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EA Begins on Little Jackfish River Development
Lake Nipigon First Nations could become a key partner in project

Thunder Bay – Ontario Power Generation (OPG) has launched an Environmental Assessment (EA) on a proposed 100 megawatt hydroelectric development on the Little Jackfish River north of Lake Nipigon.

As part of the EA process, OPG and Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek, Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek, Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek, Kiashke Zaaging Anishinaabek, Red Rock Indian Band and Whitesand First Nation, collectively known as the Lake Nipigon First Nations, will be working co-operatively to assess the environmental, cultural and socio-economic impacts of the project.

“This is a unique opportunity to work closely with the six First Nations on creating a green energy project,” said Carlo Crozzoli, OPG’s vice-president Hydro Development. OPG and the Lac Seul First Nation recently celebrated the opening of the Lac Seul/Obishikokaang Waasiganikewigamig Generating Station near Earl Falls, Ontario. The Lac Seul First Nation have a 25 per cent equity share in the station. OPG is optimistic that discussions with the Lake Nipigon First Nations will result in a similar arrangement for the Little Jackfish Project.

Northern Superior Regional Chief, Wilfred King, a spokesperson for the Lake Nipigon First Nations said that all six of the communities would be directly consulted before a decision is made on moving forward, and added that if the consultations are successful, the project would offer the First Nation communities an opportunity to share in the long-term benefits of the project.

Consultation activities with other interested stakeholders have begun and Open Houses are expected to start this fall. If the EA is successful, the project could be in service as early as 2014. Information on the EA process can be found at www.littlejackfish.com.

OPG is celebrating its 10th year of serving the province. Building on a proud history, OPG provides the people and industry of Ontario with clean, safe and reliable electricity - just as it's always done.

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