

4.0 FIRST NATIONS AND OTHER PUBLICS CONSULTATION

An overview of PIP activities and affected publics is provided in Section 4.1 of this chapter. The program principles and consultation methods are described in Section 4.2. Details on the activities in each round of consultation are provided in Section 4.3, while the key issues and perspectives provided throughout the process are described in Section 4.4. Section 4.5 explains how these issues influenced the Project design and environmental assessment process. Section 4.6 describes how consultation activities beyond this submission to YESAB will occur.

4.1 OVERVIEW

Yukon Energy developed a PIP for the Project (see Reference Material 4R-1). The PIP was designed to incorporate public input in the Project design and environmental assessment, as well as meeting the regulatory requirements for public involvement in an effective and credible manner. The PIP addresses the requirements of YESAA, and is consistent with the guidance provided by YESAB on the topic in their (2005) *Proponent's Guide to Information Requirements for Executive Committee Project Proposal Submissions*. Section 2.0 of that guidance document states:

"Before submitting a proposal to the Executive Committee, the proponent of a project shall consult any first nation in whose territory, or the residents of any community in which, the project will be located or might have significant environmental or socio-economic effects."

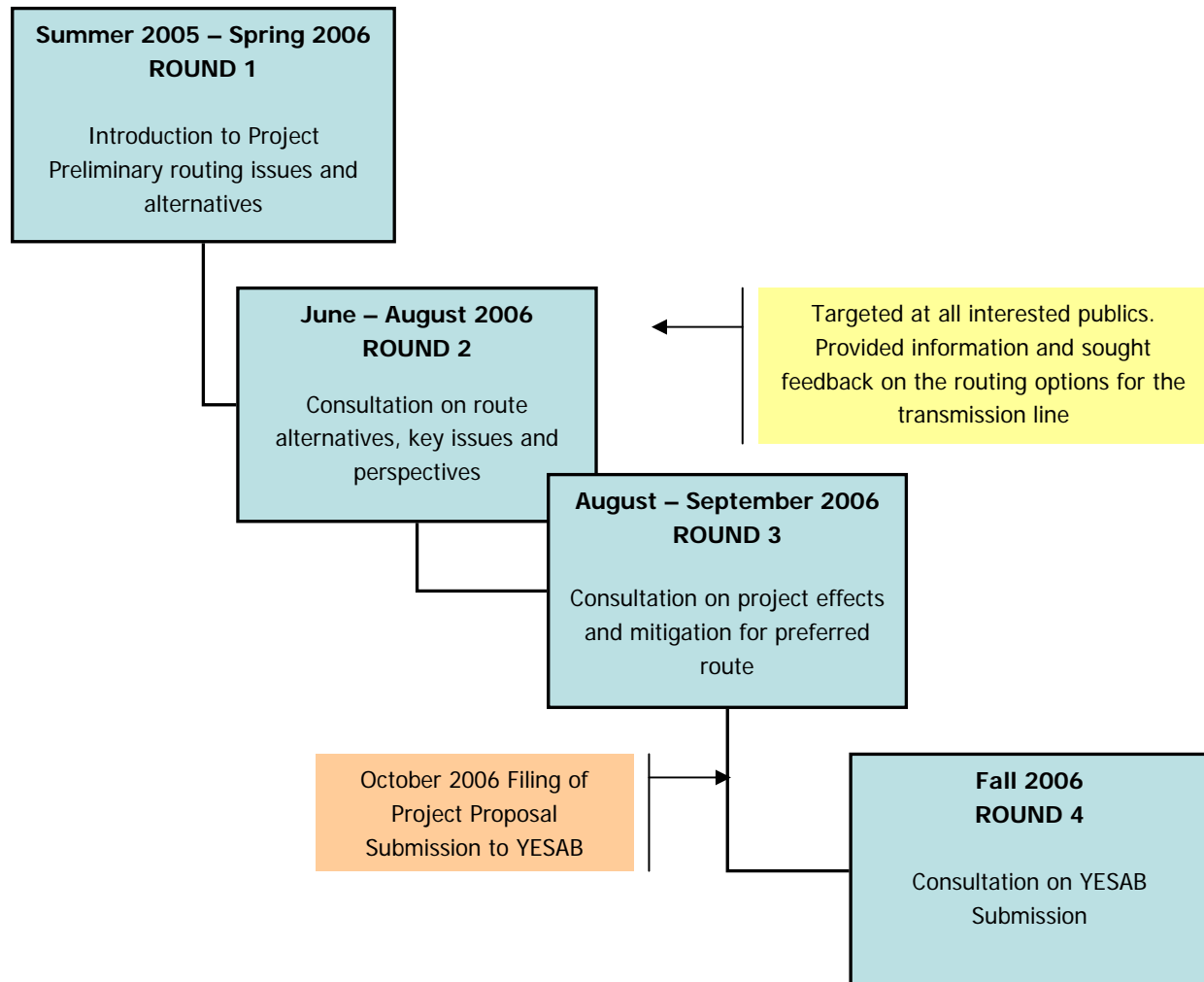
The PIP focused on affected First Nation communities, including LSCFN, SFN, NND, along with other individuals and interested parties who could potentially be affected by the Project. This included community members from Carmacks, Pelly Crossing, Stewart Crossing and Mayo, major customers, private land owners, resource users including trappers, the various Renewable Resources Councils in the region, non-government organizations, private enterprises, and various government departments.

The process was designed to provide early and ongoing opportunities for potentially affected and interested parties to participate by providing information, allowed for sharing key perspectives and issues regarding the Project, and assisted in devising measures to mitigate potential Project-related effects through the environmental and socio-economic assessment process.

4.1.1 Rounds of Consultation

The Project consultation and involvement activities were organized into four rounds, with the first three rounds occurring prior to submitting the Project Proposal. An overview of the initially planned rounds of PIP is presented in Figure 4.1-1, with actual timing to date indicated where relevant. As noted below, Round Three has in practice tended to become combined with extended Round Two consultations on route selection.

Figure 4.1-1
Rounds of Public Involvement in the Carmacks-Stewart/Minto Spur Transmission Project



Round One: Summer 2005 – Spring 2006

Round One was designed to: initiate dialogue about the proposed Project; advise the public about the public involvement process and anticipated schedule for the route selection and environmental assessment process; provide a description of the Project based on what was known at the time; and, identify and confirm initial perspectives or concerns. It also sought technical engineering and cost advice, as well as initial input from First Nations and government departments with interests in the area. Round One occurred when initial route alternatives were being developed. Information obtained during Round One was provided to Yukon Energy early enough in the design process to influence preliminary route design alternatives as well as the **Environmental Assessment (EA)** approach and content.

In May 2006, at the conclusion of Round One, a MOU between the NTFNs (LSCFN, SFN, NND) and Yukon Energy was finalized. The MOU outlined an agreed process for the parties to work together to guide the

consultation process, determine a preferred route for the transmission line, and provide for economic opportunities and arrangements related to the Project. More discussion on the MOU is found in Section 4.3.1.1.

Round Two: June – September 2006

Round Two was aimed at all interested publics and focused on key perspectives and issues regarding the preliminary route alternatives. During Round Two, Yukon Energy provided information regarding the route options for the Project to various government agencies, the NTFNs, and other interested publics. Feedback on the routing options was requested and received through various formats including open community meetings, targeted group meetings, in-person conversations, and written commentary provided by interested parties.

It was during this time period that Yukon Energy was also involved in community consultation activities throughout Yukon associated with the 20-Year Resource Plan. These meetings provided another venue and opportunity for the general public to ask questions and provide input on the Project. Further discussion about the outcomes from these community meetings is presented in Section 4.2.2.4.

In response to the availability of some communities during the summer resource harvesting season, not all potentially affected communities were able to complete Round Two PIP activities before the end of June, 2006. Subsequent community and stakeholder discussions on routing alternatives began to identify and address potential effects and mitigation strategies. This resulted in some degree of overlap between Round Two and Three activities.

Information obtained from Round Two and Round Three helped Yukon Energy to refine route alternatives and develop appropriate mitigation strategies to address potential project effects that could not be avoided in the route selection process. Information relevant to other members of the Study Team (e.g. identification of heritage resources, unique habitat, trapper's cabin) was forwarded to the team members. The selection of a preferred route option has considered input from all interested parties and attempted to provide a balance between First Nation perspectives and issues, environmental considerations, aesthetic concerns, technical engineering feasibility, and cost.

Round Three: August - Fall 2006

Round Three provided another opportunity to examine route refinements and identify potential Project effects that could influence route selection. Potential Project-related effects were presented and possible mitigation strategies were discussed. Information received during Round Three aided in the final determination of a preferred route for the Project. As stated above, because the PIP schedule in practice ended up overlapping with seasonal resource harvesting activities of some communities, Round Three public involvement occurred over a longer period of time in some communities. However, during the overall period covered by Rounds Two and Three, all affected communities were given the ability to identify potential opportunities and constraints, provide input on the preliminary route alternatives, help

identify refinements to these and/or new options, and provide feedback on potential effects and mitigation strategies.

During Round Three, discussions were initiated at the Steering Committee level between Yukon Energy and the NTFNs to finalize the Project route selection and to begin consideration of Project mitigation and economic development opportunities across the Project Study Region. These discussions will ultimately influence the final Project Agreement, to be finalized in the first quarter of 2007.

Round Four: Fall 2006

Round Four will consist of consultation on the YESAB Project Proposal Submission and will include any enhancement or mitigation measures that have been developed and incorporated in the submission document. Yukon Energy also intends (separate from the Project) to conduct additional community meetings associated with the 20 Year Resource Plan which will provide an additional opportunity for the general public to provide feedback on the Project.

The emphasis of PIP activities to date has been on providing opportunities for involvement to potentially affected communities and segments of the public in the Project Study Region including communities, resource users, Renewable Resource Councils, private land owners, and local residents in the communities of Carmacks, Pelly Crossing and Stewart Crossing. Opportunities for input have also been provided for individuals, organizations, and communities who may, or may not, be within the Project Study Region or affected by the Project but have an interest in the Project.

4.2 PRINCIPLES AND METHODS OF CONSULTATION

4.2.1 Guiding Principles

Yukon Energy developed the following principles for the PIP and seeks to apply these principles consistently in its design and implementation:

- **Opportunities for early involvement:** Initiate consultation activities with interested parties early in the process to provide interested parties information on the proposed Project and receive input with respect to concerns and opportunities.
- **Opportunities for ongoing involvement:** Provide opportunities for interested or potentially affected parties to learn about the process and provide inputs with respect to concerns and opportunities. Where possible, work through the consultation process to resolve issues and enable participants to have inputs recorded at each stage.
- **Opportunities at various stages:** Before and after filing the Project proposal, provide opportunities for public input.
- **Provide various communication mechanisms:** Provide a variety of mechanisms to communicate and interact with the public.
- **Proper consultation with Aboriginal Peoples:** Recognize the unique status of First Nations and Aboriginal peoples who may be affected if the Project is developed. In particular,

discuss the location and effects of transmission line routes which may traverse settlement lands of three First Nations.

- **Adaptive Approach:** Adjust the Public Involvement Plan, as required and feasible, throughout the environmental review and planning process in response to issues, concerns and challenges.

These principles are consistent with the YESAB intentions, which call for sufficient notice to affected and interested parties to prepare their views, reasonable time for consultation activities, and fair and full consideration of all views presented. The public will have additional opportunities to participate in the Project review during the YESAB review process. As the Project crosses settlement lands of both LSCFN and SFN, these First Nations will be decision bodies in the YESAA process, while NND will be a reviewer of the submission. Yukon Energy will continue to consult with First Nations and other interested publics throughout the Project Study Region during construction, operation and decommissioning activities.

The purpose of the PIP activities was to identify opportunities and constraints in relation to the Project. Activities contributed to the mitigation of adverse environmental and socio-economic effects that are associated with the Project, as well as consideration of alternatives to the Project or alternative ways of undertaking or operating it that would avoid or minimize any significant adverse environmental or socio-economic effects as required under S. 42(1)(e) and 42(1)(f) of YESAA.

This routing process utilized regional and site-specific biophysical, socio-economic and cultural features to identify and evaluate viable alternative routes and assess measures for avoidance, minimization and mitigation of potential adverse environmental and socio-economic effects, as well as addressing issues of public concern. Further details on the route selection process are found in Chapter 7 - Evaluation of Alternative Routes.

In order to consider a range of potential issues, the route selection process applied an iterative and progressively more detailed analytical approach that involved systematic refinement of route alternatives to identify the Project Site Area. This was accomplished by considering, among other inputs, ongoing input through public and government involvement. By applying multiple rounds of various approaches to consultation, the PIP helped to ensure that potentially affected and interested publics had opportunity to contribute to the Project.

4.2.2 Consultation Methods

Several methods to facilitate public consultation were adopted in the PIP. These methods were designed to ensure that Yukon Energy was providing information on the Project, as well as providing the opportunity to receive information and perspectives from affected and interested publics. The audience and the methods for communication varied as the PIP proceeded and included components such as face-to-face interaction, electronic and paper communication. In addition to consultation activities implemented by Yukon Energy, each of the NTFNs developed and implemented community-based consultation activities designed to inform and consult with their membership and provide feedback to the Study Team. As well, Yukon Energy completed a separate Yukon-wide community consultation process

on the 20-Year Resource Plan, of which the Project was one component. This provided a broader audience of interested publics an opportunity to present and hear comments on the Project.

4.2.2.1 Face-to-face interactions

Face-to-face interactions with First Nations, government departments, non-government organizations and interested publics took a variety of formats depending on the desired level of interaction from the consulted party. This section describes the various formats of interactions in each series, while the subsequent section describes the details of the activities in each round of the PIP.

Interaction with First Nations

- **Meetings with NTFN representatives:** Meetings between Yukon Energy and various representatives from the NTFNs have occurred throughout the PIP, as documented in this chapter. Round One resulted in the negotiation of the MOU between the NTFN and Yukon Energy. Pursuant to the MOU, more detailed consultations were held with representatives of each NTFN community during Rounds Two and Three, and community meetings were also held with LSCFN at Carmacks, SFN at Pelly Crossing, and NND at Mayo; a Steering Committee was also established to oversee and co-ordinate NTFN participation in consultation activities.
- **Steering Committee Meetings:** To facilitate the consultation and discussion process, the NTFNs established a steering committee to oversee and co-ordinate NTFN participation. Administrative support is provided by the Northern Tutchone Council and has representation from Yukon Energy's President and Director of Resource Planning. The NTFN Steering Committee met with Yukon Energy in September to review the status of the Project, to finalize the Project route selection and to begin consideration of Project mitigation and economic development opportunities across the Project Study Region (see Appendix 4D). The Steering Committee in future will focus on activities related to negotiation of the Project Agreement.
- **Small Group Meetings:** Small group meetings occurred largely in Round Two of the PIP, with the First Nation's opting for targeted audience meetings to discuss key perspectives and issues on route alternatives. Individuals involved in these smaller meetings included First Nation Lands Directorate staff members, renewable Resources Council Members, trappers, elders, and other potentially affected publics.
- **Community Open Houses:** Open public meetings were held in the communities of Carmacks, Pelly Crossing and Mayo during Round Two. The format and content of these meetings was determined in cooperation with each First Nation and provided an informal opportunity to discuss the project. At some meetings, it was also an opportunity for the community to receive information on self-directed consultation activities or perspectives from interested stakeholders outside the Study Team.

- **Personal Communications:** Various key-person conversations took place, not only to address the key issues and perspectives regarding route alternatives but also to get a broad understanding of the socio-cultural baseline. These communications were accomplished in person, through email, and by telephone.

Interaction with Government

- **Small Group Meetings:** Small group meetings were held with government departments with specific interests in the Project, primarily in Round Two of the PIP although certain meetings did take place during Round One. These meetings focused on key perspectives and issues related to the routing of the transmission line.
- **Personal Communications:** In many instances, consultation with government departments did not require small group or in-person discussion and occurred via email or telephone calls.

Interaction with Other Publics

- **Small Group Meetings:** Small group meetings were held with various interested publics, including various NGO's and local Renewable Resources Councils. These meetings occurred during Round Two of the PIP and focused on key perspectives and issues related to the routing of the transmission line.
- **Personal Communications:** Not all of the identified organizations with potential interest in the Project felt that holding a meeting was necessary as they had no major concerns. In such cases, email &/or telephone conversations were felt to be adequate forms of consultation. Additionally, personal communications via telephone, email, and in-person were held with potentially affected individuals such as trappers, land owners, and other community members.

4.2.2.2 Electronic and Paper Communication

Yukon Energy Website

In the fall of 2005, Yukon Energy created a link on their website posting a brief description of the proposed Project. Along with providing a brief overview of the Project components, the website described the contingencies for the development to move ahead (such as agreement from the First Nations and the securing of necessary environmental approvals and permitting including a licence under YESAA). It also described the consultation process. The website also included Yukon Energy's media releases pertaining to the Project and links to the newsletters developed for consultation. A copy of all the materials posted on the website is provided in Reference Material 4R-1.

Carmacks-Stewart/Minto Spur Transmission Line Newsletter

A newsletter was produced to provide initial information on the Project. It was designed as a tool for consultation and described: the Project and its components; the benefits; proposed routing options for certain sections of the transmission line; and, general timelines for public involvement. Copies of the newsletter were mailed directly to the stakeholders identified as affected or interested publics (see the complete list in Appendix 4A). As well, 7,900 copies were distributed in the May 26th edition of the Yukon News. Further copies were distributed at all face-to-face public consultation events in Round Two and Round Three. A copy of the newsletter can be found in Appendix 4A.

A second newsletter describing the contents of the Project Proposal, namely the preferred route as well as potential project related effects and mitigation, will be produced for Round Four consultation activities.

4.2.2.3 NTFN Self-Directed Consultation Activities

The MOU between the NTFNs and Yukon Energy provided for financial resources for each First Nation to facilitate consultation activities associated with development of the Project Proposal, including selection of a preferred route. Each NTFN developed and implemented independent consultation activities adapted to meet their specific community needs. Where possible, the information drawn from these activities was provided to Yukon Energy and can be found in Reference Material 4R-1. A summary of the activities undertaken by each First Nation, beyond participation in activities with Yukon Energy and its representatives, are as follows:

LSCFN

- Support for a First Nation representative to facilitate Yukon Energy consultation activities with LSCFN.
- Discussions with elder trappers regarding potential compensation requirements.
- Ground truthing various locations where route options existed, including the Tantalus Butte area, and various locations in trapping concession #151.
- Community meeting held to review alternatives.
- Project was included on the Carmacks **Renewable Resources Council (RRC)** agenda.

SFN

- Support for a First Nation representative to facilitate Yukon Energy consultation activities with SFN.
- A door-to-door survey was completed to gain community perspectives on the Project.
- A van trip with elders was undertaken to drive certain sections of the route between Pelly Crossing and Minto Landing on June 15, 2006.
- Project was included on the Selkirk RRC agenda.
- Community meeting held to review alternatives.
- Addressed at an elders meeting in 2003.

NND

- Support for a First Nation representative to facilitate Yukon Energy consultation activities with NND.
- Discussions with community members in Stewart Crossing on route alternatives.
- Ground truthing activities were completed using a **global positioning system (GPS)** to determine whether heritage sites were present in the Crooked Creek area.
- The Chief included the Project among issues to discuss at a regular elders meeting.
- Project was included on the Mayo RRC agenda.

These self-initiated processes assisted the local communities in understanding and describing local concerns and perspectives. It also helped to involve individuals that may have been reluctant to participate in community meetings. The information from these activities was shared with Yukon Energy and incorporated in the same manner as the information gained throughout the PIP.

4.2.2.4 Connections to Consultation on the 20-Year Resource Plan

In 2006, Yukon Energy filed a 20-year Resource Plan with the Yukon Utilities Board. The plan addresses the Yukon's major electrical generation and transmission needs from 2006 until 2025. The Carmacks-Stewart Transmission Project is identified in the Plan as a near-term requirement that would connect the WAF and MD power grids. A public review of the Resource Plan, consisting of 13 community meetings, took place over the course of June and July 2006. Within the Project Study Region, meetings were held in Carmacks and Mayo on July 5, 2006. The meeting scheduled for Pelly Crossing for July 19, 2006 was postponed and will take place during an additional round of consultation activities in the Fall of 2006. Comments made in any of the 13 community sessions relevant to the Project were incorporated into the route selection and environmental assessment process.

Resource Plan consultations in Whitehorse were advertised in both the Whitehorse Star and the Yukon News, while other community meetings were advertised only in the Yukon News. Since the Yukon News is distributed to all Project Study Region communities on Fridays, meeting announcements for Carmacks and Mayo were advertised on Friday June 30th and for Pelly Crossing on Friday July 7th and July 14th. Further, each community was sent posters announcing the consultation dates to be displayed at prominent locations such as the post office and community store. Radio advertisements ran on all three Yukon radio stations for two days prior to each meeting.

Meetings consisted of a PowerPoint presentation from Yukon Energy and an opportunity for attendees to ask questions and make comments. A copy of the Resource Plan Public Information Session summary notes are provided in Appendix 4A. Further materials from these meetings are available in Reference Material 4R-1.

4.3 REVIEW OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES TO DATE

The following section summarizes the involvement activities that have taken place in each of the three PIP rounds to date. Appendices 4B, 4C and 4D, and Reference Material 4R-2 and 4R-3 contain additional details for each round.

4.3.1 Round One

Round One introduced the proposed Project, as well as the route selection and environmental assessment process, to the public. It also sought technical engineering and cost advice, as well as initial input from First Nations and government departments with interests in the area. Route alternatives within a 500 metre notational reserve (the Route Study Area) were developed for further consultation.

4.3.1.1 First Nations Consultation

Yukon Energy in 2003 provided a letter to each of the NTFNs notifying them of Yukon Energy's application for a notational corridor for a future transmission line between Carmacks and Stewart Crossing. This 500 metre-wide planning area eventually formed the basis for the Route Study Area referenced in the MOU signed between the NTFNs and Yukon Energy. Consultation activities regarding the transmission Project began in early August of 2005. The Project was introduced and described to the three NTFN's, and each was provided with 1:50,000 scale maps and CD's showing the 500 metre notational reserve on Crown Land, and where the proposed transmission line would cross settlement lands. A summary of Round One consultation meetings with the NTFNs is provided in Table 4.3-1. Records of personal communication with the First Nations are located in Appendix 4B, while all meeting materials can be found in Reference Material 4R-2.

**Table 4.3-1
Summary of Round One Consultation Meetings with First Nations**

Date	Location	In Attendance	Notes
Nov. 13, 2003	Notification letter by mail	LSCFN, SFN, NND, Yukon Energy	Map Notation Application
Aug. 2 2005	Pelly Crossing	SFN Chief & Council, Jim Harper, Yukon Energy	The proposed transmission Project was introduced as one of the topics on the Agenda. 1:50,000 maps on the notation were discussed and left with SFN.
Oct. 13 2005	Mayo	NND, SFN, LSCFN, Yukon Energy	Northern Tutchone Tribal Council Annual General Meeting. Yukon Energy provide a description of the Project. A full set of 1:50,000 maps showing the notational reserve and CD's were left for distribution at the three First Nations.

Date	Location	In Attendance	Notes
Nov. 23 2005	Carmacks	LSCFN, Yukon Energy	Proposed transmission line was introduced and discussed.
Dec. 14, 2005	Whitehorse	NND, Yukon Energy	Discussions with the representatives from NND on the proposed Project.
Feb. 22 2006	Whitehorse	SFN, NND, LSCFN, Yukon Energy	Agreement to meet with all three First Nation's in Pelly on March 10.
Mar. 10 2006	Pelly Crossing	LSCFN, SFN, NND, chiefs, elders, community members, Yukon Energy	Discussions lead to the preparation of a draft MOU.
May 1, 2006	MOU Signed	LSCFN, SFN, NND, Yukon Energy	MOU is signed between the First Nations and Yukon Energy, establishing the proposed approach to further consultation.

MOU

As a direct result of this initial consultation between Yukon Energy and the NTFNs, Round One concluded with the signing of a MOU between the NTFNs (LSCFN, the SFN, the NND), and Yukon Energy on May 1, 2006. The MOU proposed the development of the Project in accordance to regulatory requirements and conditions and arrangements with the NTFNs. The signatory parties indicated that the establishment of the Project should:

- enhance the continued economic viability of the Minto Mine now under development in SFN Settlement Land;
- improve conditions for other economic activity in the NTFN region;
- enable electricity to be supplied to households and communities in the NTFN region on a more reliable and less expensive basis; and
- enable Yukon Energy to achieve better utilization of its existing generation facilities by facilitating the sale of otherwise surplus hydro-electricity power, and, enable Yukon Energy to better manage system-wide electricity supply and demand between the WAF and MD systems.

The NTFNs and Yukon Energy agreed to support the establishment of the Project and agreed to cooperate with each other in good faith in the matters described in the MOU. The MOU called for the creation of a Steering Committee to guide the consultation process, determine a preferred route for the transmission line, and provide for economic opportunities and arrangements related to the Project. Provisions within the MOU included commitments to:

- require no more than a 60 metre ROW for the Project;
- strive to avoid trapline improvements owned by NTFN citizens on and off Settlement Land;
- be situated in proximity to Minto, Pelly Crossing and Stewart Crossing so as to be most conducive to community development and other land use plans;

- be developed so as to enable power to be delivered by way of the Project to residential and commercial customers in the Minto Landing area and to the community of Pelly Crossing at the same time as, and as part of the same stage of the Project, as the Project enables power to be delivered to the Minto Mine;
- proceed with construction, if approved, within a pre-identified specific final route and access corridor; and
- employ or sponsor one or more the NTFN members as Project monitors whose duties, among other things, will be to ensure on-site construction activities are in compliance with the approved final route.

In terms of consultation, the NTFN's and Yukon Energy agreed to carry on co-operatively and diligently towards discussions on various topics. This included consultation activities on route alternatives and impacts, the best ways to enhance benefits and avoid, mitigate or compensate for the negative effects of the transmission Project. In order to facilitate the consultation process, a Steering Committee was mandated to oversee and co-ordinate First Nation participation at the community level. To support these activities Yukon Energy made an initial accountable financial contribution to each First Nation, with further accountable support to be provided when planning and design advanced further.

The MOU identified a nominal target date of June 30, 2006 for the completion of consultation activities required for the YESAB Project Proposal submission. This was done in part to acknowledge the challenges inherent in conducting community consultation activities during the summer months. These activities in fact carried on through the summer into the first week of October. The MOU has also contemplates that a Project Agreement, describing the economic opportunities and other Project arrangements will be concluded in Fall of 2006 (October 31, 2006); it is now expected that the Project Agreement will be concluded during the first quarter of 2007.

4.3.1.2 Government Consultation

Various government agencies were consulted prior to the identification of initial route alternatives. Contact was made with numerous departments, including Yukon Environment (Forestry, Wildlife, Parks), the Department of Tourism and Culture, the Department of Highways, Energy Mines and Resources (Oil and Gas, Agriculture), and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Where meetings were thought necessary, further face-to-face sessions were arranged, a summary of which is provided in Table 4.3-2. A record of personal communication with government departments in Round One is located in Appendix 4B, while supplemental information provided by government departments specific to the Project can be found in Reference Material 4R-2.

**Table 4.3-2
Round One Consultation Meetings with Government Departments**

Date	Location	In Attendance	Notes
April 4, 2006	Whitehorse	Yukon Environment, Forestry	Meeting to introduce Project and to determine interaction of Project with forestry activities.
April 10, 2006	Whitehorse	Yukon Environment	Meeting with senior wildlife biologist to discuss wildlife concerns in the Project area.
April 10, 2006	Whitehorse	Yukon Environment	Meeting with Director to introduce Project and inquire about trapping and wildlife information.
April 10, 2006	Whitehorse	Yukon Environment, Parks	Meeting to introduce the Project and discuss park reserves and campgrounds within the Project area.
April 10, 2006	Whitehorse	Department of Tourism and Culture	Meeting that introduced the Project and responded to request for information.
April 11, 2006	Whitehorse	Department of Highways	Meeting to introduce Project and request information on the gravel and borrow pits along the proposed transmission line corridor.

These initial discussions with government departments provided further input into the identification of initial route alternatives within the Route Study Area. The initial route alternatives reflected consideration of any identified potential adverse interactions between the Project and the various government departments' activities. In most instances, these potential concerns were simply avoided in route design.

4.3.2 Round Two and Round Three

Round Two was aimed at all interested publics and focused on key perspectives and issues regarding route alternatives. During Round Two, Yukon Energy provided route alternatives based in part on information received in Round One. This route information was shared with the various government departments, the NTFN's, and other interested publics. Feedback on the routing options was requested and received through various formats including open community meetings, targeted group meetings, in-person conversations, and written commentary provided by interested parties.

Identification of a single preferred route did not result from the initial consultation activities and further refinements were identified to either mitigate potential adverse effects or enhance a potential opportunity associated with the Project. Further meetings were conducted in order to provide a reasonable period for the consulted parties to prepare their views. These activities were largely focused on the NTFNs, each of whom were conducting internal consultation activities and required additional time to consider route alternatives. As well, during the course of discussions, interested publics also expressed views on potential effects and mitigation. This resulted in an overlap of Round Two and Round Three discussion topics and provided for further opportunity for Yukon Energy to understand the First Nation's perspectives. Information on potential effects and mitigation was forwarded to the various Study Team members for consideration in the environmental assessment process.

4.3.2.1 First Nation Consultation

Round Two consultation activities focused on discussion of route alternatives which considered key perspectives and issues provided by community members. Meetings held in Carmacks, Pelly Crossing, and Mayo adopted a consultation format determined by each First Nation. For example, the first meeting with the LSCFN was with a targeted group of potentially concerned community members, including elders, trappers, RRC members, and representatives from Yukon College. In comparison, the meeting in Mayo was focused with Lands Department staff members who were familiar with the area and the potential areas of concern. In Pelly Crossing, an all day community workshop was organized and included presentations by elders, regional government officials, community members, and Yukon Energy. A summary of Round Two and Round Three meetings involving YEC representatives is provided in Table 4.3-3. A summary of all related meetings, and records of personal communication pertaining to Round Two and Three are located in Appendix 4C. Consultation materials such as notes, agendas, and presentation materials are located in Reference Material 4R-3.

**Table 4.3-3
Round Two and Round Three Consultation Meetings with First Nations**

Date	Location	In Attendance	Notes
May 18, 2006	Pelly Crossing	NFTN representatives and members, Yukon Energy	Meeting to discuss how to move forward from the MOU, including route alternatives consultation process.
June 1, 2006	Carmacks	Various LSCFN members and identified Village of Carmacks stakeholders, Yukon Energy	Meeting with a targeted group of stakeholders including elders, trappers, the Renewable Resources Council, Yukon College, and others. Discussions focused on key perspectives and issues relating to route alternatives.
June 1, 2006	Carmacks	Open community dinner and meeting. 52 adults in attendance	Further discussions on key perspectives and issues on route alternatives, open to the entire community.
June 5, 2006	Mayo	NND lands directorate and staff, Yukon Energy	Discussions on the proposed route options in the Stewart Crossing area
June 21, 2006	Pelly Crossing	All-day open community workshop, Yukon Government biologist, Yukon Energy (in afternoon only)	This all-day event was organized by SFN and included a variety of agenda topics to address key perspectives and issues about the Project and route alternatives
June 22, 2006	Carmacks	LSCFN Staff, Yukon Energy	Field activity to review site specific issues raised by individuals at community meeting.
July 4, 2006	Mayo	NND Chief & Council (no quorum), Lands Directorate, Yukon	Meeting to discuss route alternatives and options, and discuss preferred route option. Impacts and mitigation were also briefly

Date	Location	In Attendance	Notes
		Energy	addressed.
July 4, 2006	Mayo	Open community meeting	Meeting to discuss key perspectives and issues about route alternatives near Stewart Crossing
August 9, 2006	Pelly Crossing	Open house, community meeting, community supper	Meeting for a second round of discussions on route alternatives, focusing largely on the options through Pelly Crossing and near Minto Landing. Discussions also addressed impacts and mitigation.
August 10, 2006	Whitehorse	SFN Staff, Yukon Energy	Met to review in greater technical detail route alternatives.
August 16-17, 2006	Pelly Crossing	SFN Staff, Yukon Energy, SFN Lands Directorate	Field work to review route alternatives in SFN traditional lands. Discussion on resource use compensation process.
August 25, 2006	Telephone	Meeting with NND lands department	This conference call addressed the final route selection and briefly described the process to follow in the Fall of 2006.
September 11, 2006	Carmacks	Meeting with LSCFN Elders	Further discussion with Elders on route alternatives.
September 12, 2006	Pelly Crossing	NTFN Steering Committee representatives and members, YEC	Steering Committee discussion on status of projects and how to proceed towards the finalization of route alternatives.
October 3	Carmacks	LSCFN	Meeting to review community concerns and route finalization process

In each community, the first round of meetings did not result in the identification of a preferred route. As a result, additional meetings were scheduled and included potential effects and mitigation topics were discussed prior to the finalization of a preferred route. This adaptive approach to consultation activities allowed for such adjustments to the PIP to be made according to community concerns. Discussions on impacts and mitigation also occurred between Yukon Energy and First Nation representatives as well as in the community meetings. These communications included in-person meetings and field activities, emails and telephone communication to further identify and verify concerns with First Nation staff members from the Lands Department. Similar discussions occurred directly with the various RRC's (See Appendix 4C).

The PIP supported the identification of a preferred route that appropriately reflects community interests by adapting to accommodate community interests and amalgamating discussion on route finalization and effects and mitigation.

4.3.2.2 Government Consultation

Further meetings with various government departments, along with email and telephone communication occurred throughout Round Two. These communications sought to further understand issues and perspectives identified during Round One. It was also the first opportunity to formally involve the Village of Carmacks. Consultation activities with government departments focused on route refinement alternatives as well as effects and mitigation and as such Round Three activities were not differentiated from Round Two activities. A summary of consultation meetings with government departments is

provided in Table 4.3-4. Records of personal communication with government departments are located in Appendix 4C, while all meeting notes can be found in Reference Material 4R-3.

**Table 4.3-4
Round Two/Three Consultation Meetings with Government Departments**

Date	Location	In Attendance	Notes
June 1, 2006	Carmacks	Village of Carmacks Deputy Mayor, 2 councillors, Yukon Energy	Meeting to discuss proposed route alternative and hear key perspectives and issues.
June 5, 2006	Mayo	Meeting with Yukon Government Regional Biologist	Meeting to introduce the Project and identify any specific routing concerns in terms of wildlife in the area.
June 7, 2006	Whitehorse	Department of Tourism & Culture, Yukon Environment – Parks	Meeting to discussed proposed route alternative and hear key perspectives and issues
June 20, 2006	Whitehorse	Yukon Environment, Forestry	Meeting to discuss forestry permits in the Project area.

4.3.2.3 Other Publics Consultation

Round Two actively sought feedback from various non-government and private citizens or organizations. From the newsletter distribution list, feedback was sought from an assortment of groups including NGOs (**Yukon Conservation Society (YCS)**, Yukon Trappers Association, **Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS)**, Yukon Outfitters Association, **Wilderness Tourism Association of the Yukon (WTAY)**, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Klondike Snowmobile Association), private enterprise (three outfitters with concessions in the area, Big River Enterprises, Yukon Quest), trappers (most of whom were included in First Nation consultation activities), and potentially affected landowners in the Project Study Region.

A summary of all in-person meetings is provided in Table 4.3-5. All meeting notes and records of personal communication are located in Appendix 4C. Other Publics consultation did not include a large component of Round Three discussions on impacts and mitigation. Where Other Publics had potential to experience Project effects (e.g., RRC's), discussion occurred on impacts and mitigation.

**Table 4.3-5
Round Two/Three Consultation Meetings with Other Publics**

Date	Location	In Attendance	Notes
June 2, 2006	Whitehorse	Yukon Quest International	Meeting to discuss proposed route alternative and hear key perspectives and issues
June 5, 2006	Carmacks	Yukon College, Yukon Energy	Meeting to discuss the potential training needs arising from the Project
June 7, 2006	Whitehorse	Wilderness Tourism Association of the Yukon (WTAY)	Meeting to discuss proposed route alternative and hear key perspectives and issues
July 6, 2006	Whitehorse	Yukon Conservation Society (YCS)	Meeting to discuss proposed route alternative and hear key perspectives and issues
July 6, 2006	Whitehorse	Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS)	Meeting to discuss proposed route alternative and hear key perspectives and issues
July 6, 2006	Whitehorse	Yukon Trappers Association	Met with the acting director to introduce Project and inquire about trapping information.

In many cases, the individual or group consulted had no identified issues or concerns with the Project and saw it as an opportunity for the region. Many of the issues and perspectives provided by other publics were often broader in scope than those living in the Project Study Region. For example, a concern about the propagation of invasive plant species was cited as a potential issue across the Yukon that could be enhanced in the Project Site Area through brushing and clearing activities.

4.4 KEY ISSUES AND PERSPECTIVES HEARD TO DATE

Participants in the public involvement activities identified a wide range of issues and perspectives during the three rounds of PIP. Some were very specific and were raised one time; however, many were raised a number of times by different participants. In the process several key issues and perspectives emerged which can broadly be categorized as emerging themes, and site specific concerns. Certain issues were far more relevant to the Project Study Region communities (e.g., trapping and resource use), while many of the issues were identified by First Nations and other publics alike (e.g., access to timber).

- Issues related to past experiences with transmission projects: relates to effects associated with previous transmission project developments, primarily the MD Transmission Project, but to a lesser extent the WAF Transmission Project to Faro.
- Issues related to route selection and environmental assessment: consists of effects potentially caused by construction or operation of the proposed Project. These effects are within the scope of what is assessed and considered in the preferred route selection and mitigation in the effects assessment for the Project.

- Issues related to the environmental assessment process, including PIP: relates to scope, approach and process for conducting the route selection and environmental assessment process including PIP.

4.4.1 Issues Related to Past Experiences with Transmission Projects

The most recent experience the Project Study Region communities have had with similar transmission projects was the Mayo-Dawson Transmission Project which was completed in 2003. Comments made by those participating in the PIP suggest that the experience associated with the MD project was not positive. The NND, one of two First Nations through which the project crossed settlement lands, had a particularly poor experience. One NGO consulted commented that the errors made in the construction process have resulted in a lack of confidence in Yukon Energy. General consensus among PIP participants was that the experience and process with the MD project should not be repeated with the Carmacks-Stewart/Minto Spur Transmission Project. Further details on the MD experience can be found in the socio-economic baseline of this document, Section 6.3.4.

During the PIP, Yukon Energy has continually emphasized a commitment to not repeat the MD experience with the proposed Project. This has been practically demonstrated in the implementation of a different and consultative approach to the environmental assessment process, including an extensive consultation process. Yukon Energy's commitment to potentially affected communities and willingness to support self-directed First Nation community consultation activities is also an indication of this shift in approach.

4.4.2 Issues Related to Project Route Selection and Environmental Assessment

Similar issues and perspectives were raised by First Nations and other publics during the PIP. These are recorded in the meeting notes that can be found in the Reference Material 4R-2 through 4R-3, as well as in the record of personal communications in Appendix 4C. While some concerns were quite specific and raised only once, many were repeated on numerous occasions by different participants in the PIP process. Frequently cited issues and perspectives included items related to land and resources use, potential environmental effects (beyond those related land and resources use), and potential socio-economic effects.

4.4.2.1 Land and resource use

The potential effects of the Project, land use and resources use were a common concern, especially for those living in the Project Study Region. The following are the key perspectives and issues provided that related to land and resources use:

- The impacts of a transmission line on trapping. Trapping is seen not only as a source of income but a lifestyle. Adequate compensation will need to be provided where mitigation is not entirely effective.
- Effects of the Project on culturally important species such as moose, caribou and salmon.
- Access created by the ROW may have a negative impact on wildlife from increased hunting pressure.

- The line will cross traditional territory and cultural and heritage values need to be respected. Areas that are important medicine spots, berry-picking locations, and other traditional uses need to be considered.
- Interest in accessing the timber harvested from the ROW for both merchantable and personal use (as fuel wood).
- Discussion about the use of a buffer between the transmission line ROW and the highway ROW and if such a buffer can be provided, what is the appropriate width.
- Concern about location of route on higher ground where trapping takes place.

4.4.2.2 Potential Bio-physical Effects

- General concerns about the physical impact on the land including the impacts of clearing and brushing, the position of poles in certain areas that might be unstable or prone to landslides, erosion, etc.
- Cleared ROW will change habitat, attracting some species and discouraging others.
- Concerns about the loss of a carbon sink from the removal of trees in the boreal forest.
- Concerns that brushing and clearing in some areas may encourage re-growth of non-native or invasive species.
- Concerns about the potential affects of the transmission corridor on wildlife habitat and travel.
- Potential to provide fire break protection to communities.

4.4.2.3 Potential Socio-Economic Effects

- The need for local employment and training opportunities.
- The net effect on ratepayers.
- Benefits of the Project beyond the communities in proximity to the Project and to the entire Yukon.
- Concerns about sites with cultural and heritage significance and interaction with the Project.
- The aesthetic impact of a transmission Project on important viewscales and maintaining the perception of wilderness.
- Questions on the potential effects of **electric magnetic fields (EMF)**.
- Timing of Project activities could potentially affect tourist travel or events, such at the Yukon Quest.
- Seen as a possible catalyst for economic development in the region.
- Benefit noted of reducing operation of Pelly Crossing diesel plant.

4.4.2.4 Site-Specific Concerns

Site-specific concerns related to land and resources use were identified throughout the PIP. As many of these locations are directly associated with a certain group, site-specific issues are organized according to who raised the concern. These site specific concerns were incorporated where feasible into route selection process.

Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation

- Tantalus Butte – The east side of Tantalus Butte is important for hunting and cultural reasons. There is important moose habitat and a salt lick that should be avoided.
- Tatchun Creek – The creek is important to the LSCFN for both cultural and resource based reasons. It is important salmon spawning habitat and is an area well-used by the First Nation. Additionally, there is a trapper whose concession, cabin and traplines fall within the vicinity of the eastern route option.

Selkirk First Nation

- Lhutsaw Wetlands – Important habitat for moose and migratory birds, in particular at Lhutsaw Lake. It is also a culturally sacred area.
- Willow Creek – Wetlands should be avoided.
- Graveyards and traditional use sites – This includes Minto Hill and Policeman's Hill, both of which must be avoided.
- Routing through Pelly Crossing was widely discussed and included options to the east, west, and through town.
- Future development plans were considered for areas around McCabe Creek, Minto Landing, and Pelly Crossing.

4.4.2.4.1 First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun

- Crooked Creek – Along with being moose habitat, there are areas along Crooked Creek that have cultural and heritage value, especially as the creek approached the Stewart River.
- Future development plans were considered for the area in proximity to Stewart Crossing.

4.4.2.4.2 Other publics

- Avoid the viewscapes at Five Finger Rapids and Yukon Crossing.
- Avoid the Lhutsaw and Ddhaw-Ghro protected habitats.
- Avoid the Jackfish Lake Park Reserve.

4.4.3 Issues Related to the Environmental Assessment Process

- Concerns that the time frames for the consultation process were too narrow and the process was cumbersome for the communities. Consultation during the summer months is particularly challenging.
- Many individuals asked questions as to who was being consulted, and in many cases, made recommendations as to other parties to involve.
- General comment that consultation process and opportunity to provide issues and concerns before route is finalized (and therefore indirectly participate in route selection) was seen as a positive development.

4.5 FIRST NATION AND OTHER PUBLICS INFLUENCE ON THE PROJECT

The key issues, concerns and perspectives raised during the Project PIP process have been considered by Yukon Energy and incorporated into Project design and environmental assessment process¹. The key issues and perspectives raised throughout the PIP were balanced with other biophysical, socio-economic, cultural, technical and cost considerations. This section presents only the influence public involvement has had on the Project, while full details on other factors are provided in Chapter 7 - Evaluation of Alternative Routes.

Public influence can be broadly categorized as general influences on the Project and site specific influences. Additionally, the PIP also identified opportunities and constraints that without consultation would not have been incorporated to the Project design. Examples of opportunities included ensuring access to timber, routing to suit future development and land use plans, and the use of the 11 Percent trail. Examples of constraints presented include the identification of cultural sites, areas of critical habitat for wildlife (such as certain wetlands), and trappers' cabins that needed to be avoided.

These opportunities and constraints influenced or, and in some cases, resulted in adaptations either parts of the Project or the entire Project. The following are some of the notable changes:

- **Future Development Plans** - Suggestions were made to routing that provided the opportunity to optimize development in the future, by taking steps today. Examples of this are present at McCabe Creek, Minto Landing, the EMR gravel pit at Minto Landing, Pelly Crossing, and Stewart Crossing.
- **Buffer** – Yukon Energy had originally intended to have transmission line ROW share the Klondike Highway ROW wherever possible. Due to the concerns expressed by various parties regarding the potential effect on wildlife corridors and aesthetics, a 30 metre buffer between the highway ROW and transmission line ROW will be provided wherever feasible.
- **Trapping** – Trapping was an issue repeatedly identified in the First Nation communities and as such was given special consideration during the environmental and socio-economic assessment. As it is impossible for the Project to proceed without crossing registered trapping concessions, mitigation measures were designed to avoid traplines and associated camps/cabins wherever possible. In several instances, route refinements were made to avoid trappers' cabins and specific resource harvesting areas.
- **Harvesting of timber and fuel wood** – Community members made it clear that they wanted to have access to merchantable timber and fuel wood that would be cleared for the Project. Yukon Energy will work in cooperation with the Yukon Government Forestry Department to issue timber permits where merchantable stands and fuel wood exist. As it is unlikely that the timber cleared from the entire transmission line route will be required to

¹ Section 3 of YESAA "duty to consult shall be exercised... by considering, fully and fairly, any views so presented."

satisfy community needs, arrangements will be made that the timber to be collected will be accessible to those with interest.

- **Aesthetics** – in response to concerns raised about the visual effect the transmission line and substations may have on the viewscapes, where feasible, transmission line routing and substation locations have been moved to minimize the effect on the physical landscape.

Site specific influences include:

- **Five Finger Rapids/Tatchun Creek Area** – The preferred route from Yukon Energy's perspective (2ATatchun East) crossed through a trapping concession, crossing prime trapping areas, along with being in close proximity to a trapper's cabin. In response to concerns raised by the trapper and in the interest of protecting the viewscape at Five Finger Rapids, a transmission line route alternative was designed to avoid the trapper's cabin and site lines to the Five Finger Rapids viewing area. This option was a variation of Option 2B and is located behind the first bench of a slope closer to the Klondike Highway.
- **McCabe Creek** – In response to concerns raised by SFN, the transmission route will remain on the east side of the highway, cross McCabe Creek and route along the bottom of the hill to the east through to Minto Landing **Energy Mines and Resources (EMR)** reserve. This refinement helps to reduce the aesthetic impact of the transmission line as it crosses the McCabe Creek and proceeds to the Minto Landing area. The McCabe Creek area was identified by SFN as a possible future development area.
- **Minto Substation** – Yukon Energy originally identified a location at the south end of the EMR reserve adjacent to the Klondike Highway. Following discussions with Yukon Government Highways, the substation will be located at the north-east corner of the reserve lands thus reducing the visual impact, providing access to the site with an existing all-weather road, and facilitates the routing of the Minto Spur transmission line close to the Yukon Government Highways gravel pit (providing Yukon Government Highways with a connection point in the event they choose to connect).
- **Minto Landing** – Three options for crossing the Yukon River were developed based on suggestions made during Round One of the PIP. The option of crossing at the existing barge landing was identified as the preferred route by SFN members, including those with seasonal residence at Minto. The Project in the Minto area is designed to incorporate potential local electricity needs of those residing in the area now and potential for growth.
- **Pelly Crossing** – Route options in the vicinity of Pelly Crossing were discussed at length. Initially, three conceptual options were presented by Yukon Energy – one to the east, one to the west, and one going through the community. Each of these options produced a series of concerns, including the desire to avoid fish camps, the desire to avoid residential or commercial property, the aesthetic impacts, concerns about EMF, future development

options, and so on. Three additional routes to the west of the community were developed in response to these comments but further consultation led to revisiting and ultimately selecting the route option through the community.

- **Pelly Crossing Substation** – SFN discussed several options for the substation location and decided that the Pelly substation will be located on land immediately to the west of the SFN Lands Department equipment yard.
- **Jackfish Lake Park Reserve** – the park reserve was identified by the Yukon Environment, Parks Department. This area was also of interest to the Wilderness Tourism Association of the Yukon and SFN members with cottages on the north side of the lake. As such, the Project adopted a route option that avoided the park reserve staying on the east side of the Highway.
- **Use of 11 Per Cent Hill Trail:** The initial route selection had been to follow adjacent to the Klondike Highway in the vicinity of 11 Per Cent Hill which would have required crossing low lying and poorly draining land. The suggestion to consider instead the old trail on higher ground was a better solution.
- **Stewart Crossing** – Two route options for the Stewart Crossing area were developed, and after several discussions with the NND Lands Department, a variation to the west of the community was selected that allowed for access to merchantable timber, avoided critical habitat and heritage concerns near Crooked Creek, and was located on higher more suitable land.

4.6 FUTURE STEPS IN PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Round Four of consultation will focus on the Project Proposal Submission filed with YESAB. It is scheduled to take place after September of 2006 and will include meetings in each of the Project Study Region communities.

Public consultation activities will continue throughout construction, operation/maintenance, and decommissioning activities. Throughout construction activities, Yukon Energy will ensure open and timely communication with potentially affected publics so as to minimize any interference between construction activities and resources use. As stated in the MOU, a NTFN member will be sponsored or employed to ensure that on-site construction activities are in compliance with the approved final route. A similar approach to communication will be taken when intermittent brushing and clearing is required for maintenance of the line.

Yukon Energy will make efforts to continue communication with the current list of affected and other publics, as many stakeholders requested ongoing updates on the process. Following completion of the Project Proposal, a second newsletter to describe the preferred route will also be produced and distributed.

Yukon Energy will continue to work with NTFNs towards a conclusion of a Project Agreement, as provided for in the MOU that documents commitments the parties will make towards Project elements, such as employment and business opportunity development.