

The Task Force Report on Pipeline Construction Costs (the Horte Report) sponsored by EMR Canada completed its work and released its recommendations in late 1983. While the report deals with pipeline construction costs Canada wide, it has paid special attention to northern regulatory issues. As well it recognizes the importance of the GNWT Resource Development Policy.

In late 1983 the Minister of DIAND invited the GNWT to participate in the Northern Regulatory Review; a comprehensive cross government and departmental review of all major northern regulatory processes. Included in the review will be those regulatory mechanisms affecting the oil and gas industry and the mining industry. The purpose of the review is to identify gaps, inconsistencies and overlaps in the regulatory and assessment processes with a view to streamlining where appropriate. The Secretariat has been established as this government's lead agency for the review.

A GNWT Energy Policy was approved by the Executive in late 1983. The policy sets out the basic principles or aims of the government action and more specific direction intended to guide the development and conduct of energy programs by operating departments. Further, the policy sets out a planning mechanism called the Energy Program Plan, through which departmental programs are regularly reviewed. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has requested that a document be prepared for the Legislative Assembly explaining the types of energy problems the NWT is experiencing and the solutions that the Energy Policy presents to solve these problems.

One of the principles of the Energy Policy is that new sources of energy will be identified on a community by community basis. A contract was co-funded by the Secretariat and the Federal Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, \$125,000 to assess the viability of bringing natural gas or propane to NWT communities on the Great Slave Lake and Mackenzie Delta road systems.

Electricity continues to be a major energy concern of the Executive Council. The Penner Inquiry of April 1982 recommended that all electrical power utilities including NCPC in the territories should be fully subject to regulation by their respective Public Utilities Boards (PUB). In June 1983, before the National Energy Board NCPC Inquiry, the GNWT recommended that NCPC immediately become fully regulated by an expanded NWT PUB. But the NEB did not accept this recommendation and stated that the regulation of NCPC should continue to be assigned to a single federal regulatory agency, the National Energy Board. Before accepting this recommendation, the GNWT requested that the regulation of NCPC be reviewed in three years time, once the relocation of NCPC to Yellowknife is complete. A commitment on this requirement was received by the Minister of DIAND June 1984. The Executive Council of the GNWT has been asked to nominate one person to serve on a five person NEB regulation panel.