



Government of  
Northwest Territories

February 28, 2024

JANE WEYALLON ARMSTRONG  
MLA, MONFWI

**Oral Question 45-20(1) Expansion of Snare Hydro System to Tłı̨chǫ Communities**

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question raised on February 09, 2024, regarding the expansion of Snare Hydro System, particularly the Whatì Transmission Line, to the community of Whatì. I committed to follow up with the Member about the cost of the Whatì Transmission Line, costs to Whatì, amount of funding secured, and how much funding is from partners.

The Whatì Transmission Line Project remains a key initiative under the 2030 Energy Strategy. The project is being advanced through a combination of funding from the Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT) and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC).

The Tłı̨chǫ-Kiewit Partnership and the GNWT commissioned a planning study in 2022 that included the review of the 2013-14 Engineering and Environmental Study by AECOM, an updated routing corridor for the project, a high-level project plan, and Tłı̨chǫ Government Indigenous Knowledge gathering to validate the 2014 Tłı̨chǫ Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Study. The work, which was funded by the GNWT and cost a total of \$350,000, was completed in early 2023.

Since 2022, the GNWT has secured a total of \$3.4M from CIRNAC to advance the feasibility work associated with this project. Phase 1 of this work will involve environmental work, community engagement, engineering design, and a refined cost estimate for the overall project. Discussions are ongoing with the Tłı̨chǫ-Kiewit Partnership regarding the undertaking of this Phase 1 work.

The information collected during phase 1 will inform future decisions regarding the pursuit of federal funding under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). This project is being advanced on the principles that there will be no cost to the community of Whatì or impact on community electricity rates.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Wawzonek'.

Honourable Caroline Wawzonek  
Minister, Infrastructure

- c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly  
Legislative Coordinator, Executive and Indigenous Affairs