment: Transport Canada and Navigable Waters - Navigable Waters Protection Act; Fisheries and Oceans - Habitat Alteration, Disruption or Destruction – Fisheries Act; Environment Canada - Migratory Waterfowl or possibly through Canadian Environmental Protection Act. Consultation has occurred with all the above agencies and it appears that the only possible trigger would be under the Fisheries Act and OPG is making every effort to ensure that this is not triggered.

Question: Are you concerned with fisheries?

Answer: We will study fisheries to see if there is some impact. We believe that as these are existing facilities there will be little to no impact. We know that this is a cool water fishery and that there are both walleye and pike.

Question: Would an obermayer weir be used?

Answer: Yes – in the slide presentation we will explain where it will occur.

Comment: The river is a fragile ecosystem, particularly downstream.

Comment: Can you make the operating regime a straight line. Consistent control of the river is good for the ecosystem.

Answer: We still have to deal with what mother nature gives us so there is likely to always be some fluctuations in the spring and throughout the year

Question: Could a second Obermayer be built?

Answer: We are not sure this would provide much added benefit and could represent a significant cost. OPG will consider looking at this.

Question: Will this be operated out of Timmins?

Answer: Yes – it would be computer monitored in Timmins.

Question: What is your average flow?

Answer: Showed operating regime graph.

Question: How does obermayer handle ice?

Answer: This is not a concern

Question: Do you have a graph on your expected power generation?

Answer: Yes we have a flow generation curve.

Question: How long will construction take?

Answer: 18-24 months. 2009 in service.

Question: How long is the facility planned for?

Answer: 90 years. OPG would negotiate a power purchase agreement with the Ministry of Energy

Question: What is the process for resolving outstanding issues?

Answer: There are really three separate processes. First - Property rights is a separate legal process that is not part of the environmental assessment. There will be a meeting in two weeks on this. Second – environmental assessment is the process for the re-development of the facility. Third – Levels and flows is specifically a Water Management Planning process issue. OPG believes this is a win-win situation.

Comment: Coleman Township Councillor – Best meeting we have had in three years.

4.0 TYPICAL QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS DURING OPEN HOUSE

The following is a list of comments or questions that members of the public raised to either an OPG or SENES Consultants Limited staff person. The comments are organized by general topic. Answers to these questions were provided by OPG and SENES staff. It is important that thorough answers be provided to these questions or comments at the completion of the environmental assessment. A number of these comments were also Water Management Plan related.

- Will there be any impact on fish habitat?
- Inquiries about operating levels and what is being proposed.
- Comments on flooding onto lots.

5.0 COMMENTS RECEIVED VIA COMMENTS SHEETS

The following are the comments, concerns and questions received from individuals who attended the open house event and filled out the comment sheets.

General Comments

- Suggested paying attention to the berm at the refinery town site.
- Suggested watching out for wells and septic systems.
- Concerned about the debris that will be left after reconstruction.
- Suggested using mechanical bladders and break away logs.
- Requested the use of automated control and increase of spill capacity (two).

Fisheries and Wildlife

- Concerned about impact on fish habitat and spawning areas? (four people commented on this)
- Concerned about the loss of nesting loons (two people commented on this)

Supportive Comments

- Positive step forward (two people commented on this).
- Pleased that the residents' concerns are being answered.
- The project will have a positive impact on the area.

Environmental Assessment Process Comments

- Ask for erosion issues to be addressed (five people raised this issue).

Cultural Heritage

- Concern about the historic sites (two comments made)

Marsh Bay

- Concerned about future rising of water levels that would flood homes (numerous people expressed concern).
- Concerned about the spill capacity (six people expressed concern).
- Rights to flood the land was raised in several comment sheets.
- The impacts of the historic flooding of properties at Marsh Bay was the predominant concern expressed in the Comment Sheets.

6.0 CONCLUSION

While the members of the public that attended the Open House and submitted Comment Sheets made many positive comments about the proposed undertaking almost all of the individuals who attended the session indicated their general displeasure with the historic operating issues associated with the facility and the impacts on their properties. They indicated a significant lack of trust in OPG based on the historic situation, even though they were very complimentary about what the proposed undertaking would involve. Most of the public concern is associated with flooding of their properties and spill capacity. There is also some general concern about the impacts of fluctuating water levels on fish habitat, loon nests and erosion.

While a significant effort has been made to separate this undertaking and the environmental assessment from the historic operating issues, the residents of Marsh Bay see this as a clear opportunity to more clearly and loudly define their concerns. It is important at the next Open House to describe possible solutions to the existing problem.

WELCOME !

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #1 - APRIL 2006

- **Thank you for taking time to visit this open house**
- **We value your comments and questions**
- **Please fill out a comment sheet and leave it with us, or take it home and return it later to the address provided**
- **A project representative would be glad to answer your questions and if we don't know the answer we will try to get you an answer**

Purpose of This Open House

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #1 - APRIL 2006

- **To introduce you to OPG's small hydro redevelopment plans for hound chute, the environmental assessment process and our plans for community consultation**
- **To seek your feedback at this early stage on local environmental considerations, issues or concerns that should be addressed through the class environmental assessment process**

Who is Ontario Power Generation ?

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #1 - APRIL 2006

- **Ontario Power Generation Inc. is an Ontario-based electricity generation company whose principal business is the generation and sale of electricity in Ontario.**
- **OPG focuses on the efficient production and sale of electricity from our generation assets, while operating in a safe, open and environmentally responsible manner.**
- **OPG is a commercial company, owned by the Province of Ontario – its sole shareholder.**
- **Ontario needs more electricity and OPG has been given a mandate from the Province of Ontario to develop and expand its hydroelectric capacity.**
- **The project will provide more clean renewable environmentally friendly electricity for Ontario.**

Who is Ontario Power Generation ?

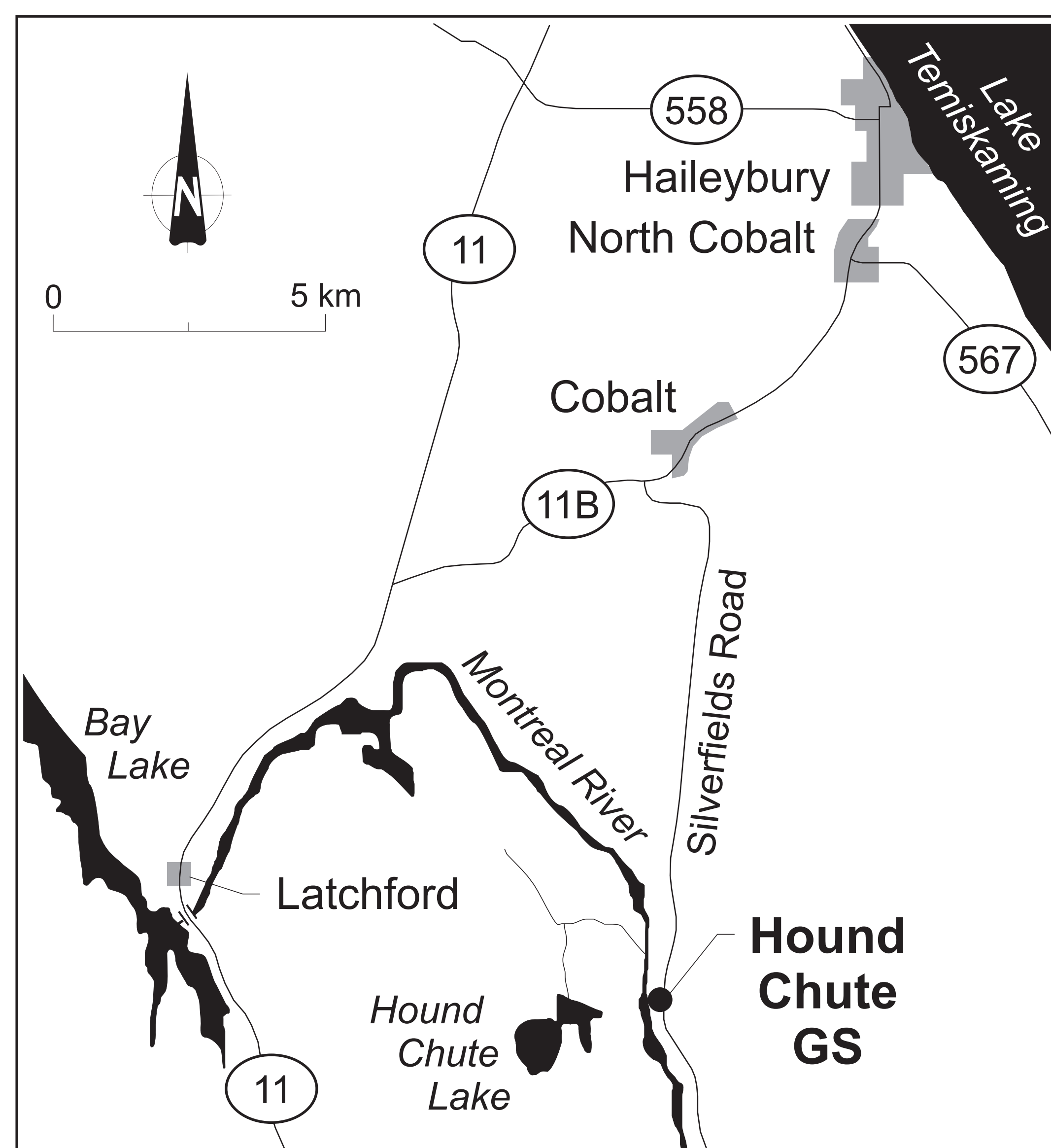
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- **The project will provide more clean renewable environmentally friendly electricity for Ontario.**

What Is OPG Planning To Do ?

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #1 - APRIL 2006

- Ontario Power Generation is proposing to redevelop the Hound Chute Generating Station on the Lower Montreal River
- This is an existing run-of-the river hydroelectric generating station that was constructed in 1908 by Colbalt Power
- The redevelopment of Hound Chute is subject to a provincial environmental assessment
- Power will increase from 3.6 megawatts to 10.2 megawatts



Hound Chute GS Needs Replacing

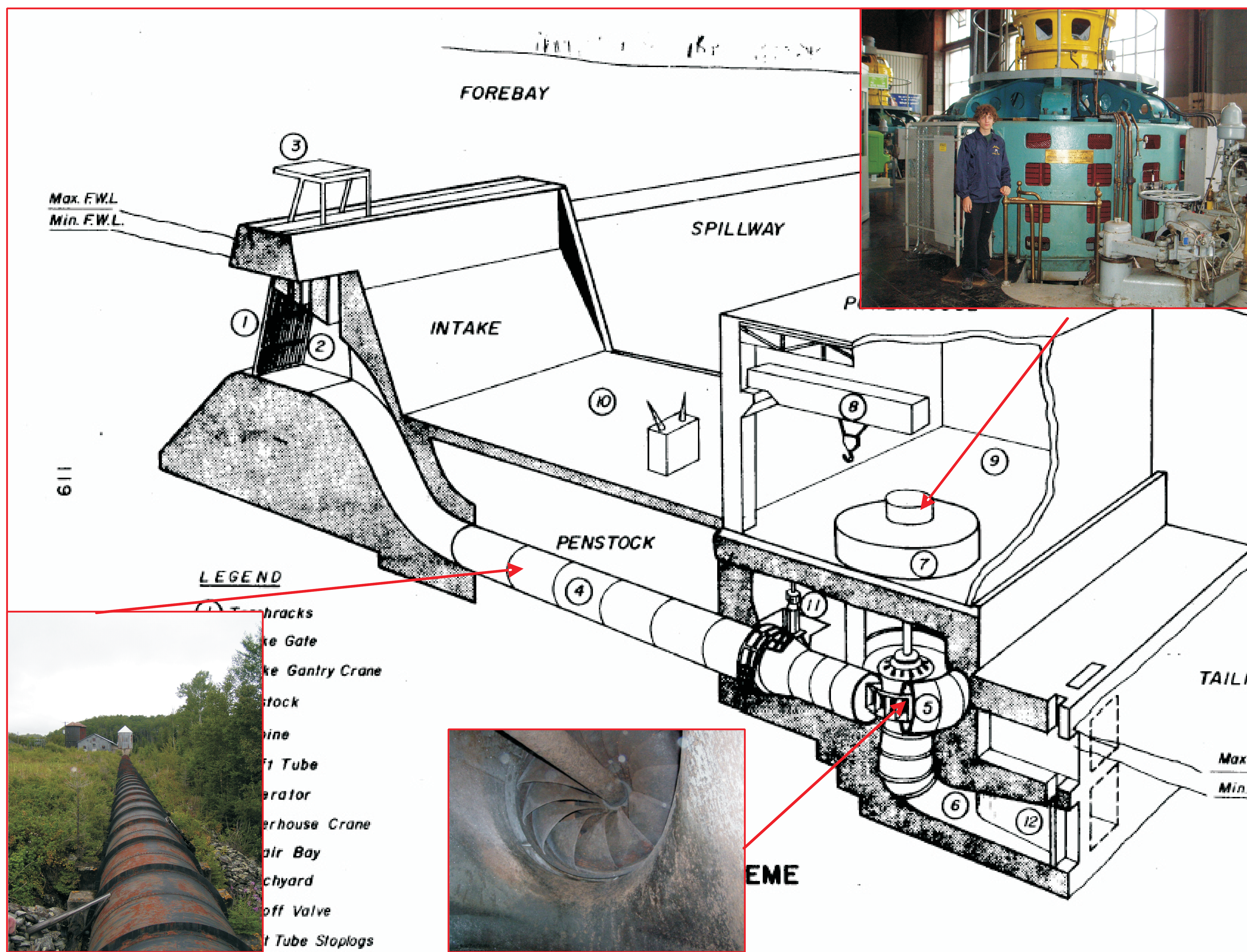
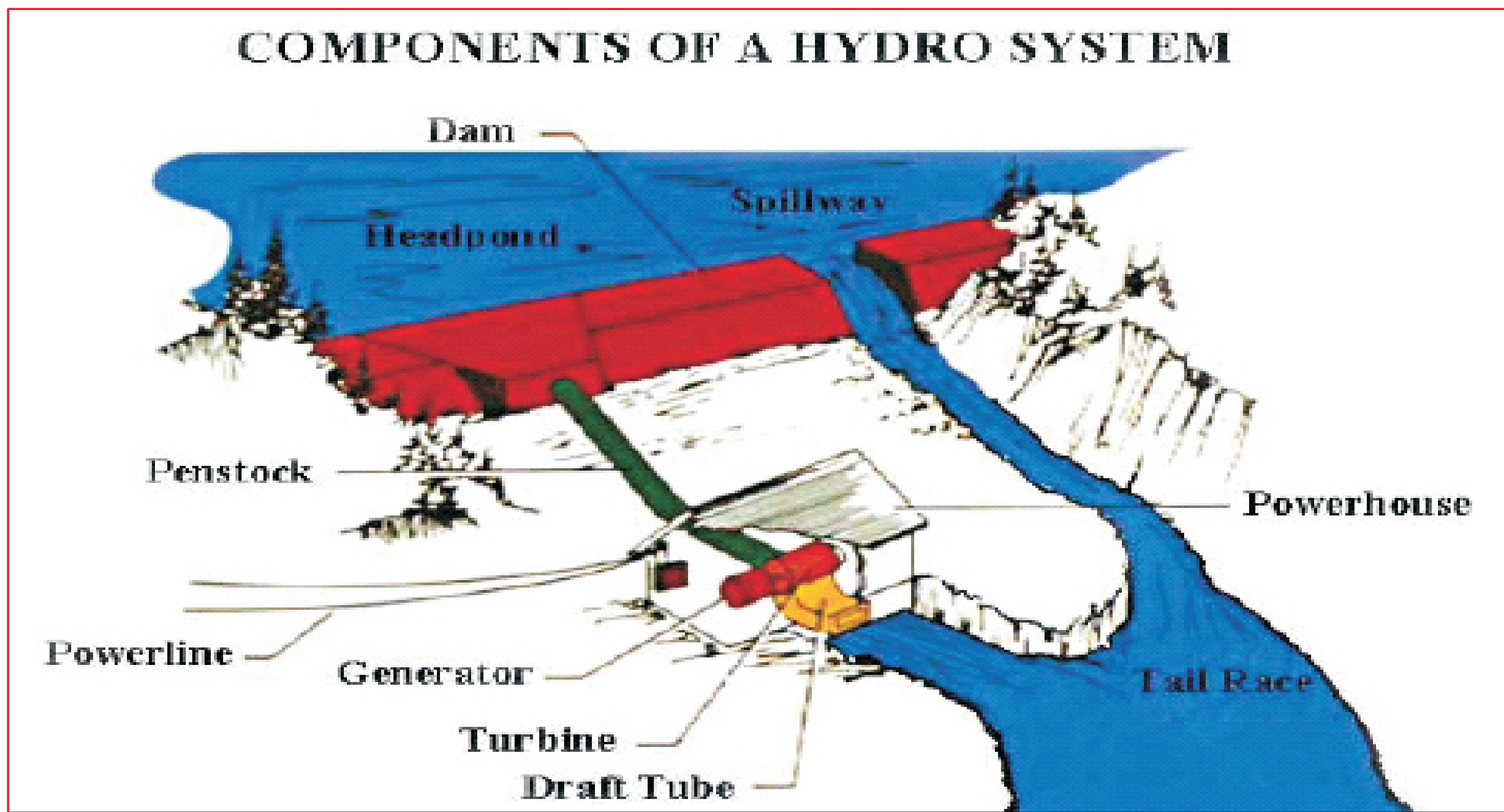
PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #1 - APRIL 2006

- **The station is almost 100 years old and is at the end of its current service life..**
- **Ongoing maintenance will not provide a long-term reliable solution.**
- **If redeveloped it can continue to provide Ontario with a reliable, clean and renewable energy resource.**
- **There is an opportunity to increase the power produced at this station without changing the current and approved operating regime (water levels and flows) in the Montreal River System Water Management Plan.**



Small Run-of-the River Hydroelectric GS

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #1 - APRIL 2006

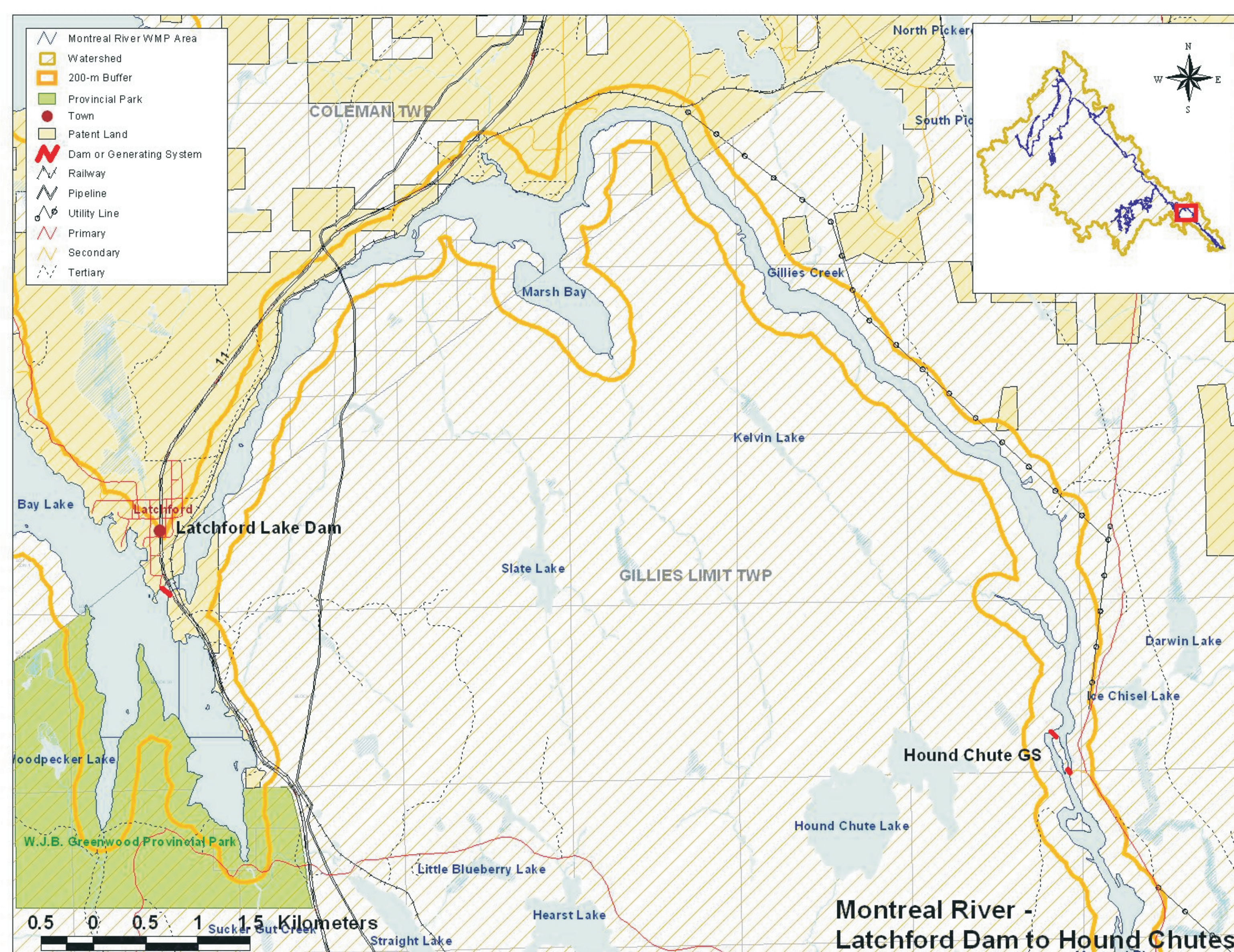


Hound Chute Generating Station

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #1 - APRIL 2006

Existing Conditions

- Hound Chute G.S. EcoLogo^M (3 MW) is a run-of-the-river generating station on the Montreal River located below Bay Lake.
- The generating station was built by the Northern Ontario Power Company in 1910 and acquired by Ontario Hydro in 1944.
- It is presently owned and operated by OPG. Located about 10 kilometres east of Town of Latchford and 10 kilometres south Town of Cobalt in the District of Timiskaming.
- Small run-of-the-river hydroelectric facility in operation for over 90 years.
- The facility is at the end of its designed service life.

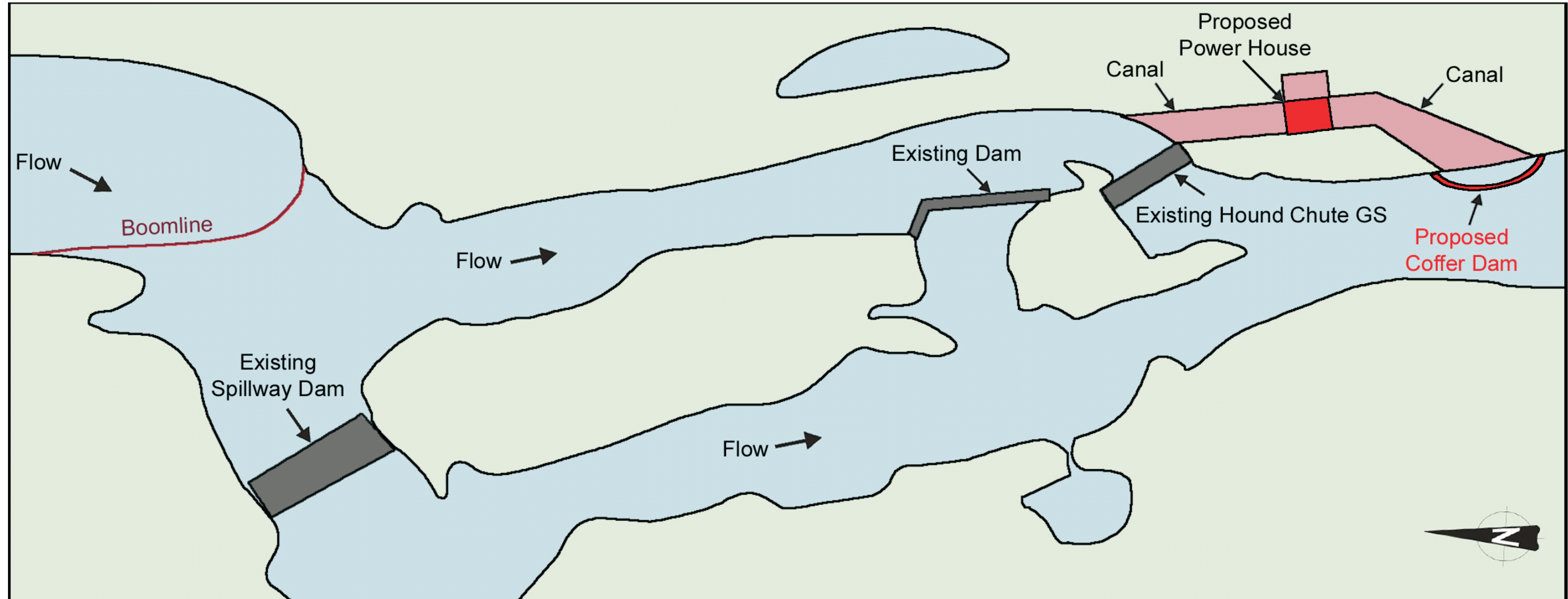


Hound Chute Generating Station

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #1 - APRIL 2006

Our Proposal

- Increase generating capacity to 10.2 megawatts
- Continue to use the existing local 44 kilovolts distribution system
- Proposed re-development will be in compliance with the Water Management Plan.
- New power house is to be located adjacent to and south of the existing powerhouse



Environmental Assessment Process

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #1 - APRIL 2006

OPG is Following the Ontario EA Process

- **Conducted according to Ontario Power Generation's Class EA for Modifications to Hydroelectric Facilities under the *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act (EA Act)***



- **Class EA Process is a three phase process**
 - ◆ Phase 1 involves the identification of the need or problem, analysis of alternatives and an assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of the alternatives.
 - ◆ Phase 2 involves the detailed environmental assessment. Studies are carried out on the natural, social and economic implications of the project.
 - ◆ Phase 3 is project implementation. The project is implemented and monitoring is carried out to ensure conformance with mitigation commitments and predicted environmental effects.

Environmental Assessment Process

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #1 - APRIL 2006

- **The environmental assessment will examine the effects of the projects on the:**
 - ◆ Aquatic Environment (water, fish and other aquatic life)
 - ◆ Terrestrial Environment (adjacent trees, vegetation and fauna)
 - ◆ Socio-Economic Environment (local economy, local social and economic uses)
 - ◆ First Nations (e.g., uses and values)
 - ◆ Archaeological and Built Heritage (archaeological, building or structural resources)
 - ◆ Atmospheric Environment (air and noise)
 - ◆ Geology and Soils

- **Field work associated with assessing the effects has been initiated and will be carried out in 2006.**

- **The effects of the project both during the construction and operations phases will be assessed.**

- **Measures to mitigate, eliminate and reduce negative effects will be identified.**

- **Measures to enhance positive effects will be identified.**

Government Agencies Involved

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #1 - APRIL 2006

- **Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) is the lead agency for the Review of the EA.**
- **Other Provincial Ministries (and their interests) involved will include: Ministry of Natural Resources (all aspects of the environment), Ministry of Culture (built heritage and archaeology) and Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (land use).**
- **Federal authorities are also reviewing the project to determine whether a federal environmental assessment is required.**
- **The federal agencies involved in the review include: Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency; Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Environment Canada; and, Transport Canada. The main interests of the federal government are fish habitat and navigable waters but can also include other areas of federal legislation (e.g., migratory**

Public Consultation

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #1 - APRIL 2006

- **Public consultation is a key component of the Class Environmental Assessment**
- **OPG is committed to consulting with residents, community organizations, government departments and agencies and First Nations.**
- **Two Main Public Consultation Open Houses (April and Early Fall).**
- **Fall Open House will present results from the Studies.**



We Value Your Opinion

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #1 - APRIL 2006

- Please take the time to ask questions and complete the Comment Sheets.

Comments
Form

Consultation
Graphics
or
Photos

Water Management Planning

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #1 - APRIL 2006

- **In 2001, the Ministry of Natural Resources introduced Water Management Planning to Ontario.**
This planning is a consultative process that co-ordinates the MNR, OPG and local stakeholders to explore sustainable solutions for water resources management.
In 2002, considerable progress was made in developing water management plans for provincially regulated river systems.
- **Inter-provincial and international river systems are governed by other agreements and treaties. As part of the process, Steering, Planning and Public Advisory Committees were established to develop plans for river systems connected to OPG's Northeast Plant Group.**
- **OPG fully supports Water Management Planning and has incorporated this process into its long-term business plans. The**



Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Redevelopment of the Hound Chute Generating Station Open House – Latchford - April 20, 2006



Presentation Outline

- ❑ **Introduction**
- ❑ **Hound Chute Generating Station**
- ❑ **Environmental Assessment Process**
- ❑ **Phase I:**
 - ❖ Alternatives Analysis
 - ❖ Proposed Plans
- ❑ **Environmental Assessment Timeline**



Introduction

Introduction



- ❑ **Ontario Power Generation (OPG) is proposing to redevelop the Hound Chute Generating Station.**
- ❑ **Redevelopment requires an Ontario Environmental Assessment.**
- ❑ **Hound Chute is an existing run-of-the-river hydroelectric generating station.**

Who is OPG Inc. ?

- ❑ **OPG Inc. is a provincial crown corp. wholly owned by the Province of Ontario.**
- ❑ **OPG Inc. is an Ontario-based electricity generation company whose principal business is the generation of electricity in Ontario.**
- ❑ **Our focus is on the efficient production and sale of electricity from our generation assets, while operating in a safe, open and environmentally responsible manner.**

Who is OPG Inc.?

❑ OPG has an electricity generating portfolio of 22,173 megawatts (MW):

- 3 operating nuclear stations, capacity= 6,606MW
- 5 fossil fuel stations, capacity= 8,578MW
- 35 hydroelectric stations, capacity= 6,855MW
- 29 certified green power hydroelectric stations, capacity=127 MW
- 3 wind power stations, capacity= 7MW

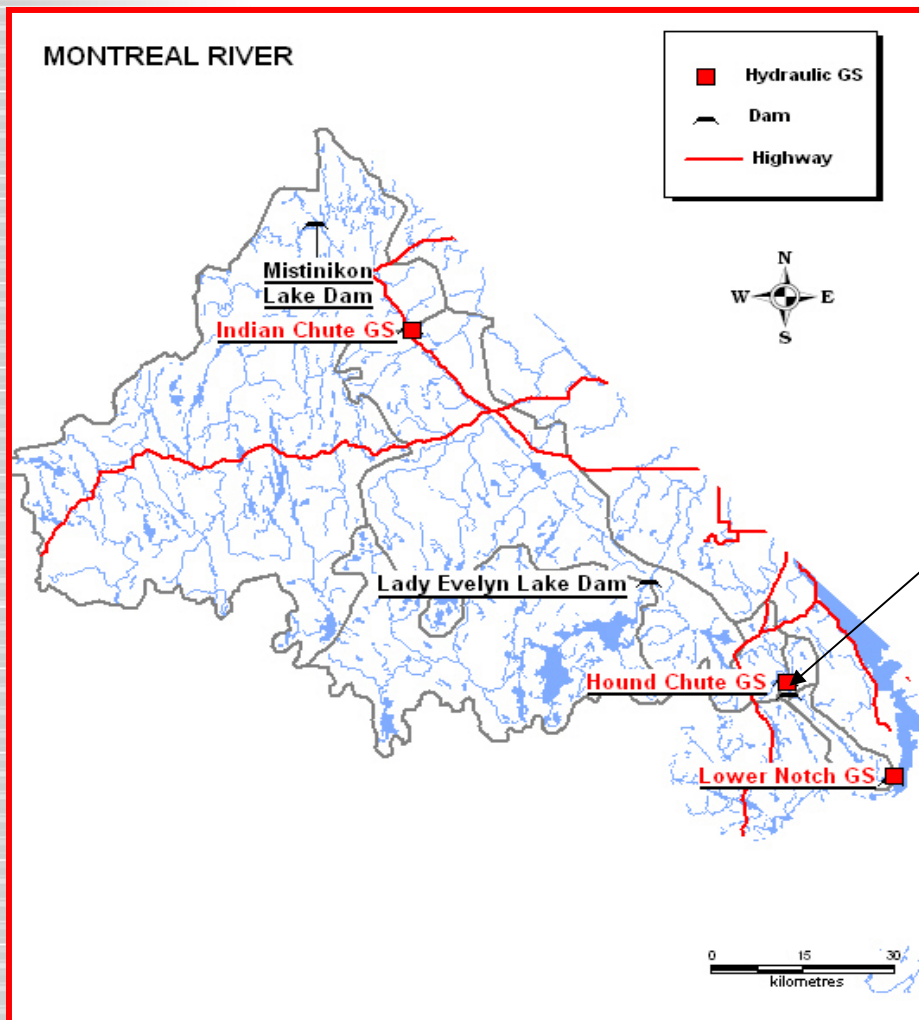
Who is SENES Consultants Ltd?

- ❑ **OPG has retained SENES Consultants Ltd. is to undertake the environmental assessment.**
- ❑ **SENES has been practicing environmental assessment since the company's formation 26 years ago.**



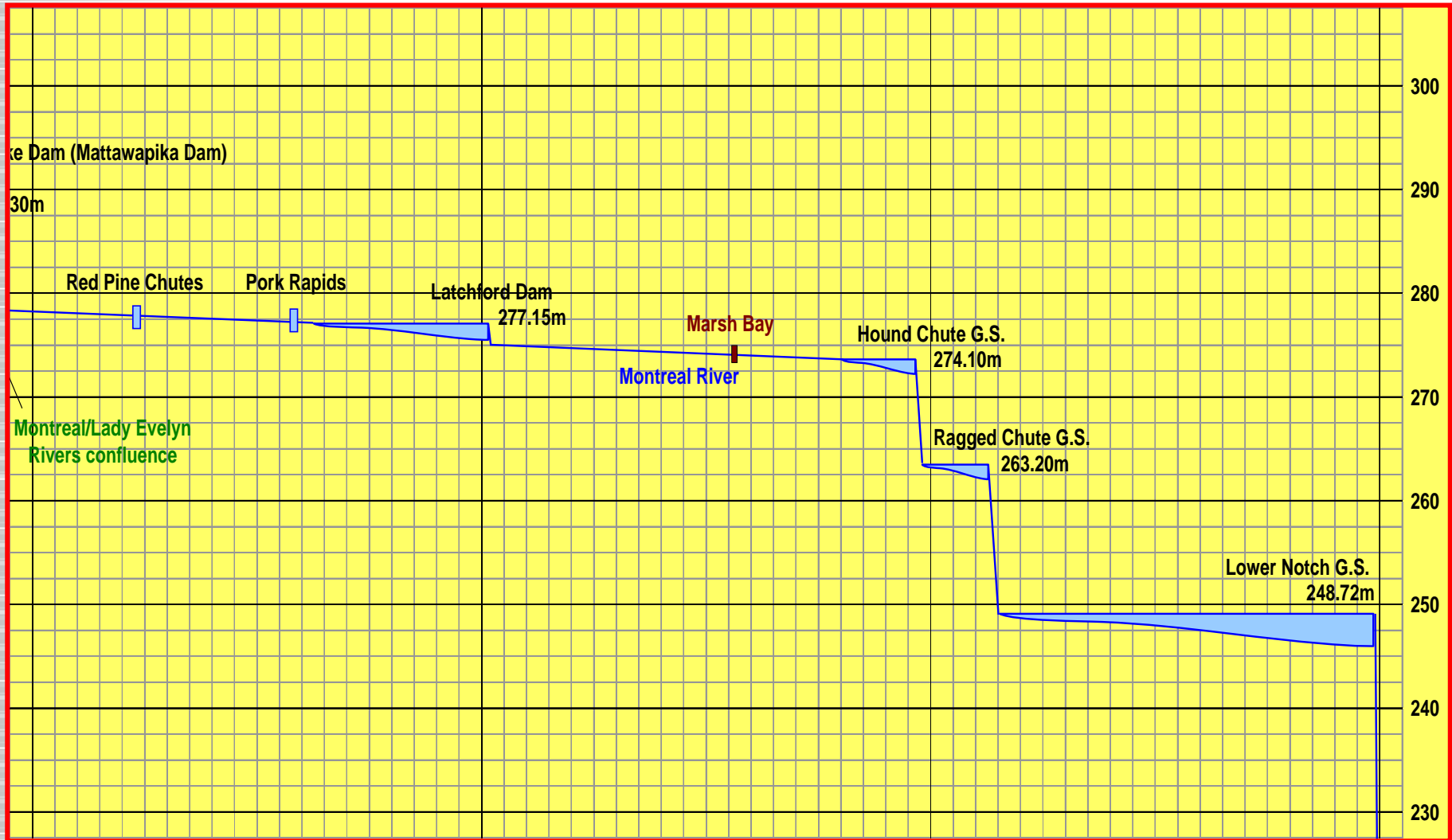
Hound Chute Generating Station

Hound Chute Regional Setting - The Montreal River Watershed

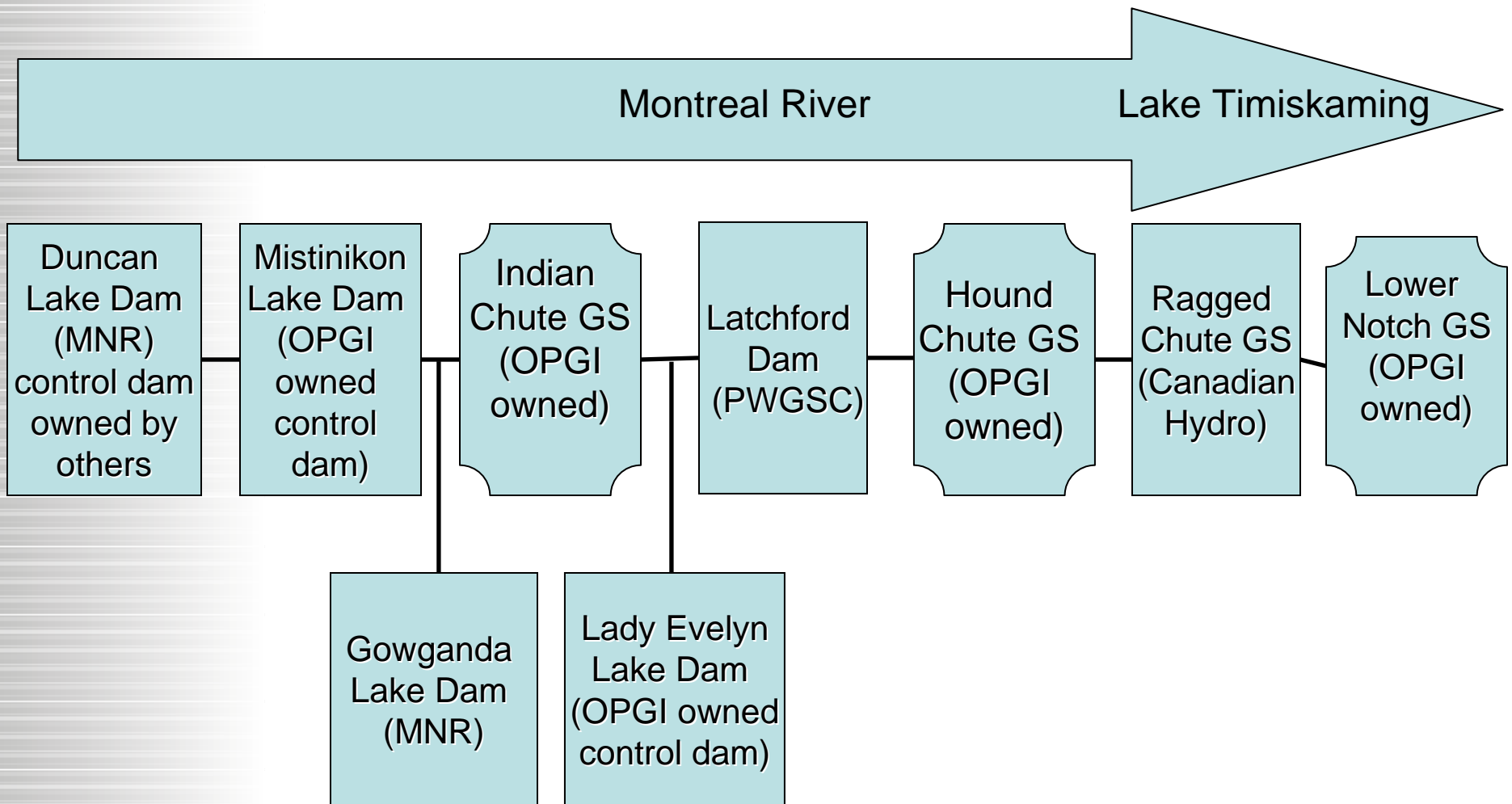


Hound Chute
Generating Station

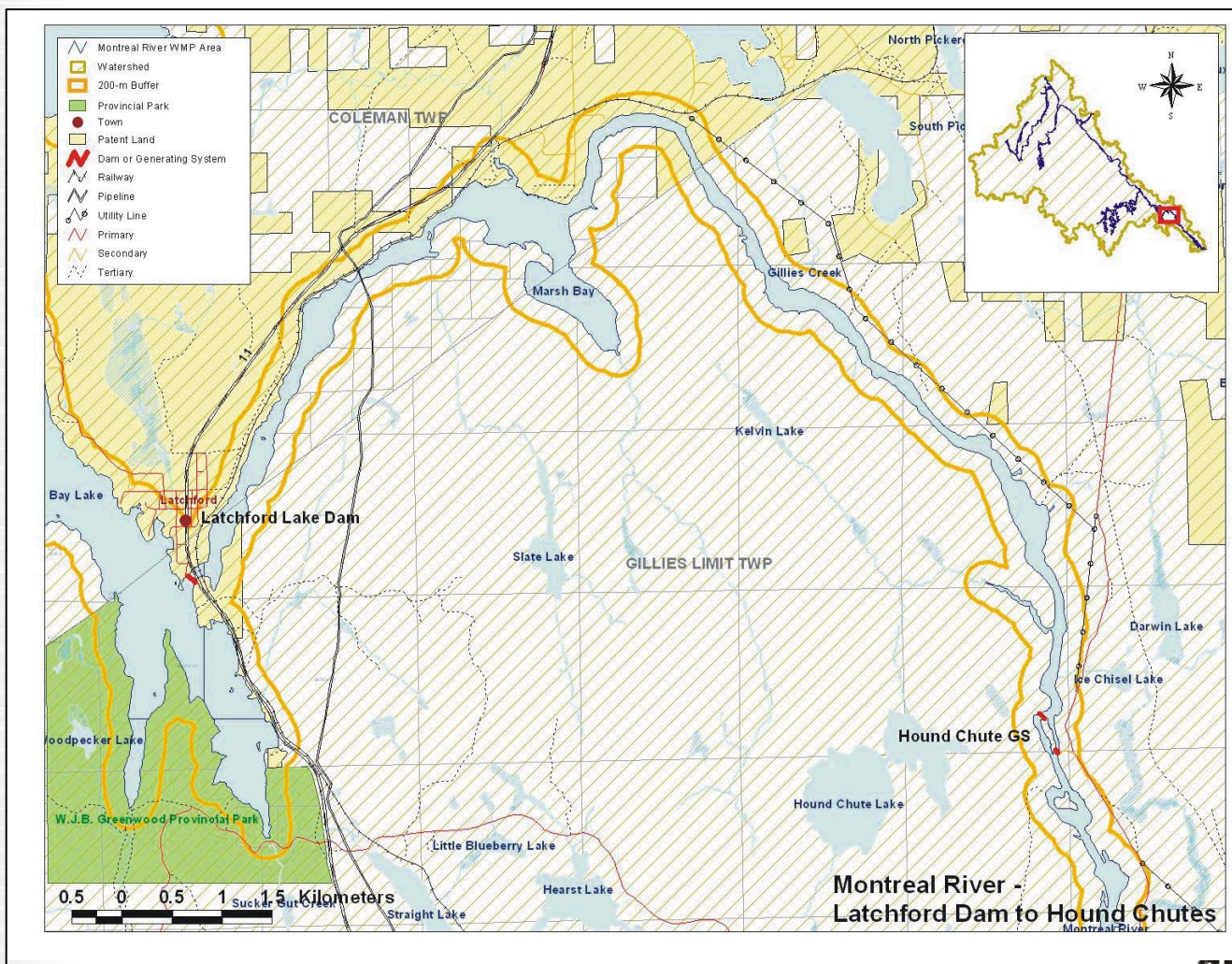
Hound Chute Regional Setting - The Montreal River Watershed



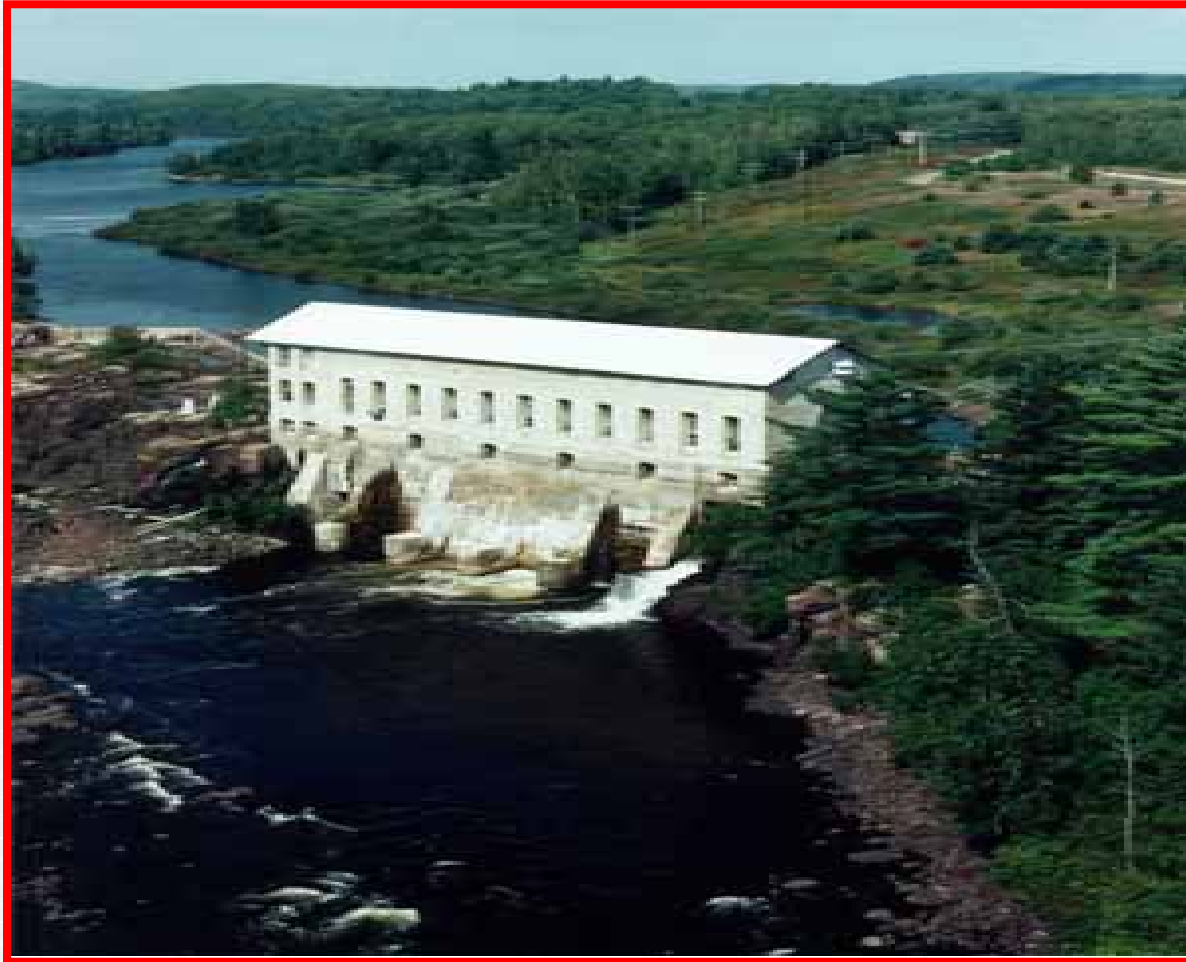
The Montreal River Watershed



Hound Chute – Local Setting



Hound Chute GS



Hound Chute GS



- ❑ **Construction 1908 - Cobalt Power**
- ❑ **Acquired in 1944 by HEPCO (predecessor company to OPG)**
- ❑ **Powerhouse, Four units, cutoff wall, spillway with flashboards**
- ❑ **4.0 MW, 26 GWhrs**

Hound Chute GS



- ❑ **Low Hazard Dam (ICC)**
- ❑ **Equipment at end of useful life**
- ❑ **Civil structures in poor shape and require rehabilitation**



Environmental Assessment Process

Environmental Assessment (EA) Process

- ❑ EA required under Ontario EA Act.
- ❑ EA conducted according to OPG's Class EA for Modifications to Hydroelectric Facilities.
- ❑ **Class EA is a 3 phase process:**
 - ❖ Phase 1: Alternatives Analysis
 - ❖ Phase 2: Detailed EA Studies
 - ❖ Phase 3: Project Implementation
- ❑ **Federal authorities reviewing project to determine if Federal EA is required**

EA Process - What is Studied?

- ❑ **Aquatic Environment**
- ❑ **Terrestrial Environment**
- ❑ **Socio-Economic Environment**
- ❑ **First Nations**
- ❑ **Archaeological and Built Heritage**
- ❑ **Atmospheric Environment**
- ❑ **Geology and Soils**

Government Agency Involvement

□ **Provincially:**

- ❖ Ministry of Environment (lead EA review agency)
- ❖ Ministries of Natural Resources, Culture and Municipal Affairs & Housing to be involved

□ **Federally:**

- ❖ Canadian EA Agency
- ❖ Fisheries & Oceans
- ❖ Environment Canada
- ❖ Transport Canada

□ **Local Municipalities:**

- ❖ Coleman Township
- ❖ Latchford

Existing Environmental Conditions



- ❑ **Canadian Shield-Cobalt Plate Sub-province**
- ❑ **Northern transitional area between Great Lakes- St. Lawrence & Boreal Forest.**
- ❑ **Greatest stream flow occurs during spring run-off (April-June) and lowest flows in late summer.**
- ❑ **Primarily a cool water fishery (walleye, northern pike, smallmouth bass)**



Environmental Assessment Process Phase I: Alternatives Analysis

Alternative Analysis

- ❑ 1. Status Quo
- ❑ 2. Retirement of Facility
- ❑ 3. Rehabilitate Facility
- ❑ 4. Redevelop Facility

Alternative: Status Quo

- ❑ **GS is at end of its design and useful life.**
- ❑ **Civil structures (e.g., dams) are in need of refurbishment.**
- ❑ **Does not realize potential for increase in electricity production for Province.**

Alternative: Retirement of Facility

- ❑ **Does not meet the need of the Province to satisfy increasing energy demand.**
- ❑ **GS produce clean renewable power identified as EcoLogo. This benefit would be lost.**
- ❑ **Retirement costs.**

Alternative: Rehabilitate Facility

- ❑ **As powerhouse and civil structures are old and at end of design life, rehabilitation is significantly limited.**
- ❑ **Risks are inherent in rehabilitation due to uncertain condition of the components.**

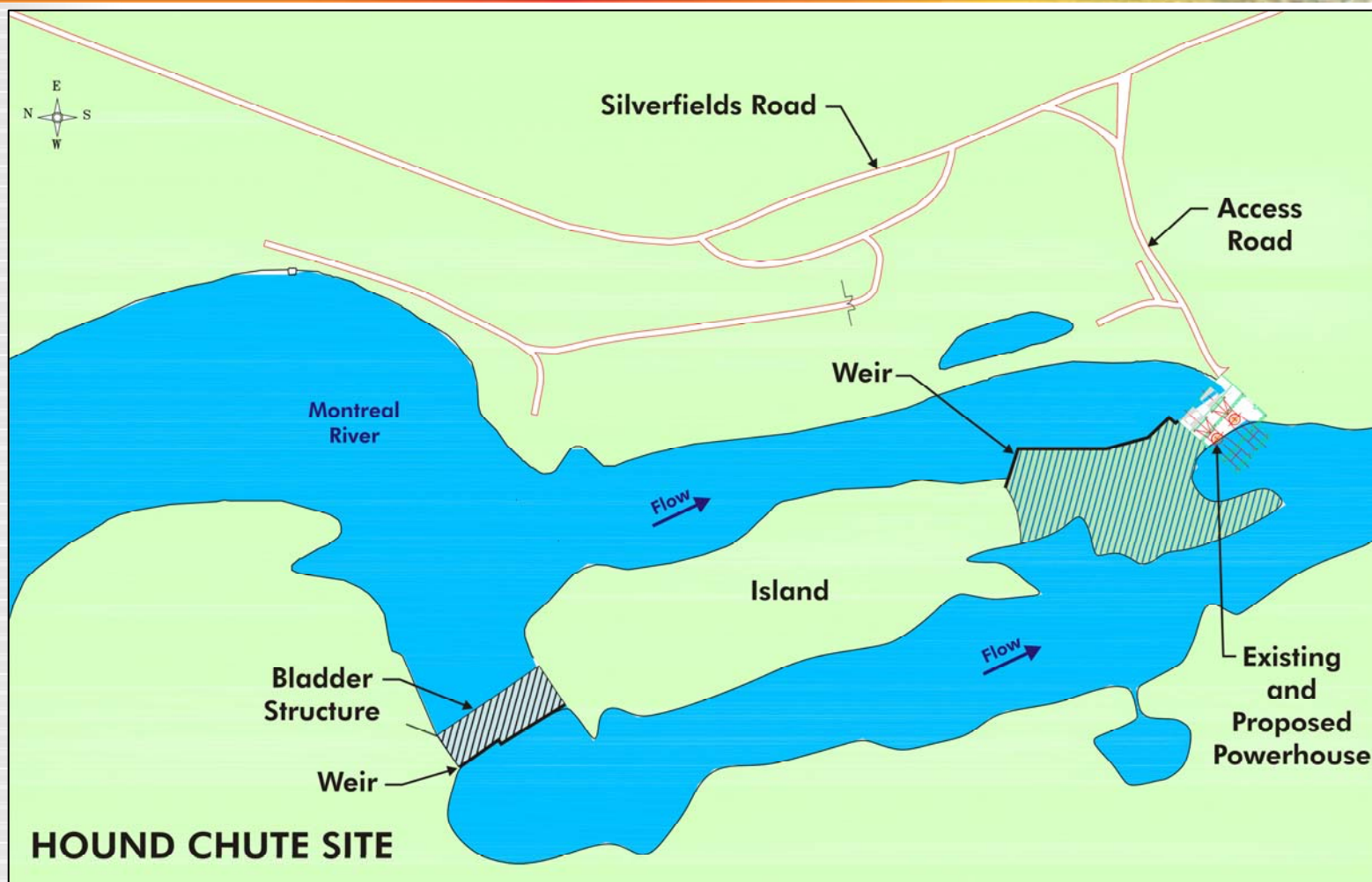
Alternative: Redevelop Facility

- ❑ **Unique opportunity to redevelop old facility as to help meet increasing energy demand in the Province.**
- ❑ **Opportunity to increase power produced from facility.**
- ❑ **Natural environment impacts will be localized and can be mitigated.**
- ❑ **Broad socio-economic benefits associated with the project.**
- ❑ **Opportunity to increase power produced at GS without changing current and approved operating regime (water flows and levels).**

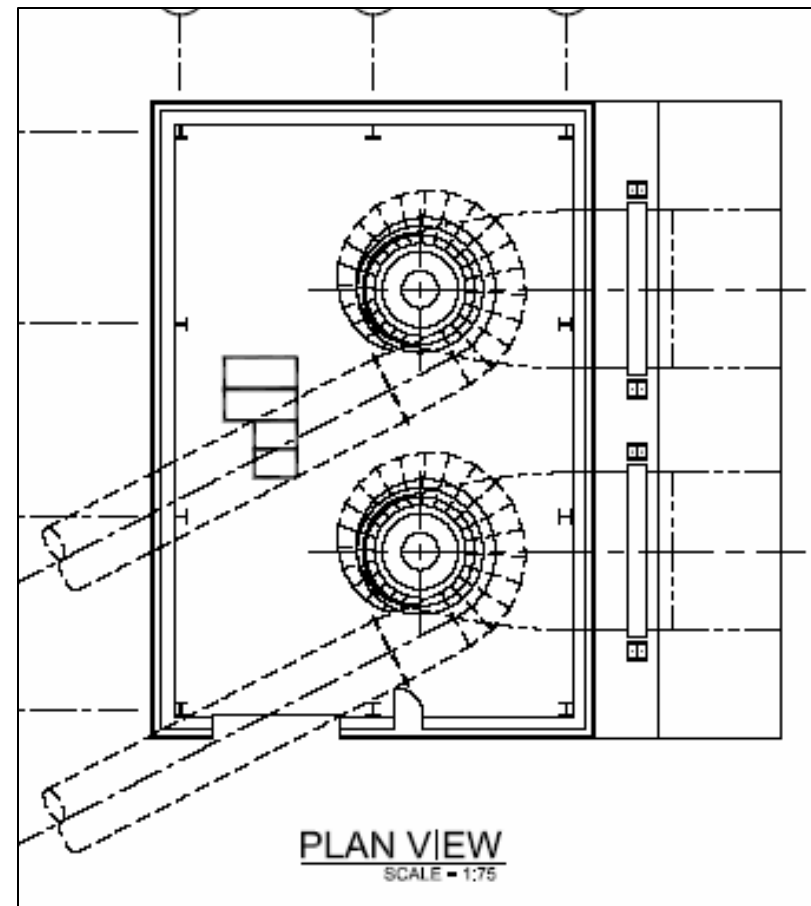
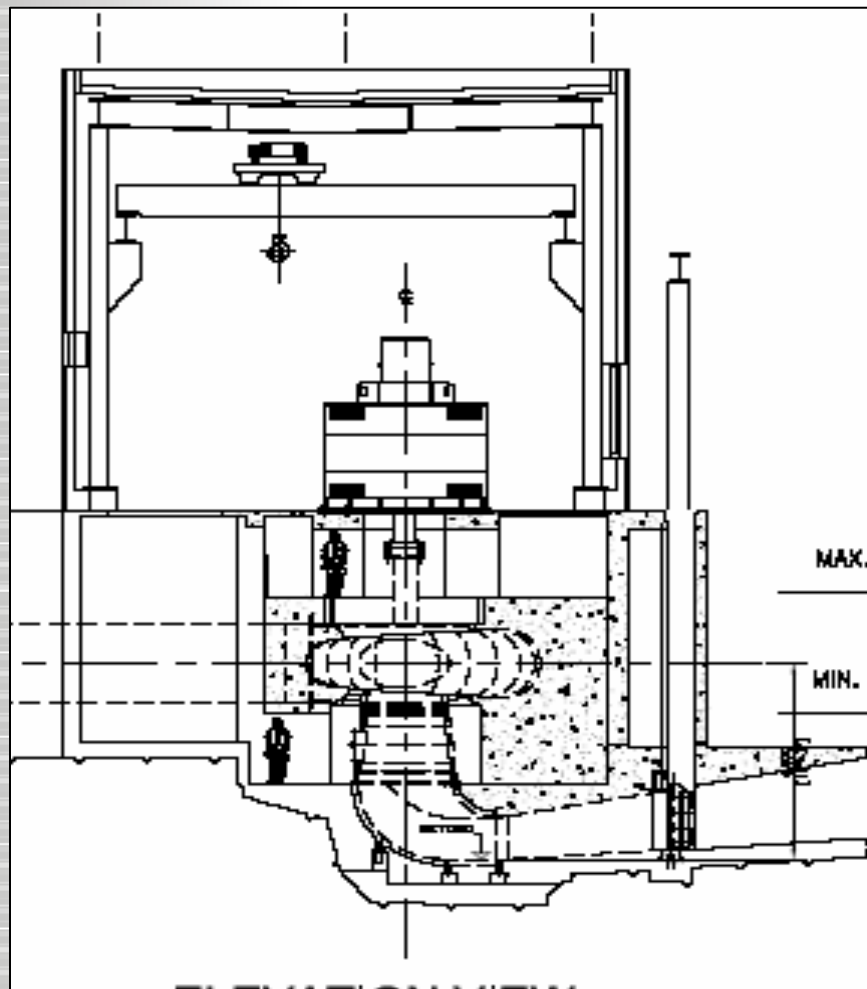


Environmental Assessment Process Phase I Alternatives Analysis: Proposed Plans

Hound Chute- Proposed Site Plan



Hound Chute- Proposed Site Plan

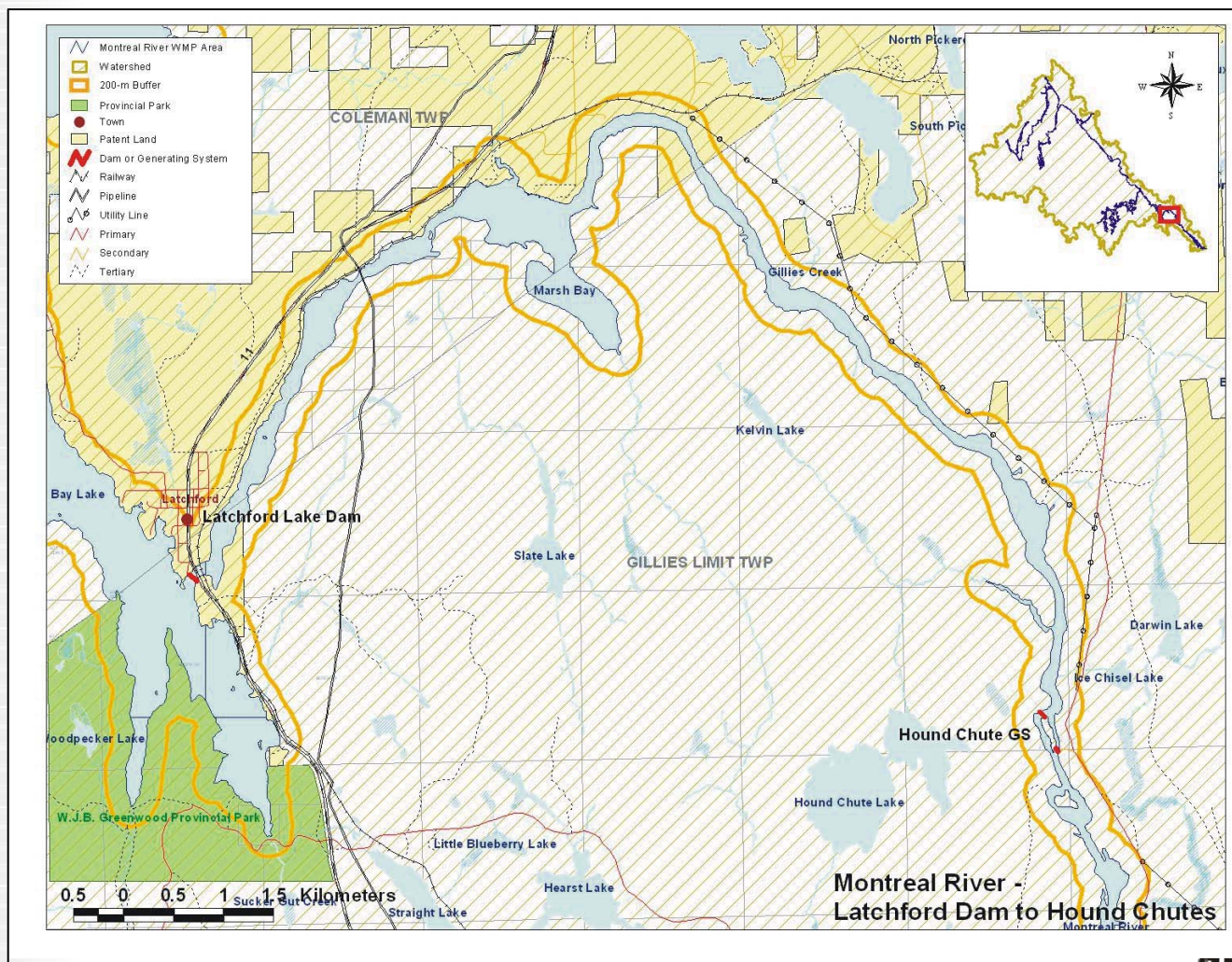


Marsh Bay Issues

A photograph of a marshy landscape with a body of water in the foreground, a line of trees in the middle ground, and a hazy sky in the background. The image is partially obscured by the title text.

- ❑ **During Water Management Planning residents of Marsh Bay identified the following concerns**
 - ❖ **Fluctuating water levels due to operation of the Flashboards**
 - ❖ **Maximum water level during a flood event**
 - ❖ **Property rights**
 - ❖ **Impact on fish due to Flashboard operation**

Hound Chute- Marsh Bay

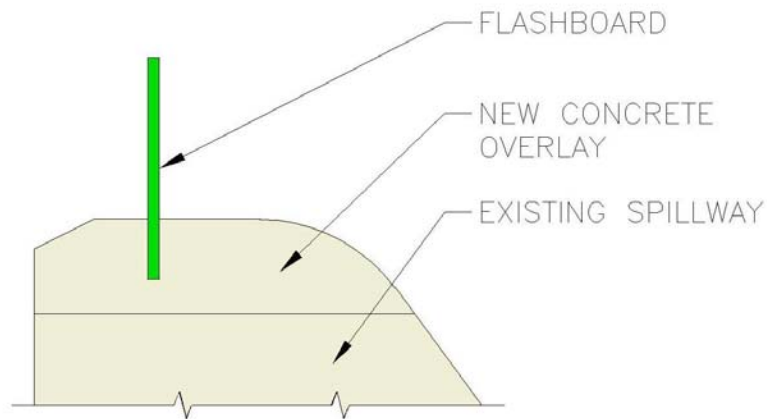


Marsh Bay – Hydraulic Study

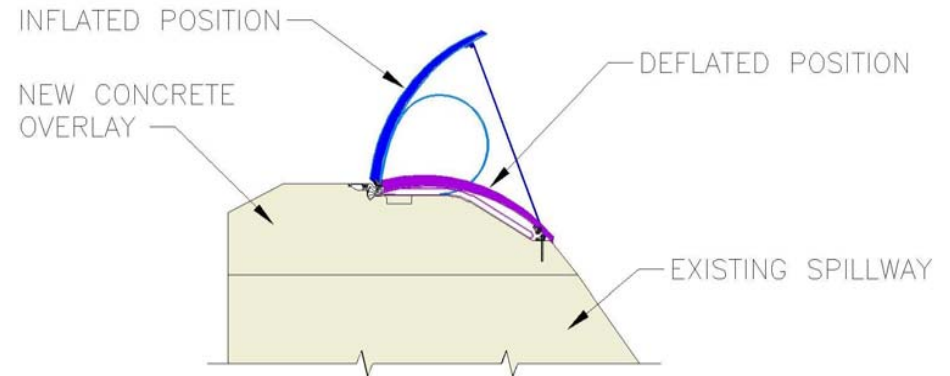


- ❑ Understanding of the riverbed profile
- ❑ Establishment of topography at Marsh Bay
- ❑ Establishment of the proximity of buildings to normal and flood water levels
- ❑ Determination of the Design Flood requirements and resulting water levels at Marsh Bay
- ❑ Modelling of the abrupt water level fluctuations during the operation of the flashboards at Hound Chute and Identification of potential solutions
- ❑ Potential impact on the environment resulting from present operation mode

Marsh Bay – Proposed Solution



FLASHBOARD



REPLACEMENT GATE

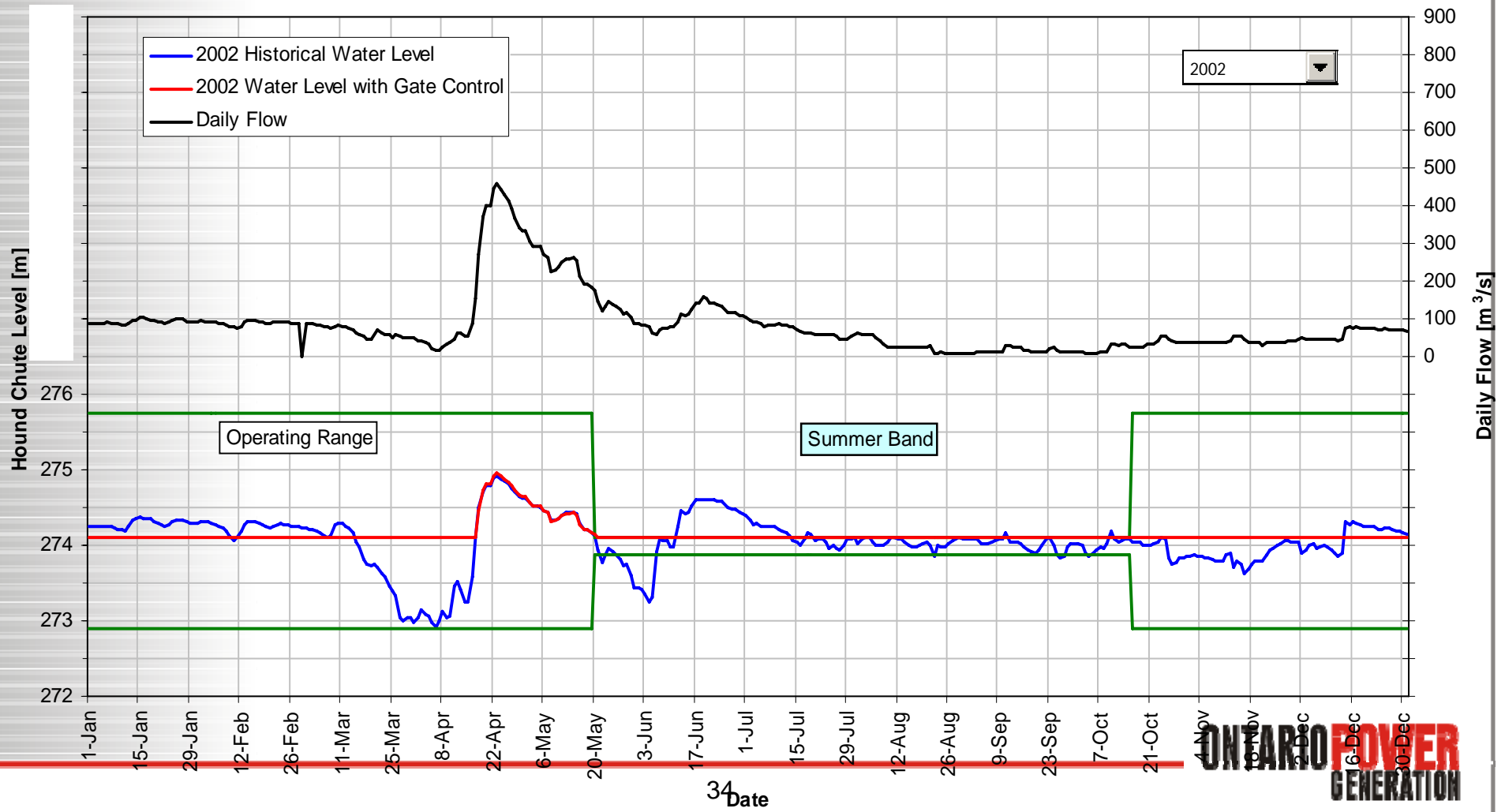
E.G.: Obermeyer Gate

**Existing Control at Hound
Chute Spillway Dam**

**Possible Replacement
for Flashboards**

Marsh Bay - Outcome

Historical Hound Chute Water Level and Flow
1948 to 2004



Marsh Bay – Benefits on Environment

A photograph of a marshy landscape with a body of water in the foreground, surrounded by trees and a clear sky.

- ❑ Automatic weir lowers the likelihood of exposing spring spawning areas (Pike and Walleye)
- ❑ Automatic weir lowers the likelihood of exposing early summer spawning areas (Smallmouth Bass)
- ❑ Consistent water level throughout summer



Environmental Assessment Timeline

EA Process Timeline

- ❑ **Background Research - *Winter & Spring***
- ❑ **Public Open House #1- *April***
- ❑ **Public Consultation - *Ongoing***
- ❑ **Regulatory Consultation – *Ongoing***
- ❑ **First Nations Consultation - *Ongoing***
- ❑ **Field Studies: *May - Sept.***
- ❑ **Public Open House #2 – *Early fall***
- ❑ **EA Report Writing- *Fall***
- ❑ **Submission of EA to MOE- *Nov./Dec.***

What does this mean to the citizens of Ontario



- ❑ **Increase energy supply from Renewable Resource**
- ❑ **In line with Provincial objectives**
- ❑ **Free up the transmission corridor for other uses**
- ❑ **Localized impacts to the environment can be mitigated.**
- ❑ **Local economic benefits during construction**
- ❑ **No change in flows and levels**

EA - Public Participation

- ❑ We want *YOUR* feedback (both negative and positive aspects).
- ❑ Are there environmental, social, or economic point values in the immediate area that we need to consider?
- ❑ Please fill out a comment sheet and be put on our mailing list.



**Thank You and please attend
our Fall Open House!!!**

PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

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Do you have any comments about the proposed redevelopment of the Hound Chute Generating Station?

over
A positive step
A great idea - it shows O.P.G.'s
commitment to the environment.

Are you aware of any significant environmental, social or economic feature or value near these sites that we need to have consideration for?

~~Yes - the Burn at the refinery town site~~
Yes - the Burn at the refinery town site
The wells + septic systems (private)
The flow + risk (destruction)
The destruction of the river's edge
(EROSION) (growth + growth)

Do you have any other comments about the project that you would like to identify?

"LET'S GET IT DONE"
Kudos to the Marsh Bay Conservation Assoc.

Please provide your contact information below:

Name: LOIS PERRY Postal Code: _____
Street Address: 918156 Portage Bay Email: ads@northernontario.ca
Coleman Twp. Phone number: W 705-647-6791
City: POJ-1CO Fax: (H) 705-679-5397
ext 224
705-679-9669

If you have any questions or comments about the project in the future please contact either:

Phil Shantz, Senior Planner
SENES Consultants Limited
121 Granton Drive, Unit 12
Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4B 3N4
telephone: (905) 764-9380 fax: (905) 764-9386
e-mail: info@houndchute-ea.com.

Please drop the comments in the box provided or send to Phil Shantz no later than May 30

After 3 years of being lied
to & treated badly
Ed + Jillian have been
a "Bunch of Fresh Air"

Thank You

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Do you have any comments about the proposed redevelopment of the Hound Chute Generating Station?

Does this new proposed facility mean that you will want to, as a next phase, be raising water levels to keep turbines operating at higher capacity. Is this just a soft beginning? It sounds like a great arrangement to keep water levels regulated but if it means that you decide that the basin ^{never} floods my home how can I encourage you
Are you aware of any significant environmental, social or economic feature or value near these sites that we need to have consideration for?
Our shore line is very sandy but the big poplars & birches show that the land has not been flooded in a long time.

Do you have any other comments about the project that you would like to identify?

Otherwise this presentation was very positive

Please provide your contact information below:

Name: *Cecilia Dambowitz* Postal Code: *ON P0S1C0*
Street Address: *RR #1 Marsh Bay* Email: _____
Phone number: _____
City: *Cobalt* Fax: _____

If you have any questions or comments about the project in the future please contact either:

Phil Shantz, Senior Planner
SENES Consultants Limited
121 Granton Drive, Unit 12
Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4B 3N4
telephone: (905) 764-9380 fax: (905) 764-9386
e-mail: info@houndchute-ea.com.

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Do you have any comments about the proposed redevelopment of the Hound Chute Generating Station?

Having been involved with the ongoing situation for almost four years, this is the first time that I have felt good about the proposals. I am all in favour of the new development and feel that at least we have something that may address many of our concerns.

Are you aware of any significant environmental, social or economic feature or value near these sites that we need to have consideration for?

Some areas of erosion, but hope these concerns will be addressed and dealt with through the EA.

Do you have any other comments about the project that you would like to identify?

Again I would like to see a larger spill capacity but not at the expense of the project being cancelled.

Please provide your contact information below:

Name: *HOWARD C. "BUCK" BERRY* Postal Code: *P0J 1C0*
Street Address: *Marsh Bay Rd* Email: *b4BERRY@NTA.Sympotex.ca*
Edema Township Phone number: *679-5629*
City: *COBALT Ont* Fax: _____

If you have any questions or comments about the project in the future please contact either:

Phil Shantz, Senior Planner
SENES Consultants Limited
121 Granton Drive, Unit 12
Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4B 3N4
telephone: (905) 764-9380 fax: (905) 764-9386
e-mail: info@houndchute-ea.com.

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Do you have any comments about the proposed redevelopment of the Hound Chute Generating Station?

Looking forward to it

Are you aware of any significant environmental, social or economic feature or value near these sites that we need to have consideration for?

*I feel most have been addressed
There are some historic sites.*

Do you have any other comments about the project that you would like to identify?

not at the moment

Please provide your contact information below:

Name: *C. Belanger* Postal Code: *P0J 1C0*

Street Address: *1 Bruce Property* Email: _____

City: *Coleman Township* Phone number: *705-679-5579*

Fax: _____

If you have any questions or comments about the project in the future please contact either:

Phil Shantz, Senior Planner
SENES Consultants Limited
121 Granton Drive, Unit 12
Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4B 3N4
telephone: (905) 764-9380 fax: (905) 764-9386
e-mail: info@houndchute-ea.com.

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Do you have any comments about the proposed redevelopment of the Hound Chute Generating Station?

Sounds GREAT AS LONG AS THE LEVEL STANDS AT THE 274 Level & NOT AT Flood Level

Are you aware of any significant environmental, social or economic feature or value near these sites that we need to have consideration for?

Do you have any other comments about the project that you would like to identify?

Please provide your contact information below:

Name: Susan Cote Postal Code: P0J 1C0
Street Address: 545731 Robitaille St Email: scote@wabicorp.com
KR #1 Phone number: 705-679-5864
City: Cobalt Fax:

If you have any questions or comments about the project in the future please contact either:

Phil Shantz, Senior Planner
SENES Consultants Limited
121 Granton Drive, Unit 12
Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4B 3N4
telephone: (905) 764-9380 fax: (905) 764-9386
e-mail: info@houndchute-ea.com.

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Do you have any comments about the proposed redevelopment of the Hound Chute Generating Station?

maximize the spill capacity. The EA needs to address the erosion of the sand shores and insufficient spring/flood spill capacity.

Are you aware of any significant environmental, social or economic feature or value near these sites that we need to have consideration for?

The sand banks are eroded badly now / pines / trees are continuing to collapse as is the shore especially the west side.

Do you have any other comments about the project that you would like to identify?

The economic aspect for OPG is paid for by the lowered land value of the Marsh Bay residents. Put \$ into the spill way to save the residents land. Individual property owners should not have to pay for OPG's 7-9% profit.

Please provide your contact information below:

Name: LIZ FOLEY

Postal Code: R0 J1L0

Street Address: Marsh Bay Rd
R2R1 Cobalt Ont.

Email: marshbayej@hotmail.com

Phone number: 705-679-5029

City:

Fax:

If you have any questions or comments about the project in the future please contact either:

Phil Shantz, Senior Planner
SENEC Consultants Limited
121 Granton Drive, Unit 12
Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4B 3N4
telephone: (905) 764-9380 fax: (905) 764-9386
e-mail: info@houndchute-ea.com.

Please drop the comments in the box provided or send to Phil Shantz no later than May 30

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APR 24 2006

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Do you have any comments about the proposed redevelopment of the Hound Chute Generating Station?

Are you aware of any significant environmental, social or economic feature or value near these sites that we need to have consideration for?

Do you have any other comments about the project that you would like to identify?

I would ask that every effort be made to protect spawning areas particularly during construction

Please provide your contact information below:

Name: KENT SARTON Postal Code: P0J 1C0
Street Address: 877650 BASS LAKE RD. Email: _____
P.O. Box 558 Phone number: 705 674-8742
City: COBALT ON. Fax: _____

If you have any questions or comments about the project in the future please contact either:

Phil Shantz, Senior Planner
SENES Consultants Limited
121 Granton Drive, Unit 12
Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4B 3N4
telephone: (905) 764-9380 fax: (905) 764-9386
e-mail: info@houndchute-ea.com.

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9

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Do you have any comments about the proposed redevelopment of the Hound Chute Generating Station?

AS A COLEMAN COUNCILLOR AND RESIDENT ON THE MONTREAL RIVER AND HAVING ATTENDED THE PRESENTATIONS I THINK THIS PROJECT WILL HAVE AN ALL AROUND POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE AREA.

Are you aware of any significant environmental, social or economic feature or value near these sites that we need to have consideration for?

NOT AWARE OF ANY THAT HAVE NOT ALREADY BEEN ADDRESSED

Do you have any other comments about the project that you would like to identify?

Please provide your contact information below:

Name: KURT LEOPOLD Postal Code: P0J 1C0
Street Address: 2 LARONGE REFINERY TOWNSITE Email: KURT@NTL.SYMPATICO.CA
COLEMAN TOWNSHIP R R 1 Phone number: 705-679-5986
City: COBALT Fax: 705-679-5986

If you have any questions or comments about the project in the future please contact either:

Phil Shantz, Senior Planner
SENES Consultants Limited
121 Granton Drive, Unit 12
Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4B 3N4
telephone: (905) 764-9380 fax: (905) 764-9386
e-mail: info@houndchute-ea.com.

Please drop the comments in the box provided or send to Phil Shantz no later than May 30

Received April 24 via PMP

ONTARIO POWER GENERATION

PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

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Do you have any comments about the proposed redevelopment of the Hound Chute Generating Station?

Thank you for your presentation last week at the Open House in Latchford regarding the Hound Chute Generating Station redevelopment.

1) You indicated the proposed redevelopment will continue to operate as a run-of-the-river facility and be managed so that there is no change to the water levels and flows. Does that mean what the water levels have been in the past or where OPG has placed their markers on individual properties where the water may rise to?

Are you aware of any significant environmental, social or economic feature or value near these sites that we need to have consideration for?

No as I have only moved to the area Nov/05. I love it. It is very beautiful + wildlife lovely to watch.

Do you have any other comments about the project that you would like to identify?

I heard there are brand new turbines at the site of the Ragged Chutes Station. If they start any renovations at that site will it have any affect on the redevelopment of the Hound Chutes Station?

Please provide your contact information below:

Name: MARGOT SAWYER Postal Code: POJ1C0
Street Address: #7 LARONGE AVE Email: mesawyer@yahoo.ca
RR #1, Coleman Twp. Phone number: 705-679-8786
City: Coleman, Ontario Fax: (705) 676-2111

If you have any questions or comments about the project in the future please contact either:

Phil Shantz, Senior Planner
SENES Consultants Limited
121 Granton Drive, Unit 12
Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4B 3N4
telephone: (905) 764-9380 fax: (905) 764-9386
e-mail: info@houndchute-ea.com.

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SENES Consultants
Limited

Do you have any comments about the proposed redevelopment of the Hound Chute Generating Station?

This will be a valuable project which will address most of my concerns as a resident. I will be very happy if both the mechanical bladder as well as the additional

Are you aware of any significant environmental, social or economic feature or value near these sites that we need to have consideration for?

In addition to the issues addressed in the meeting of Apr 20, the issue of the ultimate height of elevation that the "RIGHT TO FLOOD" applies to on RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

Do you have any other comments about the project that you would like to identify?

I would like to thank Col Dombrowski for such an improved approach to citizens as compared with prior people who were involved with these issues!

Please provide your contact information below:

Name: Ann Goldsmith Postal Code: P0J 1C0
 Street Address: RR 1 Email: _____
4 Athabasca Dr. Phone number: 705-679-5557
 City: Cobalt Fax: _____

If you have any questions or comments about the project in the future please contact either:

Phil Shantz, Senior Planner
 SENES Consultants Limited
 121 Granton Drive, Unit 12
 Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4B 3N4
 telephone: (905) 764-9380 fax: (905) 764-9386
 e-mail: info@houndchute-ea.com.

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needs to be addressed. Perhaps a clarification of a difference between the right to flood to a particular average annual level and the level which might occur due to natural causes (in a 100 year event) would address the concerns. This would need to be a legal document as opposed to verbal assurances.

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Do you have any comments about the proposed redevelopment of the Hound Chute Generating Station?

I believe that this project is a very worthwhile project. It will address the several issues that have been problems on this stretch of the Montreal River. Finally a very positive response by O.P.G. I'm sure it will go ahead!!

Are you aware of any significant environmental, social or economic feature or value near these sites that we need to have consideration for?

We have lived on the river for 12 years and only once did we see loons reproduce on our stretch of the river. Hopefully with better control of the water levels, loons will be able to nest without fear of flooding.

Do you have any other comments about the project that you would like to identify?

I feel that much consideration should be given to the installation of a second controlled spillway. This would be the best possible control of the water on this stretch of the river.

Please provide your contact information below:

Name: Reg. Holdsworth Postal Code: P0J 1C0
Street Address: 4 Atikokan Dr. Email: _____
RR#1 Phone number: 705-679-5557
City: Cobalt Ont. Fax: _____

If you have any questions or comments about the project in the future please contact either:

Phil Shantz, Senior Planner
SENES Consultants Limited
121 Granton Drive, Unit 12
Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4B 3N4
telephone: (905) 764-9380 fax: (905) 764-9386
e-mail: info@houndchute-ea.com.

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April 26/06 PS

RECEIVED

MAY 01 2006

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Do you have any comments about the proposed redevelopment of the Hound Chute Generating Station?

SEE ATTACHED

Are you aware of any significant environmental, social or economic feature or value near these sites that we need to have consideration for?

SEE ATTACHED

Do you have any other comments about the project that you would like to identify?

See attached

Please provide your contact information below:

Name: *FRED PASQUETTI*

Postal Code: *P0J 1P0*

Street Address: *222 McCamus Ave*

Email: *pasquetti@ntl.sympatico.ca*

Box 554

Phone number: *705-647-5616*

City: *New Liskeard Ont.*

Fax: _____

If you have any questions or comments about the project in the future please contact either:

P0J 1P0

Phil Shantz, Senior Planner
SENES Consultants Limited
121 Granton Drive, Unit 12

Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4B 3N4
telephone: (905) 764-9380 fax: (905) 764-9386

e-mail: info@houndchute-ea.com.

Please drop the comments in the box provided or send to Phil Shantz no later than May 30

**ATTACHMENT TO
ONTARIO POWER GENERATION PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED
REDEVELOPMENT OF THE HOUND CHUTE GENERATING STATION**

Submitted by

**Fred Paoletti
P O Box 554
222 McCamus Avenue
New Liskeard, ON P0J 1P0
(705) 647-5616**

1. Do you have any comments about the proposed redevelopment of the Hound Chute Generating Station?

With the ever increasing demand for electricity and very few water power sites available to generate clean power, the redevelopment of the antiquated Hound Chute plant is an excellent plan. It will generate more than two times the power that the existing plant produces, and it will also have the added opportunity to build in safe guards (spill capacity) to alleviate upstream flooding that has plagued residents for many years. It will also provide a more stabilized water level that is so necessary for fish spawning.

2. Are you aware of any significant environmental, social or economic feature or value near these sites that we need to have consideration for?

It is imperative that at the time of the planning of the reconstruction of Hound Chute plant that adequate spill capacity is incorporated to ensure that the upstream residents do not have to fear the flooding problems that they have endured in the past. As you are well aware, there are two means presently available to control this problem and that "must" be built into the new system:

- 1) at the existing flash board site, and
- 2) at the weir that is adjacent to the power house.

Spend the extra dollars now and do the job right. If they can withstand severe ice conditions, the Obermeyer Gate sounds great, as does the additional installation of a system of removal stop logs (not flashboards) or a similar system that will allow easy adjustment of water levels without endangering OPG workers.

3. Do you have any other comments about the project that you would like to identify?

There is a major problem of OPG insisting that it has a legal right to flood crown land up to an elevation of 277.36". The Town of Latchford is 277.10" and if OPG's elevation was to be adhered to it would flood the entire Latchford area, including the subdivision and railroad tracks and it's a ridiculous argument on OPG's part.

This is an area of urgent concern of many years for all upstream residents and must be settled before any work is commenced on the Hound Chute plant.

When construction was completed in the early 1970's of the Lower Notch (peaking plant) at the mouth of the Montreal River at Lake Temiskaming, the public was not aware of future adverse effects on this once pristine river system. Today after some 35 years in operation, the river banks have still not stabilized and hillsides of 50-60 feet high are continually sliding into the river and islands are eroding due to the 6-10 foot daily water fluctuations.

This not only has a negative effect on fish and wildlife, but the aesthetic beauty of the lower Montreal River system has been lost forever. Don't make the same mistake with the Hound Chute project. Ensure that all safeguards are in place to alleviate flooding and erosion, and that OPG and the land owners upstream come to an equitable agreement regarding the normal maximum water elevation rather than the 277.36" insisted upon by OPG before any construction begins.

PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT OF THE HOUND CHUTE GENERATING STATION

Ontario Power Generation Inc. (OPG) is proposing to redevelop the Hound Chute Generating Station located on the Lower Montreal River, east of the Town of Latchford on the site of the existing Generating Station. The Proposed Undertaking will replace the existing Generating Station and when complete will provide an expected capacity of 10.2 megawatts from the existing 3.6 megawatts capacity. The generating station will connect to the local distribution system via an existing 44 Kilovolts feeder. Hound Chute is located about 10 kilometres east of the Town of Latchford and 10 kilometres south of the Town of Cobalt in the District of Timiskaming.

RECEIVED
MAY 17 2006

Do you have any comments about the proposed redevelopment of the Hound Chute Generating Station?

SENES Consultants Limited

Hound Chute Needs To Be Redeveloped To Stop The Continuous Environmental Devastation Caused By The Present Structure. The Site Needs Automated Control And A Big Increase In Spill Capacity, In Order To Control Levels At All Times Of Year.

Are you aware of any significant environmental, social or economic feature or value near these sites that we need to have consideration for?

Most Of The Private Land Above Hound Chute Is Being Fenced Illegally By OPG. These Illegal Actions Are Extreme Social + Economic Concerns For Local Residents. This Issue Has To Be Sert With Before Redevelopment Or Residents Will Go To Whatever Govt. Agencies Needed To Address The Problem.

Do you have any other comments about the project that you would like to identify?

We Are Told That OPG Will Now Attempt To Acquire Basements To Flood Property To 276.09 For A Hundred Year Flood Prediction. Residents Are Willing To Work With OPG To Secure These Basements, But Only If Proper Control And Spill Capacity Is Built Into The New Redevelopment.

Please provide your contact information below:

Name: JIM O'BRIEN Postal Code: P0J 1C0
 Street Address: RR #1 Email: _____
 Phone number: 705-679-8810
 City: COBALT Fax: 705-679-8810

If you have any questions or comments about the project in the future please contact either:

Phil Shantz, Senior Planner
 SENES Consultants Limited
 121 Granton Drive, Unit 12
 Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4B 3N4
 telephone: (905) 764-9380 fax: (905) 764-9386
 e-mail: info@houndchute-ea.com.

Please drop the comments in the box provided or send to Phil Shantz no later than May 30

MODE = MEMORY TRANSMISSION

START=MAY-17 16:07

END=MAY-17 16:08

FILE NO. = 008

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-SENES CONSULTANTS -

***** - ***** - 905 764 9386- *****

PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT OF THE HOUND CHUTE GENERATING STATION

Ontario Power Generation Inc. (OPG) is proposing to redevelop the Hound Chute Generating Station located on the Lower Montreal River, east of the Town of Latchford on the site of the existing Generating Station. The Proposed Undertaking will replace the existing Generating Station and when complete will provide an expected capacity of 10.2 megawatts from the existing 3.6 megawatts capacity. The generating station will connect to the local distribution system via an existing 44 Kilovolt Feeder. Hound Chute is located about 10 kilometres east of the Town of Latchford and 10 kilometres south of the Town of Cobalt in the District of Timiskaming.

RECEIVED
MAY 17 2006

Do you have any comments about the proposed redevelopment of the Hound Chute Generating Station?

Hound Chute Needs To Be Redeveloped To Stop The Continuous Environmental Degradation Caused By The Present Structure. The Site Needs Automated Control And A Big Increase In Spill Capacity, In Order To Control Levels At All Times Of Year.

Are you aware of any significant environmental, social or economic feature or value near these sites that we need to have consideration for?

Most Of The Private Land Above Hound Chute Is Being Fenced Illegally By OPG. These Fencing Actions Are Extreme Social + Economic Concerns For Local Residents. This Issue Has To Be Dealt With [REDACTED] Redevelopment Or Residents Will Go To Whatever Govt. Agencies Needed To Address The Problem.

Do you have any other comments about the project that you would like to identify?

We Are Told That OPG Will Now Attempt To Acquire Easements To Flood Property To 276.09 For A Hundred Year Flood Protection. Residents Are Willing To Work With OPG To Secure These Easements, But Only If Power [REDACTED] Will Give To [REDACTED] The [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

Please provide your contact information below.

Name: JIM O'BRIEN Postal Code: P0J 1C0
 Street Address: RR #1 Email: _____
 Phone number: 705-679-8810
 City: COBALT Fax: 705-679-8810

If you have any questions or comments about the project in the future please contact either:

Phil Shantz, Senior Planner
 SENES Consultants Limited
 121 Granton Drive, Unit 12
 Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4B 3N4
 telephone: (905) 764-9380 fax: (905) 764-9386
 e-mail: info@houndchute-ea.com.

Please drop the comments in the box provided or send to Phil Shantz no later than May 30



Repeat of letter

PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT OF THE WAWAITIN, SANDY FALLS AND LOWER STURGEON GENERATING STATIONS

HOUND CHUTES

Ontario Power Generation Inc. (OPG) is proposing to redevelop three hydroelectric generating stations on the Upper Mattagami River on the sites of the existing generating stations at Wawaitin, Sandy Falls, and Lower Sturgeon (the Proposed Undertaking). The Proposed Undertaking will replace certain obsolete and end of service life facilities at these existing 25 Hz generating stations. When completed, the combined capacity of the new generating stations are expected to be 27 MW, an increase of 45 per cent from the existing generating stations and will produce electricity at 60 Hz which can be used directly in the local distribution system. All three of the generating stations are located on the Upper Mattagami River system within 50 km of the town centre of the City of Timmins.

Do you have any comments about the proposed redevelopment of the Wawaitin, Sandy Falls and Lower Sturgeon Generating Stations? If so please identify them and indicate if your comment is directed to one station in particular or is more general in nature.

Hound Chutes: Yes - it would be great to have an updated system to control the water levels (which ^{would be} to remain constant on a yearly bases). The ability to ↑ the plants ability to produce more hydro by ↑ the ~~spill~~ spill capacity.

Wawaitin: We have been plagued with illegal spillage (flooding) of the private lands by OPG. for years. This constant change in H₂O levels have affected our fish growth; erosion of the shorelines; loss of new bonies. Personally for us a way of livelyhood.

Lower Sturgeon: There won't be any signing of easement if O.P.G. doesn't guarantee on paper the redevelopment at Hound Chutes. i.e. automated control + spill capacity to handle high flows.

All three generation stations:

Are you aware of any significant environmental, social or economic feature or value near these sites that we need to have consideration for? Please indicate which specific facility.

Wawaitein: _____

Sandy Falls: _____

Lower Sturgeon: _____

All three generation stations: _____

Do you have any other comments about the project that you would like to identify?

Please provide your contact information below:

Name: Debbie O'Brien Postal Code: P0J 1C0

Street Address: RR#1 Email: _____

Phone number: 705-679-8810

City: Cobalt, ON Fax: 705-679-8810

If you have any questions or comments about the project in the future please contact either:

Phil Shantz, Senior Planner
SENES Consultants Limited
121 Granton Drive, Unit 12
Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4B 3N4
telephone: (905) 764-9380 fax: (905) 764-9386
e-mail: info@uppermattagami-ea.com.

Please drop the comments in the box provided or send to Phil Shantz no later than May 30

Appendix D

Open House #2: Open House #2 Report, Presentation Panels, PowerPoint Slides and Comments Received

REPORT ON OPEN HOUSE #2 FOR THE HOUND CHUTE PROJECT

Submitted to:
Ontario Power Generation Inc.
700 University Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M5G 1X6

By:

Hound Chute EA Consulting Team

Prepared by:

Mr. Phil Shantz, SENES Date
EA Consulting Team

Reviewed by:

Mr. Don Gorber, SENES Date
EA Consulting Team

Approved by:

Dr. Donald Gorber, SENES Date
Project Manager
EA Consulting Team

Reviewed by:

Gillian MacLeod
Environmental Lead
Ontario Power Generation Inc. Date

Accepted by:

Edward M. Dobrowolski
Project Manager
Ontario Power Generation Inc Date

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2.0 ATTENDANCE AND MEDIA COVERAGE	1
3.0 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS DURING PUBLIC MEETING PORTION	1
4.0 TYPICAL QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS DURING OPEN HOUSE.....	2
5.0 COMMENTS RECEIVED VIA COMMENTS SHEETS.....	2
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1.0 OVERVIEW OF THE OPEN HOUSE

The second public open house on the environmental assessment for the re-development of the Hound Chute Generating Station was held on Tuesday October 17th, 2006 at the Coleman Township office. The agenda of the open house was as follows.

3:00 – 6:45 Open House

- 27 Information Panels were available for the public to review.
- Public Comment Sheets, Newsletters and Copies of the Information Panels were distributed as hand-outs.
- Large scale maps, computer maps and water management planning information were available on computer for members of the public.
- OPG and SENES Consultants Ltd. staff were available

6:45 – 7:30 Presentation

- E. Dobrowolski and P. Shantz gave a PowerPoint presentation on the project.

7:30 – 8:00 Questions and Answers

- Following the presentation, OPG and SENES Consultants Ltd. staff responded to public inquiries.

2.0 ATTENDANCE AND MEDIA COVERAGE

Approximately 17 people attended the open house session.

Local media in attendance included a reporter from the Temiskaming Times.

3.0 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS DURING PUBLIC MEETING PORTION

Hound Chute Questions and Answers

Question - Can the public have access for a boat launch at the closed road?

Answer – A. Bernard explained that OPG is very concerned with public access and that is why that access road was gated. E. Dobrowolski explained that OPG is very concerned about public safety in this location. (Don Gorber suggested that we mention in the EA that MNR consider an access point between Hound Chute and Marsh Bay)

Question – How long to construct the obermayer?

Answer – E. Dobrowolski stated about 2-3 months

Question - How long will the obermayer last?

Answer – E. Dobrowolski stated that experience in Quebec is that they last more than 20 years.

Comment – DFO seems really concerned about the dewatering of the forebay but didn't care much about area up-river that gets de-watered – seems ironic.

Answer – No response given/needed.

Question – How long will the powerhouse last?

Answer – E. Dobrowolski stated 50-90 years

Question – Where will workers stay?

Answer – E. Dobrowolski stated that there won't be a camp at the sites. After that it is left up to the DBC --- obviously this is up to them.

4.0 TYPICAL QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS DURING OPEN HOUSE

The following is a list of comments or questions that members of the public raised to either an OPG or SENES Consultants Limited staff person. The comments are organized by general topic. Answers to these questions were provided by OPG and SENES staff.

- Discussed with a retired Ontario Hydro employee who lived at the Hound Chute colony – the general location of the colony and whether there was anything identifiable remaining? He indicated that there is nothing remaining of the old colony – it was cleared and levelled.
- A couple individuals inquired as to whether this would be a unionized project. It was indicated that it will be.

5.0 COMMENTS RECEIVED VIA COMMENTS SHEETS

The following are the comments, concerns and questions received from individuals who attended the open house event and filled out the comment sheets.

- Positive reaction to the project and its development.
- Positive about the economic impact of the project in the short term.
- Concern regarding controlling river flow during the spring season and in adverse weather conditions.
- Concern about littering that may be caused by the construction workers.
- Suggestion to create a safe public look-out area.

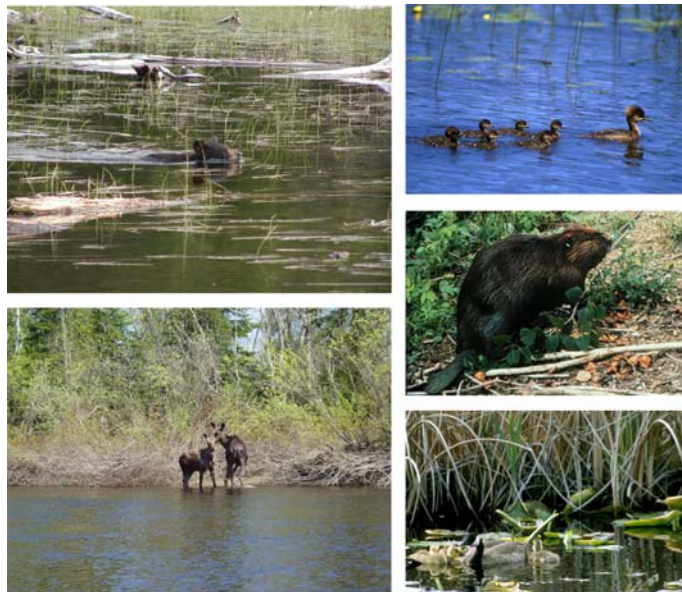
6.0 CONCLUSION

Members of the public that attended the Open House and submitted Comment Sheets made many positive comments about the proposed undertaking and its benefits to residents of Marsh Bay. There was a general interest in the economic opportunities associated with the project.

WELCOME !

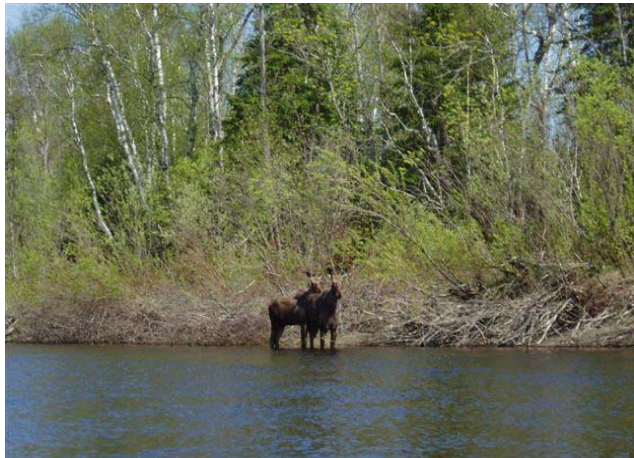
Public Open House - 2006

- Thank you for taking time to visit this Open House
- Please fill out a Comment Sheet and leave it with us, or take it home and return it later to the address provided
- A project representative would be glad to answer your questions and if we don't know the answer we will try to get you an answer
- We value your comments and questions



Hound Chute Re-Development Environmental Assessment

Public Open House - 2006



Purpose of this Open House

Public Open House - 2006

- To update you on Ontario Power Generation's (OPG) small hydro redevelopment plans for the Hound Chute Generating Station
- To update you on the status of the environmental assessment process
- To provide you with our summary findings with respect to our environmental studies



Who is Ontario Power Generation?

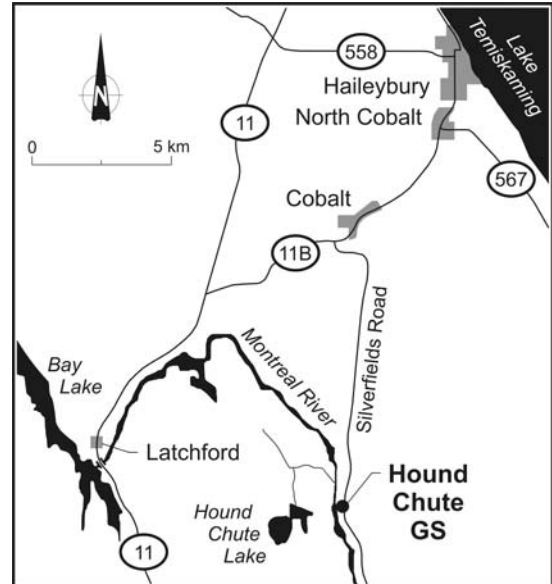
Public Open House - 2006

- Ontario Power Generation Inc. (OPG) is an Ontario-based electricity generation company whose principal business is the generation of electricity in Ontario
- OPG focuses on the efficient production of electricity from our generation assets, while operating in a safe, open and environmentally responsible manner
- OPG is a commercial company, owned by the Province of Ontario – its sole shareholder
- Ontario needs more electricity and OPG has been given a mandate from the Province of Ontario to develop and expand its hydroelectric capacity
- This will provide more clean renewable environmentally friendly electricity for Ontario

What is OPG Proposing to Do ?

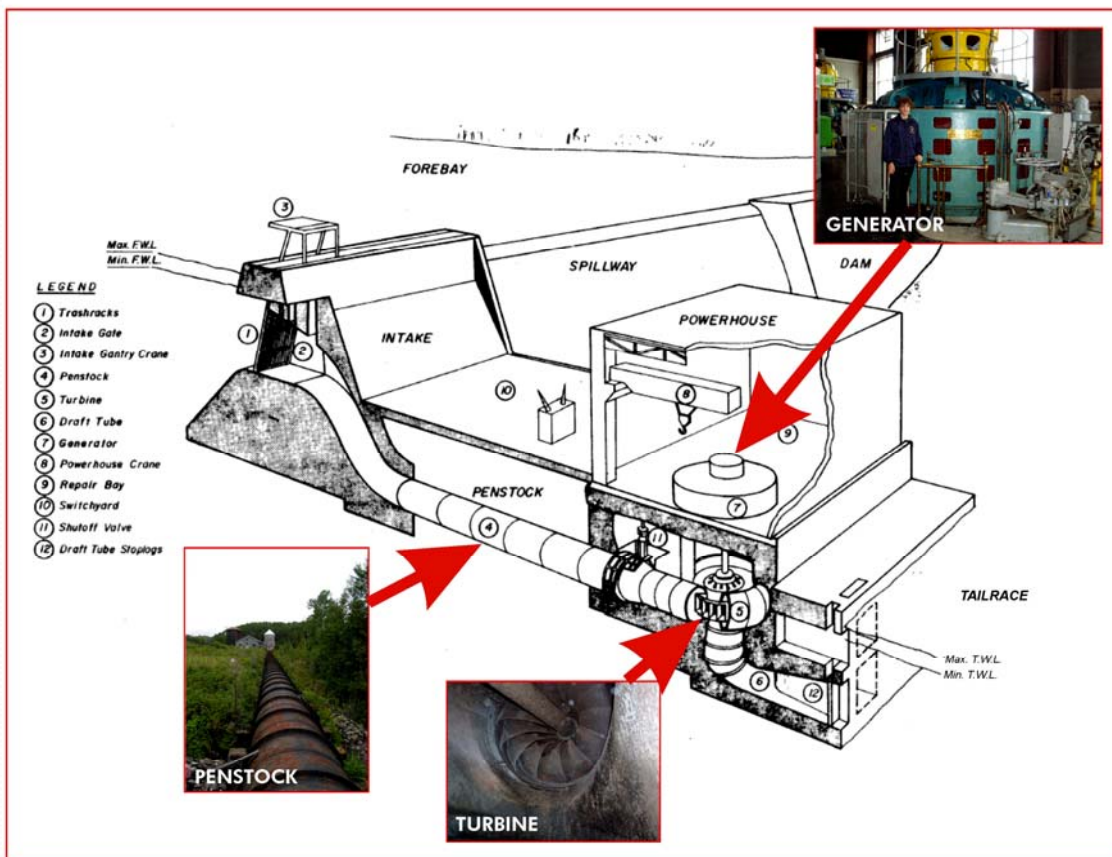
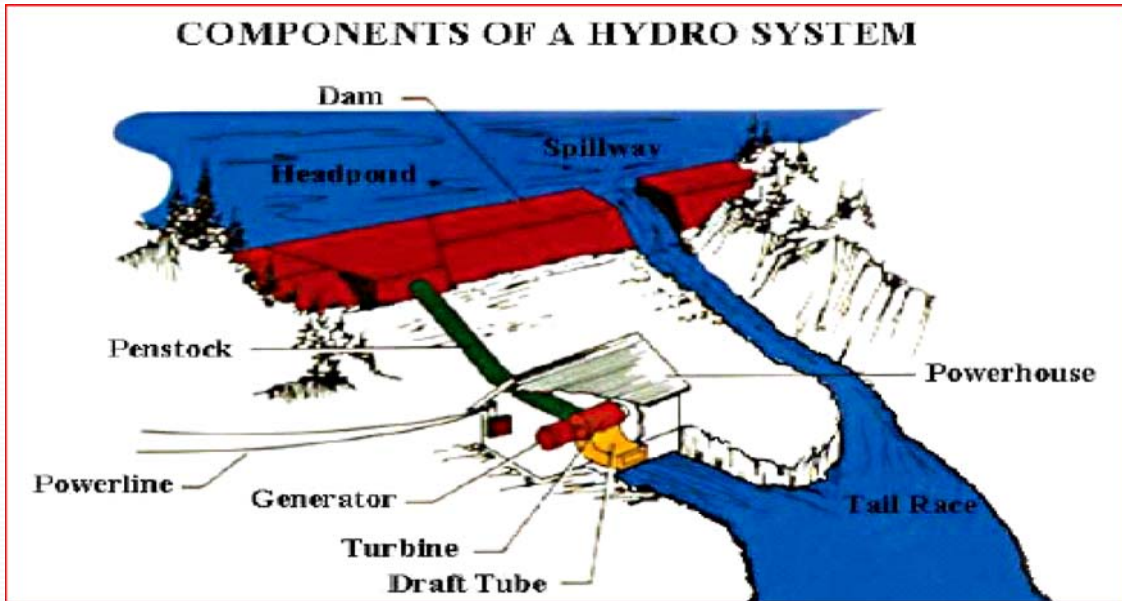
Public Open House - 2006

- Ontario Power Generation is planning to redevelop the Hound Chute Generating Station on the Lower Montreal River
- Hound Chute is an existing run-of-the-river hydroelectric generating station that was constructed in 1908 by Cobalt Power
- The redevelopment of Hound Chute is subject to a provincial class environmental assessment
- Power will increase from 3.6 megawatts to an expected 10 megawatts



Small Run-of-the River Hydroelectric Generating Stations

Public Open House - 2006

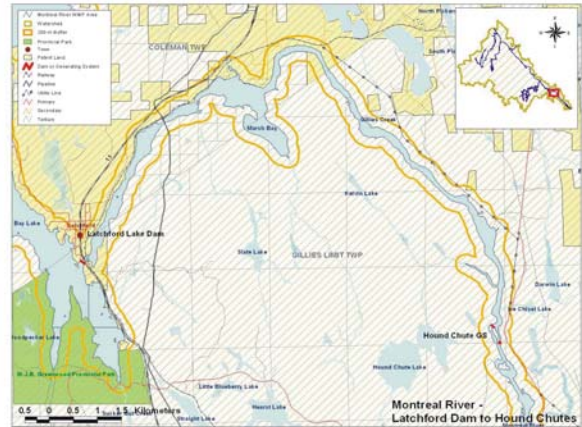


Hound Chute Generating Station

Public Open House - 2006

Existing

- Hound Chute Generating Station is a run-of-the-river generating station on the Montreal River
- The Hound Chute Generating Station is almost 100 years old and is at the end of its current service life
- Ongoing maintenance will not provide a long-term reliable solution
- If redeveloped, the Hound Chute Generating Station can continue to provide Ontario with reliable, clean and renewable electricity
- There is an opportunity to increase the power produced at Hound Chute Generating Station without changing the operating regime (water levels and flows) set out in the Montreal River System Water Management Plan
- Through the installation of an automatic weir, there is an opportunity to address the fluctuating water levels associated with the operation of the flashboards



Hound Chute Generating Station

Public Open House - 2006

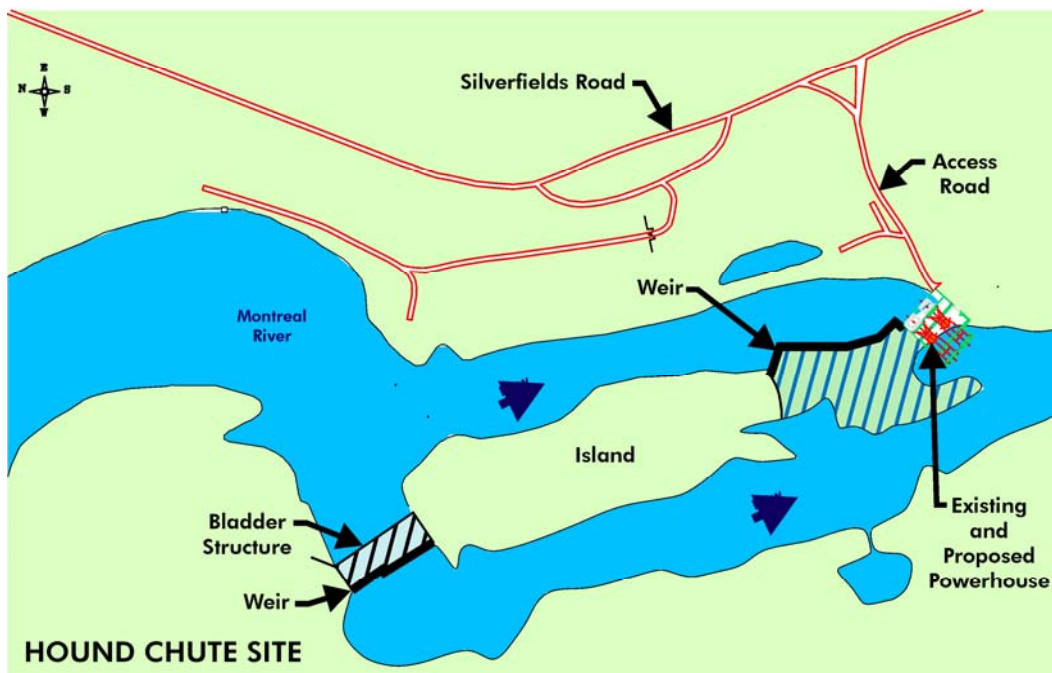
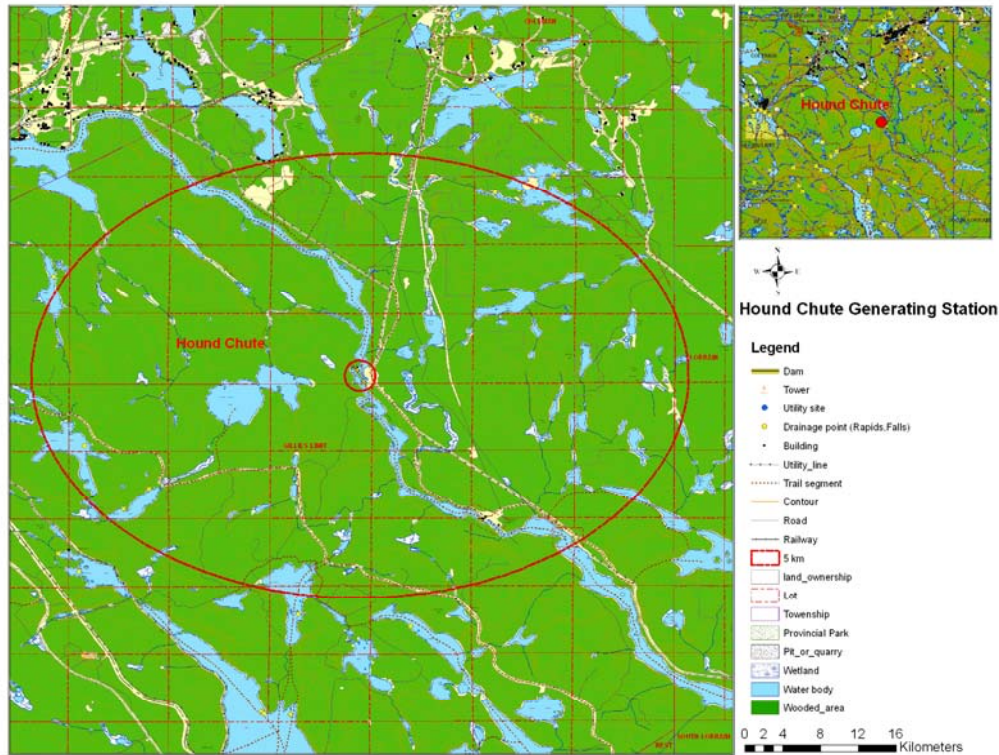
Proposed

- Redevelop existing Hound Chute Generating Station
- Expected to increase in generating capacity to approximately 10 megawatts
- Continue to use the existing local 44 kilovolt distribution system
- Proposed redevelopment will be in compliance with the Montreal River System Water Management Plan
- New powerhouse will be built on the same footprint as existing powerhouse
- Refurbishment to the existing weirs is required
- Replacement of the existing flashboards with an automatic weir



Hound Chute Generating Station

Public Open House - 2006



Environmental Assessment Process

Public Open House - 2006

- Conducted according to OPG's Class Environmental Assessment for Modifications to Hydroelectric Facilities under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act (EA Act)*
- Class EA Process is a three phase process
 - ◆ Phase 1 Involves the identification of the need or problem, analysis of alternatives and an assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of the alternatives
 - ◆ Phase 2 Involves the detailed environmental assessment. Studies are carried out on the natural, social and economic implications of the project
 - ◆ Phase 3 Is project implementation. The project is implemented and monitoring is carried out to ensure conformance with mitigation commitment and predicted environmental effects

Fisheries and Aquatic Studies

Public Open House - 2006

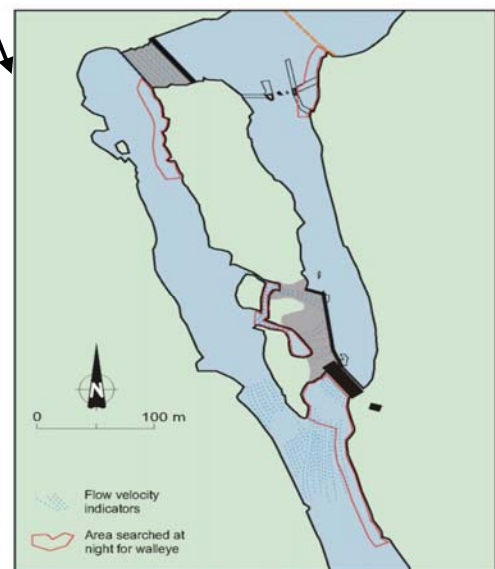
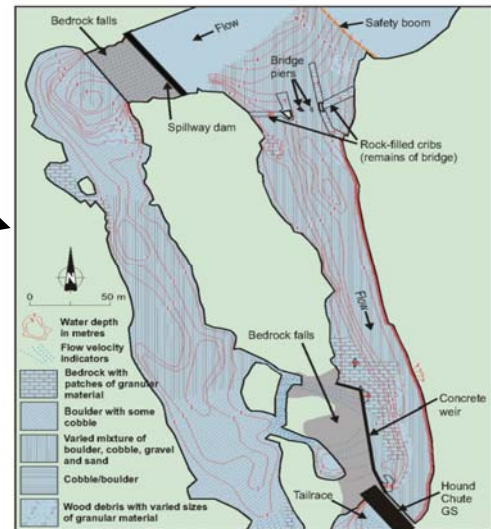
Studies

- Spawning and Habitat Assessments completed in 2006
- Bathymetry (river profile) completed in 2006



Habitat and Spawning

- No critical spawning or nursery habitat was identified in the general vicinity of the proposed works at Hound Chute



Fisheries and Aquatic Studies

Public Open House - 2006

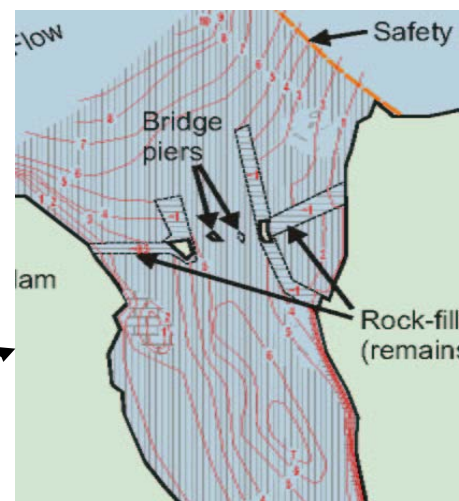
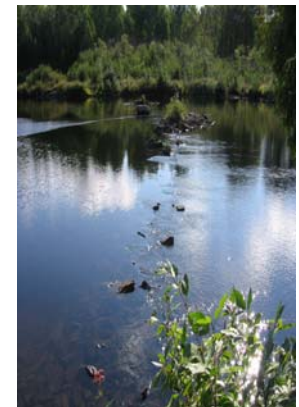
Proposed Cofferdams and Habitat Impact

- One cofferdam will need to be used for de-watering the forebay and allowing for construction of the powerhouse
- This cofferdam will result in only a temporary (12-14 month) loss of 0.8 hectares of habitat.
- The Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has identified this as a temporary disruption (HADD) of fish habitat and is currently under an environmental screening



Submerged Structure

- The remnants of an old bridge can be seen at the top of the forebay
- This bridge connected the island to the mainland and was used for construction access to the island
- This structure impedes the flow of water to the powerhouse and it is proposed to knock down the piers and disperse the material
- The material is similar to the rocky/boulder habitat in the river in this area and will not impact on fish habitat
- By utilizing this old structure as a cofferdam this will allow easier access to the island and less impact to the trees and vegetation on it



Fisheries and Aquatic Studies

Public Open House - 2006

Other Cofferdams

- A short-term cofferdam may be needed for refurbishment to the weir on the spillway
- A cofferdam on the downstream side against the existing powerhouse will also be needed



Fish Handling during De-watering

- Fish will be transferred from cofferdam areas to the main channel during the de-watering

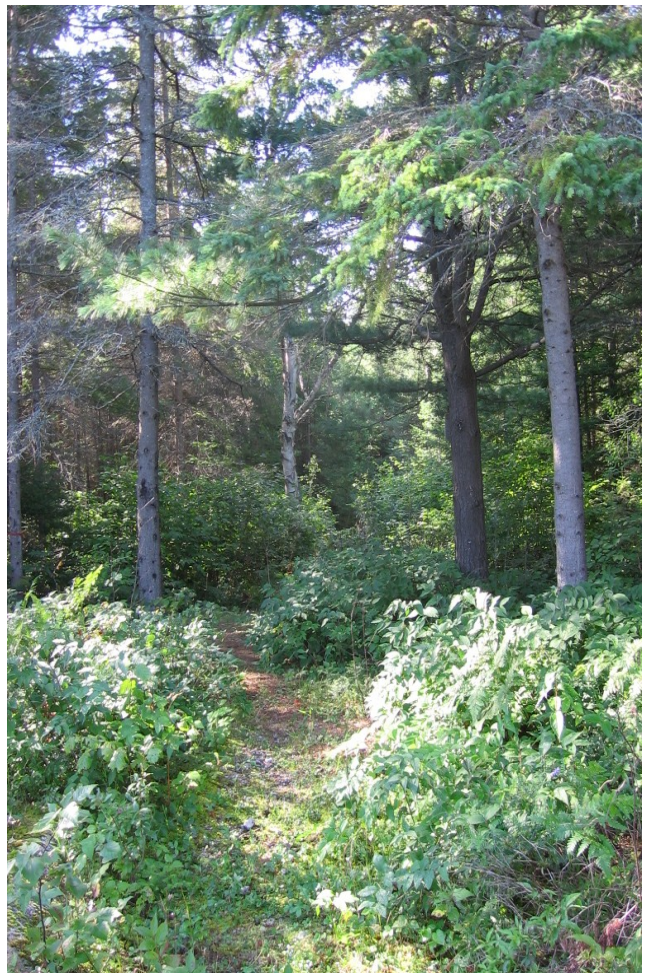


Terrestrial Ecology Study

Public Open House - 2006

Studies

- Biologist visited the site to identify any habitat, vegetation and plants of significance
- Vegetation to be disturbed during construction will be primarily for construction staging areas
- Existing parking lots and previously used areas will be utilized to the largest extent possible



Terrestrial Ecology Study

Public Open House - 2006

Impact of Staging Areas

- Three areas likely to be used for construction staging:
- A flat grass/meadow area most likely previously used for construction staging
- A disturbed area of the island near the weir. This area has been previously used for construction activities
- Shoreline area near the submerged structure, primarily composed of alder and balsam poplar
- None of the areas are ecologically significant
- By utilizing the submerged structure as a cofferdam the impact to the vegetation and trees on the island will be minimal



Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Assessments

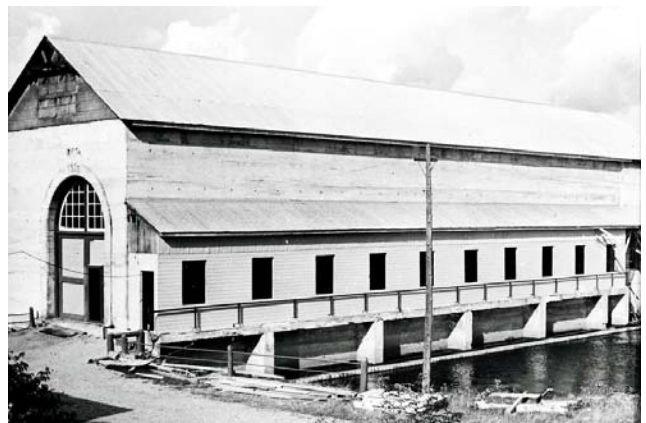
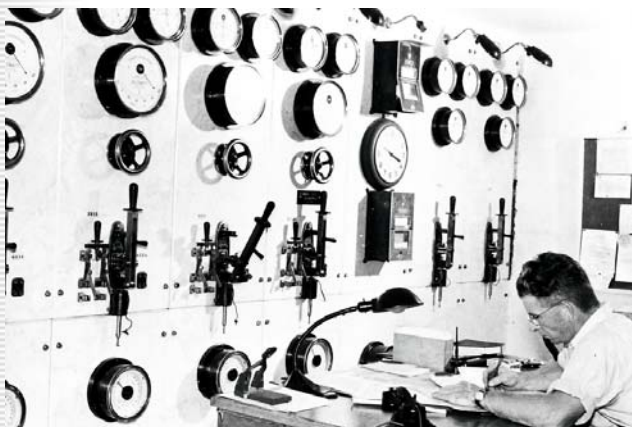
Public Open House - 2006

Archaeology

- Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment was carried out for Hound Chute
- Sites where disturbance may occur have low archaeological potential
- All published and recorded First Nations values were also examined
- Based on the criteria for archaeological assessments no further work is required

Cultural Heritage

- The Assessment was carried according to the *Guideline for Preparing the Cultural Heritage Resource Component of Environmental Assessments* and *Guidelines on the Man-Made Heritage Component of Environmental Assessments*.
- The proposed new Hound Chute facility will be located on the same site as the old one and therefore retention is not an option
- OPG is committed to recognizing the heritage value of these facilities and is therefore recommending the following series of mitigation measures:
 - Maintaining the general location of new elements in the same location as old ones and thereby maintaining the cultural heritage landscape;
 - Retaining some equipment and offering it to the local museum or other heritage institutions; and,
 - Preparing and offering various documentation.



Socio-Economics and Land-Use

Public Open House - 2006

Land-Use and Social Uses

- Hound Chute straddles the boundary between Latchford and Coleman Township
- Other existing use activities near the stations (e.g., crown land fishing, hunting, canoeing) will not be impacted by the project
- Portage will be maintained during and after construction to allow canoeists safe and easy access around the generating station



- ## Economic
- Project will ensure the continuation of permanent employment associated with these facilities
 - Economic expenditure in NE Ontario expected to be in the range of \$12 M to \$17M
 - Estimated 80-100 direct and 50-70 indirect and induced person years of employment to be generated



Field Investigations

Public Open House - 2006

- A field investigation program looked at soils, bedrock, concrete, bathymetry, topography and diving inspection
- No impediments to proposed construction have been identified



Mitigation of Environmental Impacts

Public Open House - 2006

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation

- As this facility currently exists and there is no change to the Water Management Plan, new environmental impacts will be associated with construction activities
- These impacts can be mitigated through environmental assessment planning, environmental management of construction and planned monitoring activities
- The most important mitigation measures of construction will include the following:
 - ◆ Controlling for erosion and sediment
 - ◆ Proper installation and management of cofferdams
 - ◆ Waste management and Emergency Preparedness

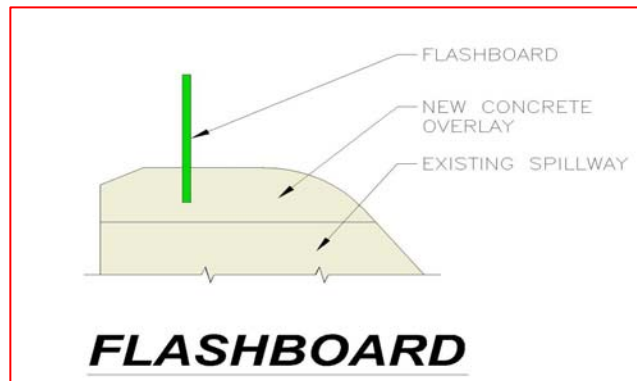


Marsh Bay and Water Levels

Public Open House - 2006

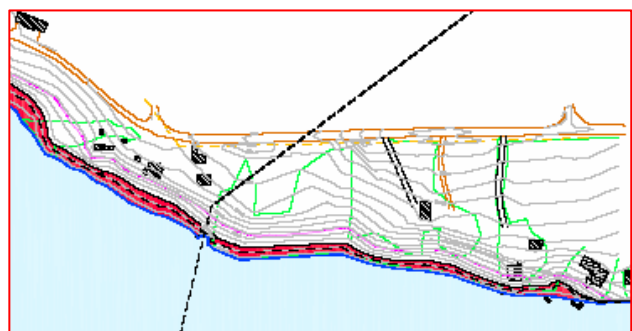
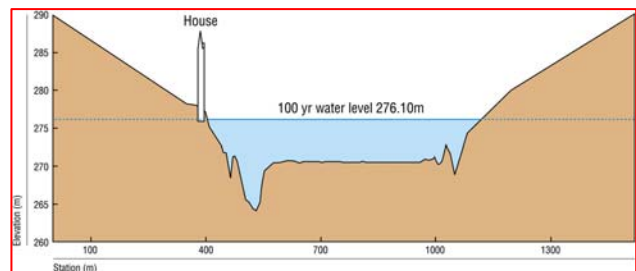
Marsh Bay Resident Concerns

- Fluctuating water levels due to operation of the flashboards
- Maximum water level during a flood event
- Property rights
- Potential impact on the environment due to flashboard operation



OPG Studies

- Improved bathymetric data on the riverbed profile was profiled
- Topographic surveying to 0.5 metre contours was completed at Marsh Bay for buildings and properties.
- Modelling of the abrupt water level fluctuations during the operation of the flashboards at Hound Chute.



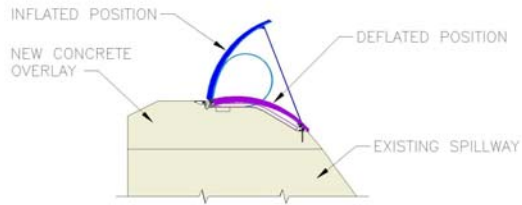
Marsh Bay – OPG's Proposal

Public Open House - 2006

- In order to more strictly control the water levels OPG is proposing to install an automatic replacement weir on top of the existing weir on the western channel
- The gate is remotely controlled and will allow OPG to more closely control the water levels
- Operate the Hound Chute Generating Station on a reasonable effort basis in order to maintain the water level towards the upper end of the summer band (at Hound Chute), year round
- Increase discharge capacity of the site by approximately 150 CMS (100 from the weir and 50 from the additional station capacity)

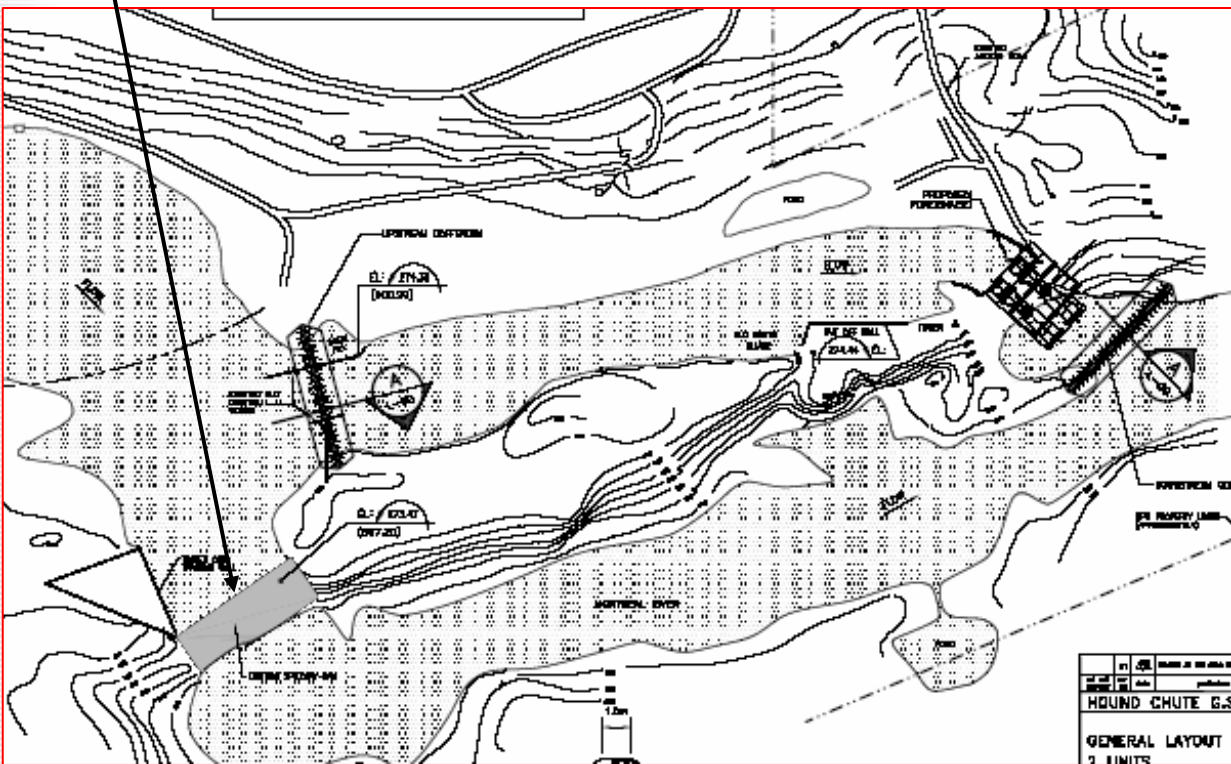
Marsh Bay – OPG's Proposal

Public Open House - 2006



REPLACEMENT GATE

E.G.: Obermeyer Gate



Marsh Bay – Automatic Weir Results

Public Open House - 2006

- Automatic weir eliminates the need to drop the water level in order to remove and install flashboards
- Provides for automatic water level operation within discharge capacity of Generating Station and Weir
- Result in a major reduction in water level fluctuation over what has been experienced in the past
- Automatic weir lowers the likelihood of exposing spring spawning areas (pike and walleye)
- Automatic weir lowers likelihood of exposing early summer spawning areas (smallmouth bass)
- Consistent water level throughout the summer

What are the Benefits of the Project

Public Open House - 2006

- Adds more clean renewable electricity to the Province's supply
- Significantly reduces the fluctuating water levels upstream
- Less fluctuation in water levels should have a positive impact on the ecology of the upstream area of the river
- Operation economic benefit of operation of these stations will continue
- Significant economic benefit during the construction period to Temiskiming District and Northeastern Ontario economy
- Environmental impacts are temporary, minor and can be mitigated



Project – Next Steps

Public Open House - 2006

- Public Comments from 2nd Open House (open for comments until end of October 2006)
- Finalize Technical Studies and Prepare Environmental Assessment Report (October – November 2006)
- Submit to Agencies for Review (December 2006)
- EA Approval (January 2007)
- Retain Design-Build Contractor (May 2007)
- Obtain Permits for Project (May – July 2007)
- Initiate Construction (Summer 2007)



We Value Your Opinion

Public Open House - 2006

- Please take the time to ask questions and complete the Comment Sheets

PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT OF THE GENERATING STATION

Do you have any comments about the proposed re-development of the Generating Station?

Are you aware of any significant environmental, social or economic feature or value near these sites that we need to have consideration for?

Do you have any other comments about the project that you would like to identify?

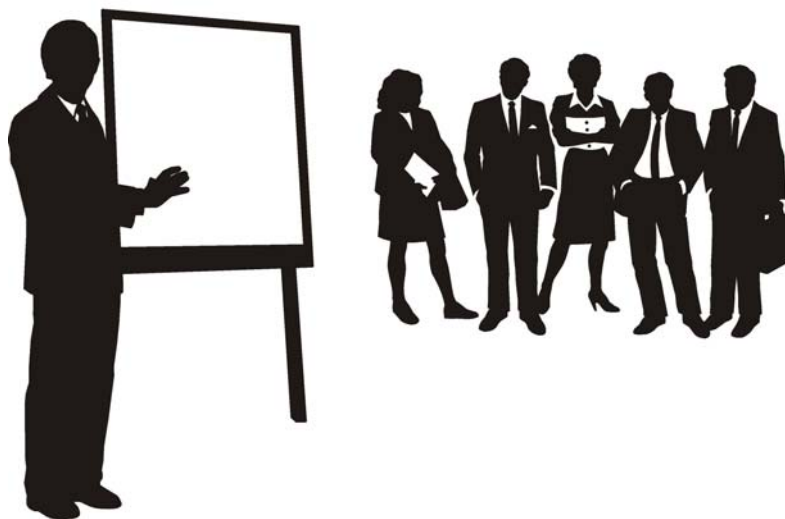
Please provide your contact information below:

Name: _____ Postal Code: _____
Street Address: _____ Email: _____
City: _____ Phone number: _____
Fax: _____

If you have any questions or comments about the project in the future please contact either:

Ed Dobrowolski, Project Manager 700 University Avenue, H18 C16	Phil Shantz, Senior Planner SENES Consultants Limited
---	--



ONTARIO POWER GENERATION



Water Management Planning

Public Open House - 2006

- In 2001, the Ministry of Natural Resources introduced Water Management Planning to Ontario
- This planning is a consultative process that coordinates the MNR, OPG and local stakeholders to explore sustainable solutions for water resources management
- In 2002, considerable progress was made in developing water management plans for the provincially regulated river systems
- Inter-provincial and international river systems are governed by other agreements and treaties. As part of the process, Steering, Planning and Public Advisory Committees were established to develop plans for river systems connected to OPG's Northeast Plant Group
- OPG fully supports Water Management Planning and has incorporated this process into its long-term business plans
- The process provides guidelines that will assist OPG in balancing each region's unique social, cultural and recreational interests with OPG's business mandate to generate safe, reliable and economically competitive electricity
- The proposed redevelopment will continue to operate as a run-of-the-river facility and be managed so that there is no change to the water levels and flows.

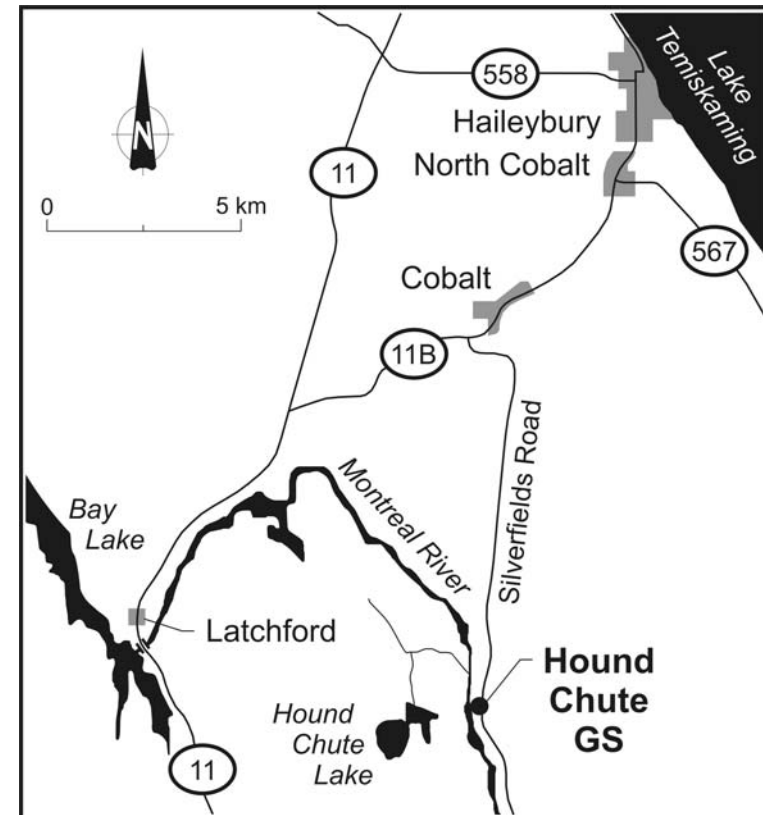


**Environmental Assessment of the Proposed
Redevelopment of the Hound Chute
Generating Station
Open House – Coleman Township
Oct. 17, 2006**



Presentation Outline

- ❑ Introduction
- ❑ Hound Chute Generating Station
- ❑ Environmental Assessment Process
- ❑ Environmental Assessment Studies
- ❑ Marsh Bay
- ❑ Project Benefits
- ❑ Project's Next Steps





Introduction



Introduction



- ❑ **Ontario Power Generation (OPG) is proposing to redevelop the Hound Chute Generating Station.**
- ❑ **Redevelopment requires an Ontario Environmental Assessment**
- ❑ **Hound Chute is an existing run-of-the-river hydroelectric generating station**

More Clean Renewable Power for Hound Chute

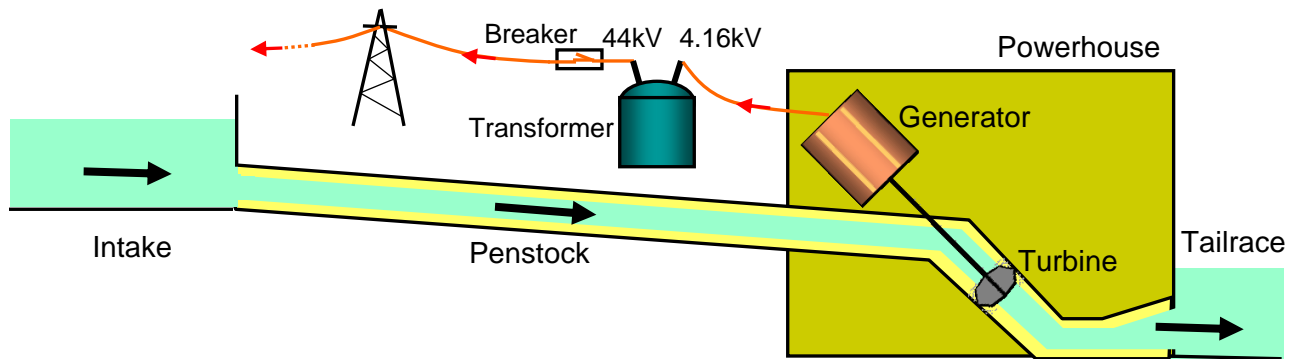
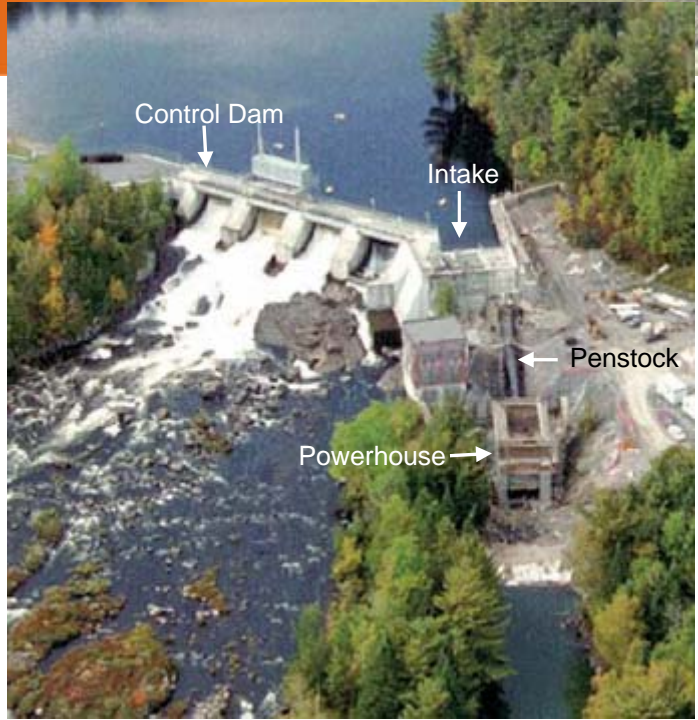
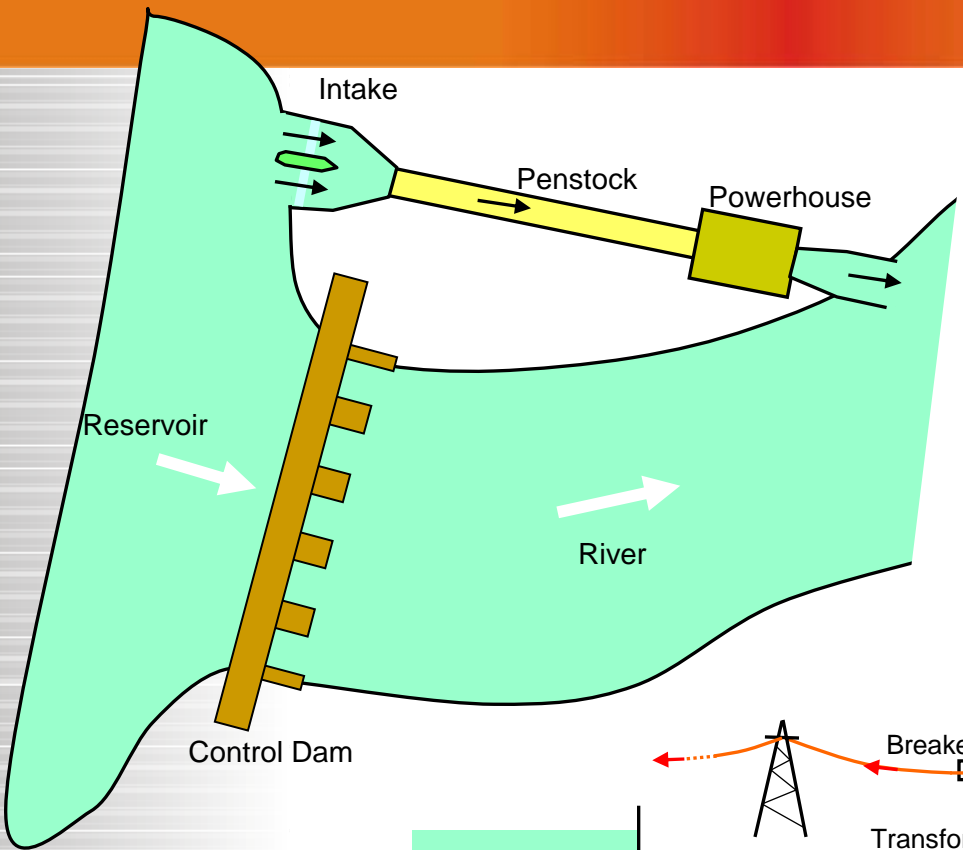


- ❑ Existing station is at the end of its useful life
- ❑ Redevelopment will add approximately 6 MW of clean, renewable, hydroelectric capacity raising the station's total to 10 MW
- ❑ Enough extra power for approximately 5,000 homes
- ❑ OPG is doing the work in compliance with all government regulations including Ontario's Environmental Assessment Act (EA Act)
- ❑ The project will benefit the local economy, both during construction and by continued operation of these stations

Who is OPG Inc. ?

- ❑ **OPG Inc. (OPG) is an Ontario-based electricity generation company whose principal business is the generation of electricity in Ontario.**
- ❑ **OPG's focus is on the efficient production of electricity from its generation assets, while operating in a safe, open and environmentally responsible manner.**
- ❑ **OPG Inc. is a commercial company owned by the Province of Ontario, its sole shareholder**

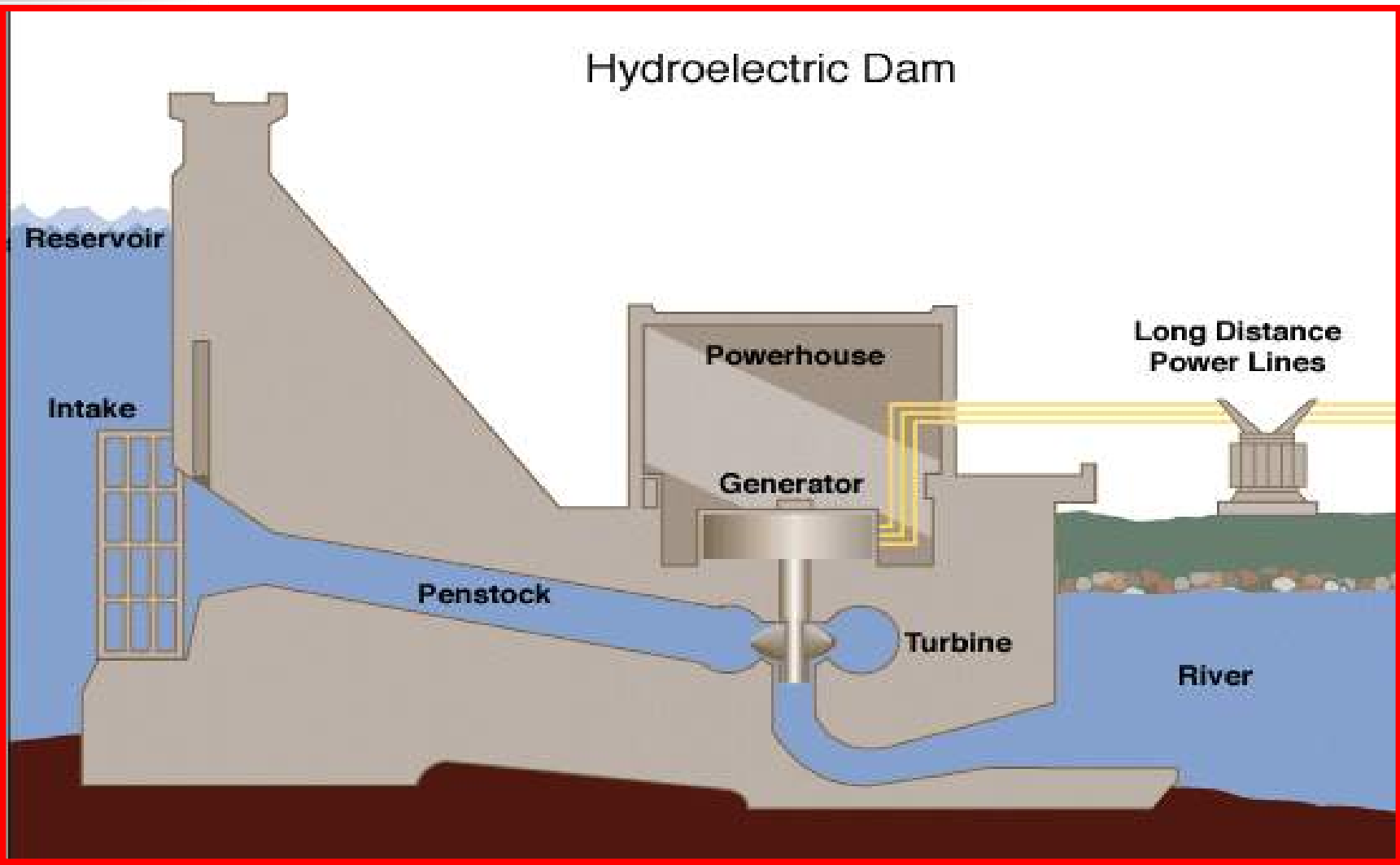
Small Hydro Components



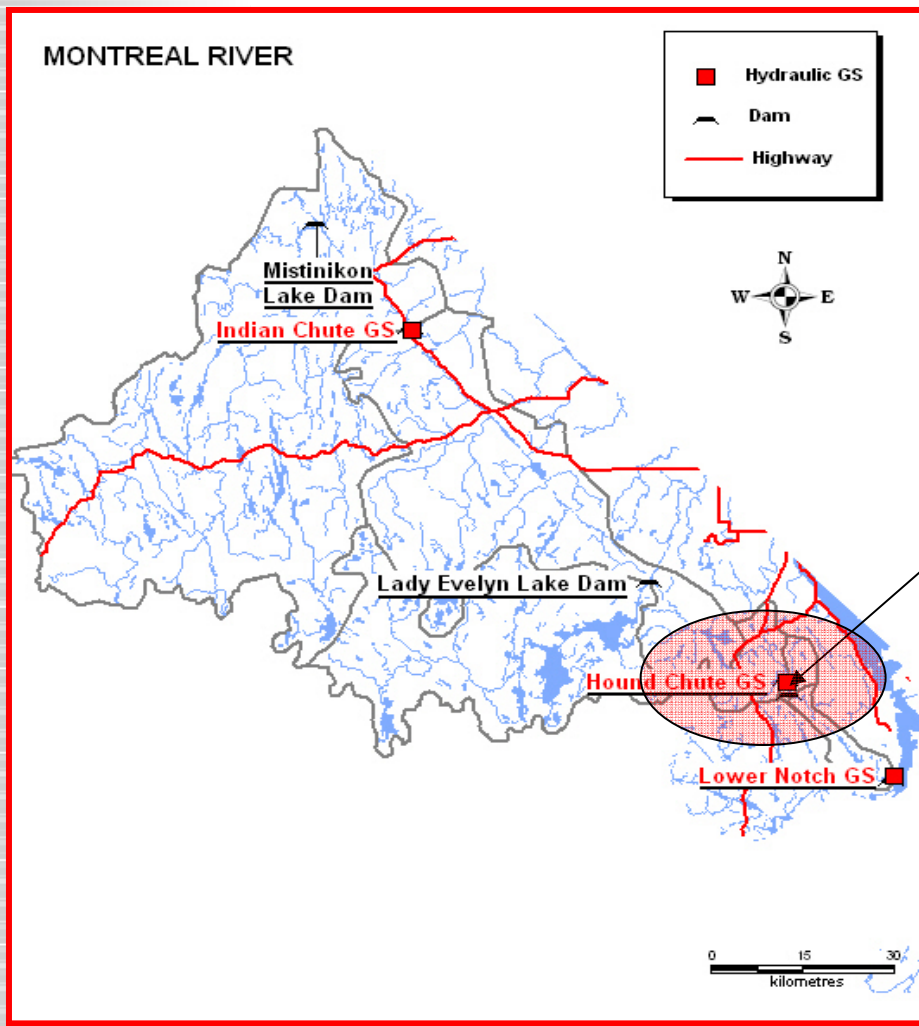
Hydro 101



Hydroelectric Dam

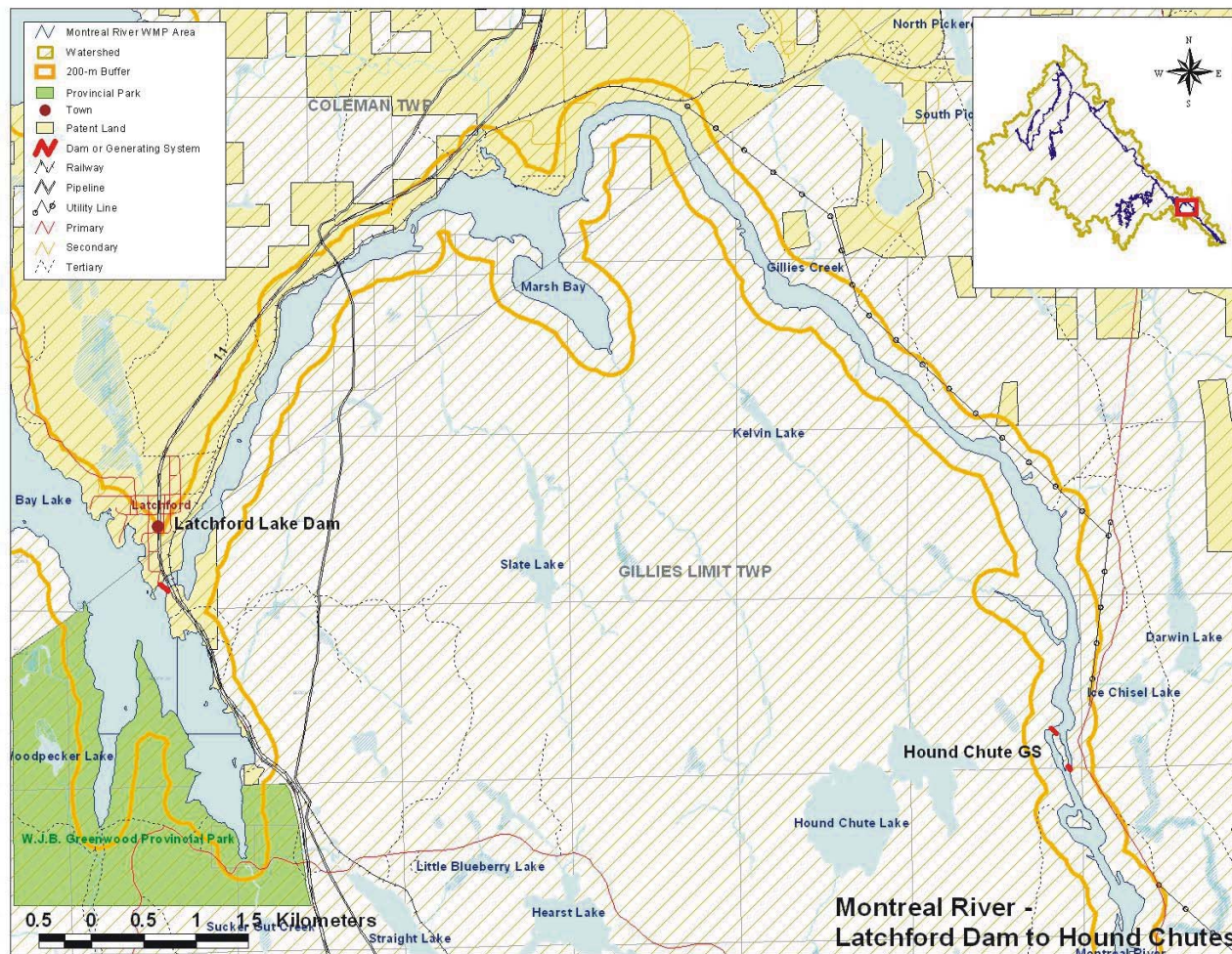


Hound Chute - Redevelopment

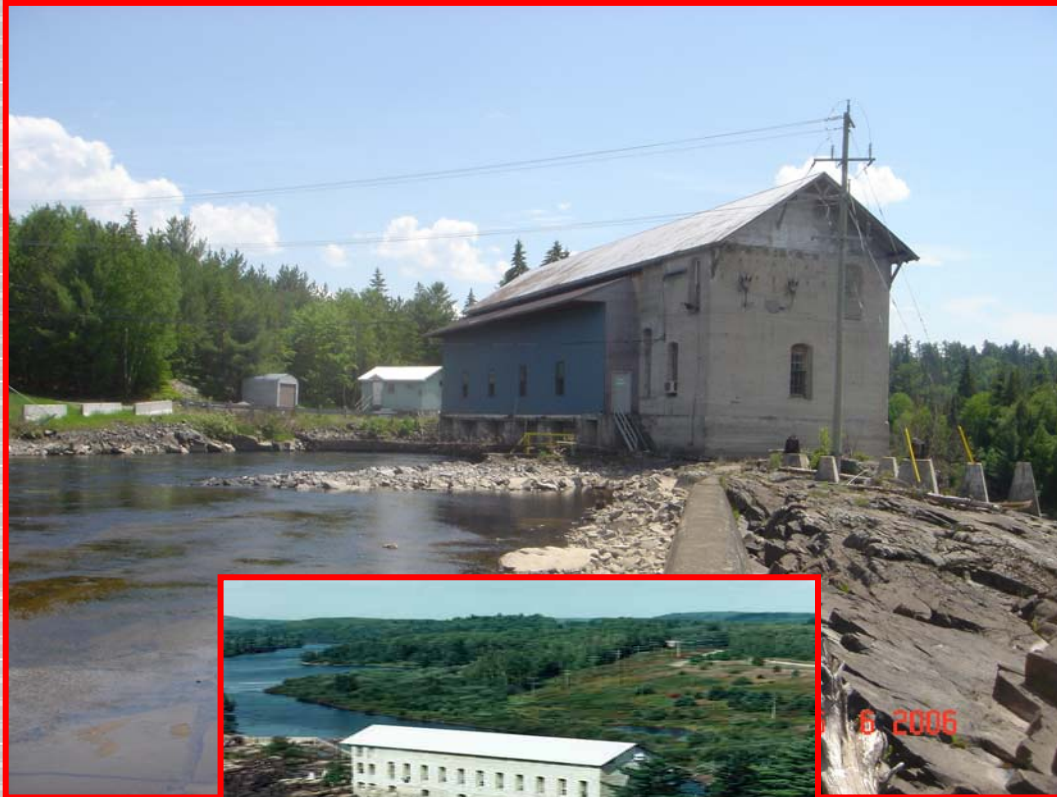


Hound Chute
Generating Station

Hound Chute – Local Setting

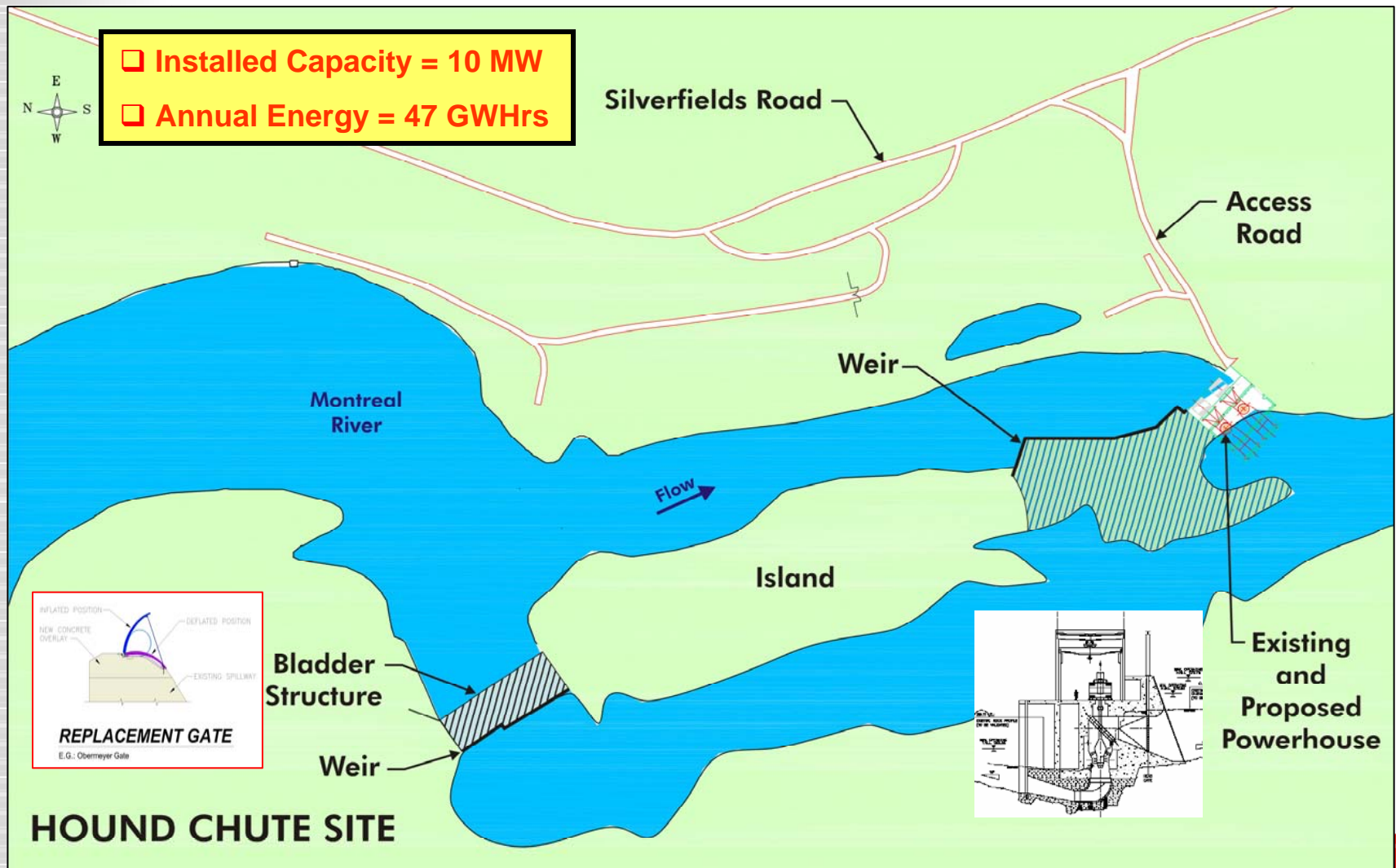


Hound Chute Generating Station



- ❑ Construction 1908 – Cobalt Power, acquired in 1944 by HEPCO
- ❑ Powerhouse, four units, cutoff wall, spillway with flashboards
- ❑ 4.0 MW, 26 GWHrs
- ❑ Equipment at end of useful life
- ❑ Redeveloped Capacity is approximately 10 MW

Proposed - Hound Chute GS



Hound Chute GS - Proposed



- ❖ Proposed redevelopment will be in compliance with the revised Montreal River System Water Management Plan
- ❖ New powerhouse will be built on the same footprint as the existing powerhouse
- ❖ Refurbishment of the existing weirs
- ❖ Replacement of the existing flashboards with an automatic weir



Environmental Assessment Process

Environmental Assessment (EA) Process

- ❑ **Environmental Assessment required under Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act***
- ❑ **Environmental Assessment conducted according to OPG's Class EA for Modifications to Hydroelectric Facilities**



Public Consultation Process

- ❑ Initial Public Notification (March/April)
- ❑ Website Active (March-ongoing)
- ❑ Newsletter #1 (March/April)
- ❑ Open House/Public Meeting #1 (April)
- ❑ Ongoing Public Comments
- ❑ Newsletter #2 (October)
- ❑ Open House/Public Meeting #2 (October)



Government Agency Involvement

□ Provincial:

- ❖ Ministry of Environment (lead EA review agency)
- ❖ Ministries of Natural Resources, Culture and Municipal Affairs & Housing

□ Federal:

- ❖ Canadian EA Agency
- ❖ Department of Fisheries & Oceans Canada
- ❖ Environment Canada
- ❖ Transport Canada

□ Local Municipalities:

- ❖ Coleman Township
- ❖ Latchford



EA Process - Studies

- ❑ Aquatic and Fisheries
- ❑ Terrestrial Environment
- ❑ Socio-Economic
- ❑ Archaeological and Built Heritage
- ❑ Field Investigations



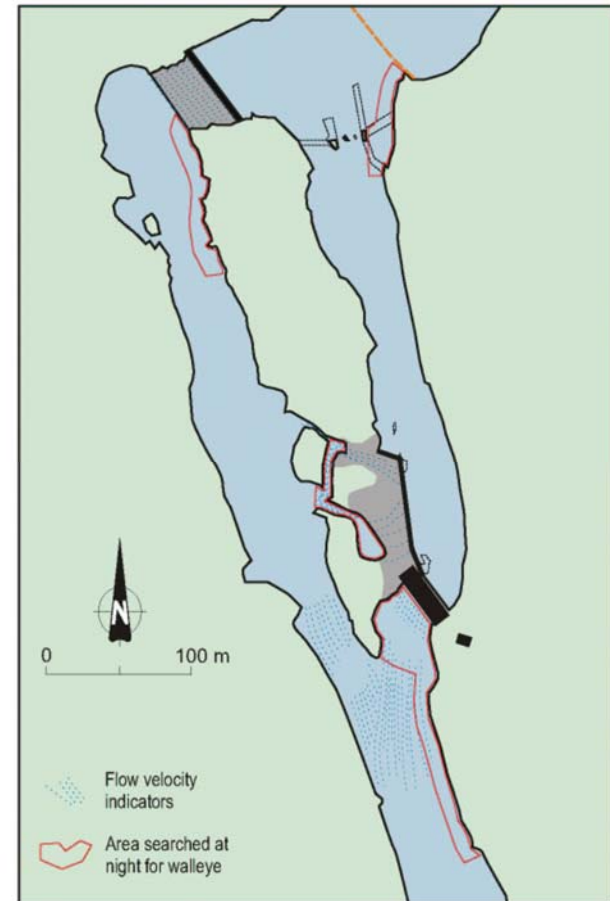
EA – Studies: Aquatic and Fisheries

Studies completed:

- ❑ Spawning and Habitat Assessments completed in 2005 and 2006
- ❑ Bathymetry (river profile) completed in 2006

Habitat and Spawning:

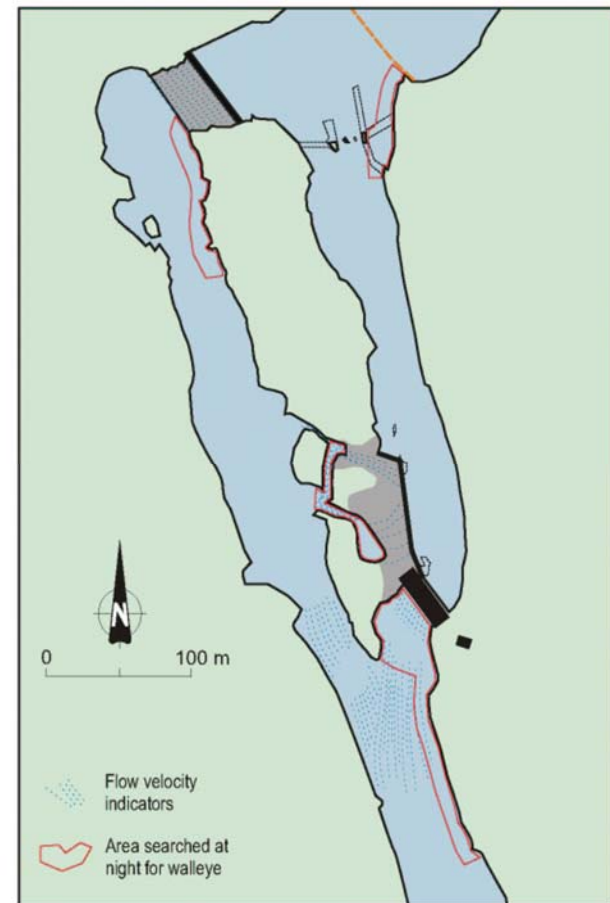
- ❑ No impact on spawning
- ❑ No critical habitat
- ❑ No nursery habitat was identified in the general vicinity of the proposed works at Hound Chute



EA – Studies: Aquatic and Fisheries

Proposed Cofferdam Upstream

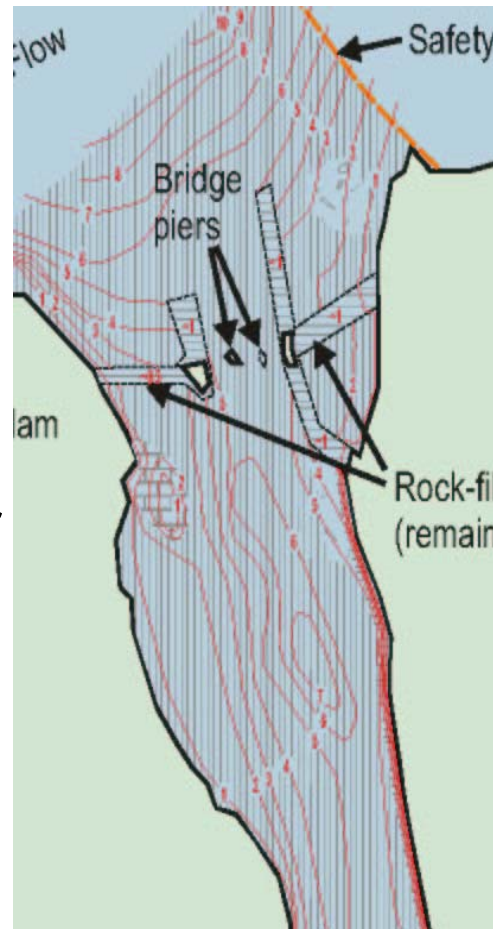
- ❑ Required for construction of the powerhouse
- ❑ The remnants of an old bridge at top of forebay can be used for the cofferdam
- ❑ Gain access to the island for repairs to the weir and installation of the Obermeyer weir on the western channel
- ❑ While the cofferdam is in place all water is diverted to the western channel



EA – Studies: Aquatic and Fisheries

Why Here?

- ❑ Utilize existing material already in place
- ❑ Improved access to the western weir for refurbishment
- ❑ The existing structure impedes the flow of water to the powerhouse and needs to be removed once the cofferdam is no longer needed.



EA – Studies: Aquatic and Fisheries

Impact:

- ❑ This cofferdam will result in a temporary (12-14 months) loss of 3.4 acres (1.4 hectares) of habitat
- ❑ This is a HADD (temporary disruption of fish habitat). The cofferdam and its impact is currently being screened by DFO
- ❑ The material from the structure is similar to the rocky/boulder habitat in the river and will have no impact on fish habitat when dispersed
- ❑ Cofferdam in this location will result in less impact to the terrestrial vegetation on the island



EA – Studies: Aquatic and Fisheries

Other Cofferdams

- ❑ A short-term cofferdam may be needed for refurbishment to the weir on the spillway
- ❑ A cofferdam on the downstream side against the existing powerhouse will also be needed



EA – Studies: Aquatic and Fisheries

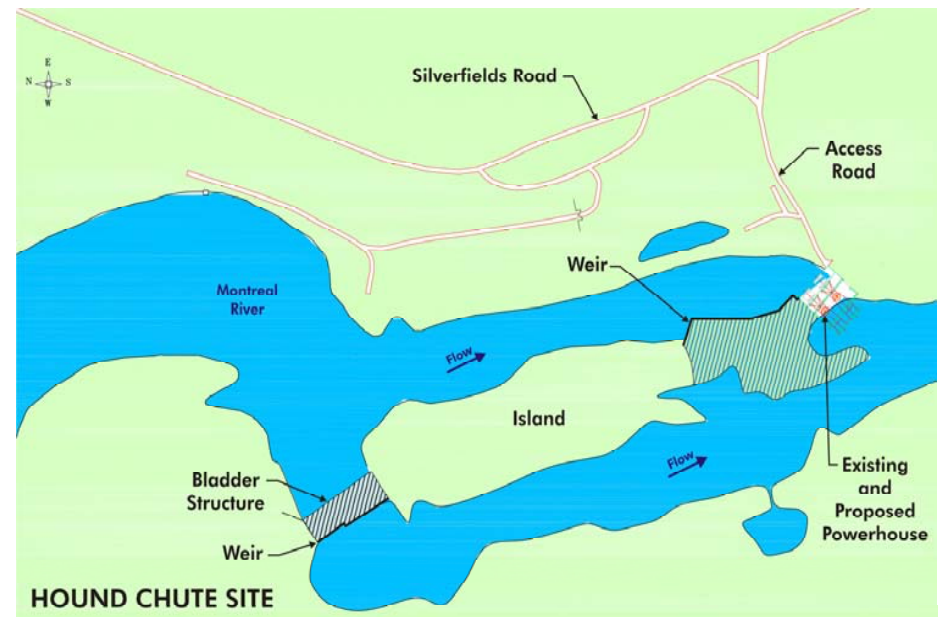
Fish Handling during De-watering

- ❑ Fish will be transferred from cofferdam areas to the main channel during the dewatering



Terrestrial Ecology Study

- ❑ Biologist visited the site to identify any wildlife habitat, vegetation and plants of significance
- ❑ Minimum areas to be disturbed during construction will largely be for construction staging areas
- ❑ Existing parking lots and disturbed areas will be utilized to the largest extent possible



Areas Likely to be Used for Construction Staging

1. **A flat grass/meadow area most likely previously used for construction staging**



Areas Likely to be Used for Construction Staging

2. An area of the island near the weir, previously used for construction activities



Areas Likely to be Used for Construction Staging

3. Shoreline area near the submerged structure, primarily composed of alder and balsam poplar



Terrestrial Ecology Study

□ Impact of Staging Areas

- ❖ None of the areas are ecologically significant
- ❖ By utilizing the submerged structure as a cofferdam the impact to the vegetation and trees on the island will be minimized

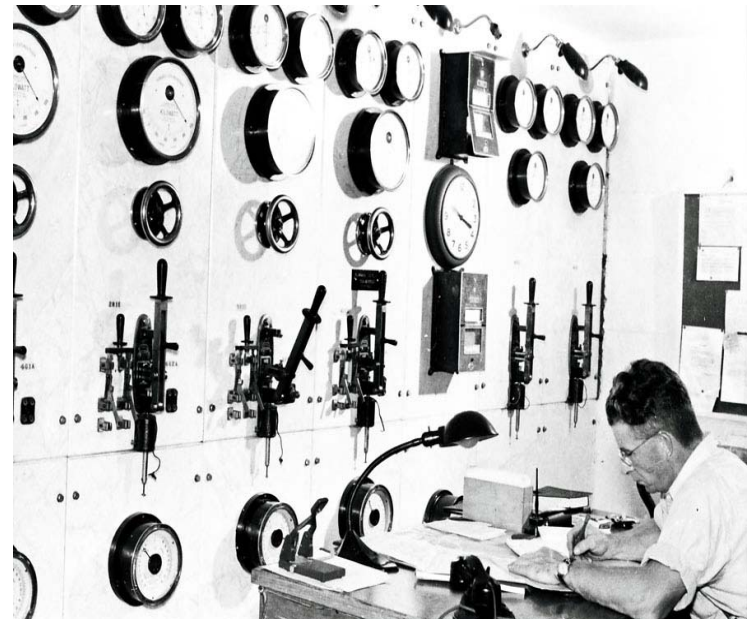


Archaeological Assessment

- ❑ Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment was carried out for Hound Chute
- ❑ All published and recorded First Nations values were also examined
- ❑ Sites where disturbance may occur have low archaeological potential
- ❑ Based on the criteria for archaeological assessments no further work is required

Built Heritage Assessment

- ❑ **Assessment was carried according to the *Guideline for Preparing the Cultural Heritage Resource Component of Environmental Assessments and Guidelines on the Man-Made Heritage Component of Environmental Assessments.***
- ❑ **The new powerhouse will be located on the same site as the old one and therefore retention is not an option**
- ❑ **OPG is committed to recognizing these facilities and is therefore recommending the following series of measures:**
 - ❖ Maintaining the general location of new elements in the same location as old ones and thereby maintaining the cultural heritage landscape;
 - ❖ Retaining some equipment and offering it to the local museum or other heritage institutions; and,
 - ❖ Preparing and offering various documentation.



Socio-Economics and Land Use

Land Use and Social Uses

- ❑ Hound Chute straddles the boundary between Latchford and Coleman Township and is largely surrounded by general use crown land
- ❑ Existing recreational uses activities near the stations will not be impacted by the project
- ❑ Portage will be maintained during and after construction to allow canoeists safe and easy access around the generating station



Socio-Economics and Land Use

Economic Benefit

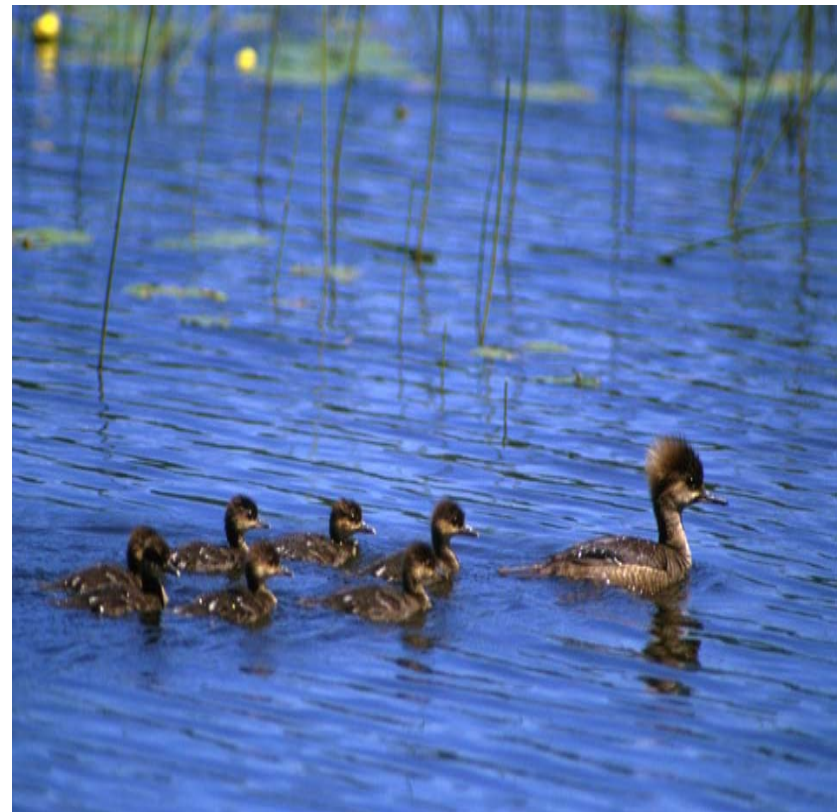
- ❖ **Economic expenditure in Northeastern Ontario is expected to be \$12 M to \$17 M**
- ❖ **80-100 direct person years of employment in NE Ontario**
- ❖ **50-70 indirect and induced person years of employment in NE Ontario**
- ❖ **Economic benefit generally to be concentrated in construction and service sectors**

Field Investigations

- ❑ A field investigation program looked at soils, bedrock, concrete, diving inspection, bathymetry and topography
- ❑ The site was also examined for acid generation potential of the bedrock
- ❑ Air and noise impact will be localized and there are no nearby receptors
- ❑ No impediments have been identified



Marsh Bay



Marsh Bay - Resident Concerns

A landscape photograph showing a marshy area with a body of water in the foreground, a line of trees in the middle ground, and hills in the background under a bright sky. The image is partially obscured by an orange gradient overlay on the left side.

- ❑ Fluctuating water levels due to operation of the flashboards
- ❑ Maximum water level during a flood event
- ❑ Property rights
- ❑ Potential impact on the environment due to flashboard operation

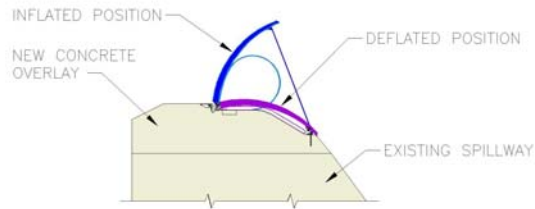
Marsh Bay – Studies Undertaken

- ❑ OPG initiated a number of studies to better understand the problem and increase the accuracy of modelling:
 - ❖ Improved bathymetric data on the riverbed profile was conducted
 - ❖ Topographic surveying to 0.5 metre contours was completed at Marsh Bay for buildings and properties
 - ❖ Modelling of the abrupt water level fluctuations during the operation of the flashboards at Hound Chute was conducted

Marsh Bay - OPG's Proposal

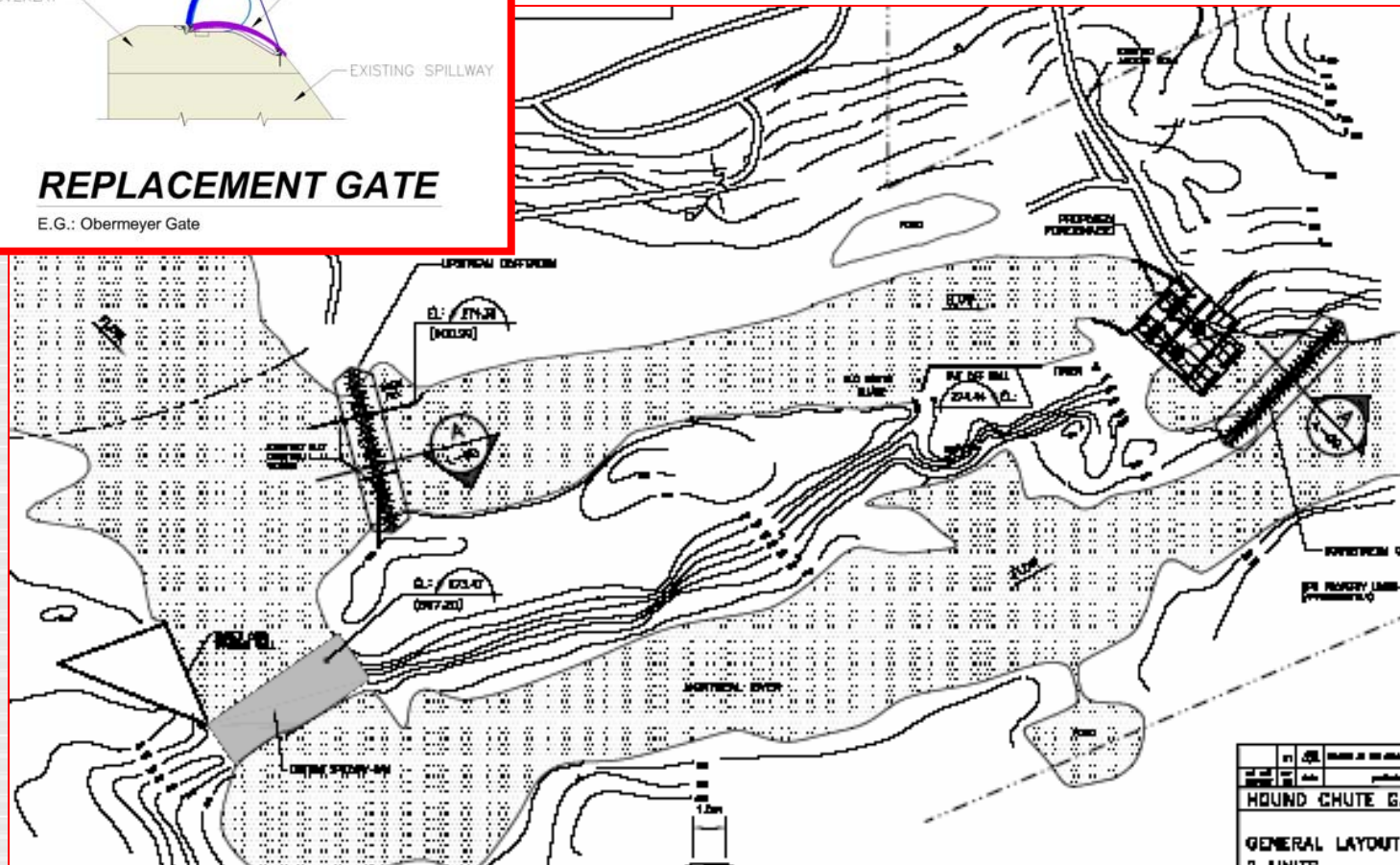
- ❑ In order to better control the water levels OPG is proposing to install an Obermeyer weir on top of the existing weir on the western channel
- ❑ The weir will be automatically controlled allowing OPG to better control the water levels
- ❑ On a reasonable effort basis, OPG will operate Hound Chute in order to maintain the water level towards the upper end of the Montreal River System Water Management Plan's summer band (at Hound Chute), year around
- ❑ OPG will increase discharge capacity of the site by approximately 150 CMS (100 from the weir and 50 from the additional station capacity)

OPG's Proposal



REPLACEMENT GATE

E.G.: Obermeyer Gate



Obermeyer Weir - Results



The Obermeyer weir will:

- ❑ Eliminate the need to drop the water level in order to remove and install flashboards
- ❑ Provide for automatic water level operation within discharge capacity of generating station and weir
- ❑ Result in a major reduction in water level fluctuation over what has been experienced in the past
- ❑ Lower the likelihood of exposing spring spawning areas (pike and walleye)
- ❑ Lower the likelihood of exposing early summer spawning areas (smallmouth bass)
- ❑ Provide consistent water level throughout the year

Project Benefits



Project Benefits



- ❑ Adds about 10 megawatts of renewable electricity to the Province's supply
- ❑ Significantly reduces the fluctuating water levels upstream
- ❑ Less fluctuation in water levels will have a positive impact on the upstream ecology of the upstream area of the river
- ❑ Economic benefit during the construction period to Timiskaming District and the Northeastern Ontario economy
- ❑ Will ensure the local economic benefit of the continued operation of the facility

Project's Next Steps



Next Steps

- ❑ **Public Comments from 2nd Open House (open for comments until end of October 06)**
- ❑ **Draft Technical Studies and Environmental Assessment Report (October – November 06)**
- ❑ **Submit to Agencies for Review (December 06)**
- ❑ **EA Approval (January 07)**
- ❑ **Retain Design-Build Contractor (May 07)**
- ❑ **Obtain Permits for Project (May – July 07)**
- ❑ **Initiate Construction (Summer 2007)**

Next Steps

- ❑ **Thank you for attending our Open House**
- ❑ **Please take the time to ask questions and complete the Comment Sheets**



Thank You!!

PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT OF THE HOUND CHUTE GENERATING STATION

Ontario Power Generation Inc. (OPG) is proposing to redevelop the Hound Chute Generating Station located on the Lower Montreal River, east of the Town of Latchford on the site of the existing Generating Station. The Proposed Undertaking will replace the existing Generating Station and when complete will provide an expected capacity of about 10 megawatts from the existing 3.6 megawatts capacity. The generating station will connect to the local distribution system via an existing 44 Kilovolts feeder. Hound Chute is located about 10 kilometres east of the Town of Latchford and 10 kilometres south of the Town of Cobalt in the District of Timiskaming.

OCT 25 2006

Do you have any comments about the proposed redevelopment of the Hound Chute Generating Station or anything about the presentation you saw today?

The Presentation on Oct 17/06 put to rest any questions regarding the new construction. I am pleased that this project will be underway shortly as the existing plant is past due its life expectancy and the upgrade will produce additional electricity. The addition of a mechanical device to regulate the water level during the spring freshet will also eliminate the upstream water fluctuation, not only for residents along the river but will benefit fish spawning areas. It will eliminate the use of the outdated manual flashboards to regulate water levels and will be less hazardous for workers who had to remove/replace these barriers yearly.

Do you have any other comments about the project that you would like to identify?

It will be a short term benefit for the economy of the area with added workers and possible employment for local residents. It is hoped that the barrage/weir is able to provide the needed flexibility to control the river flow during springs & adverse weather.

Please provide your contact information below:

Name: Fred Proletti

Postal Code: P0J 1P0

Street Address: Box 554

Email: PROLETTI@NITL.Sympatico.ca

Phone number: 705 647-5616

City: NEW RISKERD

Fax: _____

If you have any questions or comments about the project in the future please contact either:

Phil Shantz, Senior Planner
SENES Consultants Limited
121 Granton Drive, Unit 12
Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4B 3N4
telephone: (905) 764-9380 fax: (905) 764-9386
e-mail: info@houndchute-ea.com.

NOTE OVER

Please drop the comments in the box provided or send to Phil Shantz no later than November 6, 2006

IT SHOULD BE STRESSED THAT construction workers be ADVISED to refrain from LITTERING along the road with pop cans & coffee containers.

Thanks

PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT OF THE HOUND CHUTE GENERATING STATION

Ontario Power Generation Inc. (OPG) is proposing to redevelop the Hound Chute Generating Station located on the Lower Montreal River, east of the Town of Latchford on the site of the existing Generating Station. The Proposed Undertaking will replace the existing Generating Station and when complete will provide an expected capacity of about 10 megawatts from the existing 3.6 megawatts capacity. The generating station will connect to the local distribution system via an existing 44 Kilovolts feeder. Hound Chute is located about 10 kilometres east of the Town of Latchford and 10 kilometres south of the Town of Cobalt in the District of Timiskaming.

Do you have any comments about the proposed redevelopment of the Hound Chute Generating Station or anything about the presentation you saw today?

→ EXCELLENT PRESENTATION MATERIALS & CHARTS

> PROJECT APPEARS IT WILL RESOLVE THE CONCERNS OF MARSH BAY RESORT - AND - REFINERY ROAD SUBDIVISION
THANKS FOR THAT.

> THE CAPITAL EXPENDITURE WILL BE A BOOST TO OUR LOCAL ECONOMY ---

Do you have any other comments about the project that you would like to identify?

> WILL THERE BE A "PUBLIC" LOOK OUT AREA FOR THE PUBLIC TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE VIEWS IN THE GENERAL AREA OF THE POWER PLANT?? I REALIZE "SAFETY" IS A CONCERN - HOWEVER - A PROTECTED LOOKOUT WOULD BE NICE.

Please provide your contact information below:

Name: MAC HAMILTON

Postal Code: P05-1P0

Street Address: 190 JAFFRAY ST.

Email: MNHAMILT@NT.NET

Phone number: _____

City: NEW LISKEARD - Ont

Fax: _____

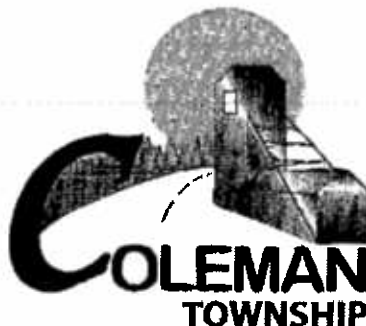
If you have any questions or comments about the project in the future please contact either:

LATCHFORD COUNCILLOR

Phil Shantz, Senior Planner
SENES Consultants Limited
121 Granton Drive, Unit 12
Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4B 3N4
telephone: (905) 764-9380 fax: (905) 764-9386
e-mail: info@houndchute-ea.com.

Please drop the comments in the box provided or send to Phil Shantz no later than November 6, 2006

Appendix E
Letters of Support



January 11, 2007.

Mr. Emad Elsayed,
Vice President,
Hydro Electric Development.

FAX 416-592-3489

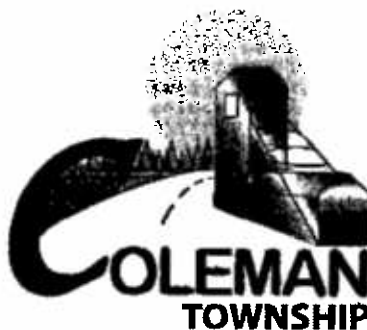
Dear Sir:

Please be advised the Council of the Township of Coleman fully supports the Redevelopment of Hound Chute Generating Station proposed by Ontario Power Generation. Council understands that this project will benefit Coleman Ratepayers residing on the Montreal River as well as being beneficial for the fish spawns and other wild life. Council is looking forward to the completion of this very worthwhile project which will have a positive impact on this section of the Township of Coleman.

Members of Council are: Mayor Colleen Belanger
Councillor Ronald Beeson
Councillor Albert Chitaroni
Councillor Lois Perry
Councillor Pat Tresidder

Yours truly,

Claire Bigelow,
Clerk-Treasurer.



June 29, 2006.

Ontario Power Generation,
700 University Avenue H18 C16.
Toronto, Ontario, M5G 1X6.

Dear Sir:

Council passed the following resolution on June 28th, 2006:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Coleman fully supports Ontario Power Generation's effort in rehabilitating the Hound Chute Generating Station. The better control of the river flow with its added spill capacity will go far in satisfying the residents in that area. The ecological benefits will far outweigh the financial cost incurred in insuring the success of this project.

Please accept our sincere gratitude for Mr. Edward Dobrowolski's and Ms Jillian McLeod's efforts on behalf of Ontario Power Generation. This conflict has finally been resolved after four years of confrontation.

It is very good news to Coleman Council that Ontario Power Generation has taken the initiative to rehabilitate the Hound Chute Dam and increase the spill capacity.

Yours truly,

Colleen Belanger,
Mayor.

c.c. Hon. David Ramsay, MPP
James O'Brien,
Marsh Bay Conservation Association