



MEETING EDE 68-20-26

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2026
EAGLE ROOM
RISE OF HOUSE**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer/Reflection
3. Review and Adoption of Agenda
4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest
5. Public Matters
 - a) Public Briefing on Taltson Hydro Expansion Project with the Honourable Minister Responsible for Strategic Infrastructure, Energy and Supply Chains
6. In Camera Matters
 - a) Debrief
 - b) Workplan
7. New Business
 - a)
8. Date and Time of Next Meeting:
 - a) Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 12:00pm – Public Hearing and Clause-by-Clause Review of Bill 33: *Technical Safety Statutes Amendment Act* with Honourable Minister of Infrastructure
 - b) Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 10:30am – Public Briefing on Economic Diversification/Renewable Heating with Arctic Energy Alliance
 - c) Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 10:30am – Committee Business
9. Adjournment

MINISTER CAROLINE WAWZONEK – OPENING REMARKS
PRESENTATION TO SCEDE – TALTSON EXPANSION PROJECT UPDATE

February 6, 2026

Good afternoon. I'm pleased to be here today to discuss progress on the Taltson Hydro Expansion Project.

With me today I have:

- Gaeleen MacPherson, Associate Deputy Minister, Strategic Infrastructure, Energy and Supply Chains
- Kim Wickens, Assistant Deputy Minister, Energy and Strategic Infrastructure
- Andrew Stewart, Director, Strategic Energy Initiatives
- Jake Heron, Working Group Representative, NWT Métis Nation
- Drew Robertson, Ministerial Special Advisor; and
- Shenaia Shields, Senior Advisor, Strategic Infrastructure

As you are aware, the Taltson Expansion is a landmark initiative and a strategic infrastructure project for the Government of the Northwest Territories in cooperation with Indigenous Governments.

The project is being advanced collaboratively under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in 2021 by the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Deninu K'ue First Nation, Fort Resolution Métis Government, Fort Smith Métis Council, Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation, Northwest Territory Métis Nation, Salt River First Nation, and Yellowknives Dene First Nation.

The advancement of the Taltson Hydro Expansion Project remains a mandate priority for the 20th Legislative Assembly.

The project would add 60 megawatts of new capacity to the existing 22-megawatt Taltson hydro system and would integrate 38 megawatts from the Snare hydro system within existing energy grids. 11 communities would fall into the fold, providing clean and stable power to 70% of the NWT population.

Canada has been a strong supporter of this project, recognizing Taltson's potential to reduce emissions and drive economic growth by supporting the transition away from fossil fuels.

To date, we have been fortunate to rely on 100% funding from Canada for work related to this project. We are using this funding to build Indigenous partnerships, develop commercial arrangements, define the project footprint, and prepare a regulatory application. Additional funds will be needed to proceed to construction.

There is still a lot of work to be done to progress this project. This includes ensuring partnership details are clearly defined, in particular, a clear understanding of risk and benefits sharing between the GNWT and Indigenous governments is developed.

I look forward to our discussion and your questions.

Thank you.

TALTSON EXPANSION PROJECT – UPDATE

Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment

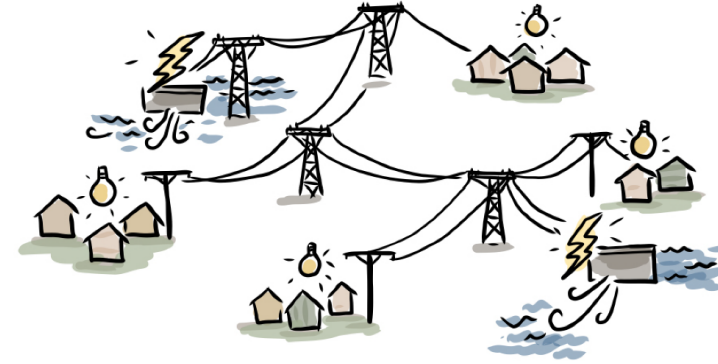
February 6, 2026



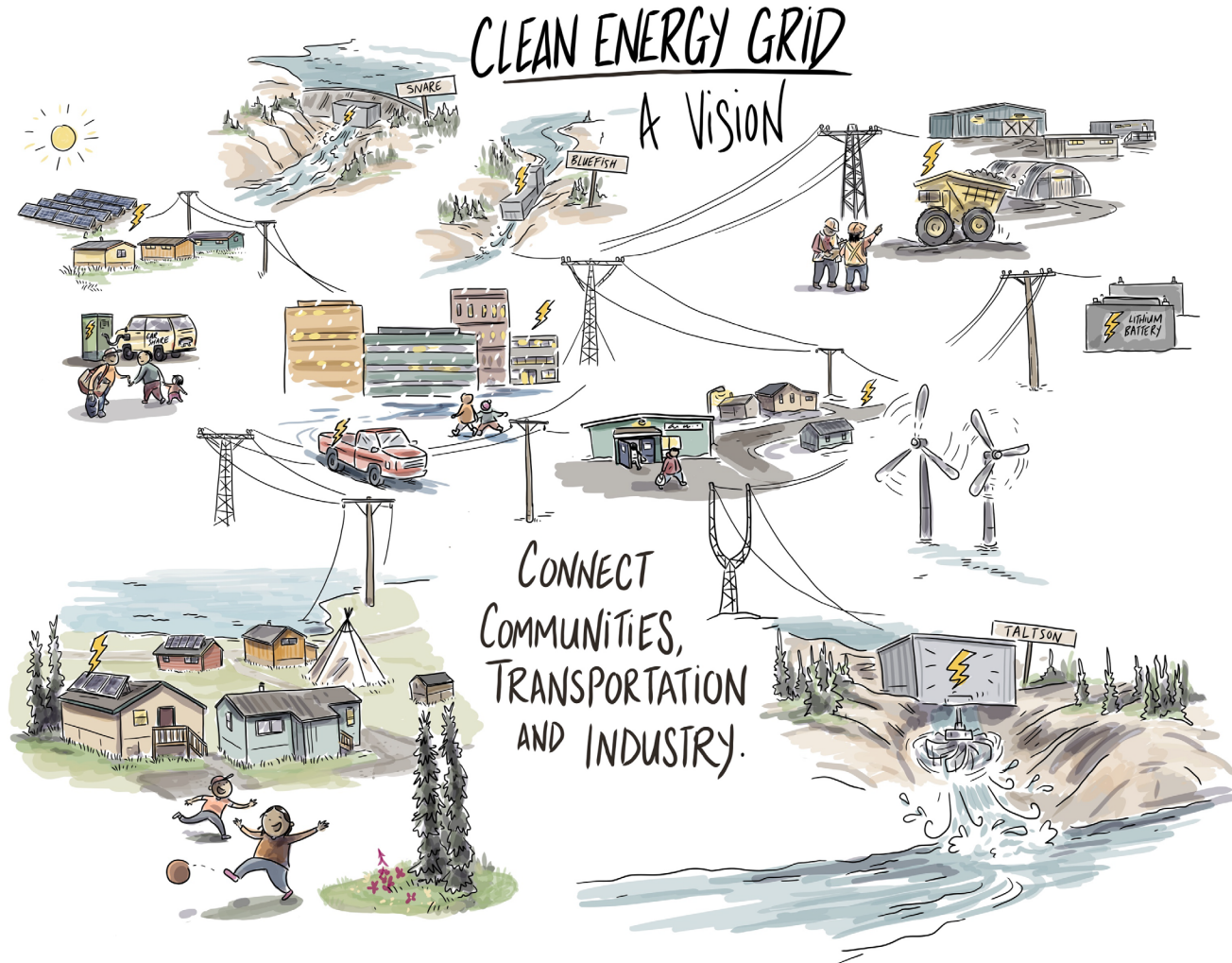
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Outline

- Introductions
- Project Benefits
- Project Partners
- Legacy
- Planning and Engagement
- Commercial
- Technical
- Project Readiness
- Timeline



Taltson Hydro Expansion



*A **Partnership** focused on building a new 60 MW Hydro plant next to the existing 22MW plant, connecting 11 communities and industry to a unified grid.*

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Project Benefits



Provide access to affordable and reliable energy sources for NWT residents and businesses



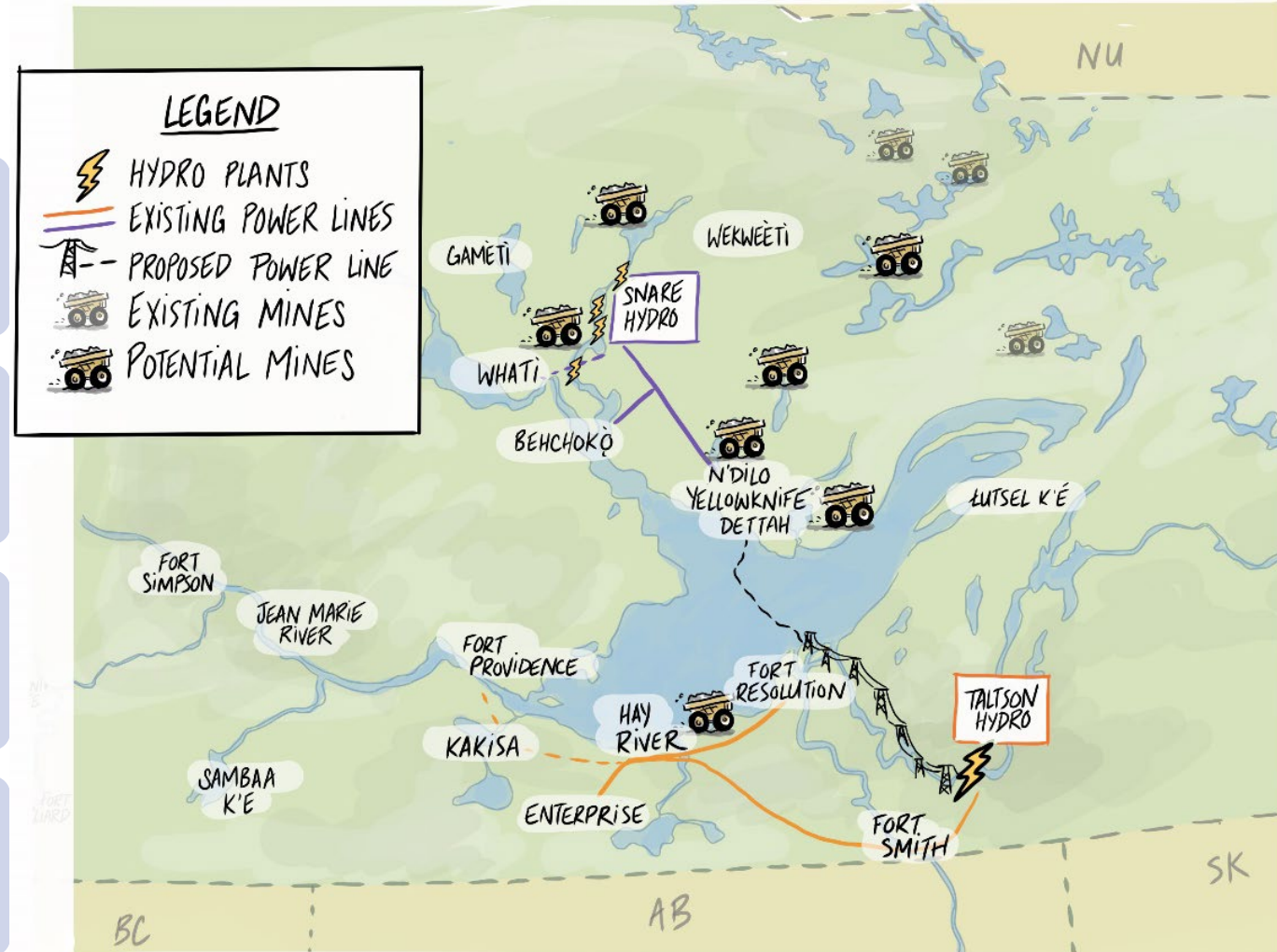
Unlock private investment in the NWT's economy



Contribute to a cleaner environment meet commitments to address climate change



Provide partnership and economic opportunities for Indigenous Governments and job opportunities for residents



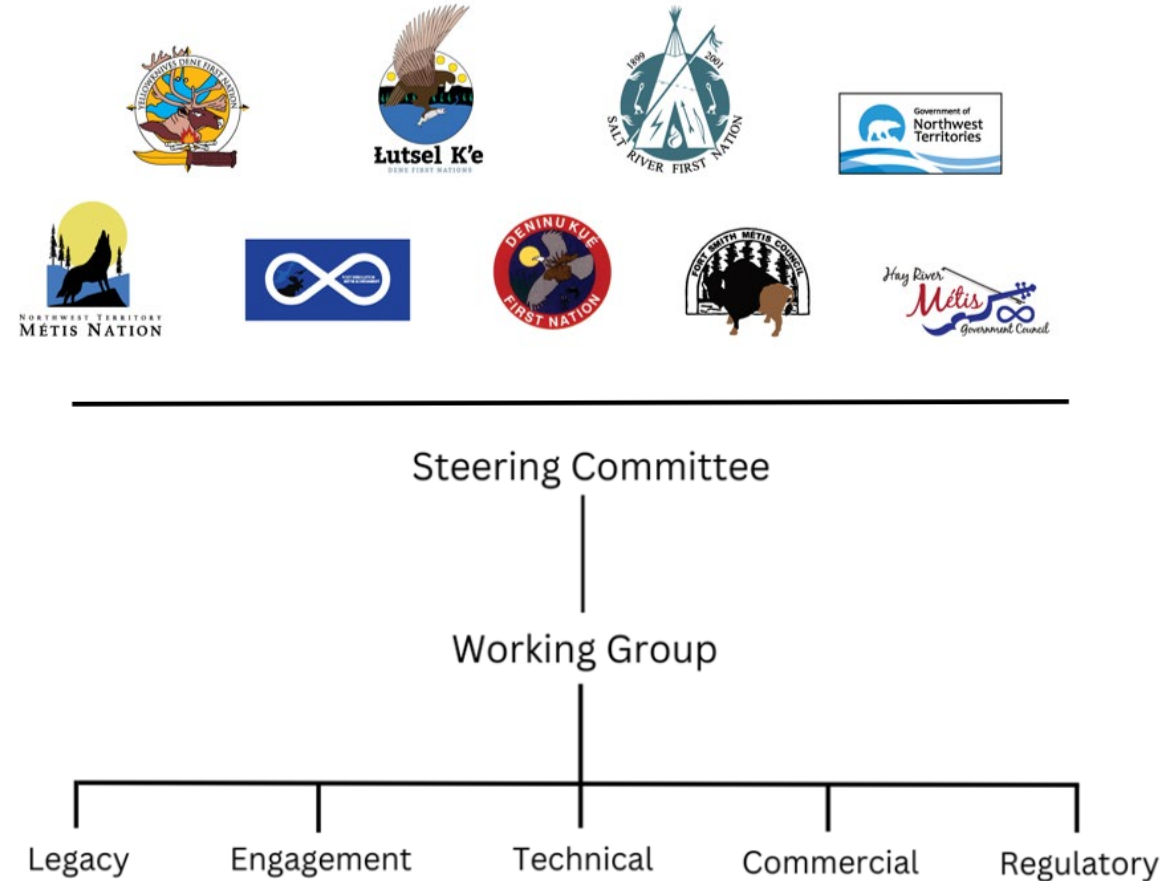
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Project Partners

NWT based Indigenous Governments with interests in the Taltson Watershed:

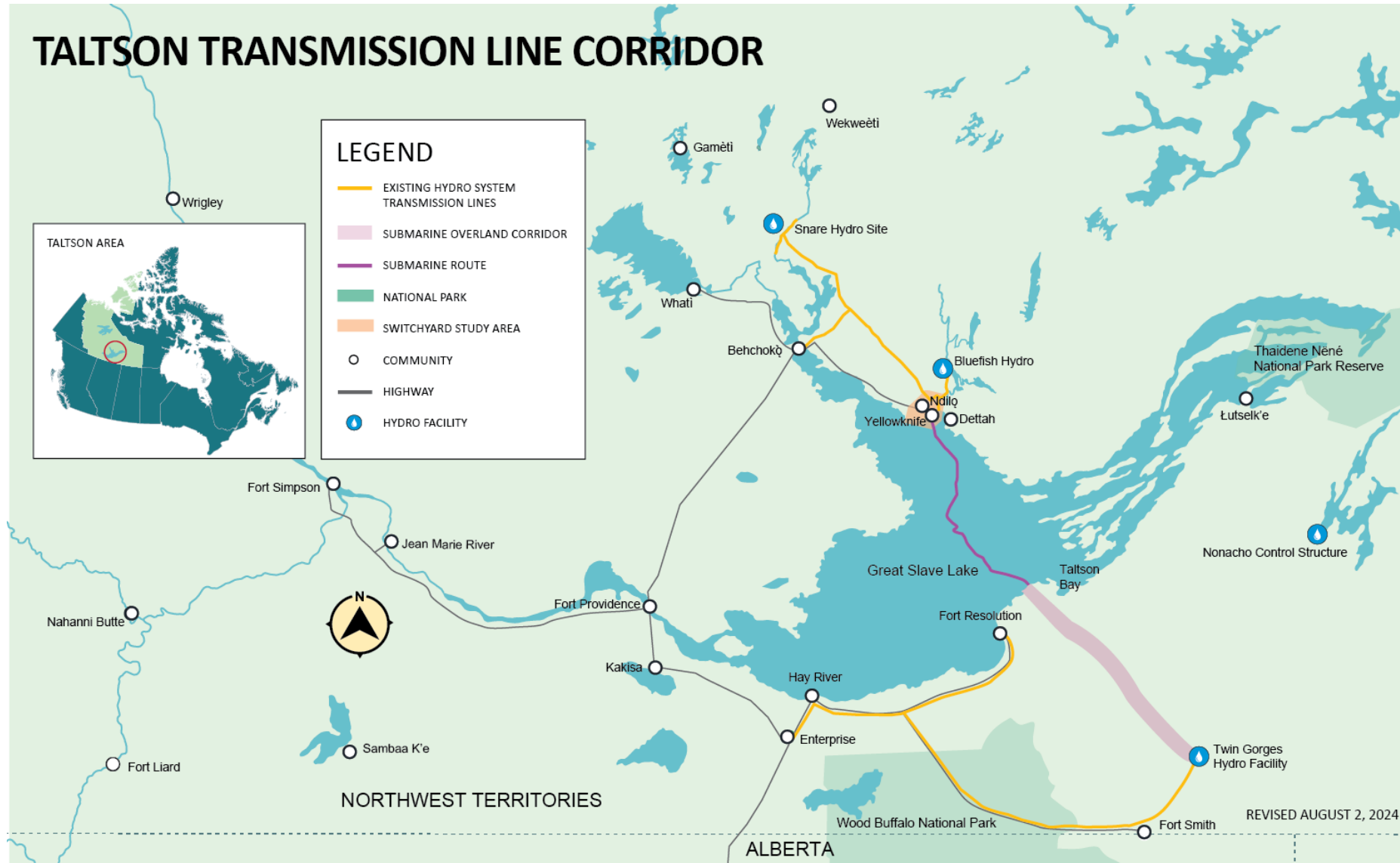
- **Akaiicho Dene First Nations**
 - Denínu Kúé First Nation
 - Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation
 - Yellowknives Dene First Nation
- **Northwest Territory Métis Nation**
 - Fort Resolution Métis Government
 - Fort Smith Métis Council
 - Hay River Métis Government Council
- **Salt River First Nation**

Taltson MOU



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TALTSON TRANSMISSION LINE CORRIDOR



Legacy

What we've done:

- Acknowledgement through MOU that legacy is an issue
- 2023 – Taltson Legacy Impacts Report– compilation of publicly available information
- Legacy Claim Status update
- Direction from Indigenous Caucus to Working Group (April 25, 2025 meeting):

Set a timeline for the resolution of the compensation issues with GNWT and Canada; work on project activities in parallel with understanding that legacy must be resolved prior to “shovels in the ground”

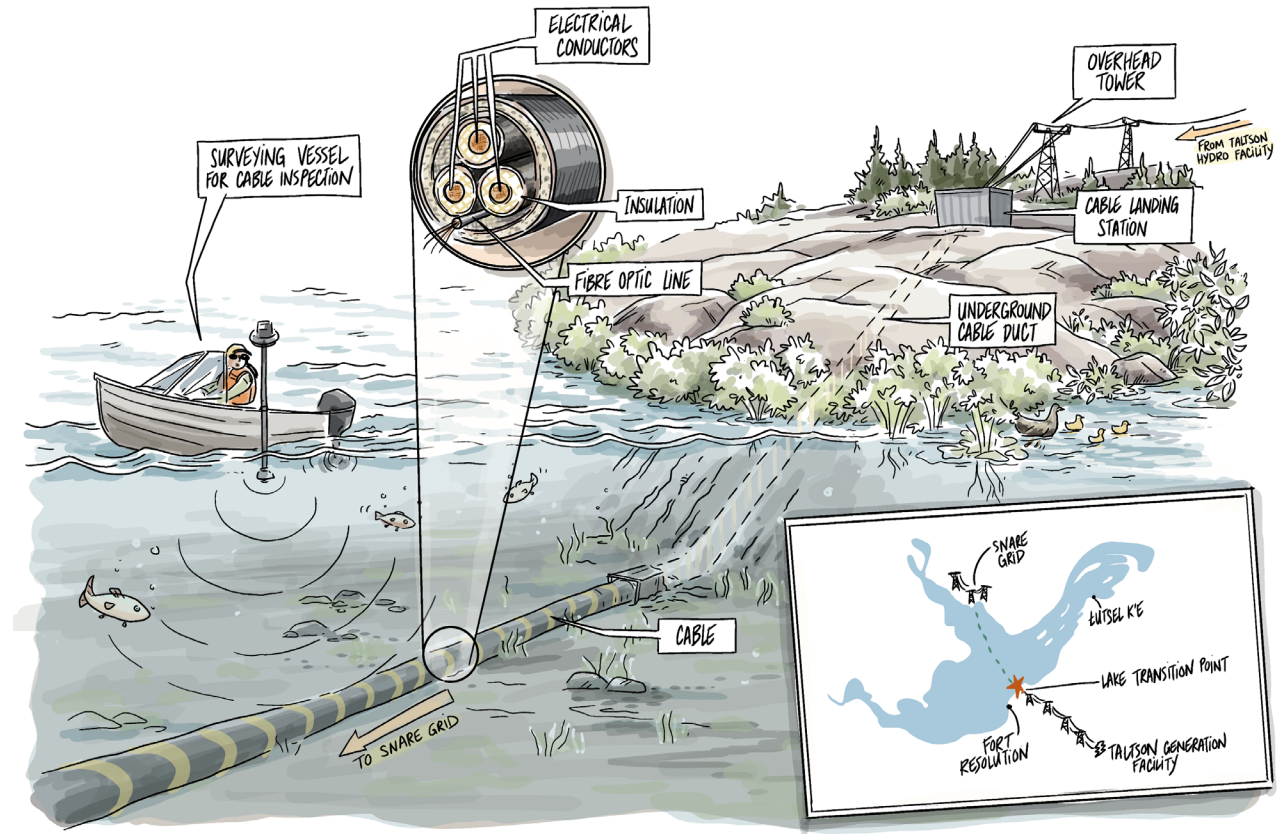
- Meeting with CIRNAC Minister Alty – Nov 12, 2025



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2025 – Planning & Engagement

- SC Meetings
 1. February 18, 2025
 2. May 13, 2025
 3. November 12, 2025 (with CIRNAC Minister Alty)
- Leadership Meetings
 1. April 25, 2025 (IG Caucus)
 2. January 25, 2026 (Indigenous Leadership)
- Taltson Working Group
 1. Met 14 times through 2025
- Engagement Activities
 1. June 14, 2025 – YKDFN Membership Update
 2. June 18, 2025 – YKDFN Land User Session
 3. September 10, 2025 – Taltson Tour
 4. September 10, 2025 – SRFN Membership Update
 5. November 19, 2025 – NWTMN AGA
- Public Events
 1. January 20 to 23, 2025 (Booth and Presentation at AME Roundup, Vancouver)
 2. November 24 to 27, 2025 (Booth at Geoscience Forum, Yellowknife)



Taltson Hydro Site Tour – Fall 2025



- Taltson Steering Committee Members and Advisors,
- NTPC Staff, Board Members and GNWT Staff



- Min. Caroline Wawzonek and Councillor Charlie Catholique

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Commercial

Commercial Sub-Committee

- Draft Limited Partnership agreement
- Draft Memorandum of Intent

Indigenous Partners

- Ownership Equity
- Procurement Opportunities
- Decision Making Authority

Customer Market

- Candidate Critical Metals Mines
- EV adoption, community electrification



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Technical

Transmission Line Routing

- **South Slave** – route from Taltson to GSL – east of Fort Resolution, west of Slave River
- **Submarine Cable** - landing sites & substations
- **YK Area** – Route to Jackfish plant

Environmental Baseline

- Indigenous partner led engagement
- Land use, archeological sites, IK to inform options

SUBMARINE CABLE



3-core
OD = 7"

Project Readiness

- Leverage federal funding to advance to a construction decision:
 - **Legacy** – establishing a parallel process with Canada to advance reconciliation and resolve legacy issues
 - **Technical** – refining project footprint, preferred route details, plant optimization, capital costs
 - **Environmental** – gathering baseline information to submit a regulatory application to secure authorizations and permits
 - **Commercial Arrangements** – Define acceptable partnership terms, secure financing, define the customer market
- De-risk the GNWT/IG Partner Investment opportunity

Project Timeline

Element	Proposed Schedule														
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034
Business Case															
Commercial Structure															
Project Design Basis & Bid Packages															
Environmental Studies & Regulatory Approvals															
Community Engagement & Indigenous Knowledge															
Tender															
Final Design & Construction															
Commissioning															
First Power															

Decision to proceed

Thank you



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