



NUCLEAR WASTE SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION
MANAGEMENT DES DÉCHETS
ORGANIZATION NUCLÉAIRES

Phase 1 Preliminary Community Well-Being Assessment

ENGLISH RIVER FIRST NATION, SASKATCHEWAN



APM-REP-06144-0048

OCTOBER 2013

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Preliminary Community Well-Being Assessment

English River First Nation, SK

OCTOBER 2013



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AANDC	Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
APM	Adaptive Phased Management
CD	Census Division
CLC	Community Liaison Committee
DNDI	Des Nedhe Development Inc.
ERFN	English River First Nation
FSIN	Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
IR	Indian Reserve
MLTC	Meadow Lake Tribal Council
NAD	Northern Administration District
NWMO	Nuclear Waste Management Organization
RDI	Meadow Lake Tribal Council Resource Development LP
TLE	Treaty Land Entitlement

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Preliminary Community Well-being Assessment Report aims to provide a summary of the expected influences that the implementation of the Adaptive Phased Management (APM) Project would have on the overall community well-being of the English River First Nation (ERFN), located in northern Saskatchewan. The Dene people of ERFN live on-reserve at Patuanak (formally known as the Wapachewunak Reserve 192D) or La Plonge (near Beauval); off-reserve members are located in Île-à-la-Crosse, Beauval, Prince Albert, Saskatoon and other communities. Some community members live along the Churchill River and by lakes in ERFN's traditional area. Patuanak (and the adjacent northern hamlet of Patuanak, originally settled by non-Treaty /non-status Indians) is located at the terminus of an all-weather gravel road (Highway 918), 97 km north of the Northern Village of Beauval (see Figure 1). The community is located on a peninsula of land between Lac Île-à-la-Crosse to the west and Shagwenaw Lake to the east, which are linked by the Churchill River. Patuanak is some distance by road from centres such as Île-à-la-Crosse (181 km), Meadow Lake (246 km), Prince Albert (406 km), and Saskatoon (506 km). The Northern Hamlet of Patuanak and Wapachewunak Reserve 192D are located adjacent to one another; however, they are mutually exclusive as Census communities and governance structures¹.

This report also seeks to answer some fundamental questions to assist the NWMO and the community in understanding the suitability of ERFN to move forward in the siting process. While each of the communities currently participating in the 'Learn More' process will likely benefit in many ways from the APM Project and the economic development and employment opportunities associated with it, there are certain unique uncertainties and priorities to be managed for each community.

Work has been completed to understand the overall community profile of ERFN², and also to understand and summarize the ways in which the APM Project might affect the community and the surrounding areas. In concert with the community NWMO worked to develop an understanding of the community today and its goals and aspirations for the future. To this end information has been assembled and studied through a variety of means including a visioning exercise, engagement activities, community visits and tours, participation in the annual Elders Gatherings at the Key Lake Road cultural camp, briefings, one-on-one discussions, Community Liaison Committee meetings, open houses and the development of a community profile. All of this research and study, along with professional judgement, is used in this report to understand the potential implications of the project to the community's well-being and gain insights into the unique uncertainties and priorities that need to be managed.

¹ Often, 'Patuanak' is used interchangeably to reference both the Hamlet of Patuanak and the ERFN reserve of Wapachewunak. In this document, 'Wapachewunak' will be used only with respect to reporting census data for Reserve 192D; 'Patuanak' will be used to refer to the reserve community, and 'Hamlet of Patuanak' will be used only in reference to the adjacent municipal entity. 'English River First Nation' refers to the collective of members on both the La Plonge and Wapachewunak reserves, those living on other reserves, and the off-reserve membership.

² DPRA Canada. September 2013. *Community Profile, English River First Nation, Saskatchewan –Draft*.

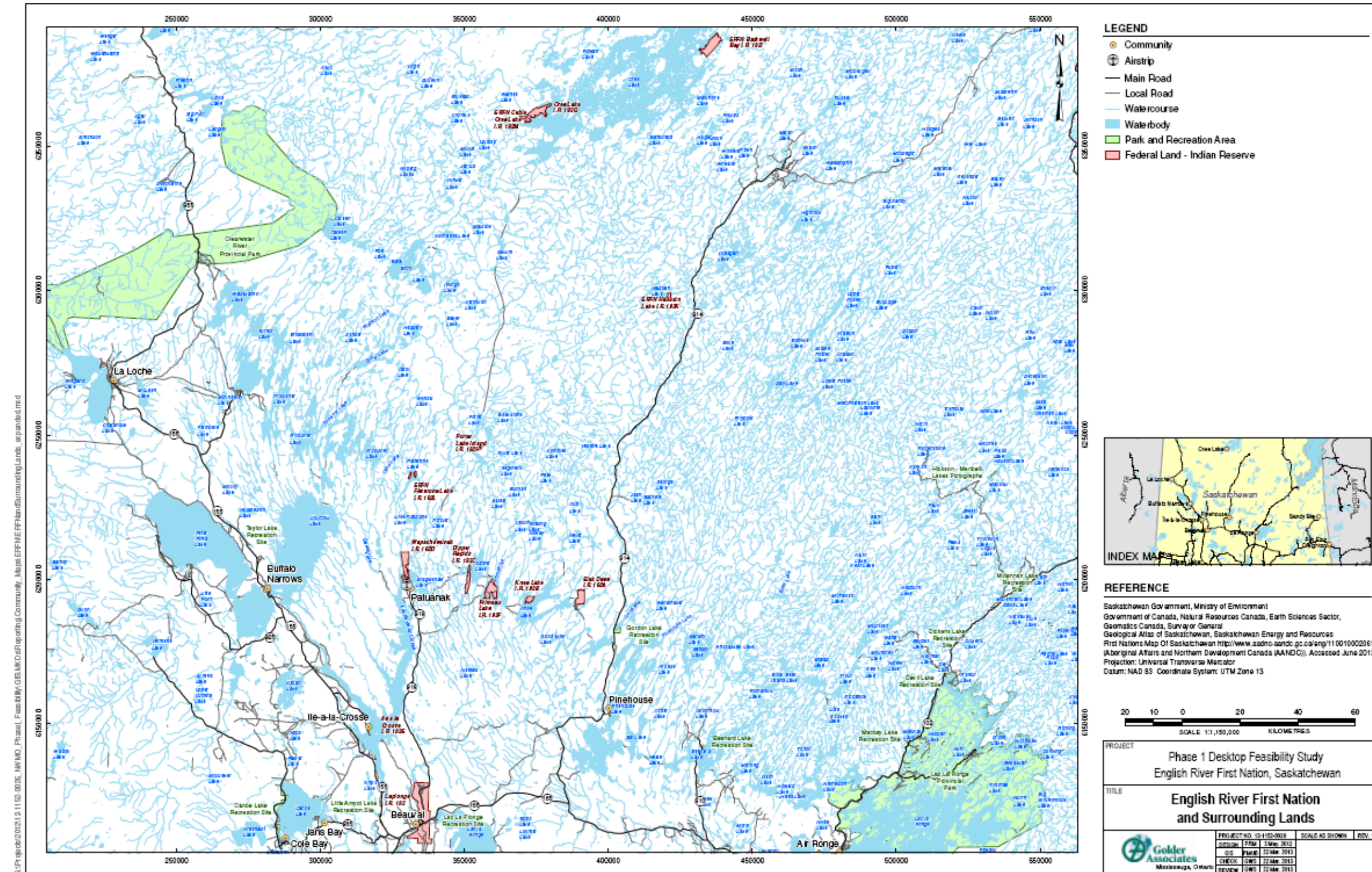


Figure 1: English River First Nation and Area

Source: Golder Associates. 2013.

As outlined at the inception of this step in the site selection process, the objective of the social, economic and cultural assessment is to assess both the potential to foster the well-being of the community and surrounding area and the potential to create the foundation for community and surrounding area confidence and support needed to implement the project. In Phase 1 of this assessment, which is the focus of this report, the intent is to explore the potential to foster the well-being of the community and, for this reason, the subset of factors and considerations related to the community are addressed at this time. Regional considerations are noted where early insight is available, however more detailed work would be conducted in Phase 2 should the community be selected to proceed to this phase of work and agree to do so.

A number of factors were identified as minimum criteria to consider in the site selection process in assessing the potential to foster well-being³:

- Potential social, economic and cultural effects during the implementation phase of the project;
- Potential for enhancement of the community's and the region's long-term sustainability through implementation of the project;
- Potential to avoid ecologically sensitive areas and locally significant features;
- Potential for physical and social infrastructure to adapt to changes resulting from the project; and
- Potential to avoid or minimize effects of the transportation of used nuclear fuel from existing storage facilities to the repository site.

In order to ensure that a broad, inclusive and holistic approach is being taken to assessment in these areas, a 'community well-being' framework was identified to help understand and assess the potential effects of the APM Project. This includes exploring the project, understanding how the community may be affected were the project to be implemented in the area, and identifying opportunities to leverage the project to achieve other objectives the community considers important. The framework is also used to explore the relative 'fit' of the APM Project for the community and the potential to create the foundation of confidence and support required for the implementation of the project.

The framework is designed to encourage exploration of the project through five different 'lenses':

- **People or Human Assets** – How might the implementation of the project affect people?
- **Economics or Economic Assets** – How might the implementation of the project affect economic activity and financial health of the area?
- **Built Environment or Physical Assets** – How might the implementation of the project affect infrastructure and the physical structures which the community has established?
- **Society and Culture or Social Assets** – How might the implementation of the project affect the sense of belonging within the community, and among residents, and the services and network of activities created to serve the needs of community members?

³ NWMO. 2010. *Moving Forward Together: Process for Selecting a Site for Canada's Deep Geological Repository for Used Nuclear Fuel.*

- **Natural Environment or Natural Assets** – How might the implementation of the project affect the natural environment and the community’s relationship with it?

This report begins with an overview of the basic assumptions about the Project and potential effects used for the preliminary assessment. The community’s priorities/key issues, aspirations, capabilities and capacities are described. Next, the report explores the implications of the implementation of the APM Project on the well-being of the community in terms of the five ‘lenses’ or asset categories. The preliminary findings are also considered in terms of the ‘criteria to assess factors beyond safety’ identified by NWMO prior to the initiation of the siting process. A summary of relationship building and engagement activities, and the issues and questions raised to date, is provided. The report concludes by addressing key questions framed by NWMO at the outset of the site selection process.

Ultimately, the potential effect of the project on the well-being of a community needs to be identified and assessed by the community itself. This includes identifying the broad range of factors that need to be considered, the approach to measuring potential effect on well-being and judgements about the magnitude of this effect. It is also recognized that more detailed studies and further investigations of community-specific risks and uncertainties will be required if the community continues in the siting process.

This report reflects the insight from desktop research and professional judgement, as well as reports shared by the community, insight provided by Community Liaison Committee members through their regular meetings over the course of more than a year, and individual discussions with community leaders and residents and others in the surrounding area. In preparing this report, we have been welcomed into the community and community members have graciously shared their time. We are extremely grateful for their time and participation.

2.0 THE APM PROJECT

The APM Project is currently still in early stages of design and for this reason there remains flexibility in the nature and scope of its implementation. This provides an opportunity for the project to be structured and operated in a manner that suits the conditions and aspirations of the community and surrounding area. However, it is important at this early stage of the preliminary assessment to understand the potential implications of the project on the community and its surrounds. This requires some basic assumptions about the project and initial effects. The starting assumptions for this preliminary assessment include the following:

1. The on-site labour workforce required by the APM Project is in the range of 400 – 1,200 jobs and further jobs (indirect and induced) and community wealth creation will result from project spending for goods and services and employee income spending⁴. Table 1 summarizes the estimated number of direct, on-site jobs throughout the life of the APM Project, which spans over 150 years.

Table 1: Estimate of On-Site Labour Workforce Required by APM Project

APM Phase	Number of Years (approx.)	Direct Jobs per Year (approx.)	Primary Skills Required
Construction	10	400-1,200	Mining, engineering, geoscience, safety assessment, manufacturing, construction, trades, project management, social science, engagement, communication, transportation
Operation	30 or more	700-800	Mining, engineering, geoscience, safety assessment, manufacturing, trades support, project management, social science, engagement, transportation
Extended Monitoring	50 or more	100-150	Geoscience, safety assessment, mining
Decommissioning and Closure	30	200-300	Mining, construction trades, geoscience, safety assessment, regulatory affairs
Long term monitoring	100 or more	25-50	Environmental and health and safety monitoring

Source: NWMO. October 2012. *Description of Canada’s Repository for Used Nuclear Fuel and Centre of Expertise*. p 33.

2. Realization of employment benefits within a community will depend on a variety of factors such as:
 - A. Preference for local hiring and sourcing from local businesses,
 - B. Training of local residents for positions in the project or in supporting services, and
 - C. Planning to prepare for and leverage future opportunities.

This project will be implemented through a long-term partnership involving the community and surrounding area and the NWMO. Only through engagement, dialogue and collaboration will the NWMO ensure that needs are addressed at each stage of the process, and identify the specifics of how a partnership arrangement could work. For illustration purposes only, employment opportunities could be in

⁴ NWMO. 2012. *Description of Canada’s Repository for Used Nuclear Fuel and Centre of Expertise*. Available online at <http://www.nwmo.ca/brochures>.

the order of hundreds of new jobs (direct, indirect and induced) within the local area⁵. However, it will be up to the community to determine the nature and scope of how it wishes to grow in discussions with the NWMO.

3. The NWMO is committed to working with communities and those in the surrounding area to optimize the benefits that will positively contribute to the overall well-being of the area.

4. The expectation is that the implementation of the APM Project in ERFN would involve the facilities being some distance from the community (perhaps using a ‘fly-in/fly out’ model for many workers) in order to enhance, rather than diminish, community well-being. It is understood that ERFN is not necessarily seeking to grow its population – but seeks to offer both jobs and business opportunities in the community to both current and former residents who have left to find employment elsewhere in Saskatchewan or in other provinces/territories. There is limited infrastructure on the reserve at Patuanak. A more remote project model could avoid potential adverse social or cultural effects that may be associated with the project located near or in the community. ERFN has experience with a similar model for uranium mines in Northern Saskatchewan.

Figure 2 provides a graphical representation of the direct and indirect effects that may result from the siting of the APM Project. The figure illustrates how the project could be the impetus for growth in population, business activity and ERFN finances.

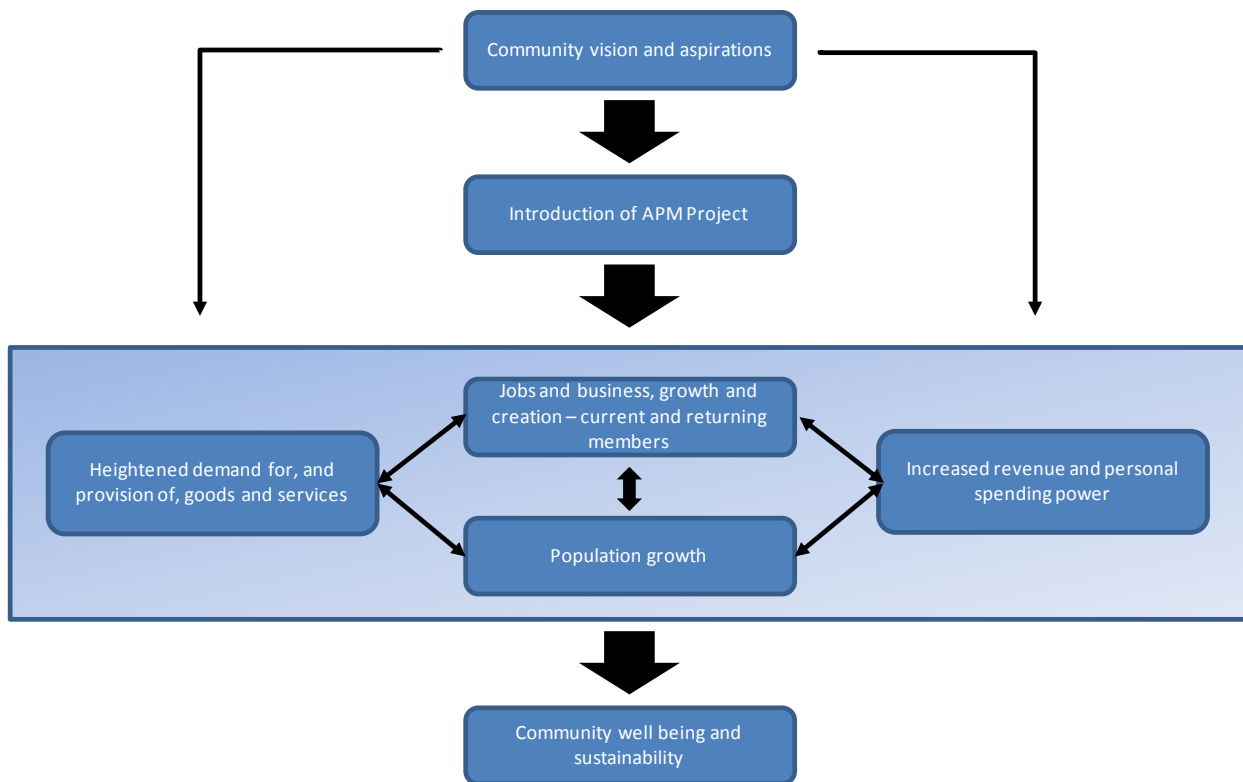


Figure 2: Direct and Indirect Effects of the APM Project in ERFN

⁵ AECOM. 2010. *A Preliminary Assessment of Illustrative Generic Community Economic Benefits from Hosting the APM Project*. Available online at: http://www.nwmo.ca/uploads_managed/MediaFiles/1497_nwmosr-2010-09_preliminary_ass.pdf

3.0 SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY ASSETS - VALUES AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE ERFN

The English River First Nation (ERFN) has expressed explicit values, aspirations and desires for its community. This information has been documented in the ERFN Community Profile⁶, other community reports, and an ongoing community visioning exercise. Key themes are summarized in this section. The preliminary assessment, which is the topic of this report, is measured against these values and aspirations:

1. The Chief and Council are conducting strategic planning activities and have identified a number of priorities (e.g., cell coverage in Patuanak, additional housing, increased emphasis on education and recreation, new fire hall, new band office, new church, arena upgrades, training paramedics for a recently purchased ambulance).
 - i. An on-going priority is meaningful employment for ERFN members, and implementation of the actions needed to advance it (e.g., education and training [internally via ERFN companies, or externally, e.g., Collaboration Agreement with industry]).
 - ii. Balancing the wage economy with traditional activities and way of life in order to maintain cultural values, while providing employment and careers for ERFN members (both on and off-reserve), is noted by the community as a challenge.
 - iii. The desire is to provide employment opportunities for members that will allow them to live on-reserve in Patuanak or La Plonge, maintaining family ties and links to the land.
2. A visioning exercise currently underway with the direction of Chief and Council will provide insights into the values, goals and objectives of ERFN members. Its expected completion date is fall 2013; preliminary information is summarized below.
3. The land, water, and air are highly valued by ERFN and its members as a source of sustenance, spiritual growth, and linkages between the past and the present. There is a need to balance traditional values and activities with the quality of life that can be associated with employment, quality housing, and access to recreation, health and social services in the community.

The ERFN is a Dene community that has experienced significant social, cultural and economic change. Similar to other Aboriginal communities in northern Saskatchewan, this was initiated in the late 1700s with the establishment of trading posts along the Churchill River, contact with missionaries, and the establishment of residential schools early in the 1900s. The ERFN signed Treaty 10 with Canada in 1906. Historically, the families now located in Patuanak lived a traditional lifestyle down river at Primeau Lake, Knee Lake, and Dipper Lake, and continue a long standing heritage and traditions linked to the land. An academic study⁷ has documented the combined influences of missionaries, education, Treaty 10 and the development of Hudson Bay Company outposts along the Churchill River on the populations in the region. The current community at Patuanak was established in 1937. Perhaps the most rapid changes have occurred since the 1970s, when ERFN was linked to the communities to the south by the construction of Highway and the airstrip, phone services were introduced, and schools were built in the community. Uranium exploration and development began in

⁶ DPRA Canada. October 2013. *Community Profile, English River First Nation, Saskatchewan – Draft*.

⁷ Jarvenpa, Robert. 1980. *The Trappers of Patuanak: Toward a Spatial Ecology of Modern Hunters*. National Museum of Man Mercury Series. ISSN 0316-1854. Canadian Ethnology Service Paper No. 67 ISSN 0316-1862. National Museums of Canada, Ottawa

the 1970s – 1980s in northern Saskatchewan. Up until the 1970s, most ERFN members lived a traditional lifestyle: Hunting, fishing, trapping, harvesting wild rice, and gathering. While people still do many traditional and cultural activities, few now live on the land year-round. At this time, trapping and fishing are no longer economically viable as a way to make a living. Hunting is still done in group/camp settings with families.

Traditional activities and values, and Dene culture remain a priority. In 1992, the federal and provincial governments completed the Treaty Land Entitlement (or TLE) Framework Agreement with Saskatchewan First Nations. ERFN has taken the more than \$10 million they received in their settlement to set aside over 20,878 hectares of land to date. That total includes a 137-acre parcel just south of Saskatoon—English River's first urban reserve. In total, there are 18 individual ERFN reserves, although they have not yet completed their TLE process.

The ERFN is currently conducting a community sustainability vision exercise, scheduled for completion in fall 2013. A survey was conducted with 100 community members in La Plonge and Patuanak in the fall of 2012⁸. The ERFN's current mission statement is: "English River First Nation will preserve and protect English River First Nation customs and traditions. It will preserve and promote the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual values while it leads us into the future with a holistic and respectful mindset of a prospering nation".⁹ The following preliminary set of values have been developed based on the results of the survey:

1. *Our Traditional Way of Life, Skills and Language* (Culture)
2. *Economic Prosperity: Better Jobs, Stronger Businesses* (Economy)
3. *Education and Training*(Building Capacity)
4. *Respecting and Protecting the Land* (Environment)
5. *Healthy and Happy Individuals, Families and Communities* (Wellness)
6. *Infrastructure*
7. *Working Together/ Team Work* (Unity)

The mission and values may be revised as a result of engagement with Chief and Council and community members in fall 2013.

⁸ English River First Nation. May 13, 2013. *Community Sustainability Vision Project –Survey Results*. <http://www.erfn.ca/csvp.html>

⁹ English River First Nation. (n.d.). Website, retrieved June 17, 2013. <http://www.erfn.ca/> . Note that ERFN has not determined if the current mission statement might be revised as a result of the visioning exercise.

4.0 SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY ASSETS – KEY ISSUES, ASPIRATIONS, CAPABILITIES AND CAPACITIES

As described in the ERFN Community Profile¹⁰, the ERFN has priorities and key issues, aspirations, capabilities and capacities that are most vital to the well-being of the community. These are organized to describe the characteristics of the community through five different perspectives or ‘lenses’:

- **Human:** Skills, knowledge and essential services supporting the well-being of the community;
- **Economic:** Monetary or financial resources supporting the well-being of the community;
- **Infrastructure:** Basic physical infrastructure supporting the well-being of the community;
- **Social:** Social and community activities in which people participate and the services and programs they draw upon to support well-being; and,
- **Natural environment:** Nature and the natural environment important to well-being.

The characteristics of the community are referred to as “assets” throughout the report. This is intended to highlight their importance and pave the way for a broad and holistic discussion of how the community may be affected by the APM Project, or other large projects which the community may consider.

Table 2 summarizes the priorities and key issues as understood through desktop research, review of ERFN documentation and discussions with community leaders and residents. Table 3 sets out the aspirations of the community developed through community strategic planning and visioning exercises. Table 4 describes some of ERFN’s capabilities to overcome key issues, address main priorities and achieve aspirations as understood through discussions with the community.

The findings in these tables provide the foundation for the preliminary assessment of community well-being and the potential implications of the APM Project.

Table 2: Summary of Priorities and Key Issues

Asset Category	Overall Priorities and Key Issues
Human	ERFN’s total membership has been increasing, although the on-reserve population has begun to decline in recent years. The age structure and median age of ERFN’s on-reserve population is relatively young (although not to the extent of CD 18) compared to Saskatchewan as a whole), although median age increased between 2006 and 2011. This could present future challenges in terms of employment, housing, and the provision of programs and services in the community. Education and training for members of all ages (children, youth, adults) is a priority for ERFN. A number of initiatives are underway to enhance the success of individuals and the community in terms of future success in employment or post-secondary education. Generally, levels of educational attainment on-reserve have been improving since 2006, and in many cases are higher than for CD 18, but are still lower than for the province as a whole. The size of the on-reserve labour force and the labour force participation rate continues to grow. Limited health care /fire protection facilities and services are available in Patuanak and La Plonge. A number of initiatives are underway to improve related infrastructure (e.g. new health centre in Patuanak) and programs/services (e.g. purchase of ambulance/training planned for paramedic service).

¹⁰ DPRA Canada. September 2013. *Community Profile, English River First Nation, Saskatchewan – Draft.*

Asset Category	Overall Priorities and Key Issues
<p>Economic</p>	<p>An ongoing priority is meaningful employment for ERFN members, and implementation of the actions needed to advance it (e.g., education and training [internally via ERFN companies, or externally], the May 2013 Collaboration Agreement with industry). Balancing the wage economy with traditional activities and way of life in order to maintain cultural values, while providing employment and careers for ERFN members (both on and off-reserve) is a challenge. In comparison with Saskatchewan, ERFN’s on-reserve populations is younger, less educated, experiencing significantly higher unemployment, and lower household incomes in 2006. While conditions improved in 2011 for most indicators, the on-reserve population still lags behind the rest of the province.</p> <p>Historically, ERFN has had a high unemployment rate relative to both northern Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan as a whole (1996 – 2006); Wapachewunak has had a higher unemployment rate than La Plonge. However, 2011 data show that unemployment in Wapachewunak was significantly less than CD18, but higher than Saskatchewan. Median income in Wapachewunak has been less than for CD 18 or the province as a whole. Tron Power, other ERFN businesses, joint ventures and partnerships with others (e.g. Meadow Lake Tribal Council [MLTC]) have been very successful both financially and in terms of providing employment and training for ERFN members.</p> <p>Tourism opportunities are limited in the region by lack of accommodations and support services; however, ERFN members do run a limited number of outfitting operations in their traditional territory. Commercial lodges and outfitters run by others, as well as private camps/cabins are found at various locations in the ERFN territory, on land leased from the province. The increasing encroachment of non-ERFN people along the Key Lake Road in particular is becoming a concern. ERFN has identified as an objective the development of a tourism strategy or plan.</p> <p>The community has access to a range of economic development services/initiatives through Tron and other ERFN companies, and regional, Aboriginal, provincial and federal sources. In May 2013, ERFN completed a Collaboration Agreement with Cameco/AREVA, which will have significant direct and indirect economic benefits for individual members and for the First Nation collectively. Completion of the ongoing TLE process (to be completed in 2022) will provide ERFN with a land base for future economic, social, cultural and other activities. There are ongoing economic challenges for funding community, service and infrastructure needs.</p>
<p>Infrastructure</p>	<p>Through the ongoing TLE process ERFN continues to expand its land base, including lands of social, cultural, environmental and economic value. Effectively managing use of lands and waters within ERFN’s traditional territory, in partnership with the province, industry, and other user groups (including potentially other First Nations and Aboriginal communities) is a priority for the community.</p> <p>There is a need to substantially improve existing housing stock, and build new homes, so that members can return to the reserve, or so extended families are not forced to share cramped quarters in sub-standard housing. The ERFN has identified a number of infrastructure improvements needed in Patuanak (and La Plonge), such as expansion of infrastructure (e.g. new housing, new lagoon, new landfill) currently underway across the Willow Heart bridge on newly developed reserve lands; a new sewage pumping station; cell phone coverage in Patuanak; improvements to the all-weather gravel Highway 918 that links Patuanak with La Plonge/Beauval; street lighting; and sidewalks/streets.</p>

Asset Category	Overall Priorities and Key Issues
<p>Social</p>	<p>ERFN is facilitating increased use of the Dene language, for example through implementation of a Dene immersion program at the school. Continued support is provided for a range of cultural activities in the community and in the traditional territory (e.g. at the cultural camp at Km. 160 on the Key Lake Road; along the Churchill and Mudjatik rivers, at Cree Lake). The protection of culturally important areas (including ERFN reserve lands, the Churchill, Mudjatik and Haultain rivers, Cree Lake, and other parts of their traditional territory) from the effects of development or encroachment of recreational users from outside the community is a priority. Maintaining and enhancing members’ knowledge of and participation in traditional activities and practices, while balancing a modern lifestyle including wage employment in the community or off-reserve, continues to be a challenge.</p> <p>Many activities such as hunting and fishing are prohibitively expensive for some members. Maintaining or replacing aging community facilities (e.g., arena, St. Louis Church, youth centre, the band hall, band offices) have been identified as priorities, as is provision of recreational programs for members of all ages. ERFN seeks to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of health and social services delivered in the community, and access to those that are by necessity located in regional centres such as Île-à-la-Crosse, Meadow Lake, Prince Albert or Saskatoon.</p>
<p>Natural Environment</p>	<p>It is important to ERFN to maintain, if not improve, environmental quality within ERFN’s traditional territory, to support current and future traditional uses (including hunting, trapping, fishing, wild rice production, collection of berries and plants, recreation, spiritual practices). There is concern that there is not as much wildlife or fish as there once was. The protection of the integrity of areas of value for traditional uses, both on reserve lands and in the traditional territory is a priority, for example through the participation in decisions about the issuance of Provincial permits for exploration and ‘recreational’ leases on Crown land, and controlling the spread of garbage, abandoned mining/exploration camps, and drill core storage in their territory.</p>

Table 3: Summary of Community Aspirations

Asset Category	Overall Community Aspirations
<p>Human</p>	<p>The Chief and Council have conducted strategic planning activities and have identified a number of priorities (e.g., increased emphasis on education, new fire hall, training paramedics for the new ambulance; see Section 2.1.3 of the Community Profile for additional detail). The preliminary set of values identified in the ongoing visioning process include ‘Our Traditional Way of Life, Skills and Language’ (Culture), ‘Education and Training’ (Building Capacity), ‘Healthy and Happy Individuals, Families and Communities’ (Wellness). The activities of the recently established Interagency group should result in increased coordination of services and programs to address community needs.</p>
<p>Economic</p>	<p>Strategic planning activities have identified a number of priorities (e.g., increased emphasis on education and training), and provide direction to Tron Power and other ERFN companies. Tron Power also has a five-year business plan, and plans for future growth in a number of areas. The desire is to provide employment opportunities for members that will allow them to live in Patuanak or La Plonge, maintaining family ties and links to the land. The preliminary set of values that have been identified include ‘Our Traditional Way of Life, Skills and Language’ (Culture), ‘Education and Training’ (Building Capacity), and ‘Economic Prosperity: Better Jobs, Stronger Businesses’ (Economy).</p>
<p>Infrastructure</p>	<p>A number of priorities related to physical assets (e.g., housing, wastewater management, cell coverage) have been identified through strategic planning activities. ERFN continues with the acquisition of lands under the TLE process (to be completed 2022). The preliminary set of values includes ‘Infrastructure’.</p>

Asset Category	Overall Community Aspirations
Social	Activities of the newly formed Interagency group should result in increased coordination of services and programs to address community needs. Strategic planning activities have identified a number of priorities (e.g., recreation, arena upgrades, new church). The preliminary set of values that have been identified include ‘Our Traditional Way of Life, Skills and Language’ (Culture), ‘Working Together/Team Work’ (Unity), and ‘Healthy and Happy Individuals, Families and Communities (Wellness).
Natural Environment	The land, water, and air are highly valued by ERFN and its members as a source of sustenance, spiritual growth, and linkages between the past and the present. There is a need to balance traditional values and activities with the quality of life that can be associated with employment, quality housing, and access to recreation, health and social services in the community. The preliminary set of values that have been identified include ‘Our Traditional Way of Life, Skills and Language’ (Culture), and ‘Respecting and Protecting the Land’ (Environment).

Table 4: Summary of Community Capabilities

Asset Category	Community Capabilities and Capacities
Human	<p>ERFN’s growing and relatively young population has comparatively low but improving levels of education / training, and participation in the labour force. This presents challenges in terms of employment, housing and the provision of programs and services in the community, both now and in the future. A higher proportion of the labour force in Wapachewunak is employed in natural resources and related occupations than in La Plonge, CD 18 or Saskatchewan. Census data for Wapachewunak indicates lower levels of employment in trades and related occupations in 2011 compared to 2006, but there may be limitations with this information. Both La Plonge and Wapachewunak demonstrate higher proportions of the labour force working in management and business/finance/administration occupations in 2011 than in 2006. In 2011, a greater proportion of the labour force in La Plonge and Wapachewunak were employed in mining (quarrying, oil and gas extraction) and public administration than the labour force for CD 18 or Saskatchewan. Relatively fewer work in retail or health and social assistance industries.</p> <p>Growing numbers of ERFN members are entering post-secondary education, primarily in university/college, as well as the trades and other training. In terms of health and safety, capacity on-reserve is limited with respect to the availability of facilities and services, and basic emergency response is available in the community. ERFN has a number of initiatives underway to improve related infrastructure (e.g. new health centre in Patuanak) and programs/services (e.g. trained paramedic service).</p>
Economic	While historically ERFN members living on-reserve have been faced with relatively high levels of unemployment, this has improved between 2006 and 2011. ERFN has enjoyed success in terms of its various business ventures, including Tron Power, joint ventures, and the recent Collaboration Agreement with industry. ERFN continues to place a premium on education and training for members. With a relatively young and growing population, and increasing levels of education and training, the labour force can better access opportunities that may become available.

Asset Category	Community Capabilities and Capacities
Infrastructure	ERFN has continued to expand its land base through the TLE process, and to plan strategic investments in community infrastructure (e.g. housing, wastewater management, landfill, cell coverage) that will improve quality of life for those living on the reserves at Patuanak and La Plonge. The all-weather, gravel-surfaced Highway 918 is the only vehicular access into Patuanak, and access can be difficult in poor weather conditions. While there is a gravel airstrip in the community, it is not serviced by scheduled flights. There is no rail or bus service to Patuanak.
Social	ERFN has a number of identified gaps with respect to community and recreation facilities and programs for residents of all ages on-reserve. The community continues to work on cultural initiatives related to language, traditional activities on the land, and cultural camps. Activities of the new Interagency group should result in increased coordination of services and programs to address community needs.
Natural Environment	The natural environment in the ERFN traditional territory, and on reserve lands, is a significant community asset - a source of sustenance, spiritual growth, and linkages between the past and the present. The land, water, plants, fish and wildlife support current and future traditional and other community uses.

5.0 COMMUNITY WELL-BEING ASSESSMENT

In this section, based on the foregoing, implementation of the APM Project on the well-being of the community is examined through each of five different perspectives or “lenses”. These are referred to as “assets”. Additional detail on these is provided in the ERFN Community Profile¹¹.

5.1 IMPLICATIONS FOR HUMAN ASSETS

For the purpose of this analysis, the Human Assets within a community are understood to include the skills and knowledge inherent in it and the ability of a community to provide its residents with access to other skills, knowledge and essential services that are fundamental to maintaining community well-being, quality of life or a desired standard of living. In this analysis, the specific indicators examined included:

- Population Size and Demographics;
- Skills and Labour Supply;
- Education; and
- Health, Safety Facilities and Social Services.

Table 5 summarizes the implications of the APM Project for the human assets of the ERFN.

In ERFN, substantial 'growth' in terms of population may not be an objective, however the community would like to retain youth and young families as well as have members return to the area.

The total registered ERFN population is 1,471 (June 2013): 732 registered as living on their own reserves; 41 living on other non-ERFN reserves; and 707 living off reserve. ERFN has noted that 152 members live on the La Plonge reserve, and 580 live in Wapachewunak. ERFN's total membership is growing, although the on-reserve population is beginning to decline. ERFN reserve communities have experienced out-migration due to individuals and families seeking employment and opportunities elsewhere. Participation in the labour force increased in 2011 compared to 2006 for both Wapachewunak (43.8%) and La Plonge (50.0%), similar to the rate for CD 18 (46.7%) but lower than for Saskatchewan (69.2%). The size of the labour force in Wapachewunak increased from 130 in 2006 to 160 in 2011; in La Plonge the labour force went from 45 in 2006 to 40 in 2011.

Generally, levels of educational attainment on-reserve have been improving since 2006, and in many cases are higher than for CD 18, but are still lower than for the province as a whole. Uranium mining, Tron Power and other ERFN companies have all contributed to training and development for community members. While in-community training /education opportunities are limited, there is access to regional training/education opportunities.

¹¹ DPRA Canada. September 2013. *Community Profile, English River First Nation, Saskatchewan – Draft*.

There are only limited health and safety facilities and services in the community, including the Great River Health Clinic (a new facility is expected to be completed in August 2013) and a recently purchased ambulance located in Patuanak. In the vast majority of cases, residents requiring emergency care outside the community are medevaced by aircraft. The closest acute care hospital services are in Île-à-la-Crosse, with Prince Albert, Meadow Lake, and Saskatoon serving as the larger regional centres. Patuanak has an RCMP detachment. There is also an RCMP detachment in Beauval (adjacent to the ERFN reserve at La Plonge). Basic firehalls are located in both Patuanak and Beauval. Fire suppression crews work in Patuanak and La Plonge, cutting grass and doing maintenance to reduce the risk of fire.

As stated previously, it is assumed that in the case of ERFN, the APM facility and perhaps many of its supporting components would be located some distance from the community. In this model, however, there are still implications for the community. With the possible introduction of the APM Project and its associated local and regional economic opportunities there is the potential in the community for:

- Growth in population (including the return of members living outside Patuanak and La Plonge) and diversity
- Job creation and further development of a skilled labour force
- Increased enrolment / improvement in education and training opportunities
- Direct and indirect employment for community and regional residents
- Increased demand for health and safety facilities and services; the project may serve as a catalyst for improvements

ERFN would require extensive assistance to plan for and manage the APM Project implications, including training of the current/future work force and the planning/expansion of health and safety facilities and services. Substantial investment may be needed for local or regional training facilities.

Overall, in partnership with the NWMO, community well-being related to the human assets of ERFN could be enhanced as a result of the APM Project.

Table 5: Implications for Human Assets

Criteria / Measures	Ideal CWB Condition	Current ERFN Profile	Possible ERFN Profile with APM Project	Observations
HUMAN ASSETS:				
Population Size and Demographics	Retention of youth and young families Return of past out-migrants to the community	Membership is growing, but on-reserve populations are beginning to decline	Population retention and return of members living off-reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While overall ERFN membership is increasing, on-reserve population has begun to decline. On-reserve members, especially youth have limited opportunity for local employment. Community has not expressed a desire to grow – but rather to attract and retain youth and ERFN members in the reserve communities. APM project offers potential to create jobs, enable population retention and attract ERFN members back to the community. ERFN would require extensive assistance to plan for and manage the APM project implications.
Skills and Labour Supply	Presence of a diverse, skilled workforce	Growing labour force with improving skill levels but relatively low participation rate	Job creation and growth of a diverse, skilled workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ERFN on-reserve labour force is relatively unskilled (although this is improving) and growing Majority of past and current out-migration has been workforce seeking employment or education opportunities elsewhere. Limited local employment opportunities to retain and engage a diverse workforce. APM project would likely provide opportunities for skilled and diverse workforce and retain young families. Offers diverse career opportunities for local residents in direct and indirect jobs. ERFN would require assistance to train and engage local workforce.
Education	Access to education and training Increased enrolment and programming	Increasing education and training through access to ERFN/regional training and education	Increased enrolment and opportunities for education and training Broader range of programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ERFN has experienced increasing education and training levels, but more investment is required to accommodate rising demand for education and training. Wide range of new local employment/career opportunities with the APM project will attract young families to the area, increasing enrolment. The APM project will stimulate career aspirations and interest in training and education. ERFN would require planning and support to educate and train current workforce and future generations to take advantage of career opportunities. ERFN may require substantial investment for new training facilities in the local region or the community.
Health & Safety Facilities and Services	Access to full range of health services 24/7 Fully serviced by emergency responders	Limited health and safety facilities and services in the community Specialty care not available within the community	Increased demand on services and facilities Catalyst to broaden supply of services and facilities, particularly healthcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic healthcare is available; specialty healthcare requires travel outside the community. Basic emergency services are available to the community at this time. With growth, demand for health and safety services will increase. Potential for increased social risks associated with population growth and project activity. Conversely, growth may also stimulate planning and expansion of health and safety facilities and services.
Declining-Negative				
Neutral-Stable				
Increasing-Enhanced-Positive				
Uncertain				

5.2 IMPLICATIONS FOR ECONOMIC ASSETS

The Economic Assets within a community are understood to include the monetary or financial related resources that people use to achieve their well-being objectives. It includes cash or equivalents to individuals and/or their community, and availability of financial and economic resources that allow the community and residents to manage their finances and wealth. In this analysis, the specific indicators examined included:

- Employment;
- Business Activity;
- Income;
- Tourism;
- Economic Development Services; and
- Governance and Finances.

Table 6 summarizes the implications of the APM Project for the economic assets of the ERFN.

ERFN is a community with employment challenges, including limited employment options and high levels of unemployment. Many members, particularly youth, leave the community to find employment. A proportion of the ERFN labour force that is employed works off-reserve for Tron, other ERFN companies, the uranium mines and the Provincial government. Despite the foregoing, unemployment in the two reserve communities remains high (although rates are improving over time) and incomes are relatively low. As a result, there is a stronger reliance on government transfers than for the region or province as a whole. Historically, census data indicates ERFN has had a high unemployment rate relative to both northern Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan as a whole (1996 – 2006); Wapachewunak has had a higher unemployment rate than La Plonge. However, 2011 data show that unemployment in Wapachewunak was 12.5%, significantly less than CD18 (17.9%), but higher than Saskatchewan (5.9%) (census data indicated no unemployment for La Plonge). In 2005, median income (from government transfers, earnings, other sources of income) in Wapachewunak was somewhat less than for CD 18 as a whole, and substantially lower than for Saskatchewan.

ERFN has access to a range of economic development services offered by Provincial and Federal agencies, the Meadow Lake Tribal Council, and regional initiatives. ERFN has successfully created and grown their businesses, including Des Nedhe Development Inc., Tron Power and other ERFN businesses/joint ventures. In May 2013, ERFN completed a Collaboration Agreement with Cameco and AREVA, uranium mining companies active in the region. The Agreement is intended to strengthen the relationship between the parties and formalize how benefits from uranium mining will be shared with the ERFN community. The Agreement is structured around business development, workforce development, community investment, community engagement and environmental stewardship

While the ERFN's location in remote northern Saskatchewan makes it a potentially ideal location for outdoor enthusiasts, there are no accommodations or services for visitors/tourists on-reserve in Patuanak or in the Hamlet of Patuanak. The nearest facilities are in the vicinity of La Plonge and Beauval. There are a number of commercial lodges and outfitters located in or near the ERFN's traditional territory, accessible by float plane or boat, or from access points along the Key Lake Road. A future focus for ERFN will be on expanding tourism and recreation opportunities.

While ERFN receives revenues from a variety of sources (ERFN businesses, government, MLTC, and others), there are economic challenges for funding community, service and infrastructure needs. Completion of the ongoing TLE process will provide ERFN with a land base for future economic, social, cultural and other activities.

As stated previously, it is assumed that in the case of ERFN, the APM facility and perhaps many of its supporting components could be located some distance from the community. In this model, however, there are still implications for the community. With the possible introduction of the APM Project and its associated local and regional economic opportunities there is the potential for:

- Growth in the number and diversity of employment opportunities in the community
- Growth in employment, and therefore household incomes, resulting in less reliance on government transfers
- Growth in the activity of existing businesses; new businesses responding to needs may emerge
- Negative perceptions of potential effect on tourism operations or market segments that value remote wilderness; potential increase in tourism that would address niche market opportunities associated with APM
- Des Nedhe Development Inc., as well as new and existing businesses (e.g., Tron Power) will be able to take advantage of APM Project opportunities
- Improved revenue stream to offset potential increased operating and capital requirements

ERFN may require substantial assistance to effectively manage implications of the APM Project. This could include:

- Ensuring local residents are able to realize project direct and indirect employment opportunities
- Some residents may benefit from assistance and counselling regarding wealth and debt management.
- Planning, implementing and managing economic development
- Assisting ERFN and tourism operators/ organizations to manage the presence of APM constraints and opportunities
- Planning and implementing a strategy that will fully realize the economic development opportunities presented by the APM Project
- Developing an understanding of the fiscal implications of the APM Project and to how best to manage its finances to ensure upside potentials are fully realized and downside risks are minimized

Overall, community well-being related to the economic assets of the ERFN would appear to be enhanced as a result of the APM Project.

Table 6: Implications for Economic Assets

Criteria / Measures	Ideal CWB Condition	Current ERFN Profile		Possible ERFN Profile with APM Project		Observations
ECONOMIC ASSETS:						
Employment	Increasing employment opportunities for residents	Limited on-reserve employment opportunities A high unemployment rate Recent Collaboration Agreement with uranium industry will provide opportunities	←	Growth in the number of and diversity of employment opportunities in the community	→	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ERFN has a relatively high unemployment rate. While trends show improvement over time, education/training and employment rates are much lower than for the province as a whole. A portion of the on-reserve labour force works off-reserve at Tron Power/DNDI, other mining operations and government departments. May 2013 Collaboration Agreement with Cameco/AREVA may result in additional employment opportunities. Out-migration of ERFN members from reserves in search of job and career opportunities is prevalent. APM Project would offer a diverse range of employment opportunities and careers for both community and regional residents. ERFN may require substantial assistance to ensure local residents are able to realize project direct and indirect employment opportunities.
Income	Household income growth and diminished need for social assistance	Incomes are relatively low with a high reliance on government assistance	■	Growth in employment and as a result growth in household incomes and wealth creation Reduced reliance on government assistance	→	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income levels are relatively low. There is a high reliance on government transfers. APM Project would create local jobs and as a result this will stimulate growth in household income and wealth creation as well as diminish reliance on government transfers. Some residents may benefit from assistance and counselling regarding wealth and debt management. ERFN may require substantial assistance to help residents realize employment opportunities and manage their finances.
Business Activity	Business growth and increasing business diversity	Tron/DNDI /ERFN companies are active and successful Recent Collaboration Agreement with uranium industry will provide opportunities	→	Growth in business activity leading to growth in the number and diversity of businesses	→	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DNDI/Tron and other ERFN companies/services are significant employers for the community. May 2013 Collaboration Agreement may create further business opportunities. APM project would create local direct and indirect jobs and stimulate business activity across the community. ERFN may require substantial assistance to plan, implement and manage economic development.
Tourism	Stability or growth in area tourism	Limited tourism activities at present Potential for future opportunities	■	Potential negative perceptions of potential effect may limit future opportunities	■	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited tourism in the area is focused on wilderness resources and experience. Tourism infrastructure and support services are limited with only a few lodges and outfitting operations in the area. Although there are existing uranium mines in northern Saskatchewan, APM Project may result in some negative perceptions of the area, which might limit wilderness tourism opportunities. APM and the planned Centre of Excellence may attract associated niche tourism to the area. ERFN and tourism operators/ organizations may require assistance to manage the presence of APM constraints and opportunities.
Economic Development Services	An active, economic development organization that has demonstrated success in attracting businesses to the community	ERFN faces fiscal challenges for infrastructure and services ERFN has been successful in attracting new business opportunities	→	New businesses will be attracted and existing businesses will expand	→	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ERFN has ongoing economic challenges funding community, service and infrastructure needs. DNDI/Tron/Other ERFN companies and services are successful and growing business opportunities. A broad range of economic development services and programs are available to the community. Recently negotiated a long-term Collaboration Agreement with the uranium industry that includes business development opportunities. Completion of the ongoing TLE process will provide ERFN with a land base for future economic/other activities. APM would provide a catalyst for economic development through its own presence and creation of associated business opportunities. ERFN may need substantial assistance to plan and implement a strategy that will fully realize the economic development opportunities presented by the APM Project.

Criteria / Measures	Ideal CWB Condition	Current ERFN Profile	Possible ERFN Profile with APM Project	Observations
ECONOMIC ASSETS:				
Governance and Finances	Community is financially sustainable over short and long term	Despite progress, ERFN continues to face fiscal challenges for infrastructure and services	An enhanced revenue base to better cover operating and capital requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although revenue is obtained from a variety of sources, economic challenges remain for funding community, service and infrastructure needs. ERFN is looking at ways and means of returning revenue to the community from community-owned businesses. Recent Collaboration Agreement with the uranium Industry will improve fiscal circumstances. APM Project by its presence would elevate revenues available to the community. ERFN may need substantial assistance to understand the fiscal implications of the APM Project and to how best to manage its finances to ensure upside potentials are fully realized and downside risks are minimized.
		Recent Collaboration Agreement with uranium industry will provide opportunities		
Declining-Negative				
Neutral-Stable				
Increasing-Enhanced-Positive				
Uncertain				

5.3 IMPLICATIONS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

The Infrastructure or Physical Assets within a community is understood to include the basic infrastructure needed to support well-being and the tools or equipment that people use to function more productively. Infrastructure is a public good and improved access to it increases community well-being and quality of life. In this analysis, the specific indicators examined included:

- Land Use;
- Housing;
- Infrastructure and Services; and
- Transportation Infrastructure.

Table 7 summarizes observations with respect to the APM Project for the physical assets or infrastructure of the ERFN.

Through the ongoing TLE process, ERFN continues to expand its land base, including lands of social, cultural, environmental and economic value. ERFN has a number of reserve land parcels totaling over 20,878 hectares. The community has been involved in several studies examining current and traditional land use in the reserve areas and throughout ERFN's traditional lands. ERFN has land and water management agreements in place with the Province, and participates with the Province on the Mudjatik Co-management Board. Much of the area surrounding ERFN reserve lands and within ERFN Traditional territory is Crown Land, although some is privately leased.

ERFN has limited physical assets in terms of housing, transportation, and other infrastructure. Improvements to a number of on-reserve facilities and services have been identified as a priority. Some housing is currently being developed with a new 51-unit subdivision in the planning stage. ERFN is also looking into alternative tenure models around home ownership. A substantial number of dwellings in ERFN are in need of major repair.

The following major infrastructure and services are available on-reserve in Patuanak:

- Water treatment station and distribution
- Sewage collection and lagoon
- Landfill
- Cemetery
- Telephone (land line) and Internet
- Electricity

Many of these are shared with the adjacent hamlet of Patuanak. The Willow Heart Bridge officially opened in Patuanak/Wapachewunak in 2011. The bridge spans the Churchill River connecting the existing Hamlet of Patuanak and Wapachewunak reserve on the south side of the river, to the (unsettled) Wapachewunak reserve lands on the north side. In 2013, the community is in the process of constructing new infrastructure in that newly accessed area, including new housing, sewage lagoons and a landfill. A new pumping station is being planned for the reserve at Patuanak to improve the existing sewage line to the lagoon. Construction of a new \$4 million lagoon located across the new Willow Heart Bridge is expected to be completed in October 2013. A reliable/major power supply may not be readily accessible, and there is limited communications infrastructure.

ERFN is located at the terminus of Highway 918, an all-weather gravel road. There is no rail access and nearest airports offering scheduled service are in Saskatoon and Prince Albert, though there is an unmanned airport in Patuanak.

As stated previously, it is assumed that in the case of ERFN, the APM facility and perhaps many of its supporting components would be located some distance from the community. With this model, however, there are still implications for the community. With the possible introduction of the APM Project, new direct/indirect employment and business opportunities for ERFN members, and perhaps new in-migrant workers there is the potential in the community for:

- Increased demand for housing supply that will need to be addressed through proactive planning and construction
- Increased demand and also opportunities for new or improved community infrastructure and services including roads and airport facilities

The APM Project will need to address land use compatibilities in the surrounding area with particular regard to subsistence and traditional activities. ERFN and relevant authorities may need substantial assistance to manage the implications of the APM Project with respect to infrastructure, including:

- Planning, developing and maintaining a sustainable housing portfolio
- Planning, operating, maintaining, and building new infrastructure as required to meet service demands associated with the APM Project
- Creation of a multimodal transportation plan to design, build, operate and manage transportation facilities and services needed by the APM Project

Overall, the changes in community well-being related to the infrastructure of ERFN would appear to be enhanced as a result of the APM Project.

Table 7: Implications for Infrastructure

Criteria / Measures	Ideal CWB Condition	Current ERFN Profile	Possible ERFN Profile with APM Project	Observations
INFRASTRUCTURE OR PHYSICAL ASSETS:				
Land Use	Land uses are compatible and land use plans share a common vision	Land use initiatives/planning mechanisms are in place Concern about encroachment by external users on traditional lands	APM project to be implemented in a way that is sensitive to the needs of all land users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ERFN is continuing to acquire additional reserve lands as part of the Treaty Land Entitlement process ERFN has been involved in a number of studies examining current and traditional land uses in the local area and have also been involved in a number of regional initiatives; some of which have been completed and others are underway. ERFN has land and water management agreements in place with the Province. APM Project will need to address land use compatibilities with particular regard to subsistence and traditional activities.
Housing	Sufficient housing stock to meet all needs	Availability of housing stock is increasing High proportion of existing homes in need of repair	Potential improvements to existing housing stock Creation of new housing stock Potential shortage of supply if development does not keep pace with demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stock of housing is increasing, though demand outstrips supply. Older existing housing stock is need of repair. A new subdivision is in the development stage. Community is investigating alternative tenure models. APM Project could stimulate demand for housing by local and returning residents in the community. APM Project would create a demand for a mix of housing types and tenure arrangements. A supply/demand balance of housing would need to be maintained to ensure there is a strong supply of available housing. ERFN may need substantial assistance to plan, develop and maintain a sustainable housing portfolio.
Community Infrastructure and Services	Infrastructure assets are in good condition, well maintained and adequately sized to meet the short and long term needs of the community	Despite plans for new infrastructure and services, additional investments are required	Increased demand for infrastructure and services Enhanced opportunities for new and renewed infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investments are planned to upgrade and build environmental and communications infrastructure to meet existing and new needs. APM Project may place increased demands on existing infrastructure and may necessitate facility replacement and upgrade in some cases. APM Project would generate community revenues directly and indirectly that can be applied to facility operation and maintenance, upgrading and replacement. ERFN may need substantial assistance to plan, operate, maintain, and build new infrastructure as required to meet service demands associated with the APM Project.
Transportation Infrastructure and Services	A strong complement of transportation facilities and services to meet the needs of the residents and businesses within the community	Located at terminus of all-weather gravel highway No rail access Airport is unmanned	Upgrading / rehabilitation of transportation infrastructure and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highway 918 is an all-weather gravel road and local airport is unmanned. The nearest airports offering scheduled flight services are in Saskatoon and Prince Albert. APM Project would increase road and airport usage and this may necessitate upgrading and expansions including improvements to Highway 918. ERFN and relevant authorities may require substantial assistance to create a multimodal transportation plan to design, build, operate and manage transportation facilities and services needed by APM.
Declining-Negative				
Neutral-Stable				
Increasing-Enhanced-Positive				
Uncertain				

5.4 IMPLICATIONS FOR SOCIAL ASSETS

For the purpose of this analysis, the Social Assets within a community are understood to include the social and community activities in which people participate and the resources that they draw upon in pursuit of their well-being. These activities and resources create networks within and between communities, enhance cohesion and generate trusting relationships and community pride. In this analysis, the specific indicators examined included:

- Diversity of Population
- Cultural Heritage Resources
- Community Facilities and Programs;
- Social Services and Organizations; and
- Community Character.

Table 8 summarizes the implications of the APM Project for the social assets of ERFN.

In the 2006 and 2011 census, the people living on ERFN reserves (Wapachewunak and La Plonge) and the Northern Hamlet of Patuanak self-identified exclusively as Aboriginal populations (99% to 100%, almost exclusively First Nations). There were no visible minorities identified in either of the ERFN communities of Wapachewunak or La Plonge in 2006 or 2011. Census data indicate that in 2011, 47.9% of the population in Wapachewunak spoke an Aboriginal Language at home – a higher proportion than for CD 18 (31.9%) or Saskatchewan (under 2%). For Wapachewunak, this is an apparent increase from 2006 when only 21.9% of the population reported speaking a non-official language at home.

As Dene people, the natural environment and traditional activities on the land and water continue to be very important to ERFN. The community has faced and overcome significant social, cultural and economic changes since the 1970s when uranium mining exploration and development began, and the road to the community was constructed. ERFN continues its efforts to address challenges related to housing, education, employment, health and social services.

Geographically, Patuanak is relatively isolated. Located at the terminus of Highway 918, Patuanak is approximately 90 km from the La Plonge reserve and 97 km from the Northern Village of Beauval (located at the junction of Highways 165 and 918). There are a limited number of community recreational facilities and programs in Patuanak. Maintenance and operation of existing facilities can be a challenge. ERFN has identified recreation priorities, including programs for youth and elders and an arena upgrade. It should be noted that many recreational activities in the community do not require significant infrastructure or organized programming (e.g., hunting, fishing, camping, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling). There is an active core of volunteers, and ERFN does have a number of activity initiatives in the community, such as cultural camps/pilgrimages, team sports/ coaching (hockey in particular), Dene immersion and fundraising programs for the school. There is also a community radio station and cable TV channel.

ERFN has initiated an Interagency Forum, a regular meeting of organizations delivering health, social, education and other services to ERFN. Health and social services are delivered by ERFN, the Meadow Lake Tribal Council, and the province.

The common Dene ancestry of ERFN members and related cultural ties are important cornerstones for fostering cohesion. Participation in traditional activities, cultural camps, Dene language initiatives, pilgrimages, and community sports and recreation activities bring community members together. There remain some historical divisions within ERFN.

As stated previously, it is assumed that in the case of ERFN, the APM facility and perhaps many of its supporting components could be located some distance from the community. In this model, however, there are still implications for the immediate community. With the possible introduction of the APM Project, new direct/indirect employment and business opportunities for community members, and new in-migrant workers there is the potential for:

- Increased demand for community recreational facilities and programs, which may be offset by opportunities for new and revitalized services
- Increased demand for and use of social services and organizations
- Enhanced opportunities for new services and organizations
- Enhanced opportunities for existing and new media outlets
- The strengthening of some aspects of community character, but recognition there is some opposition to change
- Increased division in the community around the APM Project, as many members have not demonstrated a high level of interest in learning more about the process or project

There is uncertainty as to how the APM project might change valued elements of the character of the community (e.g., as a result of returning residents or in-migrant workers, changes in cultural diversity, traditional Aboriginal culture). The APM project could enhance community character if carefully managed to ensure the factors contributing positively to community character are maintained, and that the Project aligns with the community vision. ERFN would need substantial assistance to plan for and deal with these uncertainties, and to plan, develop and operate the community facilities, services and organizations needed in light of the APM Project.

Overall, there is uncertainty about whether the project will disrupt cohesion and compromise social well-being in the community.

Table 8: Implications for Social Assets

Criteria / Measures	Ideal CWB Condition	Current ERFN Profile	Possible ERFN Profile with APM Project	Observations
SOCIAL ASSETS:				
Diversity of Population	To be determined	Aboriginal population	Potential change in population diversity 	△ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal population with strong Dene culture and but specifics around the community’s vision for cultural and population diversity have yet to be determined. APM Project may change character of community and surrounding area as a result of returning members and in-migrant workers. Uncertainty as to the implications of the APM Project on cultural diversity in the community and surrounding area.
Cultural Heritage Resources	Cultural and heritage values are identified and celebrated	Traditional activities and culture are highly valued Initiatives underway to enhance	 Potential effects on traditional and cultural activities Potential discovery of new archeological sites with APM studies	△ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional activities and culture are highly valued, initiatives underway to enhance. Potential APM Project effects on traditional/cultural activities of ERFN are uncertain at this time. New residents and workers may join with local residents in recognizing and celebrating cultural and heritage values in the community and area. APM Project studies may result in identification of new archaeological sites.
Community Facilities and Programs	A strong complement of facilities and programs to meet the needs of the residents	Limited range of facilities and programs	 Increased demand for and patronage of recreation programs Enhanced opportunities for new and renewed facilities	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are a limited number of community facilities and programs in Patuanak. Maintenance and operation of existing facilities can be a challenge with limited revenues. It should be noted that many recreational activities in the community don’t require significant infrastructure or organized programming (e.g., hunting, fishing, camping, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling). ERFN operates an arena complex, youth centre, Band office and hall as well as other community facilities. ERFN has identified recreation priorities, particularly for youth and elders and the upgrading of the local arena. APM Project would bring population into the community and this population may place demands on existing facilities and services and may create need for new facilities and services as well as additional participation and resources to support growth in facilities and services. ERFN may need assistance to plan, develop and operate the recreational facilities and services needed in light of the APM Project.
Social Services and Organizations	A wide range of services, organizations and media outlets present to support the social fabric and needs of the community	Social service provision is improving, however, gaps remain	 Increased demand for and use of social services and organizations Enhanced opportunities for new services and organizations Enhanced opportunities for existing and new media outlets	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ERFN and other organizations (e.g. MLTC) deliver health, social and educational programs to the community, and new services are being created to further meet special needs of the community Local radio and cable TV / regional TV and print media service the community APM Project may bring population in to the community and this may place additional demands on existing facilities, services and organizations or create a need for new services and organizations as well as new funding and participation to help grow services and organizations. ERFN would need assistance to plan, develop and resource the services and organizations needed in light of the APM Project.

Criteria / Measures	Ideal CWB Condition	Current ERFN Profile	Possible ERFN Profile with APM Project	Observations
SOCIAL ASSETS:				
Community Character	Strong sense of community identity Cohesive community Stability of population	Strong Dene identity highly values traditional ways and land Some existing family /community rivalries Residents must often leave community for employment	Potential to alter community character if there are changes to type/ level of population or physical characteristics of the community APM Project may diminish community image and pride for some residents APM Project may create divisions within the community	△ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ERFN has a strong sense of pride associated with their Dene culture, the natural environment and traditional activities; has experienced significant social, cultural and economic change since the 1970s. Patuanak is a remote Dene community, with many extended families; felt to be a safe, quiet and have an active community life.. Community has experience with uranium mining but limited experience with a participatory process such as the NWMO “Learn More” Process; because of this, many community members have not yet engaged in the learning process. There are some historical divisions within ERFN, and this may have implications for the APM Project. The APM project could enhance community character if carefully managed to ensure the factors contributing positively to community character are maintained and that the Project aligns with community visions. ERFN would need substantial assistance to plan for and deal with the APM project.
		➡	△	
Declining-Negative		←		
Neutral-Stable		▬		
Increasing-Enhanced-Positive		➡		
Uncertain		△		

5.5 IMPLICATIONS FOR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

For the purpose of this analysis, the Natural Environment within a community is understood to include a wide range of natural assets from intangible public goods (e.g. air quality and biodiversity) to resources that are “used” by people (e.g. water, trees, land and wildlife). In this analysis, the specific indicators examined included:

- Parks and Protected Areas; and
- Natural Areas/Features of Significance.

Table 9 summarizes the implications of the APM Project for the natural assets of the ERFN.

ERFN members use their reserve lands and Crown land within their traditional territory for hunting, trapping, fishing, berry and medicinal plant collection, family/group camping, and other purposes. Individuals from surrounding communities and First Nations, as well as individuals/outfitters leasing crown land in the area also use the surrounding area for recreational and traditional activities. There are no Provincial Parks, National Parks or Protected areas within or adjacent to ERFN reserve areas. However, ERFN has reported that the province may establish a protected caribou area south of Cree Lake as part of the province’s Representative Area Network. In July 2013 the Pink Lake Representative Area Ecological Reserve, located approximately 170 kilometres northeast of Patuanak, became Saskatchewan’s largest provincially-designated protected area of approximately 3,660 square kilometres. The reserve areas selected by ERFN (other than the Grasswood urban reserve) typically represent areas of cultural/traditional importance. However, there are community park areas in or near Patuanak. ERFN holds annual gatherings in the Key Lake area. There are fishing, hunting, trapping and gathering activities along the Key Lake Road, the Churchill and Mudjatik rivers and the lakes located along them, Cree Lake and other areas.

There are two regional land use planning initiatives in the surrounding area: The Pinehouse-Dipper Integrated Forest Land Use Planning process (initiated in 2000 but not completed as of July 2013), and the Misinipi Integrated Land Use Plan (2012) covering the area north and east of ERFN’s traditional lands.

The Churchill River was nominated as a potential Canadian Heritage River in 1993; as of June 2013, it remains a candidate, but it has not been designated.

Initial studies on the potential environmental effects associated with the project suggest that the APM Project, particularly if it is located remote to the community, is unlikely to have any significant negative effect on the natural environment near the community. In principle, there is the potential that visitation to the area may experience some decline as tourists might choose to avoid the area because of the presence of the facility. It is expected that through working with local communities and relevant authorities and clearly communicating with the public, any effects of the project on tourism can be mitigated. Further study is required to better understand and predict the potential effects of the project on visitor perception and use of the area.

As would be the case with any large project, natural areas, might be affected during the construction and operation phase of the Project. Effective mitigation and environmental protection measures will ensure that the overall environmental integrity of the area is maintained. It is understood at this point in time that no net negative environmental effects are likely during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the used fuel repository itself.

The Project contains some flexibility with respect to on-site building designs and energy use to be consistent with broad environmental and social values. For example, the ability to use renewable sources of electric power, where feasible, coupled with energy-efficient building designs might limit the overall carbon footprint of the project.

Table 9: Implications for Natural Environment

Criteria / Measures	Ideal CWB Condition	Current ERFN Profile	Possible ERFN Profile with APM Project	Observations and Implications
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT:				
Parks and Protected Areas	Significant areas are supported and maintained and also remain available for traditional use	ERFN Reserve and Crown lands available for traditional activities, passive and active recreational use	Potential for increased demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no provincial or national parks/protected areas within or adjacent to ERFN reserve areas, although the province may establish a protected caribou area south of Cree Lake as part of the province’s Representative Area Network ERFN has several parks located on-reserve in Patuanak ERFN reserve lands and surrounding Crown land are important features for the community. Potential for increased demand on Crown lands. With proper planning and dialogue, resources would remain protected and increased demand managed.
Natural Areas / Features of Significance	Areas and features are protected and contribute to pride of place	The natural environment surrounding Patuanak is important for traditional and recreational activities	Potential for increased demand and degradation of features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive surrounding wilderness areas hold important traditional /cultural /economic value for the community. There are two regional land use planning initiatives in the area Churchill River was nominated as a potential Canadian Heritage River in 1993 but has not yet received designation. Some natural areas might be affected by the APM Project. Effective mitigation and environmental protection measures will ensure that the overall environmental integrity of the area is maintained. It is understood at this point in time that no net negative environmental effects are likely during the construction and operation phase of the used fuel repository itself.
Declining-Negative				
Neutral-Stable				
Environment – Integrity Maintained				
Increasing-Enhanced-Positive				
Uncertain				

5.6 COMMUNITY WELL-BEING SUMMARY

Based on the foregoing discussion, the APM Project has some potential to be a fit for ERFN. Table 10 summarizes the overall community well-being implications for ERFN based on the five asset categories discussed above.

Additional 'growth' in terms of population may not be an objective and therefore, a more remote from community camp may be a preferred project model.

Community well-being for ERFN (and surrounding communities) could be enhanced with increased operational capacity as a result of the APM Project. Employment and business opportunities, new housing and the social, community, and retail services that are associated with the APM Project could potentially enhance the quality of life in Patuanak and other communities in the area.

Some natural areas might be affected by the APM Project. Effective mitigation and environmental protection measures will ensure that the overall environmental integrity of the area is maintained.

The Project would present significant opportunities for economic development and capacity building, but would need to be balanced with the traditional way of life and culture that is practiced by and important to this community.

In the surrounding area, economic hardship, limited infrastructure, limited health and social services and the large number of small, isolated and remote communities provide many challenges. While the project could benefit surrounding area communities, the degree to which direct/indirect benefits would be experienced is not clear. Tourism is not a major economic driver. There are recreation areas, guiding operations, commercial lodges and private camps in the area that may experience declines in use as a result of negative perceptions; however, with planning, tourism opportunities may be enhanced.

The introduction of the APM Project to a remote Aboriginal community such as ERFN will create significant change – some positive or beneficial, and some negative. Positive changes could include:

- Employment and business opportunities (direct and indirect)
- Ability to retain youth/young families in the community
- Improved education and training, further development of a skilled work force
- Enhanced self-sufficiency for individuals, families and the community as whole
- Improved revenue stream

Potential negative effects could include:

- Population growth due to in-migration of workers – including returning ERFN members - may strain local community assets (infrastructure, housing, facilities and services) beyond their capacity (in the absence of planning or mitigation)
- Potential negative perceptions of the effect on tourism and recreation in the area
- Potential increased division in the community, as at this time, many ERFN members have not demonstrated a high level of interest in learning more about the process or project

Locating the APM Project in the vicinity of ERFN will necessitate that NWMO work with the community and regional authorities to ensure effective planning to minimize adverse effects and to optimize benefits.

Table 10: Overall Community Well-Being Implications

Criteria / Measures	CWB is Enhanced When ...	Current ERFN Profile	Possible ERFN Profile with APM Project	Observations and Implications
OVERALL CWB IMPLICATIONS:				
Human Assets	Stable population with the retention of youth and return of out-migrants to the community, with improving education, skill levels and health care resources	Improving	Enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APM Project would provide increased job opportunities for current members and attract previous residents back to the community. Youth would be retained through increased employment opportunities. Educational and healthcare resources would be enhanced and new facilities could be developed.
Economic Assets	Employment opportunities are available and revenue base increases to fund community services and facilities	Improving	Enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be increased employment and business opportunities and a more diverse range of jobs. Increased funding through a wider revenue base would provide the financial resources for ERFN to fund its infrastructure projects, educational developments, community and recreational facilities and programs, social services and organizations. . The increased jobs from the APM Project would be the catalyst for ERFN to enhance its community well-being.
Infrastructure	Infrastructure is maintained or improved to meet the needs of the community	Neutral	Enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The APM Project will need to address land use compatibilities with particular regard to subsistence and traditional activities. The APM Project, while placing increased demands on some of the infrastructure and services, would overall provide increased funding to improve and enhance existing infrastructure and services.
Social Assets	Opportunities exist for recreation and social networking. Community is cohesive, and community character is enhanced.	Improving	Uncertain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The community could see benefit through increased funding for its recreational facilities and programs as well as its social services and organizations. Many members have remained outside of the APM “Learn More” engagement process. There are some historical divisions within ERFN, and this may have implications for the APM Project. The APM Project could enhance community character if carefully managed to ensure the factors contributing positively to community character are maintained and that the Project aligns with community vision.
Natural Environment	Natural areas, parks and conservation reserves are preserved and maintained for use and enjoyment	Positive	Environment – Integrity Maintained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some natural areas might be affected by the APM Project. Effective mitigation and environmental protection measures will ensure that the overall environmental integrity of the area is maintained. It is understood at this point in time that no net negative environmental effects are likely during the construction operation and decommissioning phases of the used fuel repository itself.

Legend	
Declining – Negative	
Neutral – Stable	
Environment – Integrity Maintained	
Increasing – Enhanced – Positive	
Uncertain	

6.0 CRITERIA TO ASSESS FACTORS BEYOND SAFETY - SUMMARY

The previous sections have taken a holistic approach to the assessment, taking into account the aspirations of the community and the implications of the project for community well-being. The NWMO acknowledges that the process of assessment of community well-being needs to be collaborative and reflective of the community. Before initiating the siting process, and beginning to engage interested communities in the assessment process to understand their aspirations, the NWMO identified five evaluation factors, which, at a minimum would need to be addressed¹². Table 11 summarizes preliminary findings about the implications of the APM Project, were it to be implemented in the community, on various factors of well-being. For many evaluation factors, four measures are used: maintained, enhanced, diminished or uncertain. For some evaluation factors, two measures are used: yes or no. The overall conclusion using these evaluation factors and the understanding that has emerged to date is consistent with that outlined in the previous discussion.

¹² NWMO. May 2010. *Moving Forward Together: Process for Selecting a Site for Canada's Deep Geological Repository for Used Nuclear Fuel*. P. 37.

Table 11: Summary Table of Criteria to Address Factors Beyond Safety

Factors Beyond Safety	Evaluation Factors to be Considered	Potential Effect of APM Project	Discussion Based on Preliminary Assessment
<p>Potential social, economic and cultural effects during the implementation phase of the project, including factors identified by Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge</p>	Health and safety of residents and the community	Maintained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a strong safety case, but there remains a high level of misinformation in the community about the NWMO process and the APM Project and its implications for health and safety. The community will need to learn more about safety and health considerations to build their confidence in the safety of the project.
	Sustainable built environments	Enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community infrastructure and built fabric will be enhanced through project activities and investments in the community.
	Sustainable natural environments	Maintained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some natural areas might be affected by the APM Project. Effective mitigation and environmental protection measures will ensure that the overall environmental integrity of the area is maintained. It is understood at this point in time that no significant negative environmental effects are likely during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the used fuel repository itself
	Local and regional economy and employment	Enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant employment and population growth could occur in ERFN/Patuanak and surrounding communities – many new jobs could be available to ERFN With these jobs comes the potential to significantly increase the current population in Patuanak – these are expected to be returning members rather than ‘new’ in-migrant workers New opportunities will be created for local businesses to serve the project and a growing and more diverse population
	Community administration and decision-making processes	Uncertain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ERFN leadership has demonstrated some interest in continuing to learn more about the project. There is division in the community over the Project and this is exacerbated by historical divisions in the community. There has been limited participation by community members in engagement to date, which may influence the community’s ability to make informed and effective decisions about the project.
	Balanced growth and healthy, livable communities	Uncertain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‘Growth’ in terms of population may not be an objective for ERFN. The style of project implementation will influence the “fit” of the APM Project with community aspirations and values. Division in the community may increase over time if competing visions for the future cannot be balanced.
<p>Potential for enhancement of the community’s and region’s long term sustainability through implementation of the project, including factors identified by Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge</p>	Health and safety of residents and the community	Maintained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a strong safety case, however engagement of surrounding communities is at a preliminary stage and further dialogue will be required to understand and address questions and concerns about safety and health considerations related to the repository and transportation of used nuclear fuel.
	Sustainable built environments	Enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure and built fabric would be enhanced through project activities and investments in the surrounding communities.
	Sustainable natural environments	Maintained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some natural areas may be affected during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the project. Further dialogue and effective mitigation and environmental protection measures would ensure that the overall environmental integrity of the area is maintained.
	Local and regional economy and employment	Enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantial employment and economic development opportunities would extend to the surrounding region.
	Community administration and decision-making processes	Uncertain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement of surrounding communities is at a preliminary stage and further dialogue will be required to explore decision making issues and capacities. There is a high level of misinformation and division about the NWMO process/project in the community and surrounding area. There is vocal concern, if not outright opposition by some individuals and more formal opposition by some organizations. Some individuals and organizations are not willing to ‘learn more’ about the APM Project; however, in some meetings with First Nations, Metis organizations and communities a willingness to ‘learn more’ in order to make informed decisions has been observed.
	Balanced growth and healthy, livable communities	Uncertain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement of surrounding communities is at a preliminary stage and further dialogue will be required to explore aspirations for growth and well-being The APM Project offers economic development and growth opportunities for ERFN and surrounding communities though this needs to be balanced with other values that are common to northern Saskatchewan communities including protection of the natural environment, traditional activities and culture.

Factors Beyond Safety	Evaluation Factors to be Considered	Potential Effect of APM Project	Discussion Based on Preliminary Assessment
Potential to avoid ecologically sensitive areas and locally significant features, including factors identified by Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge	Ability to avoid ecologically sensitive areas and locally significant features	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The region contains potentially suitable sites for the project thus providing flexibility in selecting specific sites that can avoid ecologically sensitive areas and local significant features. The community would need to be actively engaged with the NWMO in the evaluation of potential siting areas.
Potential for physical and social infrastructure to adapt to changes resulting from the project	Potential for physical infrastructure to be adapted to implement the project	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure in Patuanak and the surrounding area is limited. Some investments would be required to accommodate identified infrastructure deficiencies.
	Potential for social infrastructure to be adapted to implement the project	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ERFN/Patuanak and surrounding area communities have limited community capacity and social infrastructure (e.g., social and economic support services, health and safety facilities and services, recreational facilities/programs) to absorb the anticipated growth in population and economic activity associated with the project. The NWMO would have to work with the community and social service providers to plan and implement needed measures.
	The NWMO resources required to put in place physical and social infrastructure needed to support the project	Uncertain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ERFN would require substantial resources from the NWMO to determine willingness to move forward with the APM Project as many community members have not yet expressed an interest in learning more. ERFN would require substantial assistance in terms of planning, human and financial resources to ensure physical and social infrastructure can adapt to changes from the project.
Potential to avoid or minimize effects of the transportation of used nuclear fuel from existing storage facilities to the repository site (from the perspective of community well-being)	The availability of transportation routes (road, rail, water) and the adequacy of associated infrastructure and potential to put such routes in place	To Be Determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patuanak is located at the northern terminus of the all-weather gravel surface Highway 918, which is linked to Highway 165 near Beauval. The airport is unstaffed, and is not serviced by scheduled flights. There is no rail service to Patuanak (nearest terminals are in Prince Albert and Meadow Lake). Project transportation will need to address community, logistical and regulatory matters across multiple provinces and multiple jurisdictions including; Ontario, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec and New Brunswick. APM Project may necessitate improvements to existing transportation infrastructure - road, airport and rail lines in order to meet the service needs of the community, region, and APM Project. Engagement of surrounding communities is at a preliminary stage and further dialogue will be required to help build understanding and address questions and concerns related to transportation. The active dialogue in the surrounding area includes vocal and organized opposition and much misinformation about the NWMO process and the APM Project.
	The availability of suitable safe connections and intermodal transfer points, if required, and potential to put them in place	To Be Determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement of surrounding communities and those on potential transportation routes is at a preliminary stage, and further dialogue will be required to help build understanding and address questions and concerns.
	The NWMO resources (fuel, people) and associated carbon footprint required to transport used fuel to the site	2,890 – 5,350 tonnes of equivalent carbon dioxide emissions is expected to be produced per year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a scenario of all road transport of 4.6 million fuel bundles from the interim storage sites to an APM facility near Patuanak, approximately 5,350 tonnes of equivalent carbon dioxide emissions is expected to be produced per year. In a scenario of transport by mostly rail mode approximately 2,890 tonnes of equivalent carbon dioxide emissions is expected to be produced per year
	The potential for effects on communities along the transportation routes and at intermodal transfer points	To Be Determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a robust technical safety case for the safe and secure transport of used nuclear fuel. However, engagement of surrounding communities and those on potential transportation routes is at a preliminary stage and further dialogue would be required to help build understanding and address questions and concerns

7.0 RELATIONSHIP BUILDING AND ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

7.1 OVERVIEW OF ENGAGEMENT

NWMO has engaged with ERFN leadership, community members, surrounding communities and First Nations/Aboriginal organizations through a variety of means, including:

- Several community open houses
- Regular attendance at the Community Liaison Committee (CLC) meetings
- Both informal and structured interviews with community members
- Facilitating the CLC web page and newsletters
- Presentations to elementary and high school classes
- Preparation of written and video materials in Dene
- Attendance at Elders Gatherings
- Informal tours and visits with local residents
- ‘Ask the NWMO’ columns in regional newspapers
- Meetings with nearby First Nations
- Attendance at regional meetings, conferences (e.g., with Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN); New North; Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities; meetings with Métis Nation-Saskatchewan regions)
- Several nuclear waste management facility tours at Pickering Nuclear Power Station in Ontario.

Although NWMO has utilized a range of techniques, many ERFN members have not yet engaged in the NWMO process or begun learning about the project; some are actively opposed. There is substantial misinformation about the process and the project in the community, leading to a high level of concern and division.

Initial discussions with a cross-section of community leaders, briefings and conversations with community members, and conversations with members during open houses suggest there is some interest in the community to continue to learn about the project and consider hosting the project in the area. To this end, opportunities for preliminary discussions were sought with:

1. Local political leaders (e.g., Chief and Council)
2. Members of the Community Liaison Committee
3. Local business owners/operators
4. Local service providers (e.g. emergency services, social services, education)
5. Surrounding community leaders
6. ERFN members, including elders

ERFN has taken steps to engage its neighbours (e.g. ERFN has met with MLTC and member First Nations, and participated in FSIN meetings with regional First Nations. There has been little formal engagement with the leadership of the adjacent Hamlet of Patuanak. NWMO has also been engaging with First Nations, communities and Aboriginal organizations in Northern Saskatchewan for several years. This has set the foundation for further constructive consideration of the project and opportunity to work collaboratively to explore the project and interest in the surrounding area. However, there is a high level of misinformation about the APM Project in surrounding First Nations/communities. A vocal minority opposition may be overshadowing quiet neutrality or support in surrounding communities/Aboriginal organizations. The regionally active Committee for Future

Generations is based in Beauval and has active membership that includes ERFN members. There is vocal concern, if not outright opposition by some individuals and more formal opposition by some organizations (e.g., petitions, marches, resolutions passed against the process/project). Some individuals and organizations are not willing to learn more about the process or the APM Project.

7.2 SUMMARY OF ISSUES AND QUESTIONS RAISED

7.2.1 KEY CHALLENGES, ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Several key challenges have been identified for the ERFN community through the engagement activities. At the root of these is economic development, for ERFN membership both on and off reserve (Patuanak and La Plonge). The community has high levels of unemployment (although this is improving over time); many on-reserve members must work outside the community (e.g. at the mines, for Tron Power or other ERFN companies, or for government), others must leave to find work elsewhere. The relatively young population has comparatively low levels of education and training. Although ERFN has successful business success via Tron Power, other ERFN companies and participation in a number of partnerships and joint ventures, further economic development would help address key challenges in the community such as a lack of employment opportunities on-reserve, creating jobs and retaining the youth population, providing health and social programming, and increasing quality of life through the provision of new housing and infrastructure on-reserve. The ERFN on-reserve population relies on mining and resource-based industries, as well as education/health and social services, as the primary means of employment for its membership. Traditional activities such as hunting, fishing, gathering and trapping are declining and largely uneconomical to sustain as a way of life. While some ERFN members understand that there are potential benefits from the APM Project, others have voiced concern about the project and the nuclear industry in Northern Saskatchewan. There is a high level of misinformation about the process/project, and this contributes to division in the community.

7.2.2 SUMMARY OF KEY INTERESTS/QUESTIONS

Numerous comments and questions have been raised in engagement to date. In general, the ERFN community has stated the importance of learning more about the APM Project before making an informed decision. Negative historic experiences, and missed opportunities with the mining industry have resulted in a cautious approach. ERFN members want to better understand the environmental, safety and transportation issues associated with the APM Project and how these would affect their community's well-being. Several key interest categories have been identified through the engagement activities. These include:

- Employment & Business Opportunities, Education and Training;
- Health and Safety and Environmental Risks;
- Community /Social Impacts
- Transportation;
- Traditional Activities and Land Use; and
- Community Engagement and the NWMO process.

For ERFN, the primary focus of questions and comments is health and safety and environmental risks, and employment and business opportunities, education and training. The secondary interests - but still of importance in the community – are community / social impacts, transportation, traditional activities and land use, and community engagement and the NWMO process.

Employment Opportunities, Education and Training

The potential for employment opportunities created by the APM Project was of interest to many ERFN members. The benefits were seen to include having access to community job training and education, availability of job opportunities for youth, and potential benefits resulting from impact benefit agreements. Many residents have to leave the communities of Patuanak and La Plonge for education or employment purposes. A great deal of discussion centred on the number, type, and duration of jobs locally and regionally through the planning, construction, operation and closure stages of the project. Many ERFN members are involved directly as employees or contractors in the uranium mining industry in northern Saskatchewan. In May 2013, ERFN completed a Collaboration Agreement with Cameco/AREVA, which is intended to improve employment and other economic opportunities (direct or indirect) for ERFN members and businesses in the mining sector.

Health, Safety and Environmental Risks

Concern was expressed by many community members regarding potential damage to the natural environment from the siting of the in the vicinity of ERFN. Due to the First Nation's historical and contemporary reliance on land and water for subsistence and traditional activities, ERFN members want assurance that the environment would not be damaged over the long term. Comments were noted about the ability of the APM facility to contain the used nuclear fuel over the long term, the construction of the canisters, geologic structures suitable for the APM facility, and the possibility of water contacting the canisters and leaking into the water table and surrounding environment. Potential risks from exposure of the natural environment and human and wildlife populations to radiation were mentioned as possible effects from the APM Project. It has also been noted that the Dene word for 'nuclear' translates as 'bomb' or 'explosion', resulting in additional concern. People are concerned about incidents such as Chernobyl and Fukushima, and have raised the question of 'could this happen here?'

Community/Social Impacts

Some residents have noted the division already resulting in the community over the project. They have asked if people are prepared for the social and cultural change that a major project would bring to the community. The potential conflict with traditional values and activities is a concern, although others have noted that the project could bring in positive cultural influences, such as role models for youth.

Transportation

Community leaders and members had many questions about health and safety associated with transportation of the used nuclear fuel to the community. In general, comments about transportation were focused on obtaining clear, understandable information about possible transportation options, frequency of transportation shipments, transportation routes and infrastructure requirements, environmental and human health impacts along the transportation routes, and emergency response procedures. Several have commented that Highway 918 should be paved, and that the project could result in that.

Traditional Activities and Land Use

Community comments were also largely focused on preservation of traditional activities and land use throughout the ERFN's traditional territory. Concerns were expressed about the potential environmental impacts from the NWMO project on wildlife, fish, and habitat; overall causing the deterioration of hunting, trapping, gathering and fishing activities. There was interest in having the NWMO become more familiar with traditional activities (e.g. spending time on the land with elders). Members discussed the Willow Heart prophecies, linking them to the APM facility. ERFN members stated that it was important to maintain ERFN autonomy over its traditional territory and traditional practices such as hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering, sweat lodges, cultural education for youth, and protection of culturally significant areas. There is existing concern about encroachment/use of lands in the traditional territory by others.

Community Engagement and the NWMO process

Community members indicated a need to move slowly through this process in order to provide the community, especially Elders, the opportunity for collaborative and meaningful participation and learning. ERFN members wanted more information on how traditional knowledge will be used along with scientific research, as well as when and how during the process traditional knowledge could be incorporated.

There is confusion about the nature and status of the siting process (e.g., that a decision has not already been made; the role of the community and region in decision-making; the long timeframe for decision-making [i.e., the decision is not imminent]). Community members have also asked how regional communities and those that have expressed opposition will be engaged in the process.

Interest has been expressed in having information materials or engagement methods that address the needs of ERFN members, for example, plain-language /Dene video/graphics, and 'hands on' displays or models. Individual or small group meetings have been suggested. Open houses and detailed written materials are not suited to many residents.

Comments and Concerns in the Surrounding Area

There is a high level of misinformation about the APM Project in surrounding First Nations/communities. The evolving discussion of the NWMO process/APM Project by surrounding communities and Aboriginal organizations is prominent.. There is vocal concern, if not outright opposition by some individuals and more formal opposition by some organizations (e.g., petitions, marches, resolutions passed against the

process/project). Some individuals and organizations seem not willing to learn more about the process or the APM Project. Uncertainty exists around the level of quiet neutrality or support.

While engagement with surrounding First Nations, communities and Aboriginal organizations is ongoing, and in early stages, many of the same comments, issues and concerns outlined above at the community level have been identified. These include:

- Health, safety and environmental risks
- Employment and business opportunities in the surrounding area
- The status and nature of the process, and the role of surrounding communities in decision-making
- Transportation

7.2.3 ONGOING ENGAGEMENT

Going forward, engagement with ERFN leadership, members, and surrounding communities would need to continue to develop. ERFN will have to make efforts to improve active interest in learning about the APM Project. There will be challenges in achieving this, and it may take considerable effort. The community will need to ensure a collaborative process in the community for collective decision-making on this project.

8.0 KEY QUESTIONS IN THE SITE SELECTION PROCESS - SUMMARY

At the outset of the site selection process, the NWMO framed four key questions respectively addressing safety, the well-being of the community, the well-being of communities in the surrounding area, and the potential to foster sustained interest in exploring this project through subsequent steps in the site selection process¹³. This section addresses and elaborates on a subset of these questions related to community well-being in the context of ERFN.

The preceding sections have looked at implementation of the APM Project in ERFN and the implications this might have on community well-being. Additionally, key issues and concerns identified through engagement activities have been highlighted. Through desktop research, dialogues with community members and leaders and ongoing analysis, it is understood that ERFN has some tentative interest in further exploration of potentially hosting the APM Project in the area to realize economic development opportunities within the community and surrounding area. However, the community and leadership will need to determine if the project is consistent with the full spectrum of community beliefs and goals that have been articulated through their visioning process (to be completed in fall 2013).

The ERFN understands that the siting process, in partnership with the NWMO, will assist their community over time to get the information they require to reflect upon their willingness to continue in the site selection process and to decide whether or not they are interested in continuing to the next phase of studies. There appears to be some limited potential for sustained interest in the local community at this time. ERFN has indicated they need more information and discussion before committing to the project. ERFN leaders have been cautious about endorsing moving forward in the process. While there has been some support for the NWMO siting process and the APM Project, there are many community members who have not engaged in the process.

In addition, the Collaboration Agreement with Cameco/AREVA completed at the end of May 2013 will likely provide significant direct and indirect economic benefits to the ERFN. The implications for their future participation in the NWMO process are not clear; however, the community has been focussed on the agreement in recent months, and perhaps less so on the NWMO process. There is opposition to the process/project by some community members, including some elders. Even if a higher level of effort was made for future community engagement that would meet the specific needs of the ERFN, there is uncertainty as to whether there would be a successful outcome in terms of improved interest in the process.

There is uncertainty as to whether interest can be sustained in the surrounding communities at present. ERFN has taken steps to engage its neighbours (e.g. ERFN has met with MLTC and member First Nations, and participated in FSIN meetings with regional First Nations in 2012/2013). There has been little formal engagement about the Project with the leadership of the adjacent Hamlet of Patuanak. NWMO has also been engaging with First Nations, communities and Aboriginal organizations in Northern Saskatchewan for several years. This has set the foundation for further constructive consideration of the project and opportunity to work collaboratively to explore the project and interest in the surrounding area. There is a high level of misinformation about the APM Project in surrounding First Nations/communities. A vocal minority opposition

¹³ NWMO. November 2011. *Preliminary Assessment of Potential Suitability – Feasibility Studies*. Draft for Discussion with Communities Involved in the Site Selection Process.

may be overshadowing quiet neutrality or support in surrounding communities/Aboriginal organizations. There is concern, if not outright opposition by some individuals and more formal opposition by some organizations (e.g., petitions, marches, resolutions passed against the process/project). The division and misinformation have complicated engagement in the surrounding area, creating uncertainty about the potential interest in surrounding communities.

ERFN has working relationships with other communities in the surrounding area. ERFN and the hamlet of Patuanak (residents are mostly ERFN members) work together on initiatives of common interest (e.g. shared community infrastructure). As part of MLTC, ERFN has direct working relationships with 8 other First Nations in the region. ERFN is involved in a number of projects, businesses, joint ventures with different partners, e.g. MLTC RDI, other individual First Nations through DNDI, Tron Power and other ERFN companies.

There is uncertainty regarding the potential for the APM Project to foster well-being in Patuanak/ERFN. A community visioning survey conducted in the fall of 2012 did identify a number of values/ goals/objectives, including: economic prosperity through jobs and business development; education/training; infrastructure; protecting environment; traditional ways and culture. However, population growth was not among these. The visioning exercise is to be completed in fall 2013. The Project would present significant opportunities for economic development and capacity building, but will need to be consistent with the traditional way of life and culture that is practiced by and important to this community. In light of this, strong partnership would be needed for planning project implementation to ensure it is compatible with this community's specific values and their sense of well-being. There is division in the community over the Project and this is exacerbated by historical divisions in the community.

At this time, there is uncertainty with respect to the potential for the APM Project to foster well-being in the surrounding communities. Preliminary discussions have revealed interest in the economic development potential offered by the project, although there are high levels of misinformation and concern about the project (primarily related to health, safety and environment). Economic hardship, limited infrastructure, young/growing population, lower (but improving) education levels, limited health and social services and the large number of small, isolated and remote communities provide many challenges for the area. While the project would benefit regional communities, the degree to which direct/indirect benefits would be experienced is not clear and would require a proactive strategy on NWMO's part.

Tourism is not a major economic driver; however there are recreation areas, guiding operations, commercial lodges and private camps in the area that may experience negative perceptions.

Ongoing discussions will be required to further assess the implications of the project for surrounding area communities, and their potential to participate with the ERFN in the site selection process. This project will be implemented through a long-term partnership involving the community, neighbouring communities and Aboriginal peoples in the area and the NWMO. Only through engagement, dialogue and collaboration will the NWMO ensure that needs are addressed at each stage of the process and identify the specifics of how a partnership arrangement could work.

There are some uncertainties associated with this preliminary analysis due to the preliminary nature of the work at this stage. These uncertainties and challenges include:

1. Specific land areas for APM Project components that are socially acceptable would need to be identified:
 - a. Community input is required to identify areas which should be reserved for other uses or preservation. The remaining areas must overlap with potentially suitable siting areas identified through scientific and technical studies.
 - b. Further engagement with potentially affected communities is required, including Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge holders in the area, to understand the additional factors that will need to be considered in identifying and assessing the suitability of specific potential sites. The NWMO acknowledges, respects and honours that Aboriginal peoples - Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada - have unique status and rights as recognized and affirmed in s.35 of the Constitution Act (1982). The NWMO is committed to respecting the Aboriginal rights and treaties of Aboriginal peoples¹⁴.
2. Project implementation (including engineering, logistics and/or community well-being) must align with specific community aspirations:
 - a. An acceptable area and regional project implementation plan must be identified which aligns ultimate project configuration with area expectations.
 - b. Effective implementation of project planning at a broader level, involving the surrounding communities and potentially affected people, will be important in successful implementation of the project.
3. Interest in the community for further learning about the project needs to be developed:
 - a. The site selection process spans several years and interest and conversation in the community and area needs to be developed and sustained throughout this process, including multiple election cycles.
 - b. The potential effects of the project on the community and area would be substantial and the community and area will need significant support and time to further explore their interest and take an active role in discussions of how the project should be implemented.
 - c. Opposition groups which tend to be more broadly concerned with the nuclear industry, including mining, both within and outside of the community, will continue to actively seek to influence community decision-making. ERFN will require significant support and time to address these interests if they were to proceed with the siting process.
4. Transportation routes and mode(s) need to be designed and configured taking into account social values.
 - a. Transportation will be spatially extensive from the current interim storage sites to the repository. Regulatory matters along routes in several Provinces including New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, and in the case of the ERFN Manitoba and Saskatchewan, would need to be addressed. Social questions and concerns would also need to be heard and taken into account.

¹⁴ NWMO. 2010. *NWMO Aboriginal Policy*.

http://www.nwmo.ca/uploads_managed/MediaFiles/1513_nwmo_aboriginalpolicy-2010en.pdf

5. Environment and Safety evaluations need to be aligned with community input.
 - a. Significant misinformation concerning the APM Project needs to be addressed.
 - b. This requires engagement by the NWMO and input from the community and surrounding communities. This may require capacity building to enable this input, which would include Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge.
 - c. Input from transportation route communities will also need to be incorporated.

9.0 REFERENCES

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