

## REDEVELOPMENT OF THREE OPG HYDROELECTRIC GENERATING STATIONS WILL ADD CLEAN RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY



I'd like to invite and encourage you to participate in the environmental assessment process that is part of Ontario Power Generation Inc.'s (OPG) plan to bring more clean, renewable hydro power to Ontario. Ontario Power Generation is proposing to redevelop three existing small run-of-the-river hydroelectric generating stations located on the Upper Mattagami River. When completed, the combined capacity of the new generating stations will increase from approximately 19 megawatts to 27 megawatts. OPG has a mandate from the Government of Ontario to "expand, develop and/or improve its hydroelectric

generation capacity" and this project will help do that. When completed the capacity of these stations will increase by 45 percent and the annual energy production will increase by over 50 percent. This can be done without any changes to the existing operating levels and flows as described in the Mattagami River Water Management Plan. Please take a few moments to read about this clean renewable energy project, and plan on attending our open house on Wednesday April 19, 2006 at the Days Inn, Timmins. There are phone numbers and a web site listed below where you can learn more about the project.

ED DOBROWOLSKI, *Project Manager*

## REDEVELOPMENTS WILL ALSO INCREASE EFFICIENCY

The Wawaitin, Sandy Falls and Lower Sturgeon Generating Stations have operated for over 90 years and need to be redeveloped. Since the 1950s just about all electricity in Ontario has been generated at 60 cycles. These three generating stations operate at 25 cycles. The Timmins area can no longer use 25 cycle power and therefore power is transmitted to Sudbury where it is converted to 60 cycles to enter the power grid. Significant energy losses (roughly 20 percent) occur during this process of transmission and conversion.

Powerhouses are to be replaced at each generating station as well as upgrades to the dam and associated structures are planned. These upgrades will allow OPG to make full use of the water at these sites.

## A LOOK INTO THE GENERATING STATIONS

### ***Wawaitin Generating Station***

The existing Wawaitin Generating Station is a 10.4 megawatt facility located within the City of Timmins municipal boundaries, approximately 25 kilometres southwest of the urban centre. The proposed Wawaitin generating station will have an expected station capacity of 13.5 megawatts.

### ***Sandy Falls Generating Station***

The 3 megawatt Sandy Falls Generating Station is located within the Timmins municipal boundaries approximately 10 kilometres northwest of the urban centre. The proposed Sandy Falls generating station will have an expected station capacity of 4.9 megawatts.

### ***Lower Sturgeon Generating Station***

The 5.3 megawatt Lower Sturgeon Generating Station is located outside the municipal boundaries of Timmins and approximately 48 kilometres north of the City. The proposed Lower Sturgeon generating station will have an expected station capacity of 8.9 megawatts.

## OPG IS FOLLOWING THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The project is subject to the requirements of Ontario Power Generation's Class Environmental Assessment for Modifications to Hydroelectric Facilities, an environmental assessment process approved under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act. In addition, a number of environmental permits and approvals may be required including approvals from the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Natural Resources. The environmental assessment will examine the effects of the projects on the:

- Aquatic Environment (*water, fish and other aquatic life*)
- Terrestrial Environment (*adjacent trees, vegetation and fauna*)
- Socio-Economic Environment (*local economy, local social and economic uses*)
- Archaeological and Built Heritage (*archaeological, building or structural resources*)
- Atmospheric Environment (*air and noise*)

Some field work has been completed in 2005. Further field work will be carried out in 2006 and the results of these studies will be presented at a future open house. The environmental assessment report will also identify how any negative impacts will be mitigated. Federal authorities are also reviewing the project to determine whether a federal environmental assessment is required.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

OPG has retained SENES Consultants Limited of Richmond Hill, Ontario to undertake the environmental assessment. For more information on the Upper Mattagami River Environment Assessment or to be put on our mailing list, please contact:

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email us at:

**info@uppermattagami-ea.com**

or visit the environmental assessment web site:

**www.uppermattagami-ea.com**

## OPG IS SEEKING PUBLIC INPUT AS PART OF THE EA PROCESS

OPG is committed to consulting with First Nations, government agencies, the public and other interested stakeholders on the project. This will be done through the environmental assessment process. OPG wants to hear from people interested in the project. Your input and comments will be considered, documented and included in the preparation of the environmental assessment report.

To encourage public participation OPG will be holding Public Open Houses in Timmins. Stakeholders will have the opportunity to speak directly with representatives of OPG and its environmental consulting team.

**The first open house will be held at the Days Inn, Timmins on Wednesday April 19, 2006 from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm. A presentation will be given at 6:45 pm.**

Our plan is to hold a second open house in the fall of 2006, when the environmental fieldwork has been completed.

## THE PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT WILL COMPLY WITH THE MATTAGAMI RIVER SYSTEM WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

A Water Management Plan for the Mattagami River System has been developed and includes eighteen waterpower sites and facilities located along the river system that have an influence on levels and flows. The operation of the redeveloped facilities at Wawaitin, Sandy Falls and Lower Sturgeon will be in compliance with the Water Management Plan. The generating stations will continue to operate as run-of-the-river facilities and be managed so that there is no change to the water levels and flows.

The Water Management Plan was prepared in accordance with the Water Management Planning Guidelines for Waterpower, as approved by the Minister of Natural Resources on May 14, 2002. The Ontario Lakes and River Improvements Act requires compliance by facility operators with the operating regimes (required levels and flows) established in the Water Management Plans and a compliance monitoring program has been established.