

## MONTHLY CONSULTATION NEWSLETTER: TOBIQUE FIRST NATION



### WATER STRATEGY FOR NB



#### This Issue

Water Strategy	P. 1
Scotian Basin/Sisson	P. 2
Energy East	P. 3
Mactaquac/Tobique Dam	P. 4

The province recognizes that First Nation people have a long-standing relationship with the land, water and environment, and have invited the Maliseet to participate in developing a strategy about water and how it's managed and protected.

"A water strategy will be a document that identifies a vision of what the people of New Brunswick would like to see happen with respect to water." Currently, the province does not have any strategy in place.

The province would like to hear from community members how to best protect water now and into the future.

In the coming weeks a brochure will be available to members with a questionnaire asking how community members want to be involved (e.g., open house, workshop, etc)? Currently, the consultation coordinators and the Maliseet Nation Conservation Council have been discussing the strategy with the Department of Environment and Local Government (DELG).

Members are encouraged to fill out the questionnaire if they want to discuss the initiative with DELG. They can return the questionnaires to Deana Sappier or Doreen Paul-Sappier at the training centre, or request that their questionnaire be picked up at 506-273-5544.

*All information is available  
online at [www.gnb.ca/  
environment](http://www.gnb.ca/environment)*

For more information on the proposed projects please visit the website:  
<http://www.tobiquefirstnation.ca/communityEngagement.html>

Or contact Deana Sappier at:  
Deana.Sappier@tobiquefirstnation.ca  
Office: 506-273-5544

## THE PROPOSED SCOTIA BASIN EXPLORATION PROJECT



Above: proposed drilling locations by BP.

Below: proposed project timeline to complete exploration drilling by BP.

British Petroleum (BP) Canada Energy Group is proposing to carry out exploration drilling off the shore of Nova Scotia. The company has recently submitted an Environmental Impact Statement for federal review, however, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) has deemed the application incomplete.

CEAA has told BP that they need to include baseline data for the remaining 8 First Nation communities in New Brunswick (including Tobique), as there has been no detail on fishing activities, licenses or other potential current use documented for Tobique in the EIS.

As Tobique has commercial fisheries in the larger regional study area (Grand Manan), we will be providing comments on the project (once the EIA is deemed complete).

*More information about the project is available on our website.*

### Project Timeline



## THE PROPOSED SISSON PROJECT—UPDATE

The federal government has still not decided on the Sisson project (the project needs both federal and provincial approvals to go forward—the provincial approval was given in December 2015, subject to 40 conditions). The federal decision may come as early as August, but potentially in the fall. The Maliseet Chiefs continue to discuss with New Brunswick, potential measures to accommodate the impacts of the Sisson Mine on Maliseet treaty and Aboriginal rights in the event that the mine proceeds.

Accommodation measures include: a training and employment strategy, a mining accident/malfunction compensation fund, revenue-sharing on mine profits and the protection of other lands in Maliseet Territory from future development. If a package of accommodation measures is developed, it will be presented to Tobique members at a community meeting and Council will be seeking your feedback.

## THE PROPOSED ENERGY EAST PROJECT —UPDATE



Above: proposed crossing at the Tobique River and potential valve placement locations

On July 6, 2016, representatives from Energy East presented in the Paul Pyres Community Building on the proposed project. Approximately 25 members attended the event. The presentation included: a project overview, engagement, NEB overview, pipeline operations, pipeline emergencies, routing, environmental management/water crossings and construction.

*A copy of the presentation is available on our website.*

The Traditional Land Use (TLU) study for the proposed project is still being worked on. Verifications were held in the community in June 2016 and it is expected that the TLU will be complete in September 2016.

An archaeology field program is expected to start up in early August 2016. The lead archeologists will include a Stantec field supervisor and our Indigenous archaeologist (Ramona Nicholas). The crew will also include two Indigenous Monitors, an Indigenous Team Lead and 4 Indigenous archaeology technicians.

### National Energy Board (NEB) Process

On June 16, 2016, the NEB deemed TransCanada's application as complete, which triggers the 21 month review process. Panel sessions will be held in Fredericton from August 15-19, 2016. Representatives of the Maliseet communities will attend these sessions to give a high-level review of their concerns. The NEB process will continue until March 2018 when the panel releases its recommendation. The Maliseet will be involved in every phase of the NEB process and will provide oral traditional evidence, have our TLU presented by Peter Armitage, provide scientific evidence by MSES, provide testimony by a safety expert, etc.

The NEB will not consider the report to be completed on upstream greenhouse gas emissions as that report will not be completed in time. Additionally, the NEB is not considering matters related to upstream activities associated with the development of oil sands. The NEB has also said that it has no regulatory authority over marine shipping (St. John would be the only port and would triple the carrier traffic in the Bay of Fundy), but it has decided to include the environmental and socio-economic effects of increased marine shipping as part of the overall public interest determination.

A timeline can be found at: <http://www.one-neb.gc.ca/ppictnfnz/mjpp/nrgvst/index-eng.html>

## MACTAQUAC DAM

On July 17, 2016, there was a nation meeting held in Kingsclear regarding the options with the Mactaquac Dam. Approximately 30 members from Tobique attended the meeting. Presentations included: NB Power overview (available on TFN website), discussion from Chief Gabriel Atwin, preliminary legal advice by Dominique Nouvet, review of consultation protocols by Han Martin Associates and technical update on the draft Comparative Environmental Review (CER) by MSES.

As the end of life for Mactaquac Dam is approaching, NB Power is looking at the following 4 options:

- (1) Repowering the station with a new powerhouse, spillway and maintaining the existing earthen dam.
- (2) Maintaining the earthen dam structure to retain the headpond and replace existing concrete spillways, but no power generation.
- (3) River restoration
- (4) Life Achievement - continued operations beyond 2030; would require mechanical and electrical equipment in the station to be replaced due to age and wear. Requires ongoing work and investment.

NB Power will be making a decision by the end of 2016 on the 4 Options.

## TOBIQUE DAM

What work is going on currently?

*Transmission work*—crews are working with high voltage equipment and are required to perform highly technical work.

*Generation*—the generation team works with Tobique Employment and Training. Project supervisor, Randy Perley is overseeing lawn mowing and ground maintenance work this summer. He will also be supervising the installation of public safety river booms upstream and downstream of the dam, as well as their removal in the fall. Additionally, he will supervise the relocation of the guard building for road modifications.

What work is coming?

During late August, NB Power is also planning to start the downstream fish passage work with the assistance of Tobique (more information in the April 2016 newsletter). Additionally, the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DTI) will be planning to work in the bridge detour roadway (full closure of bridge will not happen this year).

Tobique will be supplying an environmental monitor and a communication coordinator to help monitor construction activities ([job competition deadlines August 8, 2016](#)). NB Power will also be extending security coverage to 24 hrs/day once the DTI contract is awarded.



Think Green: please reuse and recycle this newsletter.