ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF NEW ENERGY SUPPLY FOR ATIKOKAN, ONTARIO

TERMS OF REFERENCE SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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Errata Sheet
Public Consultation Record
Environmental Assessment of New Energy Supply for Atikokan

Page 2, section 3.0, line 3: delete "associated with supplying power to the Thunder Bay area"

Page 9, section 5.0, paragraph 2, line 1: make ToR plural (ToRs)

Page 9, section 5.0, paragraph 2, line 2: insert for Thunder Bay and Cascades

Page 9, section 5.0, paragraph 2 line 4. insert the following: "While it is anticipated that there could be minor differences with the ToR for Atikokan in terms of agency comments, it is unlikely that any substantitive changes will result as the ToRs are almost the same.

Page 10, add new section:

"5.21 Government Review Team Discussions Regarding the ToR for the New Energy Supply for Norampac

The following summarizes Government Review Team comments received specifically relating to the ToR for Atikokan. Although not everyone on the Government Review Team list responded, responses from the ones that did indicate that comments provided for the Atikokan ToR will be the same as those provided for the Supply to Cascades and Supply to Thunder Bay ToRs.

- Neville Ward (Fisheries and Oceans): If the process is the same, there will be no further comments;
- John Langley (Economic Development and Trade): no comments;
- Peter Makula (Transportation): no comments;
- George Mandrapilas for Fernando Traficante (Economic Development & Trade): same as previously sent in;
- Margaret Bakalar (CEAA): Harmonization issues need to be addressed in all ToRs;
- Elaine Lynch (Tourism & Recreation): no comments;
- Murray Armstrong for John Stadtlander (Municipal Affairs and Housing): comments should be the same for Atikokan ToR as for Norampac, Cascades and Supply to Thunder Bay ToRs; and
- Michelle McChristie/John Higham (Indian and Northern Affairs): comments for the Atikokan ToR will be similar to those for the Thunder Bay and Cascades ToRs, however, they are less concerned about Atikokan since there are no First Nations in proximity.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This is a supplementary document to the Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference (ToR) of New Energy Supply for Atikokan. The purpose of this document is to provide some background information on the study area and a brief history of SynFuel's work to develop a generating station in northwestern Ontario.

2.0 LOCATION

Atikokan is located close to Highway 11, approximately half way between Fort Frances and Thunder Bay. It is 1,660 kilometres from Toronto and 200 kilometres west of Thunder Bay. It is located directly north of Quetico Provincial Park. Figure 1 provides a map of the Community.

3.0 BACKGROUND

In 2001, SynFuel was invited to assess the potential for new generating facilities in the Thunder Bay area by the Northwest Energy Association. The Northwest Energy Association is comprised of all of the former municipal electric utilities in northwestern Ontario, led by Thunder Bay Hydro. A concept, linking new generation with the export of power to the United States was developed which, unfortunately proved not to be economically feasible. From this work, SynFuel determined that they wished to generate power on a smaller scale to provide service to industry and the regional power grid. In 2003, SynFuel signed a long-term lease for the Valley Camp Terminals property with the Fort William First Nation, and undertook to obtain approvals to build a power plant on the site.

The proposed fuel (petroleum coke) for generating electricity is not described under the Electricity Regulation, and therefore, the only approvals necessary were operating permits (Certificates of Approval for Air and Industrial Sewage). The level of public interest surrounding the study led the project to be designated under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (Ontario Regulation 196/04). This requires SynFuel to undertake an individual EA for any electricity generating projects in or around Thunder Bay. SynFuel has agreed to have their Atikokan project designated as an Individual Environmental Assessment (EA) under the EA Act.

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) maintains a 230 MW generating station (GS) in Atikokan. The GS was put into service in 1985 so it is still relatively new by comparison to much of OPG's physical plant. Atikokan GS burns a low sulphur lignite coal. Electricity from the GS supplies power to northwestern Ontario via the Hydro One electricity grid. According to OPG, the station employs about 90 people and is currently owned and operated by OPG. Since these jobs are unionized, the workers are reasonably well paid and receive good benefits.

Recent announcements by the provincial government indicate that they are committed to closing Atikokan G.S. and the other coal plants in Ontario by 2007. The loss of 90 well paying jobs and the multiplier effect that this would create in a community with a total population of 3,632 distributed over 1,565 households is very significant.

SynFuel was approached by the Economic Development Offices for Atikokan who indicated that Atikokan was interested in looking at alternatives to replace the existing coal fired GS. The municipal council has also expressed support for the project.

The Ministry of Energy has issued a "Request for Proposals" for 2,500 MW of new energy. Approximately 250 MW is identified as being required in the Atikokan Area. Upon award of a contract with the Ministry of Energy, proponents will be provided with fixed price guarantees for their power.

4.0 PUBLIC CONSULTATION ACTIVITY DETAILS

The following sections describe previous activities undertaken by SynFuel in the Thunder Bay area. Due to the similarity in the issues, the information presented is relevant to the current project.

4.1 History of Public Consultation

The proposal for new generation in Thunder Bay was formally announced through the local print and electronic media with the publication (dated March 6, 2002) of a four-page colour brochure titled "Northwest Energy Works - a three-phase utility initiative" (Appendix A). A video was also produced. Phase 1 of the project encompassed "A new generating plant in Thunder Bay, Ontario". The other two phases were involved with transmission line infrastructure. The project benefits were described on the last page.

SynFuel has since met and discussed issues extensively with federal and provincial government agencies. In addition to these meetings, Thunder Bay Hydro held a meeting to showcase the project as well as a subsequent meeting with the Northwest Energy Association. Numerous other public involvement activities have taken place as part of SynFuel's consultation program to ensure that members of the public are well informed, including:

- ***General Public Meeting*** – A formal public meeting (complete with presentation by the proponents, questions and answers and display panels) was held to introduce the project, present information and obtain public response;
- ***Meetings with individual stakeholder groups*** were conducted as appropriate and required, to discuss and resolve concerns. Meetings were held with numerous local

groups such as the Chamber of Commerce, local utilities, the City of Thunder Bay, Lakehead University and others;

- ***Aboriginal Consultation*** was carried out, including public and community meetings, preparation of a plain language summary and peer review of the voluntary EA by an independent group and regular communication with the Chief;
- ***A project website*** was developed to provide information on the proposed undertaking;
- ***Public notices*** relating to project activities were placed in the Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal;
- ***Site tours*** were arranged for various groups including Lakehead University; and
- ***Weekly e-mail notices*** were sent to over 300 people.

In addition to public information provided by SynFuel, there were numerous other project-related public activities, which are described as follows:

- ***Project Information*** was placed on the Thunder Bay Independent Media Website and a chat room allowed residents to comment on the project.
- ***Newspaper*** notices, editorials, letters to the editor, and general comments relating to the project occurred regularly over a two-year timeframe.
- ***Radio*** newscasts and talk-show comments relating to the project occurred frequently.
- ***Environmental Bill of Rights Postings*** – two postings related to the project resulted in a great deal of public comment.
- ***Ontario Clean Air Alliance*** – this lobby group produced a fact sheet related to the project which was placed on their web site.

These activities were all undertaken prior to the designation of SynFuel under the EA Act.

4.2 Issue Identification

While the EA will evaluate alternative forms of power generation, it is valuable to review the community issues that arose with SynFuel's proposed fossil-fuel plant. The rationale is that many of the issues would relate to other forms of generation and the interest groups would likely be the same. General issues identified previously included:

- Plant design issues relating to the newness of the technology;
- Was the power being developed for export?;

- How significant were the air emissions?;
- Was the petroleum coke a hazardous material?;
- Storage issues (leachate migration and dust) related to the petroleum coke;
- Intake of water from and heated water discharge to the Mission River; and
- Other site impacts such as noise and aesthetics.

The following are a list of specific issues identified by the public and interest groups in their review of SynFuel's Thunder Bay generating project. They are listed in no particular order. Responses to these issues were made by SynFuel during the preparation of their previous studies. These issues have also been considered during the drafting of the Terms of Reference for the Individual EA for Norampac.

These concerns, as well as those raised during the Public Consultation for the TOR, will help define what is contained in the TOR.

ISSUES	RESPONSE
Expansion of Project	At this point, there is no economic justification to increase the size of the facility on the Valley Camp property. Should expansion be proposed in future, appropriate permits and approvals would be sought.
Air Emissions	As demonstrated in the voluntary environmental review report (ERR) air emissions are within limits set by the Ministry of the Environment.
Petroleum Coke "Loophole"	While petroleum coke is not a fuel that is covered in the EA Guidelines for Electricity Projects, SynFuel has undertaken an environmental assessment of the project and produced an environmental report. The MOE, through regulation, has now required that an individual EA be prepared under the EA process.
New Fuel Source and Combustion Technologies	There are 384 operating gasifiers in the world today. There are 5 operating petroleum coke gasification plants in the United States. These are located in Tampa, Wabush River, New Jersey, Coffeyville and El Dorado.
Public Consultation and Outreach	Numerous opportunities for public consultation have been offered including a well publicized formal public meeting held on February 15, 2004. There is an open door policy at the site. Numerous tours have been conducted.
Misleading Information	The project was a "work in progress". As such, there was some misleading information presented in the early stages. This has been rectified through the formal public meeting, meetings at Lakehead University and others.
Less than One Kilometre from Homes in Thunder Bay and the Fort William First Nation	The plant is 1.2 km from the nearest residence. A human health risk assessment will be conducted as part of the individual EA.
E.A. Threshold of 200 MW	The 200 MW level of electricity generation is not a relevant threshold to require an environmental assessment of this type of power plant under the Electricity Regulation. This comment is no longer relevant to SynFuel since the facility has been designated under the EA Act.
Comparison of Petroleum Coke to Other Options including Natural Gas	Graphs found in the environmental report compare petroleum coke to natural gas, coal and provincial air emission requirements. While not as good environmentally as natural gas, petroleum coke is much superior to coal and is well within provincial air emission requirements. Natural gas is an expensive fuel source. New natural gas plants are not economically feasible without long-term power contracts. Natural gas is a commodity that is getting scarcer and more costly to produce, driving its price up.

ISSUES	RESPONSE
No Shortage of Electricity Generating Capacity in northwestern Ontario	With the government commitment to close the coal-fired generating stations by 2007, this will remove over 500 MW from the generation supply in northwestern Ontario. This will eliminate the surplus generation in the area. Potential new developments (mines and a state-of-the-art electric smelter proposed in the Thunder Bay area) will not be able to occur.
Potential Toxins Including Mercury	An analysis of petroleum coke from Suncor by the University of Alberta has found it to be virtually free from mercury. Other "toxins" will be removed through the gasification process and emission controls. Leachate from the petroleum coke pile will be collected into a system of lined channels and two concrete structures. Stormwater will be used for dust suppression on the pet coke pile.
Discharges to Water	There will be no heated water discharge into the Mission River. Grey water and black water will be managed through on-site sewage treatment.
Disposition of Solid Waste	Fly ash will be trucked off-site to an approved landfill site(s). Care will be taken to ensure that the ash does not become airborne during transfer through the use of a vacuum truck.
Potential Leachate from Solid Waste	Ash will be stored in silos prior to being removed off-site. There is no opportunity for leachate to be created, as it will not be in contact with water.
Transmission Cable Under Lake Superior	This project is to supply power for local industries and local distribution by Thunder Bay Hydro. No crossing of Lake Superior is planned.
Source of the Petroleum Coke	The petroleum coke will come from Suncor in Alberta. It is lower in sulphur than corresponding petroleum coke from other parts of the world. It is virtually free of mercury.
Mode of Transport	The petroleum coke will be transported by CN rail cars. A train of 125 cars will supply the plant once each week. The petroleum coke is unloaded into a hopper and travels by underground conveyor to a storage pile to reduce dust. it is then removed from the storage pile via another underground conveyor and goes to be pulverized and gasified. Petroleum coke is transported regularly around North America via rail, road and water. CN Rail transported 1.2 MLN tons of petroleum coke in 2002.
Power Earmarked for the U.S.A.	The power produced by the plant is to supply local customers with a long-term, cost-comparative reliable source of power. This will help local industries and residents reduce their energy costs.

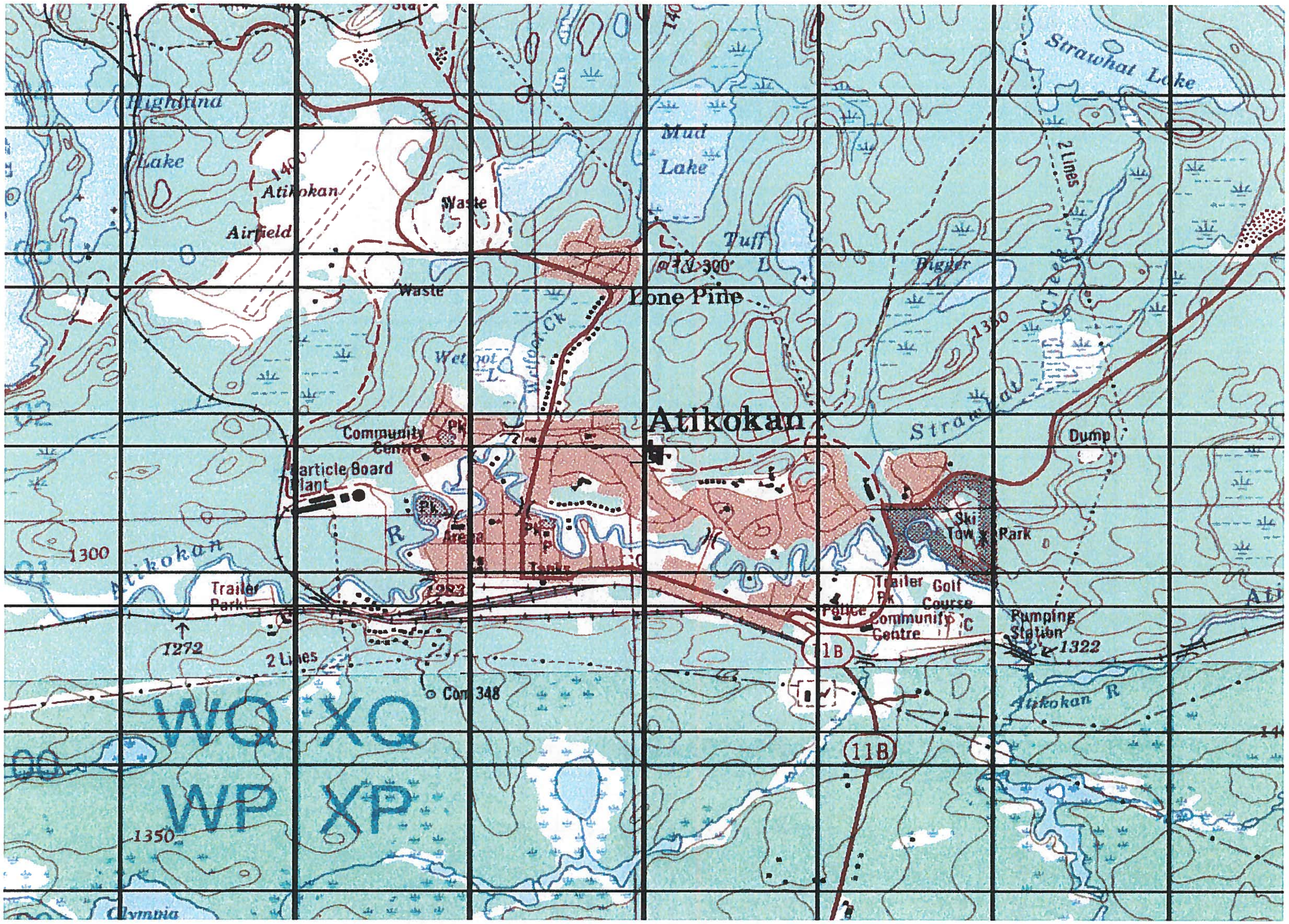
ISSUES	RESPONSE
First Nation Land can be used to By-Pass Ontario's Environmental Laws	The SynFuel Plant will be located on the Fort William First Nation Industrial Park. These lands are owned by the Fort William First Nation Development Corporation but are not part of the reserve. Thus, they are subject to Ontario's environmental laws.
Fuel Type	The plant will only use petroleum coke in the gasification process. It will not burn any other material.
U.S. Firm	SynFuel Technologies Inc. is a Canadian Company operating in Thunder Bay. It owns the Valley Corp Terminal operation and employs 50 people.
Construction of Transmission Facilities	At this point, a short 115 kV transmission line between the plant and potential industrial clients is a possibility. It will be the responsibility of the customer and will undergo a Class EA process for transmission facilities.
Inadequate Consultation	The project has an open door policy. A general public meeting was held on February 15, 2004 in Thunder Bay. Numerous other meetings have been previously held and meetings with Lakehead University students, business and trades people have occurred as well. Copies of the Environmental Review Report will be available for public review through the project site office, the Fort William First Nation, the Ministry of Environment District Office in Thunder Bay and the local Councillor's office.
Government Commitment to Natural Gas Plants	Natural gas plants, especially if they use co-generation (the recovery of waste heat to use in steam generation, space or process heating) are relatively efficient and low polluting facilities. The problem is that natural gas reserves are becoming depleted, thus increasing the cost of this fuel to the point where it is not economic to use it in power generation. Petroleum coke provides an alternative since it is relatively abundant and produces air emissions within legal limits and at a much lower rate than other fossil fuels.

4.3 Other Terms of Reference Consultation

Public meetings were held on November 16th in Red Rock and November 17th in Atikokan to discuss Terms of Reference for EAs for SynFuel plants being proposed in those communities. The responses to the public meetings are relevant to the ToR for Norampac and they have contributed to refinements in this ToR document. They may be viewed in the Public Consultation Records for Thunder Bay and Cascades at www.senes.ca/synfuel.

5.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The following provides general information on the Atikokan area to provide a setting within which a new generating facility may be located. Figure 1 is a national topographic series map which illustrates general information such as surface water, topography, forest cover and human conditions.


Strawhat Lake
Mud
Lake
Tuff
Lake
Atikokan
Airfield
Waste
Waste
Lone Pine
Wetpot L.
Bigger
2 Lines
Dump
Atikokan
Community Centre
Particle Board Plant
Ski Tow
Park
Trailer Pk
Golf Course
Police
Community Centre
Pumping Station
1322
Trailer Park
1272
2 Lines
Com 348
1300
1350
1B
11B
Atikokan R
WQ
XQ
WP
XP

5.1 Climate

The climate in this region of Ontario can be generally defined as modified continental, the modification being caused mainly by the Great Lakes. Thus, the extremes of temperature and precipitation are not as severe as in areas of similar latitude on the Prairies. The weather is variable, but rather more so in summer than in winter. Cold polar air masses which produce dry, clear weather are common over the region, particularly in winter. In summer, a succession of cyclonic storms give alternating periods of relatively cool, dry weather, followed by warmer and more humid weather. These periods typically persist for only one to three days (Chapman and Thomas, 1968).

Tables 5.1 and 5.2 provide temperature and precipitation data for the Atikokan area.

TABLE 5.1
TEMPERATURE (°C)

Month	Mean Daily	Daily Maximum	Daily Minimum	Extreme Maximum	Extreme Minimum
January	-17.9	-11.1	-24.9	7.8 (1973)	-45.2 (1982)
February	-14.3	-6.8	-21.9	11.7 (1976)	-45.6 (1967)
March	-6.6	-0.4	-13.8	17.2 (1967)	-38.3 (1967)
April	2.8	9.8	-4.3	28.3 (1977)	-28.9 (1982)
May	9.9	17.3	2.4	34.4 (1969)	-10.0 (1967)
June	14.5	21.5	7.5	32.6 (1987)	-3.4 (1978)
July	17.7	24.7	10.7	35.6 (1975)	-0.6 (1975)
August	16.0	22.8	9.2	35.0 (1976)	-2.8 (1976)
September	10.6	16.8	4.4	37.2 (1976)	-7.8 (1976)
October	4.5	9.5	-0.5	26.1 (1975)	-17.7 (1981)
November	-4.8	-0.1	-9.6	20.2 (1978)	-37.4 (1985)
December	-14.0	-8.2	-19.9	9.2 (1982)	-42.0 (1983)

Source: Environment Canada.

TABLE 5.2
PRECIPITATION

Month	Rainfall (mm)	Snowfall (cm)	Total Precipitation (mm)
January	0.3	47.9	32.6
February	0.8	32.7	23.1
March	11.1	32.5	36.5
April	29.5	20.3	48.9
May	68.2	5.2	73.2
June	104.8	---	104.8
July	102.6	---	102.6
August	99.4	---	99.4
September	86.1	2.1	87.8
October	64.5	12.6	75.8
November	10.0	42.6	44.9
December	3.4	42.4	33.3
YEAR TOTAL	**580.7**	**238.5**	**762.9**

Source: Environment Canada.

5.2 Bedrock Geology

Atikokan is located within the Wabigoon Subprovince of the Superior Province of the Canadian Shield. The predominant bedrock is granitic gneiss, although metavolcanic and metasedimentary rocks are also present. Closer to Lake Superior, bedrock in the area consists of a dark grey, fine-grained, hard, greywacke sandstone, interbedded with shale, as well as mica schists and granitic gneiss rocks. Atikokan is located within the Greenstone Belt, which contains valuable economic minerals such as gold, silver, iron, copper, asbestos, lead, nickel and zinc. The Steep Rock Iron Range is located nearby. It is famous for its iron ore mines.

5.3 Physiography

The landscape in the Atikokan area can be characterized as rugged, consisting of numerous ridges, gullies lakes and rivers. Much of the area is composed of bare rock outcrops with shallow soils. The underlying physiography of the area consists of a bouldery till that is an unstratified mixture of clay, silt and gravel, together with rock fragments of varying sizes.

5.4 Soils

There is a very thin soil cover around Atikokan. The soils primarily consist of sands, gravel and boulders and are interspersed between bare rock outcrops. There are relatively infertile and when combined with climate, result in little or no agriculture being practiced in the area.

5.5 Hydrogeology

The regional shallow groundwater flows in an east-west direction. Atikokan is about 70 km east of the Artic Watershed.

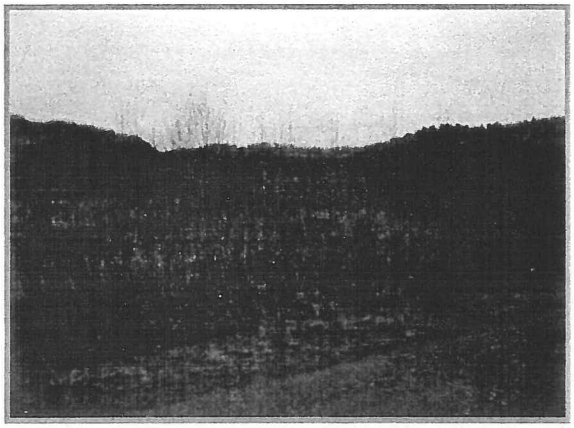
5.6 Surface Water

The Town of Atikokan is bisected by the Atikokan River. The area is typical of the Canadian Shield in that there are numerous small and medium-sized waterbodies in the area as well as wetlands and small creeks.

In the Atikokan area, lake trout, northern pike, small mouth bass and walleye are the predominant sport fish found in the lakes and rivers. Other fish include lake whitefish, lake herring, white sucker, yellow perch, rock bass, sunfish and a variety of minnow species.

5.7 Vegetation

Atikokan lies very close to the transition zone between the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Forest and the Boreal Forest Zones. The major tree species found in the area include black spruce, jack pine, balsam fir, white birch and balsam poplar.



Typical Vegetation in the Atikokan Area

5.8 Rare and Endangered Species

Rare and endangered species habitat is not commonly found in the area; however there is the possibility that this type of habitat may be encountered. It is primarily associated with the nests of certain bird species and with wetland plants.

5.9 Mammals

The most significant mammals found in the area is the moose.

There are around 100 trappers in the Atikokan area. The animals that they trap include beaver, otter, bobcat, lynx, wolverine, mink, muskrat, fisher, martin, red fox, grey fox, red squirrel, weasel, coyote, timber wolf, skunk and black bear.

5.10 Birds

Aquatic Birds

Herring Gull, Mallard, Common Goldeneye, Canada Goose, Blue Winged Teal and Pintail are found in the area.

Terrestrial Birds

Land birds known to be in the general area include the Red-winged Blackbird, Song Sparrow, Common Crow, Starling, Black–capped Chickadee, Common Grackle, Cliff Swallow, Lapland Longspur, Yellow Rumpled Warbler, American Robin, Snow Bunting, Swamp Sparrow, Rock Dove, Tree Sparrow and various species of woodpecker.

5.11 History

A brief description of the history of the area is excerpted from the Atikokan Community Profile, produced by the Atikokan Economic Development Commission.

The fur trade resulted in European contact with the local Ojibwa population. Due to boundary disputes between Canada and the United States, fur brigades travelled extensively through the heart of the Atikokan-Quetico area. However, in the 1850's the fur trade ceased in this area due to other means of transportation, namely the railroad.

Confederation in 1867 brought with it a need to improve communication with the west. This demand triggered the construction of the Dawson Trail, which began at Prince Arthur's Landing and went through to Winnipeg. When the Dawson Trail was completed in 1874, the route west could be travelled for $1,500. This reasonably priced trip included riding in open wagons, and crossing lakes and rivers in an open rowboat. Accommodation was a large platform raised off the ground, on which everyone slept. However, in 1882, the completion of the Canadian pacific Railway resulted in the closure of the Dawson Trail.

After the fur trade in the 1850's, gold was discovered approximately 45 miles southeast of Atikokan. This finding, in the winter of 1870, started a boom of mineral exploration. Demands for an effective means of communication and transportation in 1886 resulted in the incorporation of the Ontario and Rainy River Railroad to be built from Port Arthur to Fort Frances and westward. In addition, roads were being built in the region to assist in developing the mining areas.

Active mining operations commenced in the Atikokan area in 1899. That same year, Tom Rawn settled in the Atikokan area after the completion of the Canadian Northern Railroad, which included Atikokan. Tom Rawn, Atikokan's first settler, was one of the first to stake claims for iron ore in the Steep Rock area. In 1940, Tom Rawn sold 109 mining claims to the Midwest Iron Mining Corporation. With the sixty claims that still remained he formed Rawn Iron Mines Ltd.

Iron ore was extracted from the Steep Rock area in order to supply the war effort. The determination and perservance of five men, Cross, Errington, Hogarth, Fotheringham and Eaton, has made Steep Rock unique in Canadian history. The massive engineering project is known as one of the great Canadian engineering triumphs of all time. Steep Rock Iron Mines was a great success, producing 1,400,000 tons of high-grade pellets annually. However, new technologies that improved the quality of steel made from taconite ore, forced Steep Rock Iron Mines to announce its closure in 1972. Steep Rock Iron Mines could not compete economically and they officially closed in August 1979.

Three ore bodies were discovered during the probing of Steep Rock Lake. Each ore body was initially labelled, A, B and C, but later were named after the founders of the Steep Rock ore bodies. The first ore body was named Hogarth Mine, the second was named Errington Mine and the third ore body was leased to the Caland Ore Company Limited. Caland was a subsidiary of the Inland Steel Company of Chicago. Caland Ore Company Limited was formed in 1949, and in 1959 it initiated its open pit mining operation in the Falls Bay ore body. Similar to Steep Rock Lake, Caland Ore Company was quite successful, producing 25 million tons of iron ore in 14 years of operation. However, in 1980, Caland Ore Company was forced to close because of new and improved technologies in steel production.

When the mines were in full gear, much attention was also given to the forestry industry because of the large quantities of timber that were utilized by the mines. In the early 1900's there were numerous lumber mills in the surrounding area of Atikokan. Many lumber companies logged the Quetico area extensively before it was announced that there was no longer to be any commercial logging in Quetico Park. In 1942, the Ontario-Minnesota Pulp and Paper Company Limited situated themselves north of Atikokan and began logging operations. All wood from the plant was driven down the Seine River and Little Turtle River Systems until a road was completed in 1950.

In 1945, the first stationary mill was constructed at Sapawe Lake. The mill was constructed and operated under the direction of J.A. Mathieu Limited Company. In 1958, J.A.'s grandson Jim incorporated Jim Mathieu Lumber Limited and took over the Sapawe mill. Jim Mathieu completely renovated and updated the mill. Sawmill and planning mill equipment was renovated, a dry kiln was erected and new equipment to strip the bark from logs and convert slabs and edging to pulpwood chips was installed. Unfortunately, the plant was destroyed in a fire and the company was out of business for a year before they could resume production. Initially, things went well for the Jim Mathieu Company following the rebuilding of the mill, however, hard times set in and the company eventually went into receivership. In 1967, Domtar

Woodlands Limited took over the J.A. Mathieu Lumber Company. Domtar modernized and rebuilt the mill and logging camp facilities.

While the mining and lumber industries were developing and taking off into full production, Atikokan was expanding at a rapid rate. Within three years of Tom Rawn settling in Atikokan, the Pioneer Hotel was built, a general store opened, the post office was installed and the Atikokan School Section No. 1 was formed. As the years rolled on, the people of Atikokan continued to develop and establish the town. In 1911, Tom built the first bridge across the Atikokan River (O'Brien's Bridge) and Rawn's Road. In 1935, the Pioneer Hotel that Tom built to house passing explorers, loggers, trappers and fishermen caught fire and burned to the ground. To replace the Pioneer Hotel, the Atikokan Hotel was constructed on the same site and still remains in business today.

Shortly after this time Steep Rock was starting to launch into production and Atikokan's population grew. In 1944, Steep Rock Iron Mines began the construction of roads for the formation of a new town site in Don Park. Although Atikokan was developing at a great rate, there was still limited access and communication with the surrounding areas. It was not until 1949, that an Agreement was signed by the Improvement District with the Northern Telephone Company and a phone system was established. It was in 1950, when the population of Atikokan reached 3,000 people, that Atikokan experienced first hand the result of having only the railroad as access to and from Atikokan. The town went without meat, milk, sugar or green vegetables until a "Mercy Train" from the Lakehead and a seaplane came with some supplies for the hospital and for children. There were numerous demands on the Provincial Government to construct a highway linking Atikokan to Fort Frances and Fort William. In 1954, the Lakehead-Atikokan Highway was officially opened, making access by automobile to Atikokan possible. Nearly 10 years later, a highway linking Atikokan to the west was opened.

In 1973, the Atikokan Industrial Development Committee was formed by Town Council to investigate new business opportunities for the community. The two mines, Steep Rock Iron Mines and Caland Ore Company Limited, had announced their pending closures and new industries and services had to be investigated if Atikokan was to continue. Their efforts resulted in industries such as Pluswood (now Proboard), Ontario Hydro Thermal Generating Plant and the Ministry of Natural Resources Area Office to situate in Atikokan. The committee was also instrumental in the construction of a swimming pool, nine-hole golf course, curling rink, airport and a new hospital. In 1986, the Atikokan Industrial Development Committee turned its mandate over to the Atikokan Economic Development Corporation.

5.12 Heritage Resources

The historical record of the Atikokan area dates back over 11,000 years ago to the Paleo-Indian culture. The "country beyond the height of land" was the name given to the Atikokan area by the Ojibwa Indians.European contact was made with the area in the 17th Century. In 1688, Jacques de Noyon was the first white man to travel through the "country beyond the height of

land". After de Noyon traveled through the area, a rush of exploration and expansion took place and within 200 years the Ojibwa population had greatly diminished. The remaining natives signed the Northwest Angle Treaty, Treaty No. 3, covering the Atikokan-Quetico area in 1873. With the signing of the Treaty some natives retired to reserves, while some remained to live the lifestyle of hunting and trapping in the area.

Evidence of the fur trade and aboriginal culture prior to the fur trade is found in scattered sites throughout the District of Atikokan.

5.13 Population

The population of Atikokan is 3,632 (2001-Statistics Canada). Atikokan's population has remained relatively stable over the past few years as a result of the diversity of industry and services that Atikokan has to offer. The population had decreased significantly prior to and after the closure of the Steep Rock Iron Mines and Caland Iron Mines in 1979 and 1980 respectively. When the mines were closing, the introduction of new employment opportunities with employers such as the Ministry of Natural Resources Area Office, Proboard Ltd., and OPG has been one of the main factors contributing to the stability of Atikokan's population.

Population growth in Atikokan has occurred in the older population (60 plus), while there has been a significant decrease in the younger population (15 to 24 years). The population of '25 years to 44 years' has remained relatively constant since 1986. The largest age group in Atikokan is of people between the ages of 30 and 39.

The total number of females in Atikokan is 1,985 and the total number of males is 2,055.

A large percentage of Atikokan's population claims to be of multiple origin. With respect to single ethnic origins (having both parents of the same ethnic origin), Canadian, English, French and Ukrainian origins dominate within the total population. However, it is interesting to note that despite the fact that only 2% of Atikokan's total population is of single Aboriginal origin, 5.4% of the population claim to have Aboriginal ancestry. Atikokan is strongly influenced by people in the surrounding area that are of Aboriginal origin. Seine River First Nation, located approximately 56.3 km east of Atikokan, and Lac La Croix First Nation, located approximately 116 km south of Atikokan, utilize the services of Atikokan, as well as offer their services to our community.

5.14 Employment and the Economy

Like a number of similar Northern Ontario communities, Atikokan has traditionally relied upon a resource-based economy. This has led to a strong manual labour force, characterized by industries involved in pulp and paper products, mining, manufacturing, fishing and trapping. Although this trend has changed over the past decade (with a rise in the number of students attending post-secondary school), Atikokan can still be categorized as a resource-based

economy. Also, similar to many Northern communities, Atikokan suffered economic setbacks in the 1990's, which resulted in higher unemployment rates, plant closures, and a reduction in resource extraction activity.
The economy of Atikokan is based on forestry, a thermal generating station, government services, retail services, tourism and a mixture of light manufacturing businesses.

The two leading employers for residents of Atikokan are Atikokan Forest Products (random length/width lumber and woodchip mill) and Proboard Ltd. (particle board plant). These two companies utilize the abundance of natural resources in the area.

The thermal generating station, under the direction of OPG, supplies about one-quarter of the energy demand for Northwestern Ontario. OPG burns low sulphur lignite coal brought in from Western Canada. OPG has been responsible for the immigration of a number of people, as well as providing employment opportunities for many Atikokanites.

There are a number of government services available in Atikokan. The government services provide employment for well educated people who bring a variety of skills and trades to the Atikokan area.

The retail sector is the third largest employment contributor in Atikokan. Atikokan has a number of stores, shops and restaurants catering to the residents of Atikokan as well as visitors.

Tourism is a major industry in Atikokan. The natural beauty of the area attracts thousands of visitors every year. Much of Atikokan's retail sector is directed toward providing complete customer service to tourists. There are a number of resorts, lodges, camps and outfitters in the Atikokan area that greatly enhance the tourism industry.

The outdoors and wildlife are a central theme for most of the light manufacturing businesses in Atikokan. Atikokan's unique wilderness setting has resulted in canoe and paddle manufacturers becoming established in Atikokan. In addition, there are manufacturing businesses that produce Atikokan souvenirs.

5.15 Mining

There has been active exploration for gold, base metals and iron ore in the Atikokan area almost continually since the late 1800's. The area holds strong potential for gold deposits and supports base metal exploration. There is a large low grade iron ore deposit at Bending Lake located 64 km northwest of Atikokan. Development of this ore body seems unlikely for the foreseeable future given the present demand for iron ore.

MINES PROMINENT IN ATIKOKAN'S HISTORY

Mine	Mineral
Atikokan Gold Mines	Gold
Bergman Occurrence	Gold
Celand Ore	Iron Ore
Fern Elizabeth Mines	Gold
Harold Lake Mine	Gold and Iron Ore
Independence Mines	Gold
Steep Rock Iron Mines	Iron Ore
Tip Top Copper Mine	Copper

Presently the following companies (according to the Economic Development Commission) are conducting mineral exploration in the Atikokan area:

Allegheny Mines Ltd.

Working in the Sapawe Lake area – gold and base metal exploration.

Atikokan Resources Inc.

Working in the Lumby Lake area – silver base metal exploration.

Pele Mountain Resources Inc.

Working in the Moss Lake area – gold-silver exploration.

Penland Firth

Working in the Sawbill Bay area on Marmion Lake – gold exploration.

5.16 Rail Sector

Another economic driver, albeit much smaller, is the rail sector in Atikokan. The main flow of CN Rail traffic between eastern and western Canada is carried on the northern route between Winnipeg, Manitoba and Capreol, Ontario. Grain and coal traffic from Western Canada is moved to Thunder Bay over a line running through Fort Frances, which passes through Atikokan.

Spur lines go to a number of the local industries and the OPG station in town. The CNR has substantial land available for lease in the centre of Atikokan.

5.17 Logging and Forestry

Logging is an important part of the local economy. In Akikokan, both Proboard Ltd. and Akikokan Forest Products are in full production.

The district is divided into four management units – Sapawe Crown Management Unit, Abitibi Consolidated, Atikokan Forest Products Limited, Proboard Limited and Voyageur Panel, with their mills located in Fort Frances, Sapawe, Atikokan and Barwick respectively. (The sustainable resources for Voyageur Panel are managed by Abitibi Consolidated).

MAJOR FOREST MANUFACTURERS OF THE ATIKOKAN AREA

Product Type	Company	Species of Trees
Lumber, Timber	Atikokan Forest Products	Jackpine, spruce, white pine
	Nickel Lake Lumber	
Oriented Strand Board	Voyageur Panel	Aspen, balsam, poplar, birch
Particle Board	Proboard Ltd.	Poplar, birch
Pulp and Paper	Abitibi Consolidated (wood goes to Fort Frances mill)	Jackpine, black and white spruce, red and white pine, fir, tamarack, cedar, balsam
Wood Chips	Atikokan Forest Products	Slats from jackpine and spruce

5.18 Atikokan Airport

There is no scheduled air service into Atikokan, however, charter and personal flights can land at the municipal airport. The airport provides day-night, all weather access.

5.19 Economic Assessment

Atikokan's population and economy has remained relatively stable over the past few years as a result of the diversity of industry and services that Atikokan has to offer. The population had decreased significantly prior to and after the closure of the Steep Rock Iron Mines and Caland Iron Mines in 1979 and 1980 respectively. When the mines were closing, the introduction of new employment opportunities with employers such as the Ministry of Natural Resources Area Office, Proboard Ltd. And OPG has been one of the main factors contributing to the stability of Atikokan's population. The loss of 90 well paying jobs from OPG will have a significant impact upon the population and economy of Atikokan.

5.20 Recreation

Outdoor recreation is one of the major tourist draws to Atikokan, which uses the phrase "canoe capital of Canada" to describe the community. Atikokan has a number of historical tourist attractions related to the mining and fur trade eras. It also has an arena, swimming pool, baseball diamonds, skating rinks, tennis courts and soccer fields. The community has summer and winter trails with links to Quetico Provincial Park.

5.21 First Nations

Based upon Statistics Canada Data, two percent of Atikokan's total population is of single Aboriginal origin, although 5.4% of the population claim to have Aboriginal ancestry. The Seine River First Nation (about 56 km east of Atikokan) and the Lac La Croix First Nation (about 116 km south of Atikokan) use community services in Atikokan such as the Native Friendship Centre, hospital and community services and participate in the Native Pow-Wow and the Native Aboriginal Day.

First Nation Group	Location	Population	Chief	Tribal Origin
Lac La Croix First Nation	200 km northwest of Thunder Bay	▪ 261 ▪ 39 off reserve	Larry Jourdain	Ojibway
Seine River First Nation	64 km east of Rainy Lake, 32 km east of Rainy Lake, and 115 km southeast of Dryden.	▪ 308 ▪ 226 off reserve	Earl Klyne	Ojibway

APPENDIX A

MEDIA ARTICLES RELATED TO NEW GENERATION IN THUNDER BAY

June 1, 2002	Article in Northern Ontario Business Journal, dealing with the plans from SynFuel to construct a power plant in the Thunder Bay area.
July 12, 2002	Article in the Thunder Bay Post on the plans by SynFuel to undergo testing and chemical burning exercises.
July 19, 2002	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal article on the results of emission testing on the proposed Thunder Bay Generating Station, which stated that they were within Ontario Limits.
August 2, 2002	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal article on the completion of cleanup activities at the site of the proposed Thunder Bay Generating Station.
August 16, 2002	Thunder Bay Post article, on reported progress from SynFuel. The article reports that everything is progressing well.
October 2002	Northern Ontario Business Journal article, on plans for the power station advancing.
December 4, 2002	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal article dealing with the final clearing of all contaminated soil on the proposed power plant site.
June 14, 2003	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal article on the progress being made by SynFuel on the construction of the power plant.
June 20, 2003	Thunder Bay Post article, on the pre-approval of the project by the Ministry of the Environment, clearing the way for the construction of the plant.
August 1, 2003	Northern Ontario Business Journal article on the plans of SynFuel to move ahead with the generating station.
September 12, 2003	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal article on the conditions for the construction of the plant.
September 14, 2003	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal article by Graham Saunders on the regulatory loopholes in the context of SynFuel's proposal to build the generating station.
September 15, 2003	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal article (editorial) on the SynFuel proposal that to this point, has not been given adequate attention.
September 16, 2003	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal article (editorial) on a letter to the editor by Howard Hampton, Leader of the NDP on questions about the SynFuel proposal.
September 27, 2003	Thunder Bay Post article, on postponing of land transfer to the Fort William First Nation by council on the proposed site of the new generating station.
November 10, 2003	ARGUS Journal article on the necessity for an environmental assessment for the proposed SynFuel generating station in Thunder Bay.
November 11, 2003	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal article on the SynFuel proposal and the calls for an environmental assessment to be completed.
November 29, 2003	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal, letters to the editor on the unknown nature of heavy metal contamination from fly ash from the SynFuel plant.
December 6, 2003	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal, letter to the editor by Robert Van Patten, SynFuel President, outlining the SynFuel plan. Another letter indicates confusion with the SynFuel proposal.
December 7, 2003	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal article blaming environmental groups for the surrounding controversy around the SynFuel proposal.
December 7, 2003	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal article on the disagreement by the Clean Air Alliance with the ruling by Thunder Bay city council to allow the plant to go ahead without a full environmental assessment.

December 13, 2003	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal, letter to the editor by Michael Pelletier of the Fort William First Nation, indicating that the willingness to accept SynFuel's plant and that opponents to the plan are those opposed to any benefits to the First Nation group.
January 2004	Northern Ontario Business Journal article on the target of SynFuel to begin building the plant in the spring.
January 2004	Article in IPPSO FACTO magazine dealing with the proposed SynFuel generating station.
January 25, 2004	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal article dealing with the lack of a decision from the MOE on the plant.
January 28, 2004	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal on the scheduling of a public meeting by SynFuel.
February 9, 2004	Northern Ontario Business Journal article, on the acquisition of the rail and port facility by SynFuel for the power plant.
February 15, 2004	SynFuel hosts a public meeting at the Fort William First Nation Bingo Hall.
February 16, 2004	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal article on the results of the public meeting in Thunder Bay to discuss the generating station.
February 17, 2004	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal, letters to the editor on the questions still surrounding the SynFuel proposal following the public meeting on the 15th.
February 17, 2004	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal on the MOE still having to decide on the SynFuel proposal.
February 19, 2004	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal, letter to the editor calling on people to have faith in current environmental regulations concerning the proposed generating station.
February 21, 2004	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal, letters to the editor on the opportunities that the SynFuel plant will bring and another dealing with concerns from the Fort William First Nation band coalition.
February 25, 2004	Open letter from Christy Radbourne, Thunder bay citizen, concerning questions on the SynFuel proposal and call for a full environmental assessment.
February 27, 2004	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal, article dealing with the submission of the SynFuel environmental review report.
March 1, 2004	SynFuel attended an Environmental Science Day Workshop at Lakehead University. Discussed the project with about 35 students and teachers.
March 2, 2004	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal, letter to the editor calling on city council to make the proposed generating station up for a plebiscite.
March 2, 2004	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal article on response to February 27 article from Mario Buszynski, consultant to SynFuel.
March 4, 2004	Letter to Mr. O'Mara and a number of MPPs from the CEO of the Thunder Bay Airports Authority urging an expedient review and approval
March 5, 2004	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal, article concerning meeting of Fort William First Nation over project issues.
March 12, 2004	Thunder Bay Source article, concerning the opposition to the project by a former U.S. EPA investigator.
March 12, 2004	Thunder Bay Source article suggesting SynFuel accused of hiding whole truth and that the plan is not environmentally sound.
March 12, 2004	Thunder Bay Source Editorial suggesting that the proposed plant should require an environmental assessment.
March 13, 2004	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal, 2 letters to the editor.

March 18, 2004	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal article suggesting that the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce is supportive and believes the project will bring economic benefits to Thunder Bay.
March 20, 2004	Thunder Bay Chronicle-Journal, 4 letters to the editor relating to SynFuel.
March 20, 2004	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal concerning how SynFuel may fit into Ontario power plans considering the planned closure of coal plants by 2007.
March 26, 2004	Made a project update presentation to the City of Thunder Bay and Thunder Bay Hydro.
March 27, 2004	Thunder Bay Chronicle-Journal, 5 letters to the editor relating to SynFuel.
April 1, 2004	Made a presentation to about 20 members of the Rotary Service Club in Thunder Bay.
April 2, 2004	Proposal to designate the project placed on the EBR Registry, generating a large number of public comments. Our understanding is that there are a few thousand letters sent in support of the project because of the positive economic benefits that will accrue to Thunder Bay.
April 4, 2004	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal, concerning the MOE seeking submissions on whether the proposed project requires an environmental assessment, and the MOE's posting of the project on the EBR registry.
April 5, 2004	Media Release by the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce urging expediency in the environmental review.
April 5, 2004	Web posting on Thunder Bay's Source concerning the fact that the SynFuel project would eventually be headed for an environmental assessment.
April 6, 2004	CBC Radio Interview with Ron Forbes by Ron Demoley.
April 6, 2004	Thunder Bay Chronicle-Journal, 1 letter to the editor relating to SynFuel.
April 6, 2004	Letter from Bill Mauro, MPP Thunder Bay-Atikokan to the Hon. Rick Bartolucci, Leona Drombowski and Dwight Duncan urging expediency in the environmental review.
April 6, 2004	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal – concerning the need for an expedited EA process. Not doing so may jeopardize the viability of the project.
April 7, 2004	CBC Radio Interview with Ron Forbes by Robert McMillan.
April 7, 2004	CBC/Radio Canada Interview with Francois Laflamme.
April 7, 2004	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal – article concerning the push by local politicians to expedite the review and environmental assessment process.
April 7, 2004	Thunder Bay Chronicle-Journal, 2 letters to the editor relating to SynFuel.
April 8, 2004	Letter from Brian K. Smithies, Director (Corporate Policy Secretariat), Ministry of Northern Development and Mines to James O'Mara, Director, EA Branch, MOE, on support for the project.
April 9, 2004	Web posting on Thunder Bay's Source concerning a fast-track environmental assessment for the proposed project.
April 10, 2004	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal, 3 letters to the editor relating to Synfuel.
April 14, 2004	Web posting on Thunder Bay's Source clarifying project misconceptions and urging a quick review and approval of the project.
April 14, 2004	Northern Ontario Business article concerning the pressure on the province to conduct a review of the proposed plant.
April 14, 2004	Presentation by Ron Forbes to the Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce on the project.
April 15, 2004	Presentation by Ron Forbes to the Executives Association on the project.

April 21, 2004	Presentation by Ron Forbes to the First Church United Men's Group on the project.
April 22, 2004	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal, concerning a protest calling for MPPs to look closely at the environmental assessment for the SynFuel project.
April 23, 2004	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal, Letter to the Editor concerning the project.
April 24, 2004	Interview with students from Confederation College that will air on local public media station.
April 24, 2004	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal, guest column by Iain Angus, local councilor, on benefits of project for the environment and the economy.
April 26, 2004	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal, Letter to the Editor on the project.
April 27, 2004	CBC Television report by Francoise Laflamme.
April 27, 2004	Thunder Bay Municipal Council Meeting – Deputation requesting council to support having SynFuel do an individual EA was turned down.
April 27, 2004	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal article concerning a deputation requesting council to support having SynFuel do an individual EA.
April 29, 2004	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal – Letter to the Editor from Derrick Brooks, Plant Manager at Thunder Bay Generating Station in relation to article by councilor Iain Angus.
April 30, 2004	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal article concerning economic benefits of the project on Fort William First Nation.
April 30, 2004	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal article on the proposed advantages to First Nation groups as a result of increased economic development in Thunder Bay, including the SynFuel project.
April 1 –30, 2004	Regular commentary on the CKPR Radio Station with the Rick Smith morning talk show.
April 1-30, 2004	Weekly status updates e-mailed to about 125 persons.
May 1, 2004	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal, letter to the editor by Iain Angus, local councilor, on a response to his article on 24 April 2004.
May 6, 2004	SynFuel and SENES to attend a community meeting with the Fort William First Nation. CIER to present their review of the SENES Environmental Review Report at the meeting.
May 8, 2004	Ron Forbes to be a guest speaker at the Lake Superior National Forum.
May 9, 2004	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal article concerning the project, speaking about the call from critics of the project for a full environmental assessment.
May 9, 2004	Article in the Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal, concerning the willingness of SynFuel to answer all questions from the public and ensure that the process is understood clearly.
May 15, 2004	Article in the Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal concerning the authenticity of Christie Radbourne and her outspoken criticism of the project. The article includes a response from Ms. Radbourne.
July 15, 2004	Article from the Northern Ontario Business Newsletter, on the planned designation of the environmental assessment from the Ontario MOE.
July 16, 2004	Article from tbsource.com about the work of and environmental group (Ontario Clean Air Alliance) and its interest in the government of Ontario possibly buying power from SynFuel.
August 18, 2004	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal article, dealing with the Atikokan wanting to work with SynFuel concerning power generation opportunities, specifically a petcoke fired plant in light of the planned closure of the Atikokan Generating Station.

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December 24, 2004

Atikokan Economic Development Office

P.O. Box 218
Atikokan, Ontario
P0T 1C0

Attention: **Garry McKinnon**

RE: **SynFuel's Terms of Reference for the Supply of New Power to Atikokan**

Dear Gary:

As the attached public notice indicates, SynFuel Technologies is required to place copies of their Terms of Reference for Environmental Assessment studies in public places so that people have the opportunity to review them.

We would appreciate it if you could make the Terms of Reference documents (3) available for public review through January and February of 2005.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at the above number or e-mail me at mbuszynski@senes.ca.

Yours very truly,

SENES Consultants Limited

Mario E. Buszynski, M.Sc., M.C.I.P.
Manager, Environmental Assessment
and Energy Projects

encl/

NOTICE OF SUBMISSION
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT TERMS OF REFERENCE
ATIKOKAN NEW POWER GENERATION

As part of the Environmental Assessment planning process for the Atikokan New Generation Project, Terms of Reference (ToR) were recently submitted by SynFuel Technologies to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) for formal review as required under the provincial *Environmental Assessment Act*. If approved, the ToR will serve as a benchmark for the preparation and review of the environmental assessment (EA) document for this undertaking.

The Atikokan New Generation Environmental Assessment is intended to address power requirements for Atikokan area. The ToR and related documents are now posted on the Internet at http://www.senes.ca/synfuel. You may also inspect the ToR during normal business hours at the following locations:

Ministry of the Environment
Toronto Office
Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch
2 St. Clair Avenue West
14th Floor
Toronto, ON
M4V 1L5

Ministry of the Environment
Thunder Bay Regional Office
Suite 331
435 James St. S.
3rd Floor
Thunder Bay ON P7E 6S7
(807) 475-1205

Offices of SynFuel Technologies
Valley Camp Terminal
1 Darrell Avenue, P.O. Box 10190
Thunder Bay, Ontario
P7B 6T7
(807) 622-6463

Township of Atikokan
P.O. Box 1330
Atikokan, Ontario
P0T 1C0
(807) 597-2540

Atikokan Public Library
Civic Centre
Atikokan, ON
P0T 1C0
Phone: (807) 597-4406

Atikokan Economic Development Office
P.O. Box 218
Atikokan, Ontario
P0T 1C0
(807) 597-2757

Your written comments regarding the ToR must be received prior to February 4 2005. All comments should be submitted to:

Donna Bigelow
Special Project Officer
Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch
Ministry of the Environment
2 St. Clair Avenue West
Toronto ON M4V 1L5
Tel: 416-314-7225
Fax: 416-314-8452

A copy of all comments will be forwarded to the proponent. Under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Environmental Assessment Act*, unless otherwise stated in the submission, any personal information such as name, address, telephone number and property location included in a submission will become part of the public record files for this matter can be released, if requested, to any person.

August 19, 2004	Letter by the Hon. Joe Comuzzi, urging the government to expedite the EA for the MRCG Station in light of the fact that local industries, such as Cascades Paper, cannot afford to stay in business with the uncertainty in power prices in the region.
August 30, 2004	Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal article by Graham Saunders, who suggests that the answer to power issues in the North may be answered by wind power.