



OMUSHKEGO ISHKOTAYO TIPACHIMOWIN

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A publication of Five Nations Energy Inc.  
Volume 2 Issue No. 2

## Construction Continues...

As this newsletter is going to press, construction activity is continuing and things are beginning to get very busy. A project manager, Mr. Howard Chambers has been hired. (See story on page 4 for details.) Approximately 1600 poles have been ordered and several shipments have been delivered to Moosonee. Most of the poles will be between 65 and 75 feet

long but there will be some that are up to 170 feet long for river crossings.

Substation transformers were ordered back in July due to the extremely long lead time required to make them. The manufacturer custom makes each transformer, and needs at least 6 to 8 months to build them. Each transformer weighs over 40 tons. Compare this to a large excavator that weighs 25 tons. The engineers in designing

this line had to look into the amount of weight that the river crossings can support. The total load, including truck, trailer and transformer will be around 70 tons. Crews will be busy flooding the river crossings to make sure that there is enough ice to support this weight!!

Contracts have been issued for work at the individual substation sites

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*Poles being unloaded from the train in Moosonee. Over 1600 poles will be required for the project.*

The Omushkego Ishkotayo Tipachimowin is a free publication sponsored by Five Nations Energy Inc. on behalf of the Mushkegowuk Power Companies. The purpose of this publication is to keep the Mushkegowuk Communities as well as other members of the public informed about the Western James Bay Transmission Line Project and other issues associated with energy use.

Five Nations Energy Inc. is a federally incorporated non-profit corporation that was started for the purpose of building and maintaining a 138kv electrical transmission line from Moosonee to Attawapiskat, On. This line will connect three remote Cree communities and will cover a distance of 275kms.

For more information contact Mr. Ed Chilton, Project Coordinator at 1-705-658-4222.

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**Volume 2 Number 2  
Fall 2000**

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**LDC's and You update.**

By now everyone has heard of the Kashechewan Power Authority. The KPA is a Local Distribution Company or an LDC. The KPA obtains electricity for their community, and then distributes that electricity to all the customers. The only thing that will change once the transmission line is complete is that instead of using diesel generators, KPA will now receive the electricity through the line.

Some very valuable lessons were learned during the two and a half years that the Kashechewan Power Authority has been in operation. One of the main lessons is that without community support, the LDC will become insolvent and will not be able to supply electricity. Community support means that everyone pays their electricity bill every month.

At this time, the KPA uses these payments to buy diesel fuel for the generators. If the fuel oil seller is not paid by the KPA, he will not deliver any more fuel, and the lights will go out. Once the transmission line is operational, the payments will be used to buy electricity on the open market. Once the transmission line is complete, if the KPA does not collect enough money from community residents to pay for the electricity, the entire community will be without power.

The KPA has been forced to disconnect some customers that refused to pay their bills. On the positive side,

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in the communities, and construction is proceeding, with several community members working with the contractors. Concrete has been poured and the site prepared. Construction materials for these sites was delivered to the communities last winter in large containers. Mobilization of the large equipment required to build the line has begun with equipment being shipped to Moosonee.

The Moose Cree First Nation has completed the clearing of the right of way for the first 60 km of the transmission line, and have another 20 km to do to complete the clearing of their section. Plans are in place for Fort Albany, Kashechewan, and

Attawapiskat to be responsible for clearing areas close to their communities. Portions will be done manually as well as by mechanical means.

One of the main considerations in choosing the method of clearing is the tight schedule. Plans are for construction of the line between Moosonee and Fort Albany to be completed this winter. The first 11kms of construction north of Moosonee can be completed without crossing any major streams and it does not require use of the winter road. Once the ground is frozen solid, it is planned that two crews will be working erecting the poles, starting at approximately

the midpoint between Moosonee and Fort Albany with one crew moving southward and one moving north. As spring approaches, the crews will be closer to the communities with shorter distances to travel to get to the work sites. Discussions are also ongoing regarding planning for the winter road. Due to the extremely long loads, (some of the poles are going to be over 100 feet long) some of the sharp corners will need to be straightened and some of the river and creek crossings improved.

Now the only thing we need to pray for is that Mother Nature provides us with a long cold winter!!





## Designing Omushkego Ishkotayo

It is a common sight on most every type of landscape: the steel towers and high-tension wires that transmit much-needed electrical power far and wide. In the North, transmission lines connecting remote communities are not that common, but that is likely to change soon. Plans are underway to build transmission lines with the capacity to provide First Nations communities with efficient and affordable hydro power, replacing the expensive and limited supply of electricity from diesel generators. An efficient, reliable, and unrestricted source of energy brought to the community by the transmission line can also assist economic development while eliminating soil, air and noise pollution.

But what is involved in bringing a transmission line to any community?

In the case of Five Nations Energy Inc.'s Omushkego Ishkotayo, it all began with community support. Community leaders formed Five Na-

tions Energy Inc. (FNEI) to develop the project in order to improve their community's standard of living. Once the corporate structure and initial Board of Directors were in place, the technical planning and design of the line began. Together with the communities, the need and eventual consumption of power to be provided by this transmission line was assessed. Studies were conducted to forecast energy consumption over the next 30 to 40-year period by taking into account a complete inventory of the clientele the line will serve, consumption analyses for past years and development projects in the area. These factors influence the conclusions drawn from such a study, as well as determining the impact that a new source of hydroelectric transmission and distribution will have on existing demand and consumption.

The next step involves more study, but of a specialized nature based on daily and seasonal variations of energy demand and consumption. Another condition that must be considered is the stability of the source of the hydroelectricity. Will it be constant, producing steady and strong output, or will it waver, causing lights to flicker, for example? In our situation, equipment will be installed to smooth out the flow of electricity.

If these studies show that all systems are promising, a decision will be made regarding the voltage and type of wire that will be used for the future transmission line, depending on how far it will have to travel to reach the communities that it will service. It was determined that a line of 138,000

volts was appropriate for the three communities. This line has a maximum capacity of 35 MW which is almost ten times the need of the communities at this time. This capacity provides a lot of room to grow.

Based on all the information gathered by this stage of planning, extensive environmental studies are then undertaken to look at the human, social, economic, cultural and environmental effects of building a transmission line in a certain place, and a layout of several possible routes the line might take are drawn.

After a lot of consultation with the people the line will serve, including representatives from the communities, the authorities and regulatory bodies, a decision is made on the best route for the line. One of the most important factors in locating the route of the line was the location of the winter road. Another key factor was certain areas of environmental interest, areas where the absolute least amount of environmental impact could be done.

A factor to be considered in the selection of the transmission line route was the location of swamps. Where swamps could not be avoided there are two ways of installing poles depending on the depth of the swamp. For swamps less than 10 feet deep, the swampy soil is excavated to a depth of 10 feet and then filled with soil, which will support the pole. For swamps that are deeper than 10 feet, a "swamp mat" is installed on the ground surface and attached to the pole. A 'swamp mat' is made up of pressure treated wood timbers, usually 4" x 8" x 10 feet long with 2" x 8" x 3 feet planking. Once



*President Ernie T. Sutherland wishing former Moose Cree Chief Ernest C. Beck all the best. FNEI regretfully accepted Mr. Beck's resignation from the Board at the recent meeting in Attawapiskat. Newly elected Chief Norm Hardisty was welcomed as the new Board member from Moose Cree.*

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the mat is installed it will help support the pole. All of the single poles on the line will have three anchors to make sure that the poles do not lean or fall over. The poles are all fully treated to seal the poles and protect the wood from rot or insects for a minimum of 40 years.

With the study phase ended, and the decision made to proceed with construction of the line, it becomes necessary to begin looking at the physical environment, including the topographical features of the terrain and the quality and nature of the soil. Taking into consideration all these combined factors, engineers begin designing the transmission line, including the type of structures to be erected, the location of the towers, and detailed calculations about the height of the high-tension wires.

Of importance in the design of the transmission line are the many creek and river crossings. This line will cross about 20 creeks and rivers. In consultation with the local community and the Canadian Coast Guard, these crossings were divided into three categories: 1. 'not navigable' where the minimum clearance of the wire in summer at high tide is 22 feet, 2. 'small navigable' where the minimum clearance is 35 feet, and 3. 'large navigable' where the minimum clearance

is 48 feet. For an example, the north crossing of the Albany River is the largest river crossing. To maintain a 48 foot clearance, as well as to stay back far enough from the edge of the river to protect the bank from erosion, FNEI will have to use steel poles that are over 170 feet long (150 feet above ground plus 20 feet underground) to support the wires as they cross the 1650 feet between poles.

Working out this detail is intended to guarantee the safety of the human population, vehicles and boats in the area throughout the year, all of which are subject to every type of weather condition. For example, the effect of ice on the wires is a vital consideration in northern climates. Extreme heat is also examined, and the effects of the variation in temperatures to a wire or structure. The most extreme weather situation for which this line is designed is the combination of 1/2 an inch of ice on the wires, 90 km/h winds, at -18 Celsius. It is not very likely that all three things will happen at the same time, but it is good to know that the line is designed to withstand these conditions if it becomes necessary.

At this time, there is no major maintenance planned for the transmission line before 40 years. Normal routine maintenance will be completed every year including a visual inspection by helicopter and snowmobile with repairs done, if required. Should there be a problem on the line there is a protection system at each community substation. This protection system will show where and what the trouble is, to minimize the time to correct any problems.

The plans that have been drawn up by engineers (SNC Lavalin Inc.) are being used by the construction company (PowerTel) to build the transmission line, with all its associated structures. This will include the installation of the wires to exact specifications, based on the results of careful study and using all the modern scientific and technical expertise which engineering and construction firms now have at their disposal.

For all of you who have been wondering why it is taking so long for poles to be put up, we have attempted to give you some idea of the work that goes on behind the scenes, work that must be done before even one pole gets put into the ground!



*These are only a few of the over 1600 poles that will be used in the construction of the Omushkego Ishkotayo transmission line. Pole lengths range from 75 feet to over 100 feet long and are treated to resist rot and insects for a minimum of 40 years.*





## PowerTel Profile

*PowerTel* is the successor company developed from a sole proprietorship created in 1953. *PowerTel Utilities Contractors Limited* has been providing High Voltage Services to their customers since 1968. During their 32 years of experience in designing, building and maintaining high voltage services, *PowerTel* has become a leader in transmission line construction in Ontario. Their services include design, installation and maintenance of substations, switching stations, distribution lines, generating systems, fibre-optic cable installations, industrial systems and remote community electrification.

PowerTel's Health & Safety Program and Quality Program has instilled within their staff an attitude of continual improvement in safety, efficiency and productivity. This challenge has helped PowerTel develop long term relationships with clients for all their requirements. They have assisted their clients with obtaining permits, coordinating with power authorities, emergency services, equipment rentals, mixed crew work, live line work, conductor stringing and various other services as have been required.

PowerTel's professional staff works to ensure that every project is completed to meet the highest possible standards. Ongoing training is emphasized which includes E.U.S.A./E.C.A.O. apprenticeship, tension stringing, working on energized circuits, hydraulics and live line-tree trimming.

PowerTel also holds membership in various associations. These include: Electrical Contractors Association of Northern Ontario - E.C.A.N.O. Electrical Contractors Association of Ontario - E.C.A.O.

National Electrical Contractors Association - N.E.C.A.  
Electrical Utility Safety Association - E.U.S.A.  
Construction Safety Association of Ontario - C.S.A.O  
Sudbury Construction Association - S.C.A

At present PowerTel employs 25 fulltime staff. In preparation for the construction of the Omushkego Ishkotayo project, PowerTel has invested a lot of time and effort in ensuring that their equipment is in top



notch shape and will perform at the highest efficiency. Due to the fact that the Omushkego Ishkotayo is being built across muskeg, there is only a very

short time during which construction of the transmission line can occur, while the ground is solidly frozen. There is no time for equipment breakdowns or malfunctions.

Pictures here of two pieces of equipment, a boom truck, and a Nodwell rubber tracked vehicle, are shown coming to Moosonee on the train. These are only a few items of the equipment that will be used to construct the line. Elsewhere in this newsletter are photos of poles being offloaded from the train to a truck and pole trailer. Each crew erecting the poles will require an excavator, a bulldozer, several pick up trucks for transporting crews and other flat deck tracked vehicles for transporting supplies and equipment. All in all, this is a large job, one that PowerTel is well equipped to handle.

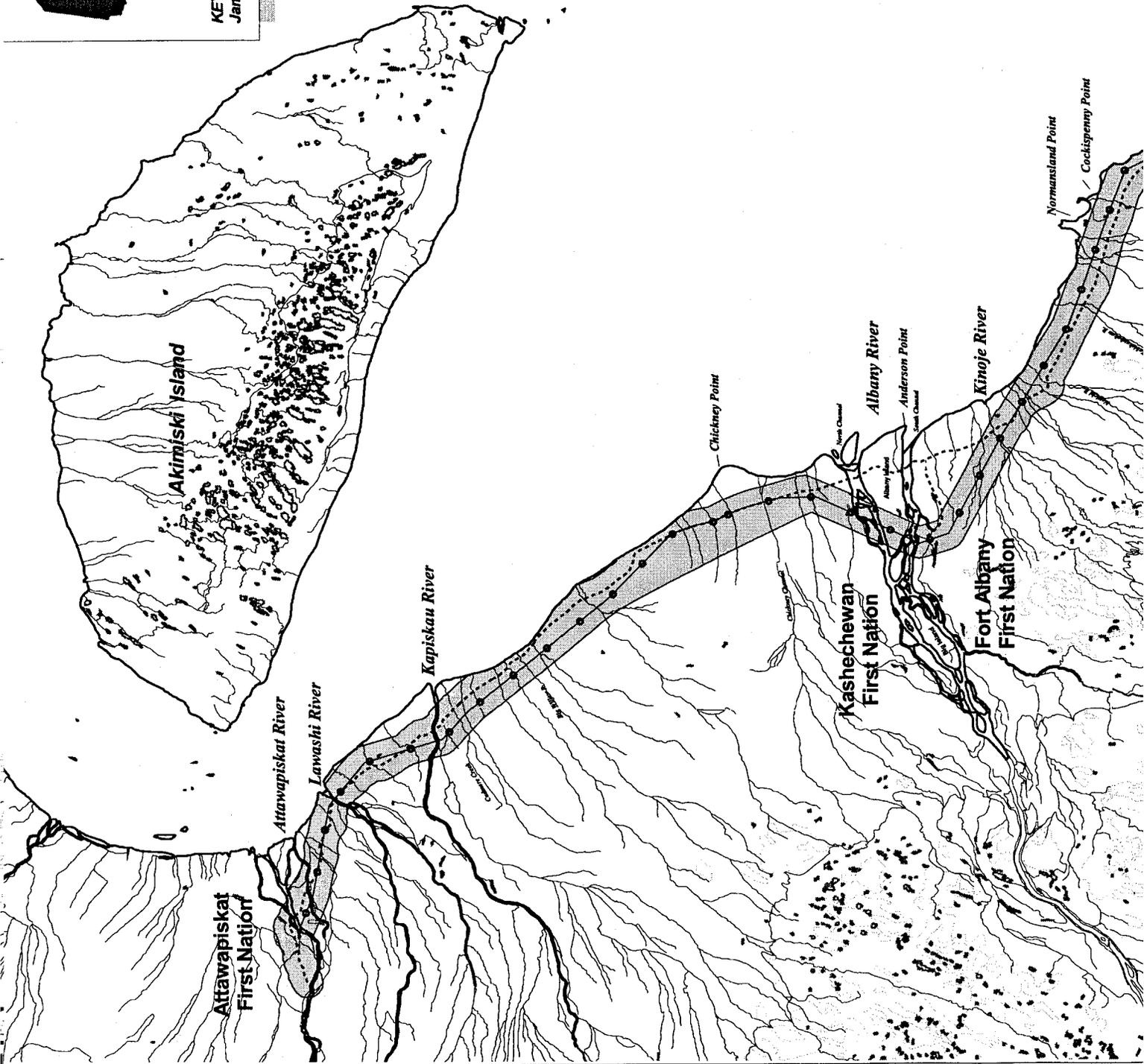


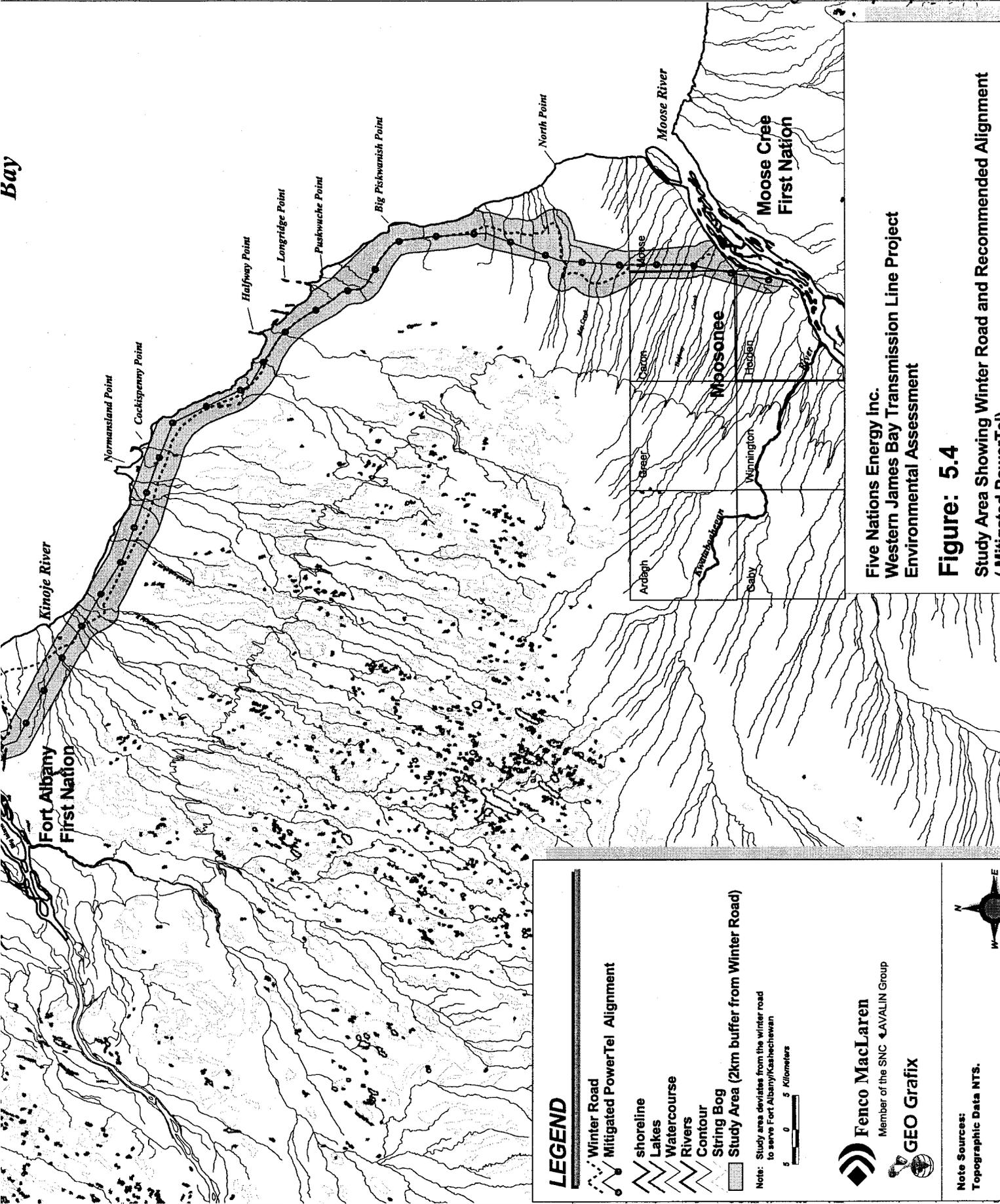
*One of PowerTel's boom trucks arriving in Moosonee.*





# James Bay





Five Nations Energy Inc.  
 Western James Bay Transmission Line Project  
 Environmental Assessment

**Figure: 5.4**

Study Area Showing Winter Road and Recommended Alignment  
 (Mitigated PowerTel)

**LEGEND**

- Winter Road
- Mitigated PowerTel Alignment
- shoreline
- Lakes
- Watercourse
- Rivers
- Contour
- String Bog
- Study Area (2km buffer from Winter Road)

Note: Study area deviates from the winter road to serve Fort Albany/Kashechewan



**Fenco MacLaren**  
 Member of the SNC Lavalin Group

**GEO Grafix**

Note Sources:  
 Topographic Data NTS.





# Apprenticeship Update

Five Nations Energy Inc. (FNEI) has been working closely with the Kashechewan Power Authority, PowerTel Utilities Contractors Limited (PowerTel), Mushkegowuk Employment and Training Services, Mamo-Nuskomitiwin, and the Ministry of Education and Training to develop an apprenticeship program that will be successful.

FNEI and the Local Distribution Companies will need trained journeymen both to work on the local distribution system wires in the communities as well as to do scheduled maintenance on the Omushkego Ishkotayo transmission line. PowerTel has committed to working with six individuals, who will be apprenticed as lineworkers during the construction of the Omushkego Ishkotayo Transmission Line.

Kashechewan Power Authority has selected two individuals to be apprentices, which have been accepted by both PowerTel and the Ministry. As this newsletter was going to press Attawapiskat and Fort Albany were just completing the selection of community members who will be their apprentices.

Apprenticeships have been a traditional way of transferring new skills to an individual. In addition to some time spent in a classroom, apprentices work together with a licensed journeyman. In this way, the apprentice can watch and learn the correct way of doing something. After

observing an action few times, the individual then tries it on his own, with close supervision, and with some advice and direction, learns a new task. During the classroom time, which is usually several weeks per year, theory and other job related skills are taught.

As an apprentice works he or she builds up hours and experience. Each trade has developed a course manual that lists the skills and tasks that an apprentice must learn. Most apprenticeships take four or five years to complete, which is why an individual must be very sure that he or she really wants to work in that particular trade. A strong commitment to the goal of becoming licensed in a trade is very important for someone to succeed.

FNEI wishes the apprentices the best of success!

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David C. Wesley, Plant Operator for Kashechewan Power Authority, preparing himself for his apprenticeship.











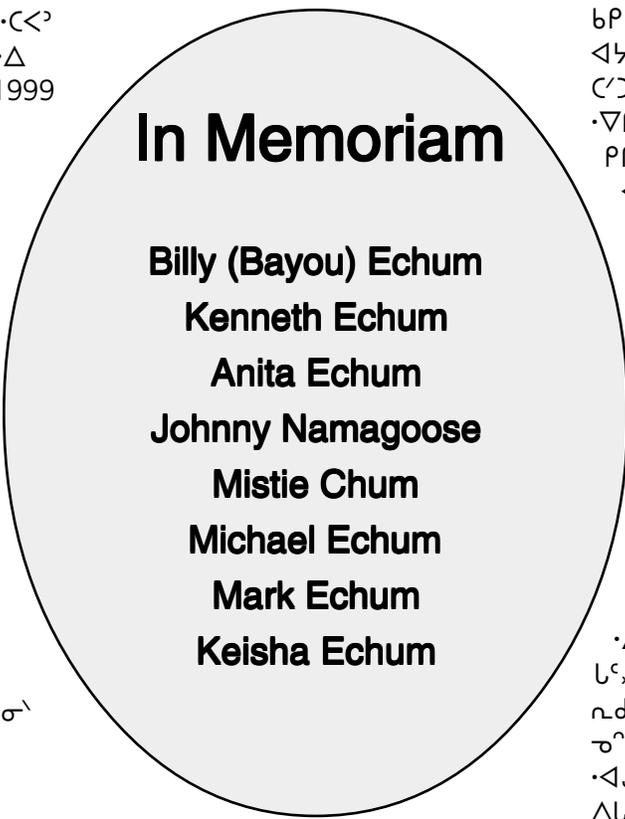


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Λ'J'U'L'b' Δ'ŋ' C'·C' b' Γ'·b' b'  
Ǝ'P'Δ' Ɔ'C' C'·C' b'  
œ'·9'·Δ'J'·C'σ'·Δ' 9'·b' Δ'N' L'·b'·Δ'  
σ' C'·V'4'σ'·C'J'·Δ'σ'œ' b' P'  
Δ'J'Δ'C'x  
C'J' P'J'b' Δ'ŋ' Δ'P' Δ'σ'Γ'7'·Δ'  
V'V'·L' b' C'J'·L' σ' P' Δ'σ'Γ'P'œ'  
N'Λ'œ'·∇' σ' Λ'L'N'P'œ' ∇'  
Δ'N'œ'L'P'·L' Δ'σ'L' b' P' Δ'J'  
Δ'P'<σ' σ' Λ'L'N'P'·Δ'σ'œ' Ɔ'd' L'b'  
œ'·<N'J'·Δ' b' P' V'CL'  
b'P'P'Δ'·∇'·Δ'σ' Ɔ'C' P'  
Δ'ŋ'Γ'ŋ'9'·Δ'σ'·Δ' b' P' Δ'N'N'd'·L'  
C'J' P'J'b' Γ'7'∇ Δ'·∇'σ'b'œ' σ'  
·∇'P'Δ'd'œ' P' Δ'N' Λ'L'N'P'·L' Ɔ'C'  
P'P' Λ'J'CC'·L' ∇' P'P'P'J'·C'·Δ'P'P'  
Δ'σ'P' b' P' Δ'σ'Δ'P'P'x  
Δ'< L'b' 9'b' ∇'b' ∇'P' Δ'J'œ'·b'  
Γ'7'∇ P'P' Δ'J'σ'b'P'·Δ'σ'·Δ' P'P'  
L'P'œ'Δ'b'U'P' Δ'< P' P'P'  
œœ'df'G'N'œ' Γ'7'∇ P'œ'·Δ'œ'x  
Δ'P'·9'P'J'·Δ'σ' Ɔ'C' Δ'P'ŋ'œ'J'  
C'L'σ'P' P'b' Γ'·œ'P'Γ'd'·Δ' Γ'7'∇  
P'ʒ'L'σ'J'x  
L'·ŋ' Ɔ'C' 9'·C' Δ'L'·C' ·ŋ'·L'  
Δ'L'·C' 9'σ' Δ'L'·C' b' Δ'J'J'·Δ'  
Ŋ'N'Λ' Δ'<ŋ' Δ'ŋ'·C'P' Δ'<ŋ' b'  
Δ'J'J'·Δ' Δ'σ'·V'ŋ' œ'L'd' Ɔ'C'  
Δ'P'ŋ'œ' Λ'ŋ'N' œ'L'd' Ɔ'C'  
Δ'P'ŋ'œ' Ŋ'N'Λ' C'·L' Ɔ'C' ʒ'  
L'·x ∇'·C' J'ŋ'œ' Ɔ'C' Δ'P'ŋ'œ' C'P'  
œ'd'ŋ' Ɔ'C' Δ'P'ŋ'œ'x ŋ'œ'ŋ' Δ'L'·C'  
Ɔ'C' Δ'P'ŋ'œ'x L'ŋ'·C' Δ'L'·C' b'  
Δ'J'J'·Δ' Ɔ'C' Δ'P'ŋ'œ'x L'œ'·L'  
Δ'L'·C' ŋ'P' Δ'L'·C' V'Λ'ŋ'·C' Δ'L'·C' Ɔ'C'  
Δ'P'ŋ'œ' L'P'·C' Ŋ'·L' Ɔ'C' Δ'P'ŋ'œ'  
·L'σ' Δ'L'·C' Δ'·C'ŋ'V' L'·C' Γ'œ'·L'ŋ'·b'  
Ɔ'C' Δ'P'ŋ'œ'x ŋ'·ŋ'·L' L'·C' Ɔ'C'  
Δ'P'ŋ'œ' Λ'ŋ'œ' N'J' Ɔ'C' Δ'P'ŋ'œ'x  
9'·L' Ɔ'C' Δ'P'ŋ'œ'x Δ'ŋ'·b'·L'σ'  
V'ŋ'd'U'·Δ'P'·Δ'σ' Ɔ'C' Δ'P'ŋ'σ'·Δ'·Δ'  
Ɔ'C' b'CV'·C' V'ŋ'd'·Δ'P'·Δ'σ' Ɔ'C'  
Δ'P'ŋ'σ'·Δ'·Δ'x



**In Memoriam**

- Billy (Bayou) Echum**
- Kenneth Echum**
- Anita Echum**
- Johnny Namagoose**
- Mistie Chum**
- Michael Echum**
- Mark Echum**
- Keisha Echum**

Δ'σ'Δ' σ'ŋ'ŋ'σ'œ'œ' Γ'·b' ∇'  
Δ'σ'Γ'P'σ'P'x P' L'·b'·Δ'P'·Δ'σ'·Δ' Ɔ'C'  
P' Δ'ŋ'Γ'ŋ'9'·Δ'σ'·Δ' σ' Δ'P'Δ'd'œ'  
∇'J' b'œ'·Δ'<L'P' b' P' Δ'J'Δ'C' P'  
L'Γ'ŋ'Γ'd'·Δ'œ'·Δ' Ɔ'C' P'P' Γ'9'·x  
Γ'·b' Δ'σ'L' b' P' Δ'σ'Γ'P'·L' P'  
Δ'<N'œ'·Δ'œ'·Δ' Γ'7'∇ ∇'C'J'4'  
L'·Δ' ∇'J' P'Ŋ'U'σ'·C'·b'σ'σ' Γ'7'∇  
P'ʒ'L'σ'J' Δ'·C'Δ'J'Γ'ŋ'x Ǝ'P'Δ'·∇'·Δ'x  
ʒ'·C'ŋ'Γ'C'œ' ʒ'·C' P'J'·b'·Δ' b' C'·b'P'  
1999 b' Λ'>' ∇'d'C'σ' L'·Δ' b' P'  
b'9'P'Δ'b'·Δ'·L' b' P' σ'·C'·Δ'·C'L'  
σ'ŋ'ŋ'σ'œ' Δ'C·Δ'σ' Ɔ'C' ∇'  
Δ'σ'σ'·Δ'·L'x P' P' b'9'P'Δ'd'œ' P'  
C'·V'4'σ'·C'J'·Δ'σ'œ' b' P' Δ'J'Δ'C'

## Kitchi Meegwetch

*Submitted on behalf of all of the families affected by "The James Bay Tragedy"*

To all the Volunteers from Moosonee, Moose Factory, Webequie, Fort Albany, Kasechewan, Attawapiskat, Kasabonika, Waskaganish, Kingston, Ft. Hope, Toronto, Ottawa, Timmins, Charlottesville, Virginia USA, and Fort Smith, NWT for their personal and professional sacrifices in committing themselves in the search and rescue operation from October 1<sup>st</sup> to November 5<sup>th</sup>, 1999.

Your role, no matter how small it was, resulted in the recovery of all our loved ones: Billy (Bayou) Echum, Kenneth Echum, Anita Echum, Johnny Namagoose, Mistie Chum, Micheal Echum, Mark Echum, and Keisha Echum.

"All the volunteers from the above communities are greatly respected for their kindness and caring towards their fellow Canadian Citizens, whoever they may be. These dedicated and compassionate community members were critical partners to the success of the overall effort." Taken from the Final Report of "The James Bay Tragedy" by Moose Factory Search and Rescue.

To the coordinators at Moose Factory Search and Rescue and Waskaganish Search and Rescue; we have never seen efficient teamwork as you had all displayed. Great work, we are extremely grateful that you provided your knowledge, skills and undying personal and professional sacrifices to our families. OUR HATS GO OFF TO YOU!

Also to the following: Nishinawbe-Aski Police Services, Ontario Provincial Police, rescue coordination centre, Ministry of Natural Resources and the Canadian rangers.

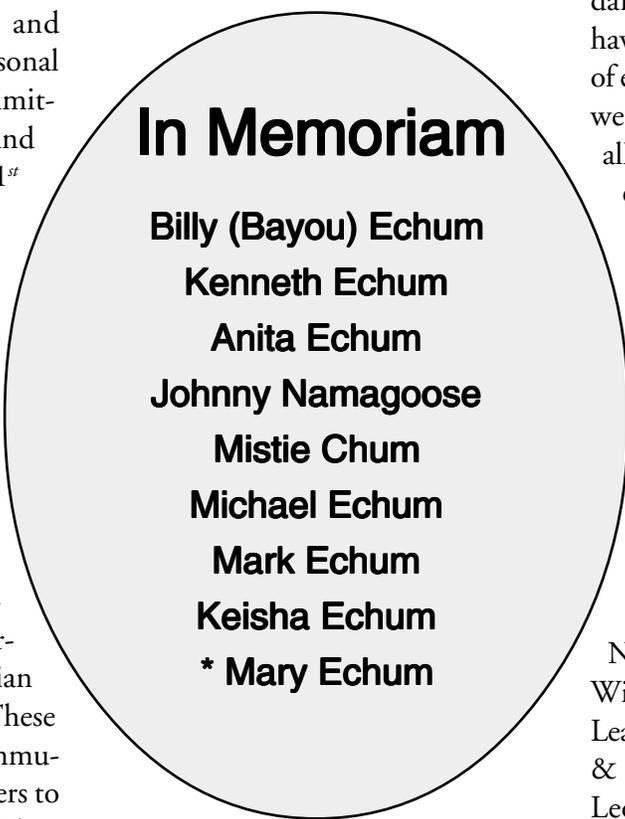
Thankyou for all your professional services.

Also to all communities, organizations, businesses and individuals who donated through mon-

been the strongest test we had to face as a family, community and as First Nations. It tested our faith in the Creator of why our loved ones were taken from us. However, as each day passed, each loved one found and questions answered, our faith in the Creator became stronger.

Everyday since this tragedy, we have individually struggled in our own daily lives to accept the way things have changed; yet with the kind words of encouragement and through prayers we all receive day to day from people all over, it just makes it that much easier to move on and carry the wonderful memories of those we lost. Though it is almost impossible to put down all your of your names, we all say Kitchi Meegwetch to you. In brotherhood and sisterhood...may God bless you all.

Myra & Kaileen Echum, Ryan Echum, Kenny Echum Jr., Steven Wapachee, Andrew Wapachee Jr., Winnifred Namagoose & Family, Bertie & Winnie Namagoose & Family, Steve, Lea Anne & Shay Chum, Ellen Turner & Family, Lizzie Rickard & Family, Leonard Echum & Family, Charlie Echum Jr. & Family, Maria Echum, Raymond Echum, Beverly Echum & Family, Marcella Small & Family, Johnny Echum, Elizabeth Chum, Mary Mianscum & Family, Roger Chum & Family, Gerald Chum & Family, Verna Cheecho & Family, Ken Chum & Family, the Whiskeychan Families, and Katapaytuk Families.



### In Memoriam

- Billy (Bayou) Echum**
- Kenneth Echum**
- Anita Echum**
- Johnny Namagoose**
- Mistie Chum**
- Michael Echum**
- Mark Echum**
- Keisha Echum**
- \* Mary Echum**

etary, supplies, fuel, etc. and most of all to those who gave their prayers though correspondence and in spirit. Meegwetch!

A very special thankyou to Father Wayne and Deacon Ray, for their tireless visitations to our families during the crisis. Your strength and prayers have reinforced our relationship with our Creator, praise and Meegwetch.

Throughout this tragedy, you have all shown the most important trait of all God's children – CARING. Thirty-six days in the fall of 1999 have

*\*Mary Echum (1910-1999) passed away in November 1999, shortly after the last person was recovered. Mary was the mother of Billy, grandmother of Kenny and great-grandmother of Mikey, Marky, Mistie, and Keisha.*