

### C. A Means for Co-ordination

Planning in the North must obviously take place at various levels. As the first stage in the planning process, there is a need for a clear energy policy. In the territories, energy policy is principally the responsibility of the federal government because of its present jurisdiction over territorial lands and resources. Nevertheless, involvement of the respective territorial governments is essential so that priorities are not only geared to meeting the federal government's off-oil objectives, but can be suited to regional energy sources and needs. In the past, the absence of a comprehensive and effective northern energy policy has encouraged the NCPC in the ad hoc planning of facilities for generating electrical power. How can it plan major projects with long lead-times in the absence of government priorities?

At the next level of planning, that of electrical energy, the NCPC has prime responsibility, but not the final decisions. Both the territorial governments and the private utilities believe that they have been denied a prime role in this process. Because federal funds are involved, the federal government has the final say before any large projects are undertaken.

The planning process must involve careful and rational exploration of all options, not only the need for new facilities, but their type, capacity, and location. Proper planning would identify land and sites needed for hydro-electrical developments and would avoid future land-use conflicts. Such a complex task demands not only the skills of persons with background in operating electrical utilities, but also knowledge of federal and territorial government energy priorities.

The subcommittee believes that a formal planning mechanism in each territory would encourage inclusion of all relevant factors in planning electrical energy. Lack of consultation has contributed to the dissatisfaction with the current planning process.

In Alberta, where several utilities share responsibility for providing electrical power, an Electric Utility Planning Council has been formed by the utilities themselves, with several provincial bodies participating as observers. This council projects the province's need for electrical energy, examines present plans for satisfying this need over the shorter term and identifies possible options for satisfying needs beyond that time. It seems clear that the need for a planning council of the type used in Alberta is a direct consequence of more than one electrical utility supplying power to the public and the extent to which the production and transmission facilities of the various utilities are interconnected through the provincial grid system. The formation of a planning body like Alberta's, modified to suit territorial needs, would allay concerns that electrical power planning north of 60° is being carried out in isolation. Within each territory, governments, industry, utilities and members of the public could advise on the development of electrical power.

If such a council were created, it would provide a forum for exchange of ideas, for all those knowledgeable to agree on the likely future demand for electrical power within the