

APPENDIX G
PUBLIC CONSULTATION PLAN

**BLIND RIVER
WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
PUBLIC CONSULTATION PLAN**

G1 Introduction

The Water Management Guidelines for Waterpower (Appendix C of the Guidelines) outline the requirements for public consultation.

The WMP guidelines recognize that there is a gradient of complexity for WMPs. The Blind River WMP is considered to be of relatively low complexity, because there are only four water control structures, and three generating facilities. The generating facilities are all operated as run-of-the-river, and have only a very limited capacity to impound water outside of normal flows. For these reasons, the planning team believed that a reduced level of public consultation could be conducted, and still allow the public sufficient opportunities to participate.

The public will be encouraged throughout the planning process, through interactions with planning team members, area MNR staff, and Resource Management Advisory Committee members to contribute to, and participate in the development of this WMP.

If a member of the public, or interest group requests a meeting, related to the development of this WMP, every effort shall be made to accommodate the request.

G2 Public Advisory Committee

A Public Advisory Committee was established for the Blind River WMP. It is comprised of the following members of the Resource Management Committee:

- Carmaine McCallum
- Robin Horwath
- René Fabris
- Don Fry
- Hedley Willett
- Marie Murphy-Foran
- Jukka Heikurinen
- Ray Makela
- Russ Wood (RMAC rep on planning team)
- Steve vanDuin
- Larry Kissau
- Roger Mulligan.

The purpose of the RMAC is to

- provide input to the planning team on local water management issues
- comment on any water management planning documents
- liaise informally with the local community to obtain their input on water management issues
- encourage the local community to attend information sessions and provide input to the plan.

G3 Public Notices

Public notices will be prepared by the MNR at key stages in the public consultation process outlined below.

Direct written notice will be given to a target group of persons, groups, or organizations that express an interest in the development of this WMP. A mailing list will be compiled for this purpose. The main sources for this list will be MNR files, the Town of Blind River, and the Matinenda Cottagers Association. Written notice will be given to those on the mail list 2 weeks before all public information sessions, and final plan review.

G4 French Language Services

Public notices will be given in the English language, and will include a sentence in French, indicating where information on the subject matter of the notices can be obtained in the French language.

French-speaking staff should be available to assist the French-speaking public at all public information centres.

G5 Environmental Bill of Rights

The *Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR)*, provides opportunities for public consultation and comment for notices to be placed on the provincial EBR Environmental Registry. These notices shall be placed at the following stages of the public consultation process:

- Stage One Invitation to Participate and Initial Scoping
- Stage Three Options Development
- Stage Four Draft Plan
- Stage Five Final Plan.

The notices will contain a range of information addressing the purpose of the specific consultation, appropriate reference and resource material, and details about the meetings.

G6 Consultation Stages

The WMP Guidelines identify five broad stages in an effective public consultation process.

Stage One - Initial Scoping to Identify Issues and Resource Values:

Stage one of the public consultation process begins with an Invitation to Participate in the initial scoping and shall include an Information Centre. The purpose of this public consultation is to

- advise the public that water management planning is beginning for the river
- explain the planning goal and objectives
- provide access to information to be used in the water management planning process
- request contributions to the background information to be used in planning
- identify valued resources and issues that may be addressed in planning
- request the public's views on the desired benefits from the river system which can be achieved through the management of water levels and flows.

Newspaper notices shall be placed in local newspapers, and a mail-out notification shall be done at least 1 week before the Information Centre. An EBR notice will also be posted with the related information.

The purpose of Stage Two public consultation is to

- provide an opportunity for public review and comment on scoping information
- request additional contributions to the background information and any other information that should be considered in decision-making.

No public information centre will be held at this stage. Members of the public will be encouraged to provide information and comments to the planning team.

The purpose of Stage Three public consultation is to

- provide an opportunity for public review and comment on the water management alternatives contained in an options development
- comment on the preliminary preferred water management alternative for the term of the plan
- request additional contributions to background information and other information to be considered in decision-making.

No public information centre will be held at this stage. Members of the public will be encouraged to provide information and comments to the planning team.

The purpose of Stage Four public consultation is to

- provide an opportunity for public review and comment on the draft water management plan and any accompanying supplementary documentation.

The Draft Plan Review stage shall include a Public Information Centre. Newspaper notices shall be placed in local newspapers, and a mail-out notification shall be done at least 1 week before the Information Centre. An EBR notice will also be posted with the related information.

The purpose of Stage Five public consultation is to

- provide an opportunity for public review of the final plan as approved by the Regional Director or designate of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

No public information centre will be held at this stage. Members of the public will be encouraged to provide information and comments to the planning team. The EBR notice will be updated with this information.

All public notices will be published in English in the North Shore Sentinel, the Blind River Sentinel, and the Elliot Lake Standard. A French contact number will be provided within each notice.

In addition to Public Open Houses and Public Notices, a stakeholder mailing list will be developed. Mailings to all stakeholders will be completed during the initial stage of the water management planning process. Mailings in subsequent stages of the water management planning process will be sent to those stakeholders who have expressed an interest in remaining on the mailing list and wish to be informed of developments throughout the other stages of the water management planning process.

G7 Availability of Public Comments

All written correspondence from the public of First Nations will be kept on file at the Blind River Area Office of the MNR for use during the plan operating period. This information may be included in study documentation, which is made available for public review. Under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (1987), personal information will remain confidential unless prior consent is obtained. However, this information may be used by the MNR to seek public input on other resource management surveys and projects. For further information on this Act, please contact Mr. Tom Mispel-Beyer at 705-949-1231, Extension 288.