



VUNTUT GWITCHIN GOVERNMENT

Government of Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation

Media Release

Vuntut Gwitchin Government and ATCO Electric Yukon reach an Electricity Purchase Agreement for Old Crow Solar Project

(Old Crow, Yukon, Canada – June 19, 2018)

The Vuntut Gwitchin Government and the Yukon Electrical Company Ltd. (ATCO Electric Yukon) have reached an agreement in principle for an Electricity Purchase Agreement (EPA). The agreement outlines the relationship under which ATCO Electric Yukon will purchase electricity generated from a 940-kW solar photovoltaic array owned and managed by the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation over a 25-year period.

The Old Crow Solar Project is a vision of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation to develop clean energy alternatives for Old Crow and gain long-term energy security. This project will reduce the amount of fuel used by the community's generators by 190,000 L diesel/year and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 680 tonne CO₂e/year – the equivalent of taking 140 cars off the road.

This agreement is the first of its kind under the Yukon Government's Independent Power Production Policy (2015), which supports the participation of First Nations in the development of environmentally sound electrical supply options in the territory, and is the first EPA in Canada's North that allows an Independent Power Producer to meet 100% of the community's electricity demand with renewable energy. The agreement also reflects ATCO's collaborative approach to working alongside First Nations in the North to enable the development of new and innovative renewable energy infrastructure.

The EPA takes a co-management approach by creating an Operating Committee in which both the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and ATCO Electric Yukon are equally represented. The committee will manage how the various generation assets (solar PV array, diesel generation, energy storage) will be used to meet community demand.

The EPA is designed to minimize risks to the ratepayer, the utility and the independent power producer. The price for electricity generated by the solar array is based on avoided fuel costs, and savings on deferred maintenance and capital replacement of diesel generation equipment. The Old Crow Solar Project will allow the diesel generation facility to turn off completely on sunny summer days, with a projected saving of more than 2000 engine hours per year for ATCO Electric Yukon.

A short video about the Old Crow Solar Project can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dnYkbuUknc>

Quotes:

The Old Crow Solar Project arises from the vision and ingenuity of our young leaders. With strong community support for new technologies, we are moving away from diesel generation and embracing solar energy for the environmental, social and economic benefits it will bring our community.

– **Chief Bruce Charlie, Vuntut Gwitchin Government**

It is a great privilege to partner with the Vuntut Gwitchin Government as they reduce their reliance on diesel-fueled electricity generation. The energy sector is changing and we are pleased to play a key role in enabling this transition as we continue to build on our long history of meaningful and mutually beneficial relationships in Canada's North. – **Wayne Stensby, Managing Director, Electricity for ATCO**

The Government of Yukon is delighted to have the opportunity to contribute to this important renewable energy initiative. The Vuntut Gwitchin government has shown great initiative in gathering all these partners together and

bringing this project to life. We look forward to being there with the residents of Old Crow when the diesels are turned off for the first time. – Ranj Pillai, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources

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