

Pacific NorthWest Economic Region  
2015 ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP FORUM

**Energy Opportunities and Challenges  
in the Northwest Territories**

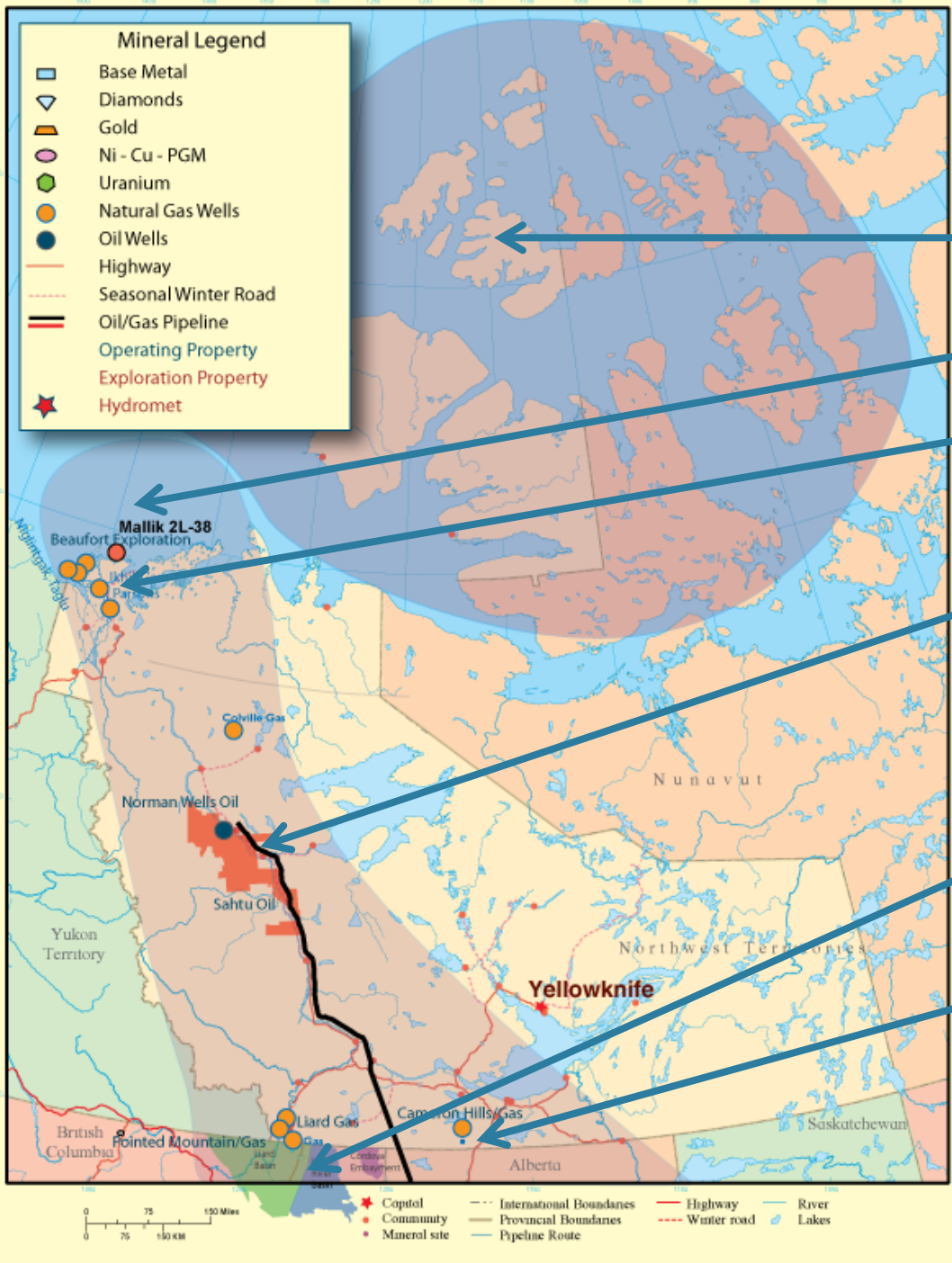
Dave Nightingale,  
Director, Energy Policy and Planning  
November 17, 2015



# Introduction

- Energy in the NWT
- Response:
  - Energy Conservation and Efficiency
  - Integrating Renewable and Alternative Energy Sources
- Low Water in the North Slave Region
- Opportunities Going Forward

# Onshore Oil and Gas Properties



Arctic Islands Oil and Gas

Beaufort oil and gas

Mackenzie Gas

Norman Wells

Conventional Oil and Gas Field and Canol Shale Oil

Horn River Shale Gas

Cameron Hill Oil and Gas

# Legacy Hydro 1940's / 1960's

## Snare River Hydro

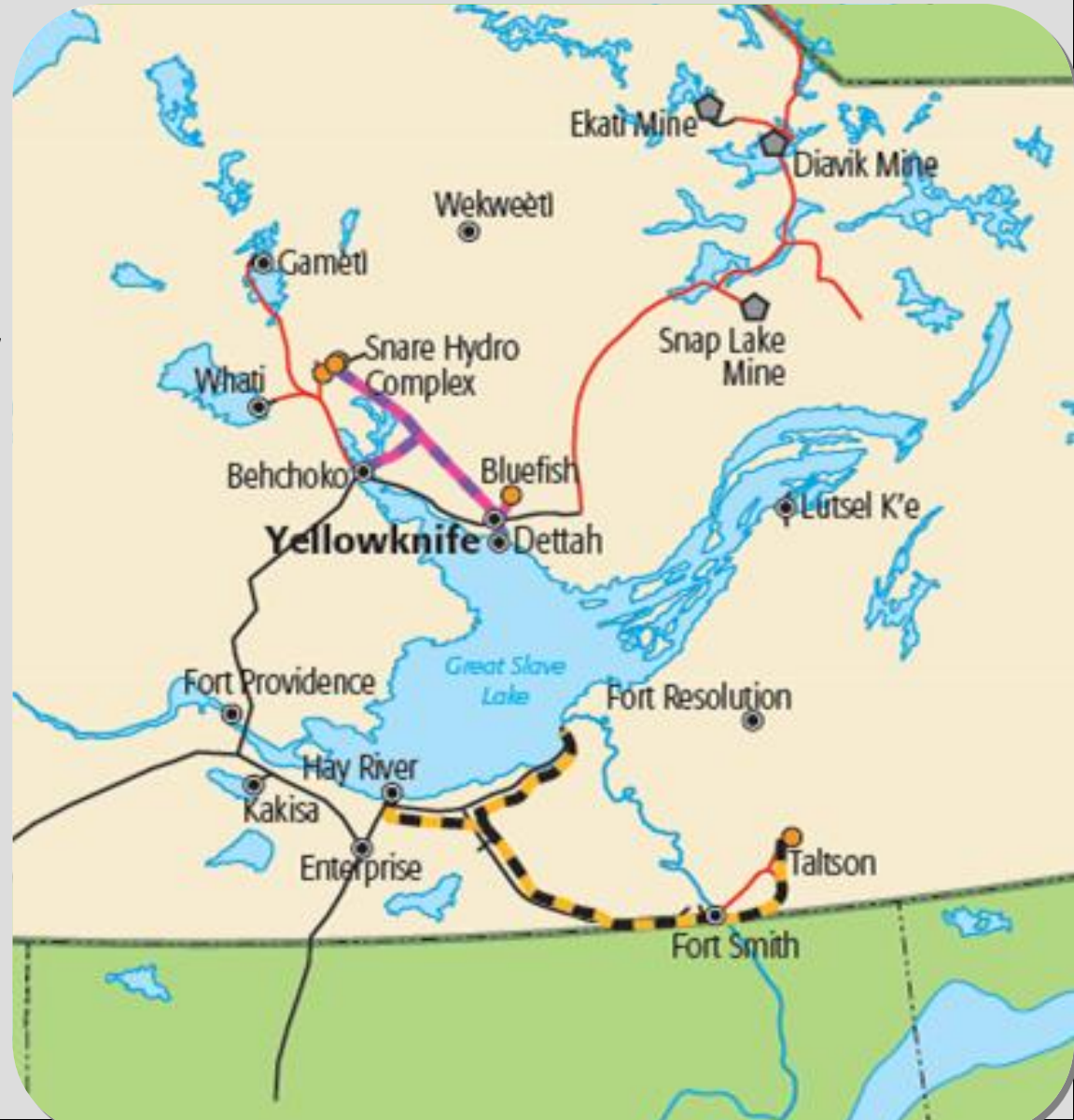
- Snare Rapids – 8.5 MW
- Snare Falls – 7.4 MW
- Snare Cascades – 4.3 MW
- Snare Forks – 10 MW
- 150km transmission

## Yellowknife River

- Bluefish Dam – 7.5 MW

## Taltson River

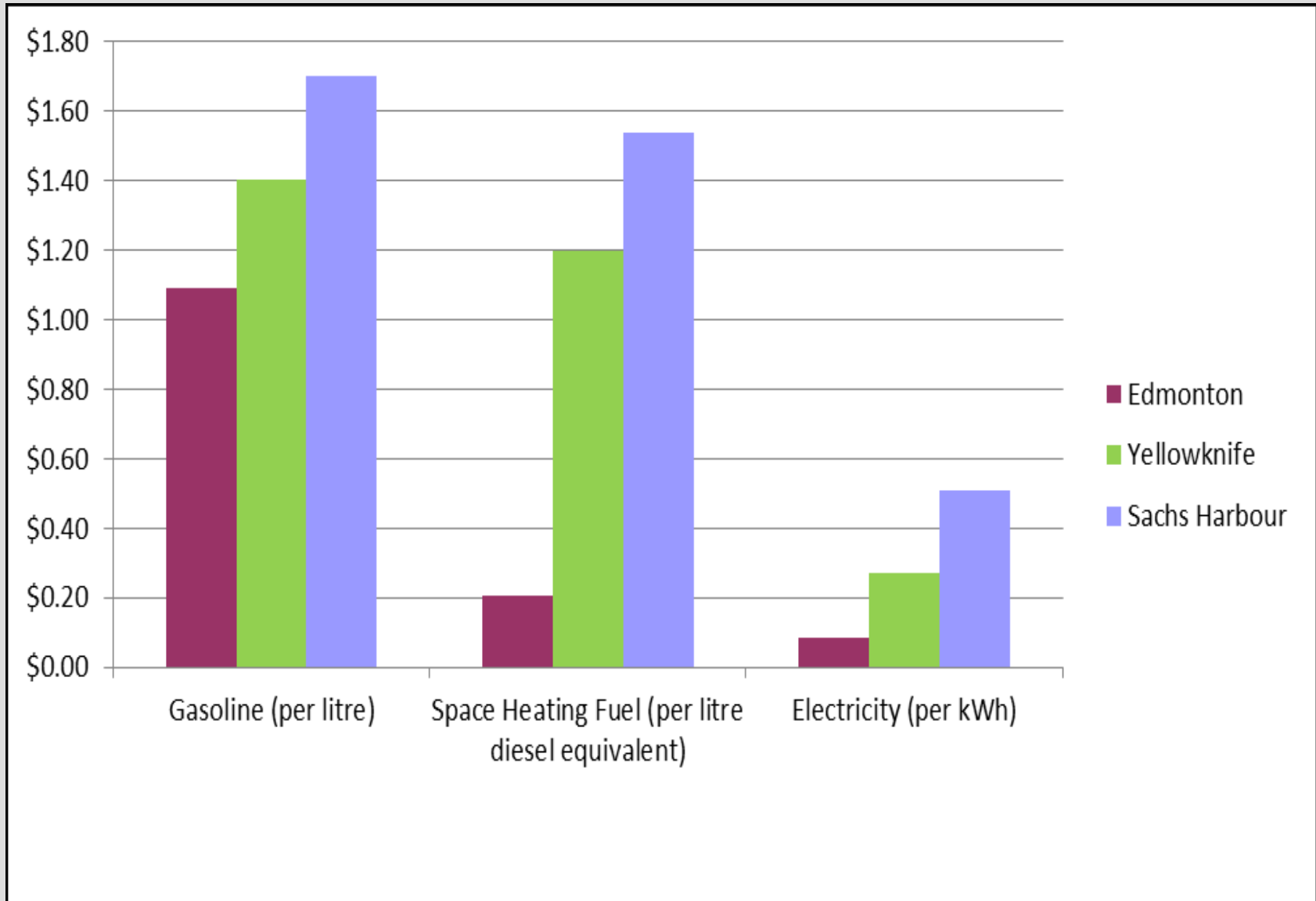
- Twin Gorges – 18 MW
- 200km transmission



# Hydro Potential

<b>NWT River</b>	<b>Developed (MW)</b>	<b>Potential (MW)</b>	<b>Proposed (MW)</b>
<b>Bear</b>	0	568	0
<b>La Martre</b>	0	27	13
<b>Lockhart</b>	0	269	0
<b>Mackenzie</b>	0	10,450	0
<b>Snare</b>	30	33	0
<b>Snowdrift</b>	0	1	1
<b>Taltson</b>	18	200	56
<b>Yellowknife</b>	7	0	0
<b>Petitot</b>	0	35	0
<b>Mountain</b>	0	30	0
<b>Redstone</b>	0	260	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	55	11,873	70

# High Cost of Energy in the NWT



# Some Electricity Figures

33 Communities

25 Thermal Zone, 8 Hydro Zone Communities

31 cents / kWhr in Yellowknife, similar range in other hydro communities

61 cents / kWhr in the Thermal Zone

Residential Power Subsidy: YK rates for 600 kWhrs in summer, 1,000 kWhrs in Winter

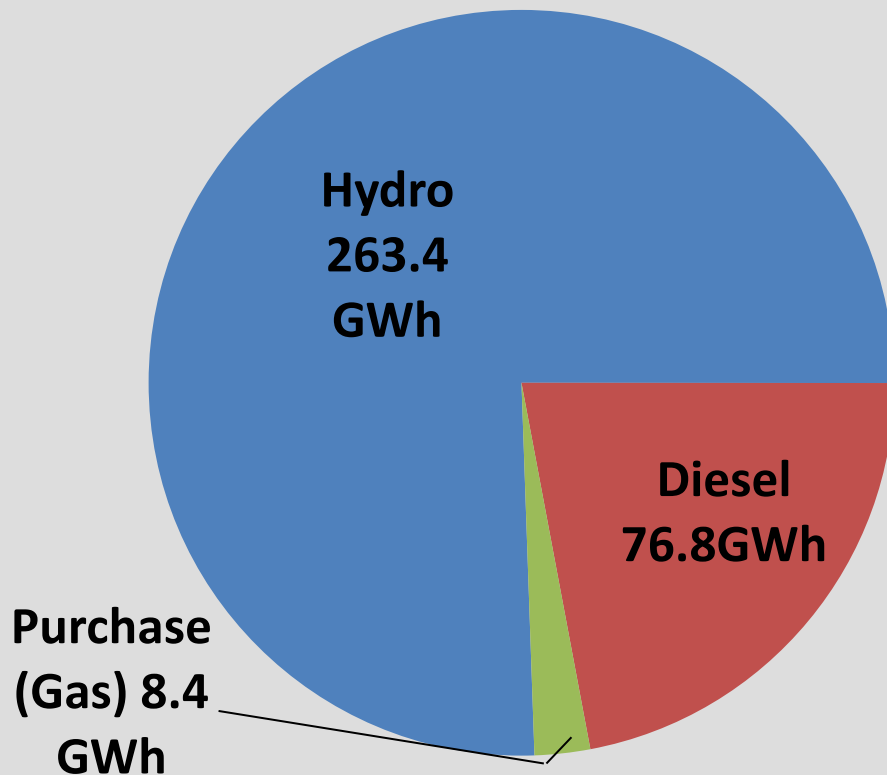
Cost of Diesel: ~ 32 cents per kWhr







# Community Electrical Generation



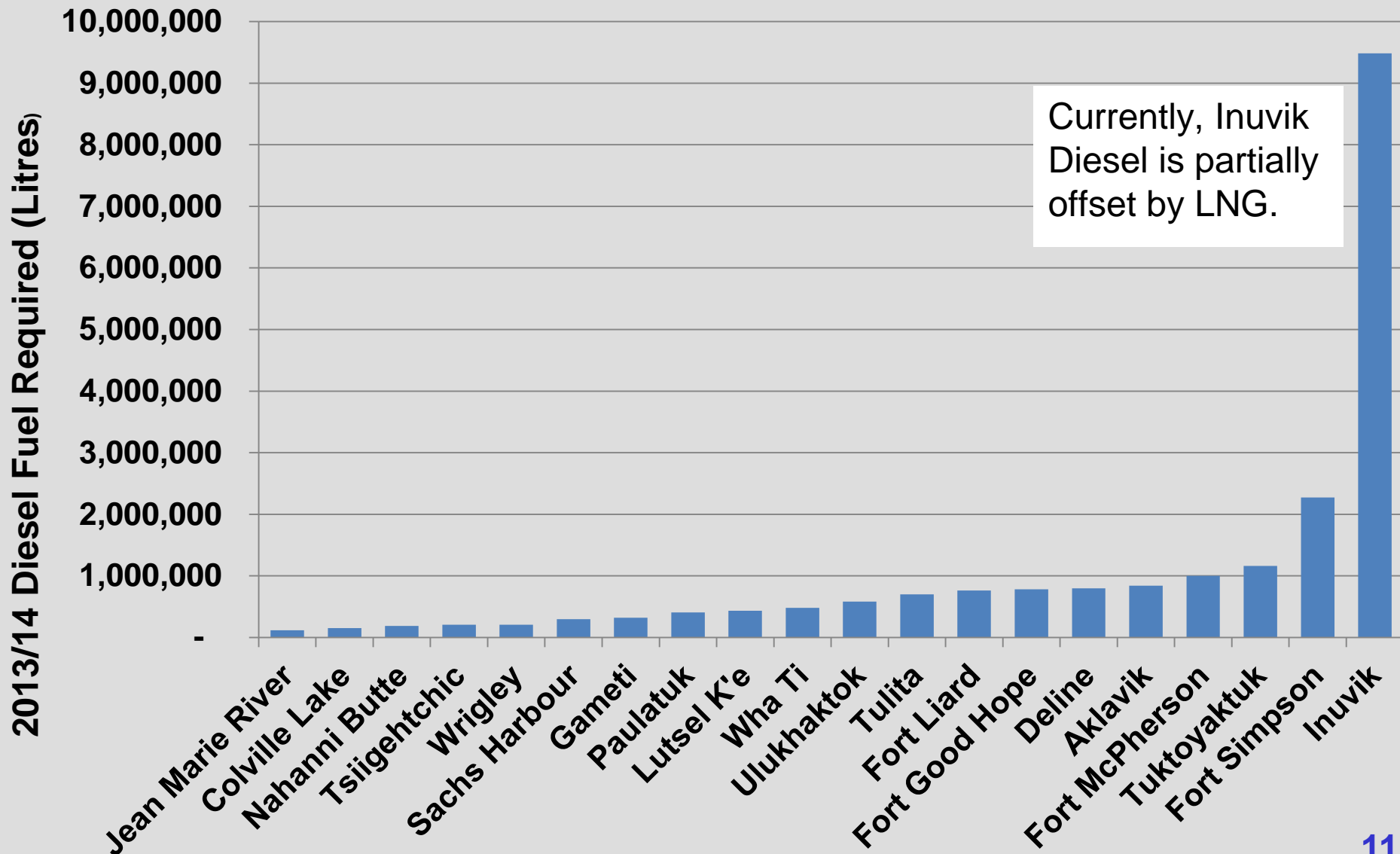
“One of the most complicated 64 MW systems I’ve seen”

Dr. Marlo Reynolds,  
2014 Energy Charrette

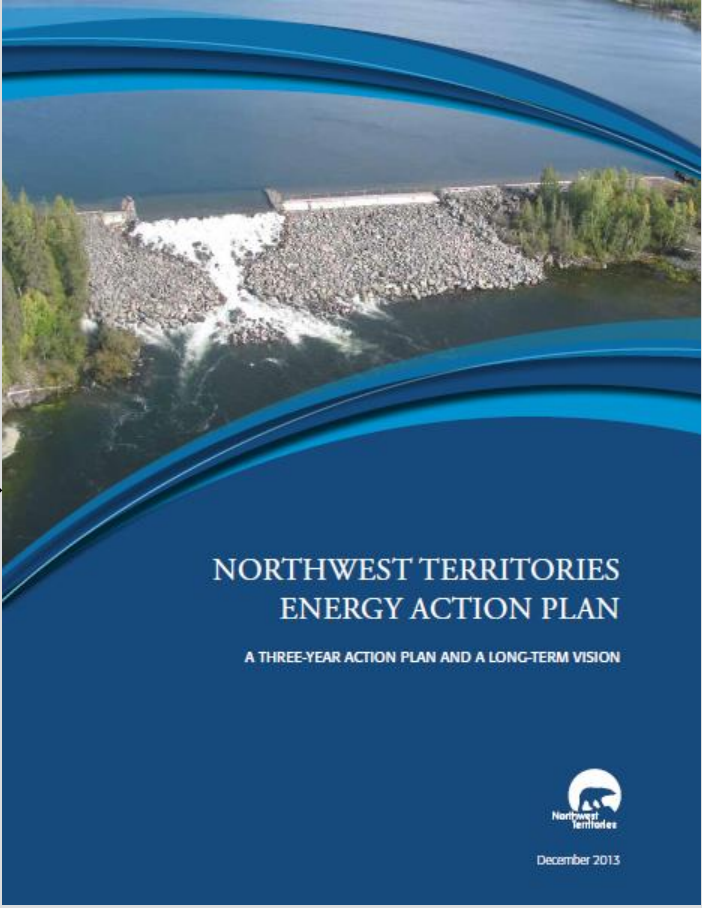
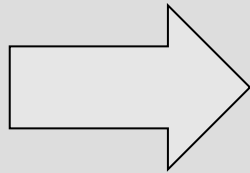
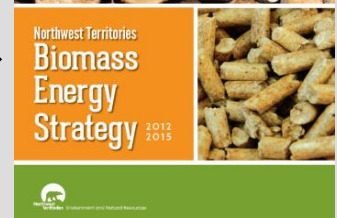
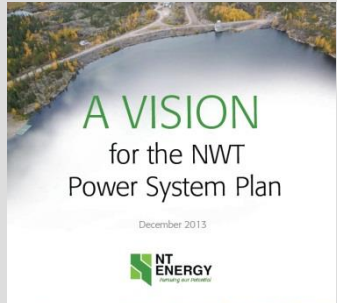
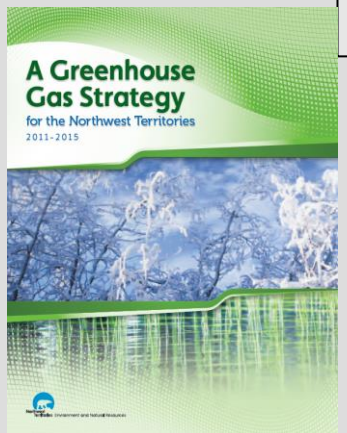
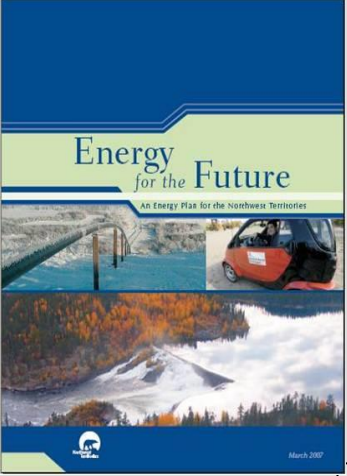
Estimated Diesel  
Consumption,  
NWT Diamond  
Mines:  
200 million litres

# NWT Diesel Use: 22 million litres

## Add ~27 million litres in Yellowknife for 2015-16



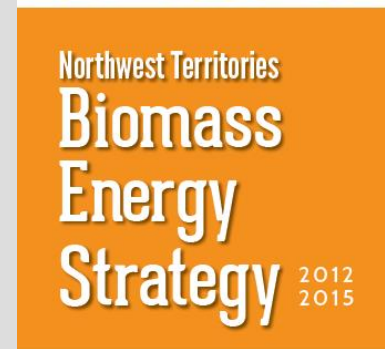
# GNWT Energy Policy



- The GNWT contributes over \$3 million to the AEA per year.
- The GNWT has funded the establishment of regional offices in Hay River, Inuvik, Norman Wells, Whatì and Fort Simpson.
- AEA programs include:
  - Alternative Energy Technologies Program
  - Energy Rating Services Support Program
  - Energy Efficiency Incentive Program
  - Biomass: Promotion, Community Engagement and Project Evaluation
  - Commercial Energy Conservation and Efficiency Program
  - Community Government Energy Retrofit Program
  - Community Renewable Energy Efficiency Program

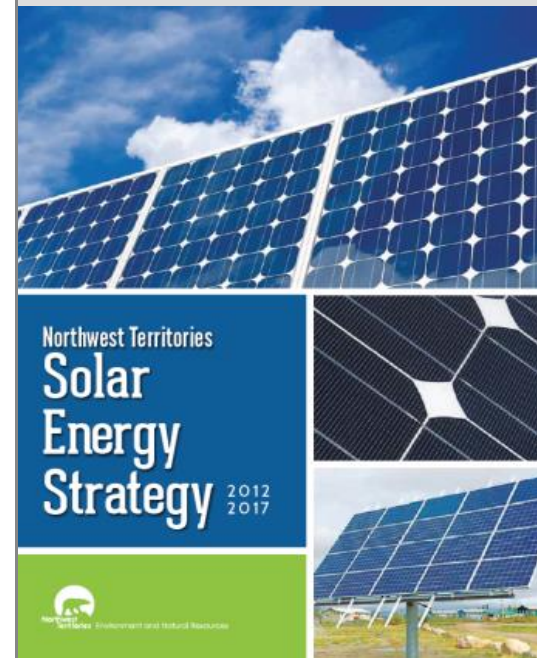
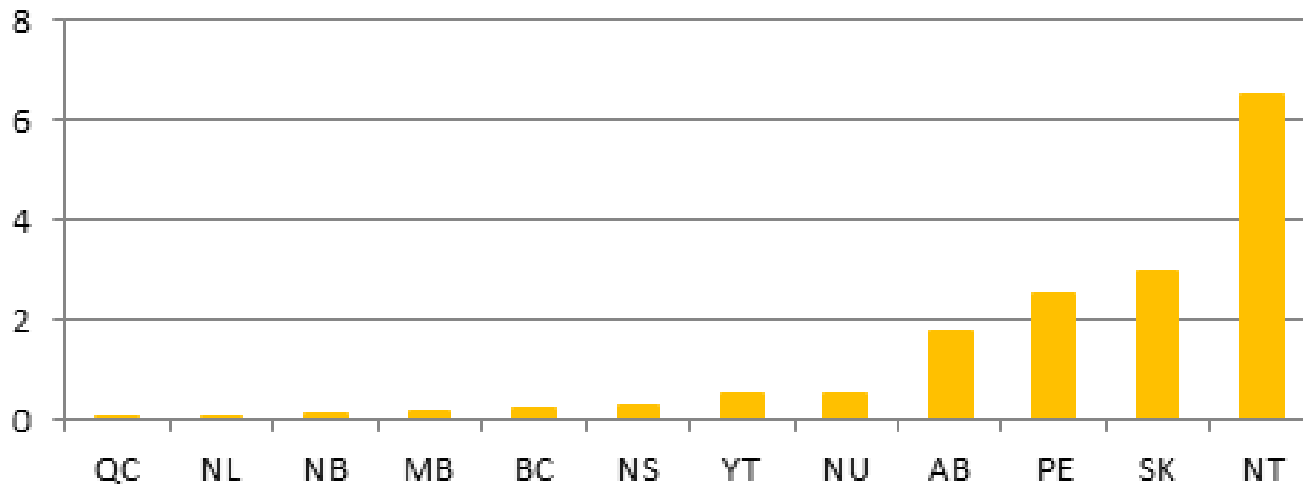
# Biomass

- The GNWT has 22 biomass boilers with 6 more to be completed by 2016.
- Cost: ~60 to 70 cents per litre of oil equivalent
- In 2015-2016, pellet boilers will be installed in Tulita and Fort Good Hope schools.
- Local district heating systems will continue to develop as the NWT biomass industry matures.
- Locally produced wood pellets and wood chips is the next step.



# Solar: NWT Ranks 2<sup>nd</sup>, After Ontario

**Solar  
Deployment Rate  
(Watts per capita)**



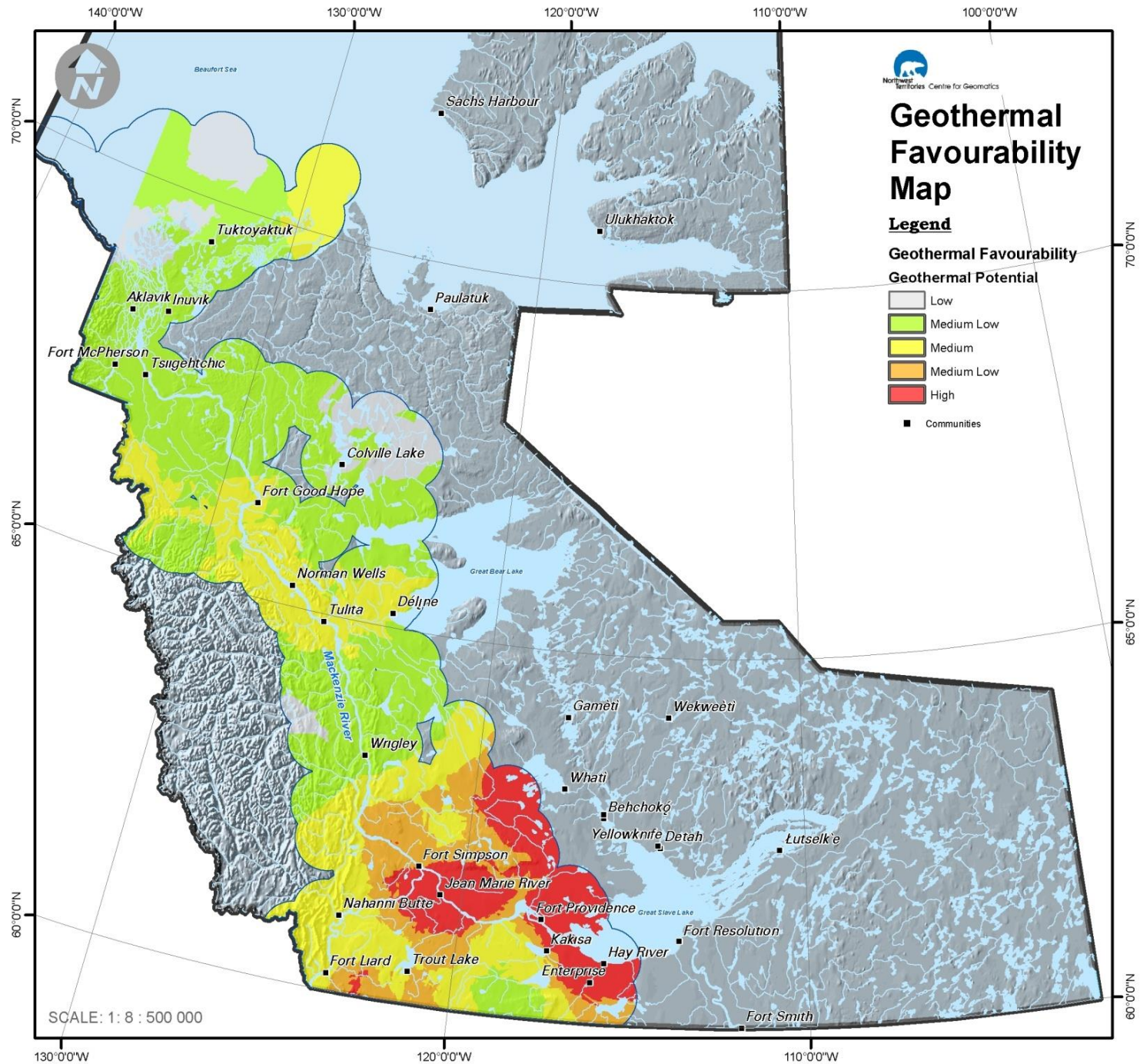




# Natural Gas



2013/12/12



# Net Metering Program

- In April 2015, the GNWT issued rate policy guidelines that directed the PUB to:
  - Ensure costs of net metering are transparent and tracked by utilities.
  - If costs become material, the Board may recommend funding by the GNWT.
  - Government customers, with the exception of municipal governments in thermal communities, should not be eligible for net metering.
  - Limit the size of installations to 15 kw to ensure that the program is accessible to as many residents and businesses as possible.

# Engagement

- The GNWT held the first Energy Charrette in 2012.
  - Resulted in Energy Action Plan and the Power System Plan
- Between 2012 and 2014:
  - Electricity rates increased, the 1<sup>st</sup> year of low water occurred, requiring a \$20 million subsidy.
  - Transmission line concept to link the North and South Slave grids with the southern grid proved to be too expensive.

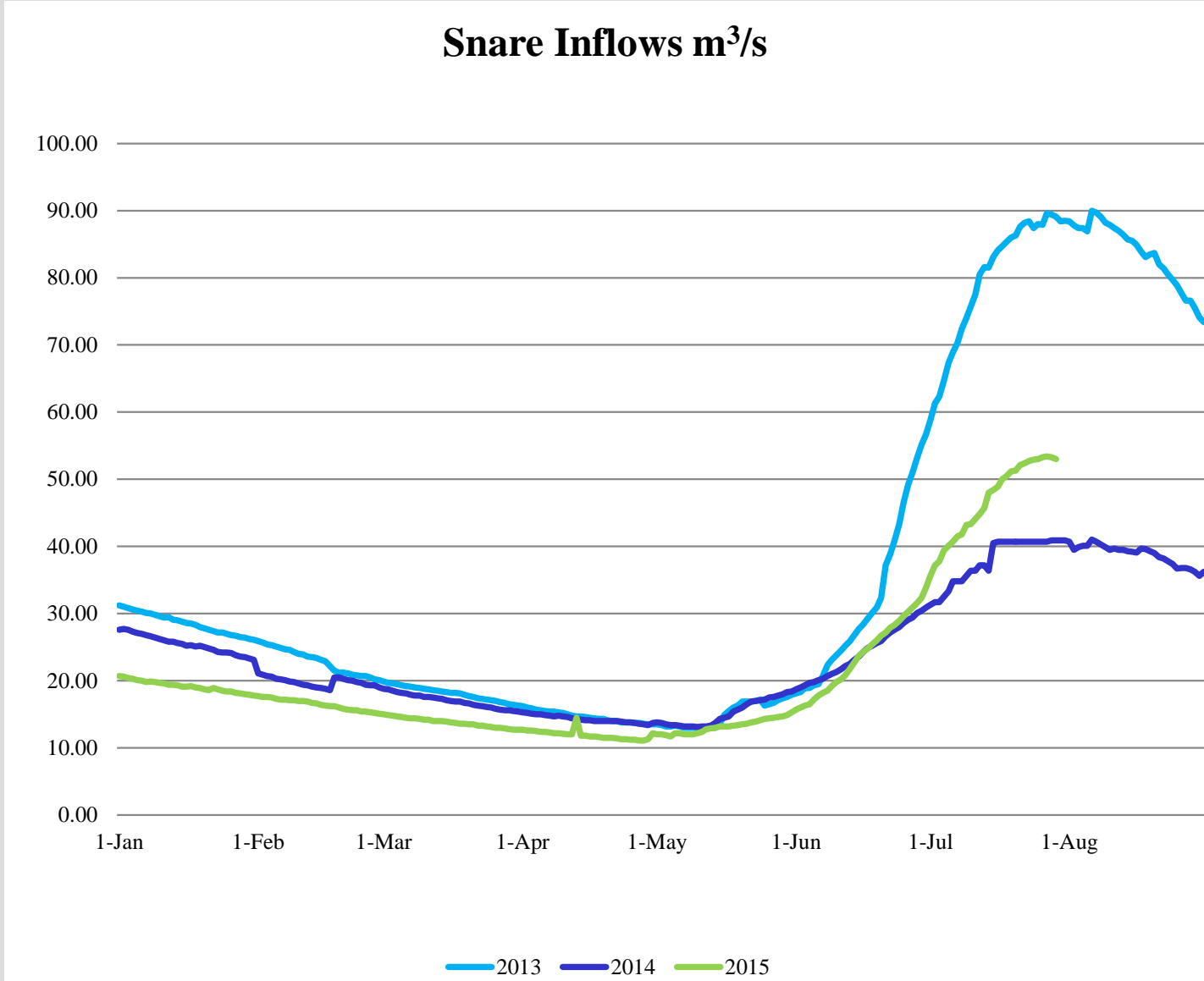
# 2014 Charrette Results: Highlights

- Be More Aggressive on Energy Efficiency and Conservation
- Place More Focus on Community-level Projects and Plan for Increased Development of Small-scale Renewable Projects
- Continue to Engage Communities! Examine the Potential Benefits of Increased Private Sector / Community Involvement and Investment in Energy
  - Provide improved training opportunities for people in smaller and more isolated communities to service and repair infrastructure
- Overall, “Affordability” was considered the most important objective – “Environment”, “Economy” and “Energy security” were ranked fairly closely together, being second, third and fourth

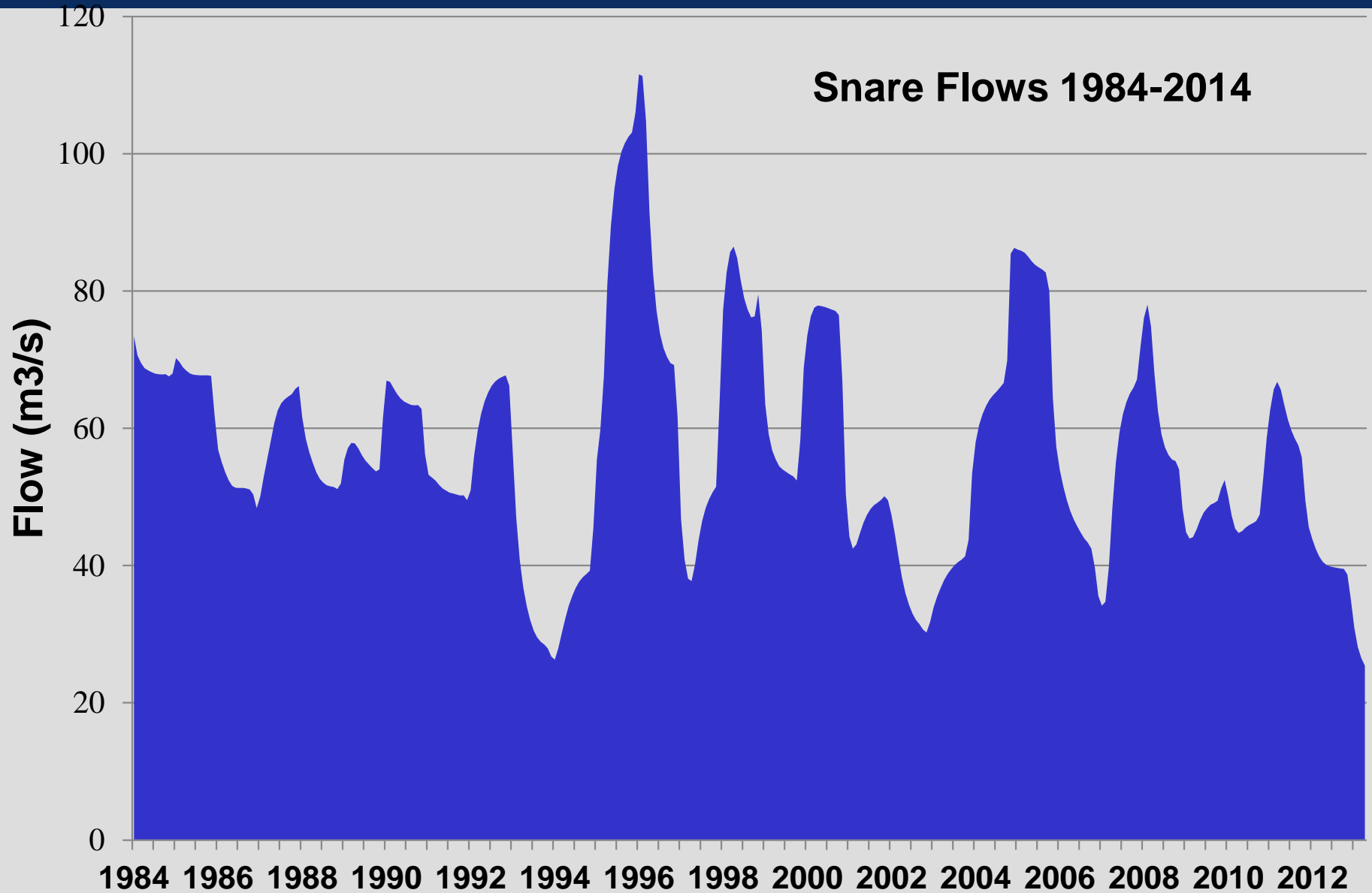
# A Recent Challenge: North Slave Low Water



# North Slave Low Water



# Historical Water Flows





# Response

- Expressions of Interest – private sector proposals?
- North Slave System Resiliency (from the 2014 Charrette)
  - Evaluate a range of options: solar, biomass, wind, hydro enhancement options, batteries
  - Options for enhanced monitoring, hydrological forecasting models
  - Options to avoid rate shock: a low water fund?
- With our high costs and energy supply challenges, the NWT is prepared to look at all options.

# Opportunities

- Continue to displace diesel with local, renewable and alternative forms of energy.
- Develop partnerships, expand the grid.
- Federal Liberal Party Platform:
  - Grow the economy by making significant new investments in green infrastructure (nearly \$6 billion over the next four years, and almost \$20 billion over ten years).
  - Create a New Lower Carbon Economy Trust. The Trust will provide funding to projects that materially reduce carbon emissions under the new pan-Canadian framework. We will endow the Low Carbon Economy Trust with \$2 billion.

# Opportunities

- Federal Liberal Party Platform:
  - Establish the Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB) to provide low-cost financing to build new infrastructure projects. The CIB will issue Green Bonds to fund projects like... smart grid technology, clean power storage and transmission lines for renewable energy.
  - Invest \$200 million more each year to support innovation and the use of clean technologies in our natural resource sectors, including the forestry, fisheries, mining, energy, and agricultural sectors.
  - Improve energy efficiency standards for consumer and commercial products, and use new financing instruments to encourage investments in energy-saving retrofits.

# Summary

- The NWT has a wealth of energy resources but our harsh environment, vast distances, and economies of scale make local energy services very expensive.
- The NWT will require a 'suite of solutions' - energy efficiency, biomass, solar, storage, perhaps wind and geothermal, an expanded grid system where possible.
- Continued emphasis on partnerships with communities and the federal government will increase the renewable energy sources integrated into community energy systems.