



Indian & Northern Affairs Canada

National Assessment of First Nations Water and Wastewater Systems

2010 February 10
Edmonton, AB



Why a National Assessment?

- This project is in response to the May 27, 2007 report of The Senate Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples, entitled: *Safe Drinking Water for First Nations*, which recommended conducting an independent national assessment of water and wastewater service needs in First Nation communities



What will the assessment do?

- The National Assessment will assess existing facilities to:
 - Determine deficiencies with respect to current and upcoming regulations
 - Develop cost estimates to address deficiencies
 - Provide recommendations for improving services to entire communities
 - E.g.: pipe versus trucked versus wells
 - Define current operational needs, as well as long-term infrastructure development strategies for each community on a sustainable basis



How will the results be used?

- The results of the National Assessment will provide valuable information to help the government, together with First Nations, identify the water and wastewater service needs of First Nations communities



INAC Team

- Program and Procedures Directorate (PPD) – responsible for management of the work including approval of all deliverables and authorizing any changes to the scope of work
 - Technical Authority – Michael Roy
 - Project Manager – Matthew Hough, P.Eng.

- R.V. Anderson Associates Limited – providing technical assistance and advice to PPD
 - Senior Engineer – Al Perks, P.Eng.
 - Senior Environmental Consultant – Trish Johnson



INAC Team (Continued)

- Coordinators – serving as the point person for each region and jurisdiction to coordinate with both INAC HQ and the contractor’s regional team leader
 - Yukon Territory – Andrea Morgan.
 - Northwest Territories – Janice Peddle
 - Alberta – Mervin Clarke
 - British Columbia – Ted Molyneux
 - Saskatchewan – Jules Tardif
 - Manitoba – Sheldon Sauve
 - Ontario – Tony Tino
 - Quebec – Marie-Denise Giguere
 - Atlantic – Rosemary Glynn-Conrad
 - Assembly of First Nations – Irving Leblanc



Project Overview

- A contract for the assessment was awarded to Neegan Burnside Limited on May 25, 2009
- Representatives from the company will visit 607 First Nations across Canada – ten provinces, Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories
 - To date, 264 communities have been visited in the Fall of 2009 (43%)
 - The remainder (343) will be visited in the Spring and Summer of 2010



Project Overview (cont'd)

- Following the on-site inspections, the consultant will produce a draft report for each community, without recommendations, that will be distributed to the First Nation community and INAC regional office for a 30 day fact check review period
 - Tribal Councils and Technical Organizations should see their respective communities for a copy of the reports
 - The first of the reports are expected in early February
 - Letter has been sent to Chief and Councils and Tribal Councils concerning the review process



Project Overview (cont'd)

- After the review period is done, the consultant will finalize the report, add the recommendations and submit to INAC Headquarters for acceptance
 - An acceptance of a report by INAC HQ indicates that it meets the Statement of Work of the contract; it should not be viewed as an acceptance of the recommendations within that report
 - The community report does not replace a feasibility study with respect to capital planning
- Regional and National roll-up reports will be developed after all the site visits are completed



First Nations Involvement

- All First Nations
 - First Nations involvement in this project is critical to its success. Gathering information on existing water and wastewater systems and coordinating site visits requires the assistance of First Nation communities. Discussions with band officials, operators, and others during site visits will add to the current knowledge of local needs.

- AFN
 - A coordinator from the AFN (Irving Leblanc) is participating in conference calls with regional coordinators and attended the Technical Workshop



Regional Stakeholders

- Circuit Rider Trainers
 - Contractor and Regional Coordinators have been asked to coordinate with Circuit Riders as much as possible to limit duplication of site visits and cost
 - Additional cost for trainers' time will be subsidized by HQ, where applicable

- First Nation technical organizations
 - To be identified by Regional and AFN Coordinators
 - Contractor responsible for direct solicitation
 - Compensation on a case by case basis



Questions?

For More information, visit the
National Assessment website at:

www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/nationalassessment