



The Hon. Scott Kent  
Minister responsible for  
Yukon Development Corporation

Welcome Remarks. Greetings. Fellow Panel Members.  
I'm here today, as part of this Opportunities North Pushing Boundaries Conference, to speak about our government's new initiative; Next Generation Hydro. We want to put in place a renewable energy solution that will meet the need of the next generation of Yukoners, 20 to 50 years from now.

We have tasked Yukon Development Corporation with the responsibility to identify one or more potential hydro projects, with supporting renewable and transmission – that's why we call this Next Generation Hydro.

**Show video** In video it says: *Yukon has been blessed with an abundance of water. We've used this gift to make electrical power in the territory for more than a generation. It's contributed to healthy, growing communities and thriving businesses and industries. Our hydro system has served us well. But Yukon is growing, and so is our need for power.*



As Yukon Development Corporation works on Next Generation Hydro, Yukon's energy partners including the Yukon Government, Yukon Energy Corporation, First Nations, and the private sector will continue to work on meeting short term needs with demand side management, upgrades and enhancements to our systems, and by exploring new generation projects.

Our government is also working on an Independent Power Producer Policy that will enable our corporations, First Nations and the private sector to pursue generation project business options. This should be ready in the New Year. In addition, we have already released our Micro-Generation Policy which allows homeowners and others to sell excess power they may produce to the grid.

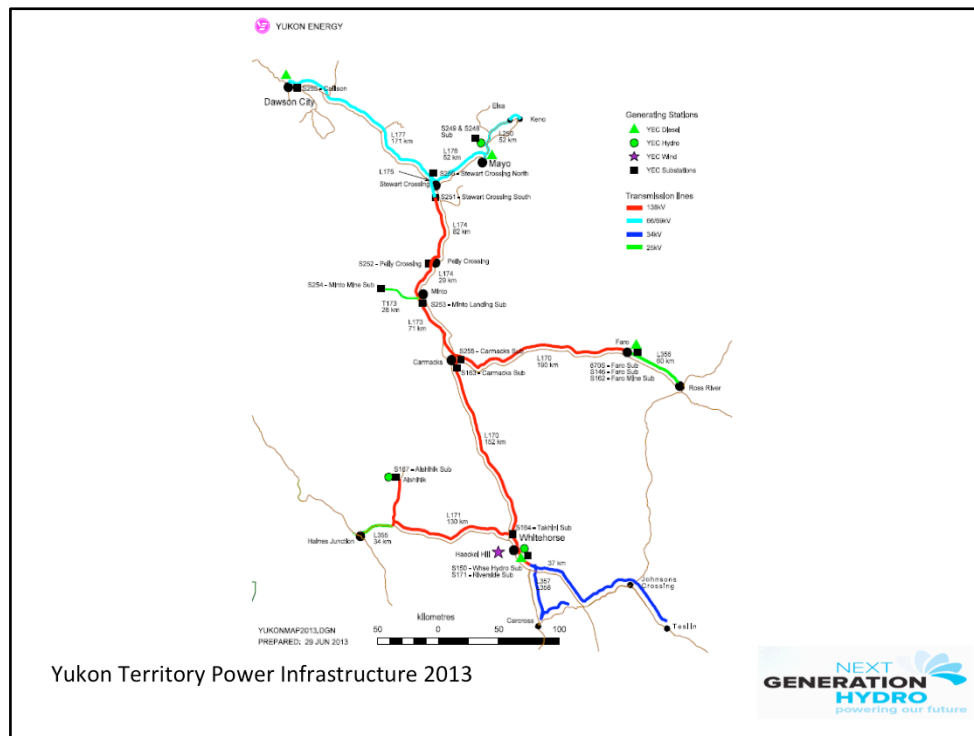
I'm proud that at our government has begun a process to ensure Yukon's electrical needs are met now and in the future, and that future generations will enjoy an energy legacy like the one we have today. It's a hydro legacy that has provided 99.7 percent of our grid energy needs so far this year.



Yukoners want flexible, affordable, reliable and environmentally responsible electrical power, a new hydro project or projects will do that for us.

Yukon has a long history with hydro. Our first facility was built on Twelve-Mile River near Dawson City in 1907. Today we have four facilities at Whitehorse, Mayo, Aishihik and Fish Lake.

Hydro power is a relatively simple technology that is robust, low maintenance, and flexible. It is a renewable energy supply.



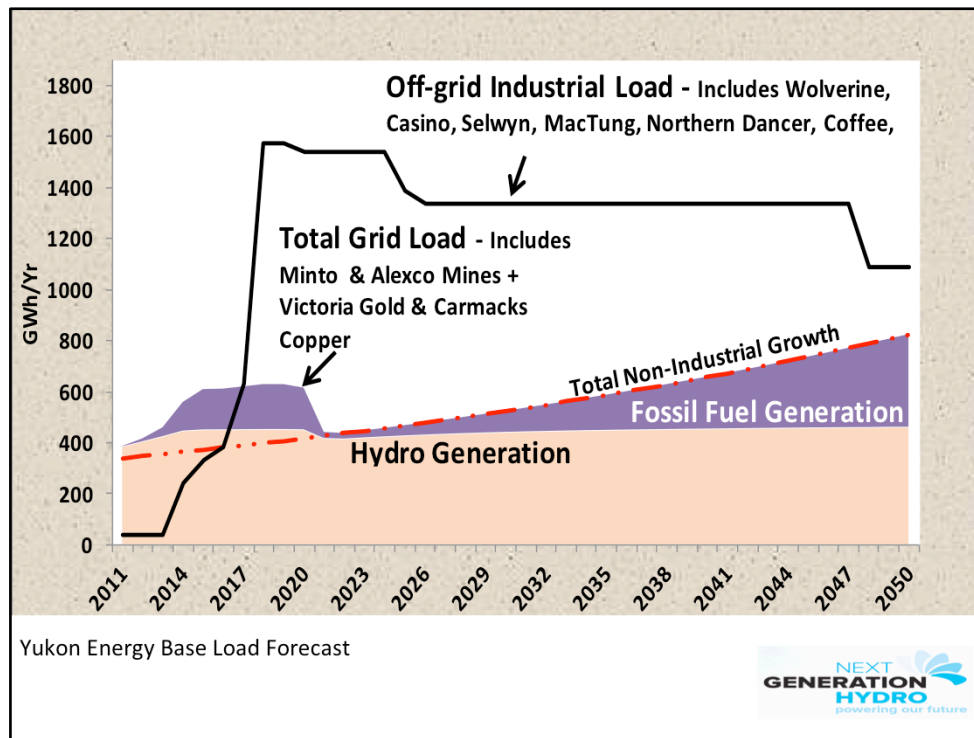
To start planning for Next Generation Hydro we issued a Directive to Yukon Development Corporation last year. The Directive is now being implemented by YDC according to a work plan consisting of several activities that will be conducted over the next year and half. I tabled that work plan in the Legislative Assembly in May.

A technical analysis of our hydro options will be conducted as required by the Directive.

A technical team has been engaged to do this work led by Midgard Consulting. Peter Helland is the team leader, and I'm happy to point him out this morning.

A series of technical papers will be lead to a Next Generation Hydro and Transmission Viability Study that will recommend one or more next generation hydro projects. Subsequent to that will be a business case that considers how best to proceed with the recommended project.

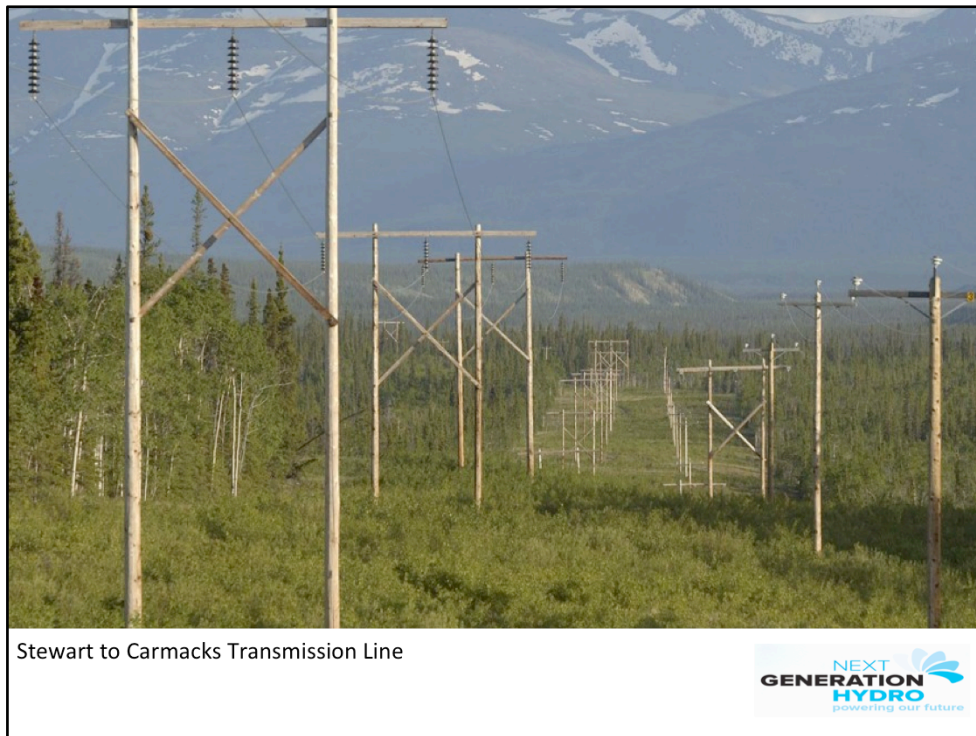




The first technical workshop and paper will examine what Yukon's energy needs will be 20 to 50 years from now.

We expect the need for new power will primarily come from expected long-term population and economic growth. For example Yukon's population has grown steadily for each of the last 13 years, and is estimated to rise a further 10 per percent by 2019.

A new hydro supply could also displace our reliance on fossil fuels for heating, for heat and electricity in off grid communities, and for new industrial customers. The work we're doing now will consider how this could be done without burdening rate-payers.



Planning for the future is not an easy task. But we must find an energy solution that accommodates changing needs, a solution that carefully considers financial needs, risks and opportunities.

This is why we are also looking at transmission as part of this work, and how it may be part of the Next Generation Hydro solution. In particular, inter-jurisdictional transmission – what would it take to connect to Alaska or BC? What would it cost? And how would this affect our choice of Next Generation hydro projects?

The technical team will also examine scalability, or how the capacity of a project could be grown over time. For instance, the Whitehorse Rapid hydro plant was 11MW when built in 1957. Today it is 40MW.



Yukon River at Whitehorse



It's also true that any new hydro project will have positive and adverse environmental and socio-economic effects. The technical team will also consider those as well to examine how positive effects could be maximized, and how negative impacts could be mitigated. They'll also consider the effects on First Nations in whose traditional territory a project might be.



First Nations will be partners in Next Generation Hydro. I will be meeting with Chiefs and Councils to discuss this opportunity. As well, we will be hosting a Yukon First Nation Energy Forum to have a joint conversation to share work done to date and discuss possible investment opportunities.



Engaging with Yukoners, First Nations and Stakeholders



In summary, as the technical work gets underway Yukon Development Corporation will hold a series of events for public and stakeholder participation. This will include more presentations to the business community.



**We look forward to working  
with you on this project**

[www.nextgenerationhydro.ca](http://www.nextgenerationhydro.ca)

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We look forward to working with Yukoners, First Nations, and stakeholders to develop a vision for the next phase of Yukon's hydro legacy that will power our territory for decades to come.

Thank you.