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Five Nations Energy Inc. Successfully Connects Spare Transformer in Attawapiskat to the Transmission System

Attawapiskat, Ontario – May 11, 2007: As part of its ongoing commitment to improving the reliability of its transmission system, Five Nations Energy Inc. successfully and seamlessly transferred the community of Attawapiskat to a spare transformer on Wednesday May 2 at 19:45 EDT. All work was completed as planned and the electricity customers of Attawapiskat were not even aware that this took place, as they saw no impact on their electricity supply.

The second transformer is now fully available for emergency restoration of the electricity supply in the event that there is a problem with the primary T3 transformer. The transfer time is now only hours, as opposed to the 10 to 20 days it would have taken before this system upgrade. Once local operators have been trained to carry out the transfer on their own, the transfer could take place in less than an hour if need be, but until that time, FNEI staff would need to be flown to Attawapiskat in the event of a transformer failure.

While the failure of a transformer is rare, it can happen and when it does, it can cause long outages. While FNEI has always had a spare transformer in Attawapiskat, if the energized transformer failed, it could take anywhere from 10 to 20 days to complete the transfer to the back-up transfer. During this time the community would not be connected to electricity grid, and a back-up electricity supply would need to be provided by the community's diesel generator.

FNEI is planning to energize the spare transformer in the community of Fort Albany before winter as part of its capital plans to improve its transmission system. FNEI continues to work toward increasing the reliability of supply of electricity to the communities it serves and is pleased that this upgrade will allow it to provide a more reliable supply of electricity to the community of Attawapiskat.

For more information, contact:

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The spare transformer connected to the transmission system (“on potential”)



Chris Innes, FNEI's Operation's Technician, wearing an arc flash safety suit while working with the low voltage breaker.

John Chookomolin of Attawapiskat Power Corporation closing the low voltage breaker to transfer the electricity load of the community to the spare transformer.

