

# Backgrounder

Mactaquac Generating Station Life Achievement Project



## First Nations Engagement

NB Power has been having meaningful conversations with First Nation communities along the Saint John River about the future of Mactaquac Generating Station since 2013.

As a utility, our core values for aboriginal engagement are inclusion, responsiveness and respect. We recognize and respect the unique status and environmental stewardship role of First Nations in New Brunswick.

We have worked closely with each First Nations community to design specific and appropriate methods of engagement and consultation in recognition of their respective interests and perspectives on the Mactaquac project.

### **Since 2013, involvement of First Nations people and perspectives within the project has included:**

- Direct involvement of First Nations staff in NB Power's corporate aboriginal affairs unit.
- First Nations expertise and membership on the Comparative Environment Review Advisory Committee.
- A First Nations Liaison/Field Monitor hired to assist and observe field work including that of the Canadian Rivers Institute in relation to the Mactaquac Project and circulation of field study reports to First Nation communities.
- Representation from First Nations on the Lower Saint John River Community Liaison Committee.

Various First Nations communities and organizations (including all six Maliseet and nine Mi'kmaq communities in New Brunswick) have been informed and invited to engage with NB Power on the future of Mactaquac.

The six Maliseet communities have a long-standing and deep connection with the Saint John River and have consistently expressed interest in engaging with NB Power on the future of the project.



**To assist these six communities in engaging meaningfully about the future of the station, NB Power has funded consultation activities as follows:**

- Development of an internal consultation protocol agreement to assist the six communities in working together with respect to this project.
- Development of an external consultation protocol agreement between NB Power and the six communities defining how consultation will occur before and after NB Power selects a preferred option.
- Completion of a Traditional Land Use study by experts selected by the communities.
- Technical analysis of the Comparative Environmental Review and Social Impact Comparative Review by experts selected by the communities.

The nine Mi'kmaq communities and their elected representatives have been less engaged than the six Maliseet communities and their elected representatives. This is potentially due to geography.

**Some key feedback from the six Maliseet communities as understood by NB Power is that impacts on traditional uses are:**

<b>Option 1</b> Repower	Continuation of current impacts, plus construction and operations adjacent to the Kingsclear First Nation.
<b>Option 2</b> No Power	Continuation of current impacts, plus construction and operations adjacent to the Kingsclear First Nation, with a smaller footprint than Option 1.
<b>Option 3</b> Restore	Potential to restore pre-dam historical traditional uses and connections with the river.
<b>Option 4</b> Life Achievement	Continuation of current impacts.

NB Power will continue to engage closely with First Nations on the life achievement project to facilitate meaningful participation in potential economic opportunities, environmental stewardship of the Saint John River, including fish passage, and other means that recognize and help restore First Nations' connection to the river.

For more backgrounders on other topics of interest and project updates, visit the [project website](#).