

# Pecors Power Generating Station Project – Public Consultation Plan

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In order to develop the waterpower potential of the Serpent River upstream of Pecors Lake and downstream of Whiskey Lake, Pecors Power initiated plans for the development of a hydroelectric waterpower facility on the Serpent River, approximately 16 kilometres east of the City of Elliot Lake, within the Gaiashk Township in the Algoma District. The proposed waterpower development would operate as a run-of-river facility, whose facility commissioning date and in-service date are set for 2015. The Pecors Power Generating Station will generate, on average, 9.1 GWh of energy annually, representing a potential generating capacity of approximately 2 MW.

The environmental assessment planning process for the proposed undertaking will proceed to satisfy the requirements of the Class Environmental Assessment for Waterpower Projects (Class EA) (October 2008, revised April 2012). As part of Phase 1 of the Class EA process, a project description was prepared, providing a conceptual overview of the project components, general information on the project's setting and available background information. This first phase also requires the development of a public consultation plan, the purpose of which is to allow those with an interest in the project and/or those who wish to participate in the project planning to contribute and to inform decisions. This document presents the proposed public consultation plan for the Pecors Power project, including a preliminary list of public contacts, a schedule of events, and techniques for notification and consultation.

## 2. PRELIMINARY LIST OF PUBLIC CONTACTS

The Site Information Package, provided to the proponent by the Ministry of Natural Resources, includes a general socio-economic profile of the proposed project area and a list of potential stakeholders to include in the consultation process. Additional potential stakeholders known to operate in the proposed project area were also identified through web searches and discussion with provincial ministries. The following list of potential public contacts was compiled:

Blind River Canoe Club  
Coureurs de Bois Voyageur Trail Outdoor Club  
Elliot Lake ATV Club  
Elliot Lake Outfitters  
Elliot Lake Residential Development Commission  
Elliot Lake Rod and Gun Club

Elliot Lake Snowbirds Snowmobile Club  
Golf Stone Ridge  
Massey Fisheries Improvement Club  
Northshore Fisheries Management Association  
North Shore Anglers and Hunters  
Northshore Forestry Inc.  
Northshore Guiding Service  
Northshore Trapper's Council  
Northwatch  
Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs  
Ontario Rivers Alliance  
Ontario Trail Riders Association  
Penocean Hills Naturalist Club  
Redwood Lodge (Whiskey Lake)  
R & S Snowmobile Tours  
Serpent River Environmental Monitoring Committee  
Registered Bear Management Area holder – BL-37-028, EP-37-039 and EP-37-044  
Registered trappers of trapline areas BL-084 and EP-07  
Whiskey Lake Retreat  
Whiskey Lake Roads Board  
City of Elliot Lake  
Town of Blind River  
Town of Massey  
Town of Spanish  
Township of the North Shore

Of the populated areas listed above, the City of Elliot Lake is located closest to the proposed project site; the proposed waterpower facility and the potential zone of influence are located within a couple of kilometres from the eastern boundary of the city. Therefore, much of the consultation effort will be focused in the City of Elliot Lake.

One of the proposed access roads to the project site is likely also used by the patrons of a golf course (Golf Stone Ridge) close to the city of Elliot Lake. Due to the potential need to share this access road during the construction and operation of the facility, Golf Stone Ridge is included on the above list as a potential stakeholder.

As the project progresses through the Class EA planning process, additional stakeholders and interested parties may be identified and added to the list of public contacts.

### 3. PUBLIC NOTICES

The Class Environmental Assessment for Waterpower projects specifies several mandatory points of contact for new projects on managed waterways, namely the Notice of Commencement, the Notice of Completion and the Statement of Completion.

The Notice of Commencement will be released at the beginning of Phase 2 (Project Definition) of the planning process. The purpose of this mandatory public notice is to ensure that potentially interested parties are made aware of the project. The Notice will be placed in local newspapers and on local websites to ensure wide exposure to parties in the region. If requested, specific members of the public and/or interest groups will directly receive the notice by mail or email. Such members and interest groups could include:

- Adjacent and potentially affected riparian landowners/tenants;
- Potentially interested municipalities;
- Other potentially directly affected water management infrastructure owners/operators;
- Other directly interested or affected parties (see list above).

Following the completion of the environmental report in the later phases of the Class EA, the Notice of Completion will be released to:

- All communities, agencies and other parties who expressed interest in the project at the time of release of the Notice of Commencement;
- All groups and individuals who participated in the consultation process;
- The distribution list created for the Notice of Commencement.

Any additional consultation undertaken following the issuance of the Notice of Completion will be documented and summarized prior to the issuance of the Statement of Completion.

The Statement of Completion will be filed upon the successful completion of the project under the *Environmental Assessment Act*. In this documentation, the key points of all consultation, issues and outcomes during the formal review period will be summarized.

### 4. NOTIFICATION TECHNIQUES

The public will be informed of important project updates and events primarily through;

- advertisements in local newspapers;
- announcements on the OEL-HydroSys/WESA Group Inc. website ([www.wesa.ca](http://www.wesa.ca));
- postings at City of Elliott Lake local community bulletin board(s); and
- through email distribution.

When requested, public contacts may receive notifications via direct mail.

A potential publication in which to advertise public notices is the Elliot Lake Standard, a weekly newspaper distributed in the City of Elliot Lake and the neighbouring communities of Iron Bridge, Blind River, Spanish and Massey. Additionally, notices may be published in the Sault Star and the Sudbury Star, daily newspapers with circulation in Sault Ste. Marie and Sudbury, respectively. Depending on interest expressed in the project, other neighbouring communities may also require notices to be posted in their communities. A final list of necessary advertisement locations will be discussed with government and local representatives in order to ensure a reasonable effort to notify is undertaken during the project.

Documentation related to the project, such as the project description document, project updates, public presentation materials and the environmental report, will be made available for download on the OEL-HydroSys/WESA Group Inc. website ([www.wesa.ca](http://www.wesa.ca)) for the duration of the environmental assessment planning process. In addition, copies of the final environmental report may be made available for public viewing at select locations (e.g. local post office, library) in proximity to the project site to accommodate individuals without computer and/or Internet access. These hard copies of the final environmental report would be available for public viewing for the duration of the review period (typically 30 days, though it may be extended at the proponent's discretion).

## **5. CONSULTATION TECHNIQUES**

Active consultation with interested members of the public will be conducted through one or more Public Information Events, with the possibility of holding additional separate focus group meetings, depending on the extent of public interest in the project. The public will also be welcome to communicate their concerns directly to the proponent by mail, fax or email. The proposed content, timing and targeted groups are presented below.

### **5.1. Public Information Centres**

The proponent will organize at least one Public Information Event (PIE), during which interested members of the general public can gain more information on the proposed undertaking and direct their comments and concerns to the proponent about the benefits and impacts of the project. At the PIE(s), the public will be able to view conceptual drawings and maps, be presented with the details of the project, and speak directly with the proponent and consulting team.

The PIE(s) will typically involve a combination of display panels set up inside the PIE venue, presentations, and a question and answer session. Attendees can express their concerns and comments about the project in person, or on comment cards that can be submitted during or in

the days following the PIE. Should a second PIE be deemed necessary, its format and content may be adjusted based on feedback from attendees of the first PIE.

The first PIE will be held following the release of the Notice of Commencement. The focus of this PIE will be to introduce the project to interested members of the public and seek the attendees' input on the project's components and related potential effects on the existing environment. Any available data and information concerning the local environment and project activities will be displayed for discussion purposes. The second PIE, if deemed necessary, will be held prior to the issuance of the Notice of Completion and the 30-day review period of the final environmental report. There, the public would be informed of the identified impacts of the project, the impact assessment of the negative effects and resulting residual effects and benefits, and how their earlier concerns were addressed in the planning process.

The proposed location for the PIE(s) is the City of Elliot Lake, this being the closest city/town to the proposed project site. The PIE(s) will be advertised in print media at least 10 days in advance of the event(s). Should considerable interest and concern about the project be expressed by people outside of Elliot Lake, additional PIEs in neighbouring cities and towns will be considered. Possible venues include local hotels, libraries and community centres.

Details of each PIE, including advertisements, meeting sign-in sheets and comment cards, will be documented for inclusion in the environmental report.

## **5.2. Focus group meetings**

Should specific groups of stakeholders express concern and/or interest in the proposed undertaking, small focus group meetings may be held upon request.

## **5.3. Direct correspondence**

Throughout the Class EA planning process, concerned members of the public can contact the proponent via mail, fax and email. The proponent will respond to their concerns and inquiries in a timely manner and maintain records of all correspondences.

## **6. INTEGRATION OF PUBLIC CONCERNS AND COMMENTS INTO THE CLASS EA PLANNING PROCESS**

The assessment of the project's potential social, cultural and economical impacts will take into consideration the concerns raised by the public throughout the EA planning process. The proponent will, to the extent possible, attempt to resolve any issues or conflicts within the EA planning process.

The environmental report will include summaries and/or records of the public consultation process, describing the participants of the process and how their advice and input was considered and incorporated in the development proposal.

Any additional consultation that occurred following the issuance of the Notice of Completion will be documented and summarized prior to the issuance of the Statement of Completion.