

Shellmouth Dam Environmental Scoping Meetings

Final Report on First Nations Meetings



Prepared For:
TetrES Consultants Inc.

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CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

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CIER, the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources, is a national Aboriginal-directed environmental non-profit organization. We offer research & consulting and education & training services to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, governments and private companies in four interrelated topic areas: forestry, climate change, water, and sustainability.

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 History of Project

The Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration of Agriculture of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Manitoba Water Stewardship plan to address future water demands on the Assiniboine River by increasing the storage capacity of the Shellmouth dam reservoir. Modifications to the current structure or operations of the Shellmouth dam would improve flood control and increase water supply. CIER was sub-contracted by TetrES Consultants to facilitate meetings between the Federal and Provincial Government Steering committee and aboriginal participants to ascertain environmental issues and their concerns before an environmental assessment is conducted or final project decisions are made.

1.2 Purpose of Meetings

The purposes of the meetings were to discuss proposed changes to the works and operations of Shellmouth Dam. CIER identified 13 communities along or near the Assiniboine River based on geographical location, and past working experience with many of the identified First Nations. These First Nations were invited to provide their input in designing a comprehensive environmental assessment.

1.3 Objectives of Meetings

The objectives for the meetings were as follows:

1. To present the proposed project to the First Nations
2. To gather all comments and concerns voiced by those present at the meetings
3. To compile the gathered information in a clear, concise manner that will assist the Steering committee in providing recommendations on the final project design.

1.4 Scope of Work

The scope of work consisted of the following:

1. To identify and contact First Nations that may have an interest in the Shellmouth Dam, Assiniboine River and the proposed modifications to the dam.
2. To invite the identified First Nations to one of four First Nation Environmental Scoping Meetings.
3. To draft and distribute a Steering Committee approved information page to interested First Nations.
4. To draft and mail a Steering Committee approved letter of invitation to interested First Nations.
5. To facilitate the First Nation Environmental Scoping Meetings between the First Nations and the PFRA/Water Stewardship Steering Committee
6. To record all issues/comments/questions and concerns raised by participants at the First Nation Environmental Scoping Meetings.
7. To advise the Steering Committee on appropriate protocols necessary when working with First Nations.
8. To provide the Steering Committee a written report that outlines the results of the First Nation Environmental Scoping Meetings.

2.0 Methods

2.1 Communities Identified

CIER identified 10 First Nation communities in Manitoba and 3 First Nations in Saskatchewan that may be affected by any potential changes to the Shellmouth Dam or Assiniboine River water levels. The First Nations identified are outlined in the following table.

Manitoba First Nations	Contact
Tootinaowaziibeeng First Nation	Chief Barry McKay
Gambler's First Nation	Chief Patrick Tanner
Waywayseecappo First Nation	Chief Murray Clearsky, Councillor Mel Wabash
Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation	Councillor Yvonne Bearbull, Health
Sioux Valley Dakota Nation	Chief Katherine Whitecloud, Councillor Ken McKay
Canupawakpa Dakota Nation	Councillor Marlene Demas
Long Plains First Nation	Chief Dennis Meeches
Dakota Plains First Nation	Chief Orville Smoke, Gwen LaFreniere, CEO
Swan Lake First Nation	Chief Larry Soldier, Bob Green, Economic Development
Dakota Tipi First Nation	Chief Cornell Pashe
Saskatchewan First Nations	Contact
Cote First Nation	Chief Aubrey Whitehawk
Key First Nation	Chief Isabelle O'Soup
Keeseekoose First Nation	Chief Quewezance, Councillor Gerald Keshane

2.2 Communities Contacted

CIER contacted all 13 communities by telephone. CIER spoke to a community member in eleven of the thirteen communities. CIER explained the project and asked the contact if they needed more information or confirmed their participation in one of the four scheduled meetings that were to occur along the Assiniboine River. In order to assist the First Nation and CIER in determining whether or not it would be in the community's interest to attend one of the four scheduled meetings, CIER drafted and used a question matrix during the initial phone call.

2.3 Information Packages and Invitation letters

Prior to distribution by CIER, the First Nation information page and invitation letter were approved by the Steering Committee. The information page was then sent by email or fax to each of the communities. An official letter of invitation followed this document to each of the First Nations. All information and letters were sent to the attention of a specific person in each community. People identified in each community included Chiefs, Councillors and CEO's. In the case of not being able to speak to someone directly, all information was faxed and mailed attention to the chief of the Reserve. Copies of the information page and invitation letter are attached to the end of this report in appendices E and F.

2.4 First Nation meetings

It was decided to host four meetings in four communities that were geographically central to interested First Nations. Each community decided whom they would send and was responsible for their own transportation. The four communities, venues and dates for the First Nation meetings were as follows:

Community	Venue	Date
Kamsack, SK	Woodlander Inn 509 Railway Street	Monday, January 12, 2004
Russell, MB	Russell Inn Highway #16	Tuesday, January 13, 2004
Virden, MB	Jay's Inn and Suites Trans Canada Hwy #1	Wednesday, January 14, 2004
Portage La Prairie, MB	Canad Inns 2401 Saskatchewan Ave. W	Thursday, January 15, 2004

3.0 Results

3.1 Communities Involved

Eleven of the 13 communities accepted the invitation to attend one of the four information-sharing meetings. All communities received telephone calls, emails and faxed copies of the one-page information sheet and written letters of invitation to one or all FN meetings. Tootinaowaziibeeng First Nation and Swan Lake First Nation did not respond to any of the above-mentioned actions taken by CIER to initiate a meeting.

Of the eleven First Nations that confirmed attendance, six were present (Key First Nation, Cote First Nation, Gambler's First Nation, Birdtail Sioux Dakota Nation, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation and Long Plains First Nation) at one of the four meetings. The remaining five communities were unable to attend for various reasons such as: a tragedy in the community; conflicting meeting commitments (meeting the new INAC minister) or no explanation was offered. It was stated during the Russell Meeting by one of the Elders present that all communities were in contact with each other and that all information was being shared whether the communities were present or not. It was also stated by the same Elder that each of the communities present were acting the liaison between the steering committee and all of the contacted First Nations and that all information would be relayed up and down the Assiniboine River.

3.2. Issues Raised

Summary of issues raised:

CIER recorded all questions, comments and concerns and assigned them an "issue name" It is important to note that it was not always possible to name a comment or concern to one heading as many of the issues are connected. The issues identified by CIER were related to: agriculture, communication, flooding, cultural, treaty rights and obligations, water quality, water quantity, environmental, fishing, wildlife, economic, alternatives and general.

Agricultural/Economic

First Nations upstream and downstream of the Shellmouth Dam have interest on the impacts on their agricultural practices such as cereal farming, haying, and watering for animal herds. There were concerns that there may not be enough water for all the irrigation needs of all users. There was concern that the poor quality may have a negative impact on animals that are watered with untreated water from the Assiniboine. There were also concerns that the potential project may cause a loss of agricultural lands and reserve land.

Communication

It was commented that First Nations were not consulted when the initial dam was erected and that no communication has occurred related to the operation of the dam. It was strongly recommended that a communication strategy be developed and implemented to keep First Nations informed of the operations and seasonal events that may have a negative impact on the community. In particular, Sioux Valley noted that they received no notice of impending flood of 1995 by the operators of the Shellmouth dam and that the community suffered property damage.

Flooding

As noted above, flood control is very important for the safety and economic well-being of First Nations along the Assiniboine River.

Cultural

Many traditional ceremonies occur along the river and there would be great concern to the communities if they lost the land to continue these ceremonies. It was also noted that many animals, plants and medicines that were traditionally harvested along the river have been damaged by the current dam operations and that any more changes to the water levels may be too much for the environment to recover from these stresses. Because of the current dam, communities have lost one of their traditional travel routes used for trade and interaction with upstream and downstream First Nations.

Treaty Rights

Section 35 consultations will have to be conducted if it has been determined that any treaty rights are infringed upon by the actions of others. Based on these preliminary environmental scoping meetings and the comments gathered to date, it is very likely that Section 35 consultations will need to be conducted.

Environmental/Water quality

Comments revolved around poor water quality now, some attribute this to the dam and concerns that modifications to the dam may further decrease the water quality. People are afraid of swimming in the river and wary of eating fish and plants/medicines from the river because of the poor water quality and associated contamination that may come from the dam, nutrient loading from agricultural practices and other avenues.

Water Quantity

Many saw the benefit of improved water supply and flood control and were aware of competing demands for water. It was made clear that First Nation water needs must also be met whether it is for economic, drinking water, hunting, fishing, social or cultural purposes. Reference was made to a phrase found in treaties related to the continuous flow of water—"the treaties are in effect as long as the sun shines, the grass grows and the water flows" (paraphrased).

Wildlife, Hunting, Trapping and Fishing

Many of the First Nations still hunt along the river and are concerned about a loss in habitat for their game. It has been noted that the trapping industry along the Assiniboine River has collapsed because the fur-bearing animals are no longer there. A loss of habitat, loss of food and extreme fluctuation of River levels were identified by participants as main reasons for the disappearance of animals such as muskrat and beaver.

A complete list of all issues, comments and concerns is provided at the end of this report in Appendices A, B, C & D. A summary list of all concerns can be found in Appendix G.

3.3 Responses to Issues

It was stated to all participants by the Steering Committee that only issues that fall within the scope of the project would be investigated during an EA process. It was also stated First Nations' issues or concerns that fall outside the scope of the project would be noted.

4.0 Conclusions

4.1 Meetings

All participants present at each of the four meetings expressed their satisfaction with the steps taken up to that point in the project. Specifically, the First Nations were pleased to be involved in the project at a stage early enough that their potential involvement could have some influence on the future EA process.

The Steering Committee and CIER learned by the second environmental scoping meeting that it is culturally appropriate and very important to provide a lunch for the invited guests. It was stated by the Elders of Gambler's First Nation that if and when the project team were invited to the communities for the next round of meetings that the team would be fed out of respect for the visitors. The project team ensured from that point forward to always provide a lunch to the participants. This practice was met with a very positive response from the rest of the participants at the following meetings.

All the First Nations participating in the Environmental Scoping Study have a long standing connection to the Assiniboine River and that any changes to the river will affect them in some way. The concerns and issues raised to date by the First Nations all relate to impacts and/or potential impacts on Aboriginal and Treaty Rights. Any changes to the current environmental/economic/social well-being must be addressed, avoided, mitigated or remediated. All communities brought up the topic of treaty rights; some directly while others alluded to the treaty rights of the First Nations and the fact that any actions taken by anyone that impacts the treaty rights will have to conduct Section 35 Consultations.

The First Nation environmental scoping meetings were very successful. Many of the issues of the potentially impacted communities were raised in these initial meetings. It was also significant for the project team to be invited to four of the communities for the environmental assessments. Key First Nation, Gambler's First Nation, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation and Long Plains First Nation offered to host the remainder of the communities. It was stated to the project team by more than one participant that because of the positive relationship developed during these initial meetings, many more people would attend the next round of meetings.

Providing information such as this report and other information related to the project and the potentially impacted First Nations will continue foster the positive work done to date.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 Future considerations

It is recommended the Steering Committee continue its current practice of openness, transparency and proactive approach in addressing the environmental/social/economic/treaty rights concerning the Assiniboine River and the proposed changes to the Shellmouth dam. Clearly, the Committee's approach to the project is one that will provide it (the committee) with as much information as possible and allow the committee the opportunity to provide the best possible recommendations for future steps in the project, namely future environmental assessments.

All communities identified communication as a very important element to any future work related to the Assiniboine River and Shellmouth dam. Communication strategies outlined by the Steering committee will need to be implemented in order to maintain and develop the level of trust and respect it has attained in the preliminary meetings.

APPENDIX A - January 12, 2004 **3:00 pm** Kamsack, SK. Meeting Summary Notes

First Nation Participants:

Bill Briant, Lands Manager, Cote First Nation

Isabel O'Soup, Chief, Key First Nation

COMMENT: General

Regarding the compensation agreement, are you referring to land that's right near the river? How far off the river are farmers claiming damage?

RESPONSE:

Visually demonstrated.

COMMENT: Economic

The province of Manitoba or PFRA purchased the land, who will own it?

RESPONSE: General

The Government of Canada will own the land.

COMMENT: General

Do you know how much acreage is in the agreement?

RESPONSE:

Not finalized but it's 3230 acres right now.

COMMENT: General

And the land in the agreement is all water logged and unusable?

RESPONSE:

Leasing agreements indicate that it may be, studies will determine this.

COMMENT: General

Where does the water logged condition area stop? Where does the dry land begin?

RESPONSE:

Shows bridge at highway

COMMENT: General

What will the land purchased back be used for?

RESPONSE:

It will be leased back.

COMMENT: Environmental

Is it the dam or natural causes that cause various levels of water logging?

RESPONSE:

Both, but it is the dam impact that is being compensated for.

COMMENT: Environmental

Was the dam responsible for 1995 flooding.

RESPONSE:

Not the flood, but seeding was made difficult by the dam.

COMMENT: Treaty

Assiniboine River is one of the boundaries of our reserve. If water level changes that could change our boundaries.

COMMENT: General

If the dam was built in 1970, what is the capacity, do you want to make it bigger?

RESPONSE:

That's the purpose of the study phase, we haven't made any recommendations.

COMMENT:

Say you raise the water 6 feet at the dam, how far north will the water-logged area extend. We are concerned back flooding will go further up the river.

RESPONSE:

We don't know yet.

COMMENT: Agriculture

In the river flats, where flooding occurs now, willows are taking over and hay is dying.

COMMENT: Water Quality

There is a groundwater effect from flooding, not just surface water.

COMMENT: Cultural

Key First Nation has permanent sites for sweats by the river, these will be affected.

COMMENT: Agriculture

If the river increases in size, we will lose pasture land.

COMMENT: Communication

How will information from these studies be disseminated?

RESPONSE:

By a website.

COMMENT: Vegetation

All flats of land along the river are 'bogged out', maple sugar trees are dying as a result of this.

COMMENT: Economic

Can we have a breakdown of the 8 million in compensation?

RESPONSE:

Breakdown was detailed.

COMMENT: Communication

How many First nations are affected downstream? Is Dakota Tipi one of them? How many other bands are you talking to during this phase?

RESPONSE:

We've identified 10. We're also trying to determine if there are more with this study. Map was shown to participants.

COMMENT: General

Why don't you know those engineering possibilities regarding the gates option, even though you built the dam?

RESPONSE:

Standards have changed since original design and knowledge has increased.

COMMENT: Dam Safety

Does the dam safety analysis include the possibility of the dam failing?

RESPONSE:

Yes, that's what an emergency preparedness plan is for.

COMMENT: General

Were there affect studies done before the dam was built?

RESPONSE:

Yes, for example on beaching.

COMMENT: General

Are there any general upstream studies I can read regarding our First Nation or those further north?

RESPONSE:

Yes, we can provide you a list.

COMMENT: General

When are you planning construction? What's the time frame?

RESPONSE:

Outlined in presentation.

COMMENT: Economic

Are you selling the water, for example to farmers? It will be scarce in a few years time.

RESPONSE:

We only charge for industrial use, not irrigation but this could change.

COMMENT: General

Who sets the limits for water use if it's not being sold?

RESPONSE:

Provincial licensing will look at these issues.

COMMENT: General

When water starts going through the spillway, can you control it at this point?

RESPONSE:

Yes it's for floods.

COMMENT: General

If everything goes to plan, can you explain in simple terms where you'll build up the dam?

RESPONSE:

Uses map to show gates.

COMMENT: General

Will the embankment hold the water if the gates don't?

RESPONSE:

We don't know yet, we'll need further studies.

COMMENT: General

Have you ever used the spillway?

RESPONSE:

Yes, for example in 1995.

COMMENT: Dam Safety

Have you ever considered security measures, similar to a dam in British Columbia where security is high because it provides electricity to the US? Does the Shellmouth dam provide electricity?

RESPONSE:

No, this dam is strictly flood control. Security isn't expected to be an issue.

COMMENT:

If you control the downstream with these gates, won't it be the upstream communities that will be truly affected?

RESPONSE:

Noted.

COMMENT: Communication

Are you having these meetings with other groups besides First Nations? I'd like to hear other general issues, as an individual.

RESPONSE:

We will notify you of other meetings.

COMMENT: Communication

How soon can I get a copy of the agreement?

RESPONSE:

A copy was given.

COMMENT: Communication

So others were invited to these meetings, not just Chiefs.

RESPONSE:

Yes, perhaps that wasn't made clear.

COMMENT: Treaty

Our major concern is changing water levels which will change our land boundary. It will take land away from our band. Is there a map of the river before the dam was built and then after?

COMMENT: Wildlife

Wildlife management is a concern. Wildlife migration in the valley will be effected.

COMMENT: Cultural

We have the oldest church in Saskatchewan on our reserve approximately one mile from the river. We intend to obtain heritage status for it. Burial grounds are there as well. Harry Miller, Minister, wrote a book in the 1980s referencing this site.

RESPONSE:

Are there any records we can access to be aware of these sites?

COMMENT: Communication

There is data about the weir in Kamsack including its elevation, backwater, etc. This would be useful to the study.

COMMENT: Communication

We'd like the next on-reserve meeting to be held as a group, for both of our First Nations.

APPENDIX B - January 13, 2004 **10:00 am** Russell, MB Meeting Summary Notes

First Nation Participants:

Sam Musqua, Elder, Gambler First nation
Christine Andy, Elder, Gambler First Nation
Sharon Tanner, Elder, Gambler First Nation
Albert Tanner, Elder, Gambler First Nation

COMMENT: Treaty

Gambler First Nation people were promised that land to hunt and fish in their treaty. Will treaty rights be affected by changing the river? Will altering the river create a dependance on the government when we can't fish anymore.

COMMENT: Wildlife

Will the wildlife go away.

COMMENT: Cultural

The creator owns the river. Seven generations will be affected when you change the river. If you take the river away, will only a scar be left?

COMMENT: Economic/Treaty

The value of the land will be affected.

COMMENT: Treaty

There are supposed to negotiations if the river that goes through our land is affected. You need our permission if you are going through our territory.

COMMENT: Fishing

Our fish supply has been depleted by the dam already, there are only suckers left.

COMMENT: Alternative

The river should stay the way the creator made it, the creator made it for a reason.

COMMENT: Economic

We know altering the river will affect us. Who will compensate us for this?

COMMENT: Alternative

You already have the farmers complaining, why change the dam further?

COMMENT: Communication

The dam has done harm to us in the past, why would our concerns be heard now?

COMMENT: Cultural

We must look out for the next seven generations. We need to know that we will be listened to.

COMMENT: General

Why don't you give us the money to study it ourselves. We have stewardship of the land and the Elders know the land.

COMMENT: General

What do you consider 'environmental'?

RESPONSE:

We consider environmental to mean everything that people interact with.

COMMENT: Cultural

We believe that all things have a spirit and you are proposing to alter that spirit. The river is sacred to us. We use the river for our ceremonies, we get our sweat rocks from it, we get our medicines from it we use the water for our ceremony.

COMMENT: General

We see this as a project that is already flawed.

COMMENT: Communication

We would rather do business in our own community.

COMMENT: Communication

We don't understand this presentation, because we learn by doing.

COMMENT: Water Quality/Cultural

Water quality is an issue for us. Our traditional land use has been affected by the dam.

COMMENT:

Emergency preparedness is important.

COMMENT: Cultural/Communication

When you meet with us in friendship, you should share food and tea with us.

COMMENT: Cultural

The river has a purpose it gives us life. Even water has a spirit, you have to treat it with respect.

COMMENT: Water Quality

We can't drink or wash in the water from the river, but our wildlife does. Maybe this is because of the dams, or the mines. We want the water tested to see what's in it.

COMMENT: Water Quality

There's another river under the water, our old people talk about it. That's the water that goes into our community, that's why we can't drink the water, it can't be cleaned.

COMMENT: Water Quality

When will the water be tested, during the environmental assessment?

COMMENT: Communication

When you get your list of concerns, what are you going to do with it?

COMMENT: General

We want to be involved in the next steps.

COMMENT: Water Quality/Alternatives

Look at the water quality now, before you move ahead. Look at the problems that already exist. There are natural filters upstream, and there is something that has stopped that natural cycle.

COMMENT: Water Quality

Our water is our concern. We don't just want to talk about the effects it may have, we want to talk about the effects it already has.

COMMENT: Water Quality

Our band has to buy drinking water, yet we have a river running through our community.

COMMENT: Water Quality

We want to know whether there is mercury or fertilizer in our water and how that affects our children.

COMMENT: General

There have been no benefits to us by the dam. How will changing the dam benefit us?

COMMENT: Water Quality

We get rashes from using tap water, or in showers. We get rashes from being in the middle of the river.

COMMENT: Wildlife

The last trapper left 3 years ago. Because the water level went down so much, the beaver have moved on.

COMMENT: Water Quality

There are snails in the water now.

APPENDIX C - January 14, 2004 **10:00 am** Virden, MB Meeting Summary Notes

First Nation Participants

Steven Hanska, Community Member, Birdtail Sioux

Mike Hanska, Community Member, Birdtail Sioux

Ronald Hall, Project Manager, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation

Verne La Forte, Director of Operations, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation

COMMENT: Economic

Do you have an indication from ethanol plants as to their interest in this project. One of their requirements is their access to natural gas and natural water.

RESPONSE:

One by Harrowby has expressed interest. We also have to consider location of water as well as demand.

COMMENT: Dam Safety

Will the dam safety analysis be shared with all the communities along the river?

RESPONSE:

Yes, there will be workshops on emergency preparedness.

COMMENT: Water Quantity

In 1995, what was the cause of the sudden increase of water?

RESPONSE:

Fast melting, late snowstorms in the basins all the tributaries came in.

COMMENT: Water Quantity

Water was 3 times the capacity in 1995?

RESPONSE:

Yes. The dam has a 380,000 acre feet capacity, in 1995 it was over 1 million. The gates would add 100,000 acre feet capacity.

COMMENT: Water Quantity

Was 1995 a 1 in 100 year flood or a 1 in 1000 year flood?

RESPONSE:

1 in 100.

COMMENT: Water Quantity

Are your levels low now?

RESPONSE:

Yes. 1399

COMMENT: Communication

During the 1995 we had a communication problem. Communication will be vital in the coming years. Since 1995 we've started getting reports about the dam, we've developed an emergency committee. The information about the dam must be channeled downstream. We should be informed about dam activity the same as all Canadians.

COMMENT: Communication

Are there any other information besides the website?

COMMENT: Communication

Our water treatment plant was in the flood zone in 1995. We were in a state of emergency and had to truck in water. The highways department were ticketing our trucks due to lack of communication. We should be informed ahead of time if there is a flood coming.

COMMENT: Communication

Since 1995, faxes of information have proven very useful.

COMMENT: Communication

Will we be receiving reports of information?

RESPONSE:

Other communities have recommended a report just for First nations.

COMMENT: Communication

Will the environmental assessment include the information gathered from First Nations?

RESPONSE:

Yes, there will be formal public meetings.

COMMENT: Flooding

Sioux Valley is in the valley and the hills. 40% of the reserve base is in the valley. The impact of a flood is very high.

COMMENT: Flooding

During a flood, Highway #1 acts as a dyke.

COMMENT: Flooding

Homes in the valley had to be moved because of flooding.

COMMENT: Flooding/ Water Quality

Our water treatment plant is in the floodway.

COMMENT: Agriculture

Farmlands were impacted by floods, after the clean up they had to be re-seeded.

COMMENT: Agriculture

Soil is impacted, and prime agricultural land. To this day, seepage prevents us from using it after the 1995 flood, the land is spongy.

COMMENT: Communication

We've done tests, we already know there have been environmental impacts. We hope this information will be considered.

COMMENT: Dam Control

We're hearing that others have more control over the dam.

COMMENT: Communication

We are impacted by the dam, but we have not seen communication. If Brandon can get a report of dam activity immediately, we should get one too.

COMMENT: Communication / Flooding

We accept that emergencies happen, there could be seepage again. We need the opportunity to respond.

COMMENT: Contamination

Sioux Valley has done a lot of environmental studies, of 400 homes in our community. There has been contamination of land and water.

COMMENT: Water Quality

What is in the water when it floods? That water comes in to our community, how do we change that impact?

COMMENT: Dam Control

Who controls the dam?

RESPONSE:

MB Fisheries biologists, not sportsmen. We have to supply water to the downstream regardless of fish.

COMMENT: Communication

The story that we get is that the dam is controlled by sports fishermen. That's why communication is important.

RESPONSE:

A result of the scoping study could explain how the dam is controlled.

COMMENT: General

We accept that the dam is there for a reason.

COMMENT: Flooding / Economic

1995 flood caught us off guard. It cost us 2 million dollars. We had to go after the Federal and Provincial governments for help. Farms east and west of the highways were dyked but we weren't. Only the water plant was dyked after 1995. We could put a dyke on the east of the reserve but it costs too much.

RESPONSE:

All our studies reveal we must at least maintain flood control, that is mandatory.

COMMENT: Economic

We have plans to utilize the water, irrigation and a proposed ethanol plant.

COMMENT: Communication

If there are any changes to the dam, we would like to be involved and have input. Our leadership wants to see that.

COMMENT: Economic

If we flood again, is there compensation, for example if our alfalfa fields flood.

RESPONSE:

I don't know if forage crops are covered.

COMMENT: Communication

We would prefer meetings in our own community if the project proceeds. Bringing all the DOTC bands together would be better.

COMMENT: Economic

Funding is needed for cleanup after floods. Fences are knocked down, logs are in the fields, hay is needed. All farmers need this, on and off reserve.

COMMENT: Flooding

The impact of flooding is great in our community. We have to move cattle, we have to find shelter for our people. Shellmouth may be many miles from our community but it affected our community.

COMMENT: General

Sioux Valley has a lot of interest in this dam, it affects 2000 people of our community.

COMMENT: Communication

We're preparing to protect our sewage treatment plant from flood. We want a say in what goes into the Shellmouth Dam.

COMMENT: Cultural / Water Quality

We as Dakota Nations know from living on the river that water is life, it gives life to everything. We can't eat the fish from the river.

COMMENT: Cultural

Our ancestors used the waterways to travel. People traveled to the meeting place on the river. The waterways are very important to our people. It means survival to us, like our plants, our medicines.

COMMENT: Cultural

Modern health care may not be around for long and we may have to go back to our traditional healing ways.

COMMENT: Cultural / Treaty

We are thinking about what's going to happen to our grandchildren. 10 - 20 years from now, our community's land base won't be enough. By 2023, our population projection is twice as many people (4000) in a 6 by 3 mile area. If flooding continues and takes 40% of our land, there won't be enough left.

COMMENT: Communication
If the dam fails, will you tell us?

COMMENT: Communication / Treaty
Self government means all First nations need to be informed on a nation to nation basis.

APPENDIX D - January 15, 2004 **10:00 am** Portage La Prairie, MB Meeting Summary Notes

First Nation Participants:

Thomas Myran, Lands Department, Long Plain First Nation
Harley Myran, Long Plain First Nation Trust, Long Plain First Nation
Steve Prince, Community Land, Long Plain First Nation

COMMENT: Economic

Long Plain has irrigation plans to increase land revenue which involves 6000 acres of land irrigated to local farmers over 3 years. This initiative is well into planning stage and involves JR Simplot, INAC and PFRA and Long Plains' Economic Development Corporation. Currently applying for water license and environmental assessments are being done.

COMMENT: General

Will this affect / be affected by the Garrison project? Will the Garrison project be considered? This kind of possible spillage is unnatural.

RESPONSE:

Canada is fighting this diversion. It is not directly related to Shellmouth but may affect it along with the Devil's Lake project.

COMMENT: Cultural

We will be using the water. Our people have always been users of the river, for trapping, transportation. Is there enough water for everyone downstream including us?

COMMENT: Cultural / Water Quality

We will not abuse the water, we want to build our own reservoirs for scarce years. We want to everything we can to preserve the water, to take only what needs to be taken and put it to good use.

COMMENT: Economic /Water Quality

We want to increase land revenues with irrigation and the river needs to be healthy.

COMMENT: Cultural

Not too many of our people fish nowadays.

COMMENT: Economic / Water Quality

Long Plain leases land to local farmers, we don't farm the land ourselves. As land managers we need to take good care of the land.

COMMENT: Cultural

People stopped fishing in the 1960s, but they relied on it for their livelihood before then. They relied on the fish and the berries that grew on the river. They used the wild grapes in their daily diet, cranberries, medicines.

COMMENT: Cultural / Water Quality

Fishing is done with a rod and reel now, it used to be nets across the river. You used to be able to see the bottom of the river, now you can't.

COMMENT: General

Water usage is going to increase from other things besides irrigation, like housing.

COMMENT: General

We have property near Portage la Prairie. Possible uses include a hotel and casino, office space, travel stop, museum, correctional institute. These will all use water resources.

COMMENT: Communication / Treaty

Don't forget that as long as the water flows on the river, we need to be informed. Communication is important to us.

COMMENT:

Outside the reserve freshwater is being provided to farmers through the water services branch.

COMMENT: Water Quality

How will the dam impact underground aquifers that we rely on. This is where we get our water from.

COMMENT: Communication

Have you considered effects on Hutterite people? They are very separate and may even be dealt with the way First Nations have.

COMMENT: Wildlife

Wildlife can be changed by diversions like this. An example is unnaturally competing species of fish.

COMMENT: Communication

Have you considered putting this information on APTN or NCI radio? This would inform people right in the communities, especially shut-ins and elders, it would increase your audience.

COMMENT: Communication / Cultural

Community visits would be beneficial, and broadcasting your recommendations on reserve radio. Long Plain can be a central area for community meetings. Hutterite people can be included, we have a good relationship.

COMMENT: Cultural

We appreciate your prayers and smudge. Most communities respect your way of doing things, as long as you do it.

COMMENT:

Consider the ripple effect of the river. If we're having problems up the river it will come down to you.

COMMENT: Communication

To present to more communities, you should do a 'canned' PowerPoint presentation, with explanations, etc. This way they could watch it at band meetings or at their leisure.

COMMENT: Communication / Cultural

Committee needs to visit the First Nations so the people can show them the issues first hand.

COMMENT: Communication

Committee needs to have meetings on First Nations during environmental assessment so that the community understands the project.

APPENDIX E - One-paged First Nation-Shellmouth Dam Information Sheet

Canada - Manitoba Shellmouth Dam Consolidation Agreement
Entente de consolidation Canada - Manitoba sur le barrage Shellmouth

What is the Canada - Manitoba Shellmouth Dam Consolidation Agreement?

The Government of Canada and the Province of Manitoba plan to address anticipated future water supply concerns along the Assiniboine River by upgrading the Shellmouth Dam to allow for retention of larger volumes of water in Lake of the Prairies.

The proposed Shellmouth Dam upgrading is one of four initiatives under the Canada - Manitoba Shellmouth Dam Consolidation Agreement. The other three initiatives are payments for past damages to upstream farmers, additional upstream land control, and study of downstream impacts due to reservoir operations.

Why are we Contacting First Nations?

The Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Manitoba Conservation water Branch want input from First Nations and the public before the project is defined. The Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) has been hired to facilitate meetings with First Nations who believe they may be affected by proposed upgrades to Shellmouth Dam. These meetings are not formal consultations but a chance for interested First Nations to share potential issues and concerns about this new project.

How Will the Information Discussed in the Meeting be Used?

The issues and concerns that are raised during the meetings will be used by PFRA and Manitoba Conservation to guide the engineering and environmental assessment (EA) processes. When the project is defined and the EA begins, there will be further discussions with First Nations and the public to discuss potential impacts.

Who Can Tell Me More About the Proposed Upgrades to Shellmouth Dam?

Tony Kettler of PFRA Manitoba Region is the Project Manager. Tony can be reached at (204) 983-3627. Mike Pierre of CIER is facilitating meetings with First Nations. Mike can be reached at (204) 956-0660.

APPENDIX F - Example of First Nation-Shellmouth Dam Invitation Letter

Canada - Manitoba Shellmouth Dam Consolidation Agreement
Entente de consolidation Canada - Manitoba sur le barrage Shellmouth

December 11, 2003

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration
Manitoba Region
200-303 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3G7

Name
Organization
Street Address
City, Province Postal Code
Fax:

Dear XXX,

You are invited to meet with the Agreement Steering Committee to discuss proposed changes to the works and operations of Shellmouth Dam. A series of meetings has been scheduled with groups and individuals who may have an interest in the project to gather input on potential issues related to the proposed upgrade. Please attend the First Nations meeting in **Town, Province** at **Time** on January **Date**, 2004, if you are available. A list of meeting dates, locations and groups is provided below if you are not available to meet at the above suggested place and time.

The Government of Canada and the Province of Manitoba plan to address anticipated future water supply concerns along the Assiniboine River by upgrading the Shellmouth Dam to allow for operation at higher levels of water in Lake of the Prairies. Improvements to the dam would provide increased water supply and flood control benefits.

The proposed Shellmouth Dam upgrading is one of four initiatives under the Canada-Manitoba Shellmouth Dam Consolidation Agreement. The other three initiatives are compensation for past damages to upstream farmers, additional upstream land control, and study of downstream impacts due to reservoir operations. Agreements for past damages to upstream farmers and additional upstream land control have been negotiated. The study on downstream impacts due to reservoir operations is just getting underway.

The Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Manitoba Water Stewardship engaged the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) to facilitate Aboriginal involvement in identifying environment-related issues in advance of project decisions and environmental assessment. CIER will attend each of the meetings to assist the Steering Committee in "scoping" potential issues related to the proposed upgrading.

Preliminary engineering investigations have just begun and final project decisions are not anticipated to be made until late 2004 or early 2005. Broader consultations with Aboriginal peoples would also take place if necessary as the project develops (i.e., in advance of final project decisions being taken).

Please confirm attendance at the suggested or alternate time and location to Michael Pierre of CIER at (204) 956-0660 ext. 226. You may forward this letter to other people who may be interested in attending the meetings. If you are unable to attend any meeting and wish to find out more about the proposed upgrading to the Shellmouth Dam, please call the undersigned at (204) 983-3627. It is important for the Steering Committee to receive your opinion verbally or in writing.

Sincerely,

Anthony J. Kettler
Project Manager
PFRA Manitoba Region

SHELLMOUTH DAM MEETINGS SCHEDULE

DATE & TIME	LOCATION	GROUP
Monday, January 12, 2004 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Woodlander Inn- 509 Railway Street Kamsack, SK	Key, Keeseekoose and Cote First Nations
Tuesday, January 13, 2004 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Russell Inn- Highway #16 Russell, MB	Tootinaowaziibeeng, Waywayseecappo, Gamblers First Nations
Wednesday, January 14, 2004 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Jay's Inn and Suites- Trans Canada Highway No. 1 Virden, MB	Birdtail Sioux, Sioux Valley, Canupawakpa Dakota Nations
Thursday, January 15 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Canad Inn - 2401 Saskatchewan Ave. W Portage la Prairie, MB	Dakota Plains and Dakota Tipi Dakota Nations, Long Plains and Swan Lake First Nations

APPENDIX G – Summary list of comments/questions/concerns

Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
Agricultural	Regarding the compensation agreement, are you referring to land that's right near the river? How far off the river are farmers claiming damage?	Kamsack
Agricultural	The province of Manitoba or PFRA purchased the land, who will own it?	Kamsack
Agricultural	The land covered by the agreement is all water logged and unusable?	Kamsack
Agricultural	Where does the water logged condition area stop? Where does the dry land begin?	Kamsack
Agricultural	What will the land purchased back be used for?	Kamsack
Alternative	Is it the dam or natural causes that cause various levels of water logging?	Kamsack
Alternative	Was the dam responsible for 1995 flooding.	Kamsack
Alternative	Assiniboine River is one of the boundaries of our reserve. If water level changes that could change our boundaries.	Kamsack
Alternative	If the dam was built in 1970, what is the capacity, do you want to make it bigger?	Kamsack
Communication	Say you raise the water 6 feet at the dam, how far north will the water-logged area extend. We are concerned back flooding will go further up the river.	Kamsack
Communication	In the river flats, where flooding occurs now, willows are taking over and hay is dying.	Kamsack
Communication	There is a groundwater effect from flooding, not just surface water.	Kamsack
Communication	Key First Nation has permanent sites for sweats by the river, these will be affected	Kamsack
Communication	If the river increases in size, we will lose pasture land.	Kamsack
Communication	How will information from these studies be disseminated?	Kamsack
Communication	All flats of land along the river are 'bogged out', maple sugar trees are dying as a result of this.	Kamsack
Communication	How many First nations are affected downstream? Is Dakota Tipi one of them? How many other bands are you talking to during this phase?	Kamsack
Communication	Why don't you know those engineering possibilities regarding the gates option, even though you built the dam?	Kamsack
Communication	Does the dam safety analysis include the possibility of the dam failing?	Kamsack
Communication	Were there affect studies done before the dam was built?	Kamsack
Communication	Are there any general upstream studies I can read regarding our First Nation or those further north?	Kamsack
Communication	When are you planning construction? What's the time frame?	Kamsack
Communication	Are you selling the water, for example to farmers? It will be scarce in a few years time.	Kamsack
Communication	Who sets the limits for water use if it's not being sold?	Kamsack
Communication	When water starts going through the spillway, can you control it at this point?	Kamsack
Communication	If everything goes to plan, can you explain in simple terms where you'll build up the dam?	Kamsack
Communication	Will the embankment hold the water if the gates don't?	Kamsack
Communication	Have you ever used the spillway?	Kamsack

Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
Communication	Have you ever considered security measures, similar to a dam in British Columbia where security is high because it provides electricity to the US?	Kamsack
Communication	Does the Shellmouth dam provide electricity?	Kamsack
Communication	If you control the downstream with these gates, won't it be the upstream communities that will be truly affected?	Kamsack
Communication	Are you having these meetings with other groups besides First Nations? I'd like to hear other general issues, as an individual.	Kamsack
Communication	Our major concern is changing water levels which will change our land boundary. It will take land away from our band. Is there a map of the river before the dam was built and then after?	Kamsack
Communication	We have the oldest church in Saskatchewan on our reserve approximately one mile from the river. We intend to obtain heritage status for it. Burial grounds are there as well.	Kamsack
Communication	There is data about the weir in Kamsack including its elevation, backwater, etc. This would be useful to the study.	Kamsack
Communication	We'd like the next on-reserve meeting to be held as a group, for both of our First Nations.	Kamsack
Communication	Gambler First Nation people were promised that land to hunt and fish in their treaty. Will treaty rights be affected by changing the river? Will altering the river create a dependance on the government when we can't fish anymore.	Russell
Communication	Will the wildlife go away.	Russell
Communication / Cultural	The creator owns the river. Seven generations will be affected when you change the river. If you take the river away, will only a scar be left?	Russell
Communication / Cultural	The value of the land will be affected.	Russell
Communication / Flooding	There are supposed to negotiations if the river that goes through our land is affected. You need our permission if you are going through our territory.	Russell
Communication / Treaty	Our fish supply has been depleted by the dam already, there are only suckers left.	Russell
Cultural	The river should stay the way the creator made it, the creator made it for a reason.	Russell
Cultural	We know altering the river will affect us. Who will compensate us for this?	Russell
Cultural	You already have the farmers complaining, why change the dam further?	Russell
Cultural	The dam has done harm to us in the past, why would our concerns be heard now?	Russell
Cultural	We must look out for the next seven generations. We need to know that we will be listened to.	Russell
Cultural	Why don't you give us the money to study it ourselves. We have stewardship of the land and the Elders know the land.	Russell
Cultural	What do you consider 'environmental'?	Russell
Cultural	We believe that all things have a spirit and you are proposing to alter that spirit. The river is sacred to us. We use the river for our ceremonies, we get our sweat rocks from it, we get our medicines from it we use the water for our ceremony.	Russell
Cultural	We see this as a project that is already flawed.	Russell
Cultural	We would rather do business in our own community.	Russell

Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
Cultural / Communication	We don't understand this presentation, because we learn by doing.	Russell
Cultural / Communication	Water quality is an issue for us. Our traditional land use has been affected by the dam.	Russell
Cultural / Treaty	Emergency preparedness is important.	Russell
Cultural / Water Quality	When you meet with us in friendship, you should share food and tea with us.	Russell
Cultural / Water Quality	The river has a purpose it gives us life. Even water has a spirit, you have to treat it with respect.	Russell
Cultural / Water Quality	We can't drink or wash in the water from the river, but our wildlife does. Maybe this is because of the dams, or the mines. We want the water tested to see what's in it.	Russell
Cultural	There's another river under the water, our old people talk about it. That's the water that goes into our community, that's why we can't drink the water, it can't be cleaned.	Russell
Dam Operation	When will the water be tested, during the environmental assessment?	Russell
Dam Operation	When you get your list of concerns, what are you going to do with it?	Russell
Dam Safety	We want to be involved in the next steps.	Russell
Dam Safety	Look at the water quality now, before you move ahead. Look at the problems that already exist. There are natural filters upstream, and there is something that has stopped that natural cycle.	Russell
Dam Safety	Our water is our concern. We don't just want to talk about the effects it may have, we want to talk about the effects it already has.	Russell
Dam Safety / Communication	Our band has to buy drinking water, yet we have a river running through our community.	Russell
Economic	We want to know whether there is mercury or fertilizer in our water and how that affects our children.	Russell
Economic	There have been no benefits to us by the dam. How will changing the dam benefit us?	Russell
Economic	We get rashes from using tap water, or in showers. We get rashes from being in the middle of the river.	Russell
Economic	The last trapper left 3 years ago. Because the water level went down so much, the beaver have moved on.	Russell
Economic	There are snails in the water now.	Russell
Economic	Do you have an indication from ethanol plants as to their interest in this project. One of their requirements is their access to natural gas and natural water.	Viriden
Economic	Will the dam safety analysis be shared with all the communities along the river?	Viriden
Economic	In 1995, what was the cause of the sudden increase of water?	Viriden
Economic / Treaty	Water in the reservoir was 3 times the capacity in 1995?	Viriden
Economic / Water Quality	Was 1995 a 1 in 100 year flood or a 1 in 1000 year flood?	Viriden
Economic / Water Quality	Are your levels low now?	Viriden

Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
Environmental	During the 1995 we had a communication problem. The information about the dam must be channeled downstream. We should be informed about dam activity the same as all Canadians.	Viriden
Environmental	Are there any other information besides the website?	Viriden
Environmental	Our water treatment plant was in the flood zone in 1995. We were in a state of emergency and had to truck in water. The highways department were ticketing our trucks due to lack of communication. We should be informed ahead of time if there is a flood	Viriden
Environmental	Since 1995, faxes of information have proven very useful.	Viriden
Fishing	Will we be receiving reports of information?	Viriden
Flooding	Will the environmental assessment include the information gathered from First Nations?	Viriden
Flooding	Sioux Valley is in the valley and the hills. 40% of the reserve base is in the valley. The impact of a flood is very high.	Viriden
Flooding	During a flood, Highway #1 acts as a dyke.	Viriden
Flooding	Homes in the valley had to be moved because of flooding.	Viriden
Flooding	Our water treatment plant is in the floodway.	Viriden
Flooding	Farmlands were impacted by floods, after the clean up they had to be re-seeded.	Viriden
Flooding / Economic	Soil is impacted, and prime agricultural land. To this day, seepage prevents us from using it after the 1995 flood, the land is spongy.	Viriden
Flooding / Water Quality	We've done tests, we already know there have been environmental impacts. We hope this information will be considered.	Viriden
General	We're hearing that others have more control over the dam.	Viriden
General	We are impacted by the dam, but we have not seen communication. If Brandon can get a report of dam activity immediately, we should get one too.	Viriden
General	We accept that emergencies happen, there could be seepage again. We need the opportunity to respond.	Viriden
General	Sioux Valley has done a lot of environmental studies, of 400 homes in our community. There has been contamination of land and water.	Viriden
General	What is in the water when it floods? That water comes in to our community, how do we change that impact?	Viriden
General	Who controls the dam?	Viriden
General	The story that we get is that the dam is controlled by sports fishermen. That's why communication is important.	Viriden
General	We accept that the dam is there for a reason.	Viriden
General	1995 flood caught us off guard. It cost us 2 million dollars. We had to go after the Federal and Provincial governments for help. Farms east and west of the highways were dyked but we weren't. Only the water plant was dyked after 1995. We could put a	Viriden
General	We have plans to utilize the water, irrigation and a proposed ethanol plant.	Viriden
General	If there are any changes to the dam, we would like to be involved and have input. Our leadership wants to see that.	Viriden
General	If we flood again, is there compensation, for example if our alfalfa fields flood.	Viriden

Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
General	We would prefer meetings in our own community if the project proceeds. Bringing all the DOTC bands together would be better.	Viriden
General	Funding is needed for cleanup after floods. Fences are knocked down, logs are in the fields, hay is needed. All farmers need this, on and off reserve.	Viriden
General	The impact of flooding is great in our community. We have to move cattle, find shelter for our people. Shellmouth may be many miles from our community but it affected our community.	Viriden
General	Sioux Valley has a lot of interest in this dam, it affects 2000 people of our community.	Viriden
General	We're preparing to protect our sewage treatment plant from flood. We want a say in what goes into the Shellmouth Dam.	Viriden
General	We as Dakota Nations know from living on the river that water is life, it gives life to everything. We can't eat the fish from the river.	Viriden
General	Our ancestors used the waterways to travel. People traveled to the meeting place on the river. The waterways are very important to our people. It means survival to us, like our plants, our medicines.	Viriden
Treaty	Modern health care may not be around for long and we may have to go back to our traditional healing ways.	Viriden
Treaty	We are thinking about what's going to happen to our grandchildren. 10 - 20 years from now, our community's land base won't be enough. By 2023, our population projection is twice as many people (4000) in a 6 by 3 mile area. If flooding continues and tak	Viriden
Treaty	If the dam fails, will you tell us?	Viriden
Treaty	Self government means all First nations need to be informed on a nation to nation basis.	Viriden
Water Quality	Long Plain has irrigation plans to increase land revenue which involves 6000 acres of land irrigated to local farmers over 3 years. This initiative is well into planning stage and involves JR Simplot, INAC and PFRA and Long Plains' Economic Development C	Portage
Water Quality	Will this affect / be affected by the Garrison project? Will the Garrison project be considered? This kind of possible spillage is unnatural.	Portage
Water Quality	We will be using the water. Our people have always been users of the river, for trapping, transportation. Is there enough water for everyone downstream including us?	Portage
Water Quality	We will not abuse the water, we want to build our own reservoirs for scarce years. We want to everything we can to preserve the water, to take only what needs to be taken and put it to good use.	Portage
Water Quality	We want to increase land revenues with irrigation and the river needs to be healthy.	Portage
Water Quality	Not too many of our people fish nowadays.	Portage
Water Quality	Long Plain leases land to local farmers, we don't farm the land ourselves. As land managers we need to take good care of the land.	Portage
Water Quality	People stopped fishing in the 1960s, but they relied on it for their livelihood before then. They relied on the fish and the berries that grew on the river. They used the wild grapes in their daily diet, cranberries, medicines.	Portage
Water Quality	Fishing is done with a rod and reel now, it used to be nets across the river. You used to be able to see the bottom of the river, now you can't.	Portage

Issue	Comment / Question / Concern	Meeting Location
Water Quality	Water usage is going to increase from other things besides irrigation, like housing.	Portage
Water Quality / Alternatives	We have property near Portage la Prairie. Proposed uses include a hotel & casino, travel stop, museum, correctional institute. These will all use water resources	Portage
Water Quality / Cultural	Don't forget that as long as the water flows on the river, we need to be informed. Communication is important to us.	Portage
Water Quantity	Outside the reserve freshwater is being provided to farmers through the water services branch.	Portage
Water Quantity	How will the dam impact underground aquifers that we rely on. This is where we get our water from.	Portage
Water Quantity	Have you considered effects on Hutterite people? They are very separate and may even be dealt with the way First Nations have.	Portage
Water Quantity	Wildlife can be changed by diversions like this. An example is unnaturally competing species of fish.	Portage
Water Quantity	Have you considered putting this information on APTN or NCI radio? This would inform people right in the communities, especially shut-ins and elders.	Portage
Water Quantity	Community visits would be beneficial, and broadcasting your recommendations on reserve radio.	Portage
Water Quantity	Long Plain can be a central area for community meetings. Hutterite people can be included, we have a good relationship.	
Water Quantity	We appreciate your prayers and smudge. Most communities respect your way of doing things, as long as you do it.	Portage
Water Quantity & Quality	Consider the ripple effect of the river. If we're having problems up the river it will come down to you.	Portage
Wildlife	You should do a 'canned' PowerPoint presentation, with explanations, etc. for other communities This way they could watch it at band meetings or at their leisure.	Portage
Wildlife	Committee needs to visit the First Nations so the people can show them the issues first hand.	Portage
Wildlife	Committee needs to have meetings on First Nations during environmental assessment so that the community understands the project.	Portage