

# Meeting Report

**Main Issue:**

Effects to birds from the project proposal.

**Attendees:**

Lisa Perry and Myra Wiebe Robertson of Environment Canada (EC)  
Damian Panayi and Dan Coulton representing Dezé Energy Corporation (Dezé)

**Meeting date:**

December 18, 2009

**Summary of discussion:**

Wildlife related issues in the EC Technical Report Submission for the Taltson Expansion Project Environmental Assessment (submitted to the Review Board on 11 December, 2009).

**Developer commitment(s):**

A brief summary of the discussion, and the commitments made by Dezé and EC are presented below, by recommendation number from the EC Technical Report Submission.

**EC Recommendation #17**

Dezé clarified that the mitigation and effects assessment for waterfowl presented in the Taltson Developer's Assessment Report (DAR) was intended to apply also to horned grebe. EC agreed that the mitigation proposed for waterfowl would also apply to horned grebe, but cautioned that there may be situations where mitigation measures may have to be applied sooner for horned grebe than for waterfowl because horned grebe is a species of Special Concern.

EC requested that mitigation measures and associated monitoring for horned grebe be addressed separately in the Taltson Environmental Monitoring Plan because horned grebe is a species of Special Concern. Dezé agrees to do so.

**EC Recommendation #18**

EC agreed that the monitoring proposed for waterfowl would also apply to horned grebe, but requested that horned grebe be addressed separately in the Taltson Environmental Monitoring Plan regardless because it is a species of Special Concern. Dezé agrees to do so.

**EC Recommendation #19**

EC has concerns over the timing of scheduled outages in relation to migratory water bird nests, as they lead to ramping within Trudel Creek. The *Migratory Birds Regulations* prohibit the disturbance or destruction of the nests or eggs of migratory birds, and EC is concerned that there is a risk that nest disturbance or destruction could occur if outages occur during the nesting season. There is flexibility in the timing of scheduled outages, and effects to the downstream environment (including fish, muskrat, waterfowl) must also be considered. EC recommended a nest protection plan be developed that demonstrates that Dezé has taken all reasonable actions to reduce the risk of destroying downstream migratory bird nests. Dezé will develop a nest protection plan.

**EC Recommendation #22**

EC is concerned that the cumulative effect of increased human activity from other projects coupled with new nesting habitat created by the Taltson transmission towers may lead to artificially high raven populations. As such, EC suggested monitoring raven nests and follow-up mitigation if the number of raven nests becomes unacceptably high. Due to the difficulty of mitigating this effect in the operations phase, Dezé proposed that the transmission towers be designed so as to reduce their suitability for nesting, prior to construction. Dezé will discuss this issue with its detailed design team, and will review the final design with EC. Monitoring of raven nests on transmission towers during routine inspections will be added to the Taltson Environmental Monitoring Plan, but further mitigation is not anticipated if the towers can be designed to avoid or minimize nesting.

**Outstanding issue(s) for the party:**


The remaining outstanding issues for Environment Canada are outlined in EC Technical Report Submission.

**Action Items:**

- Dezé will prepare mitigation and monitoring plans specific to the horned grebe within the Taltson Environmental Monitoring Plan.
- Dezé will develop a nest protection plan to outline mitigation of effects to migratory bird nests.
- Dezé will review the final tower designs with EC.

  
Signature of Environment Canada representative

Date: Jan. 12/10

  
Signature of Dezé Energy representative

Date: Jan 11/10