

# Arviat Clean Microgrid Project

**Partnerships for Climate Action** 

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**Renewables in Remote Communities Conference April 2022** 



## **About NRStor**

NRStor works closely with communities, utilities and energy consumers to identify opportunities and deliver world class projects

- NRStor was founded in 2012 to develop low cost, reliable energy storage projects that provide value-add services to customers
- Our success stems from our:
  - Woman-Led Management Team.
  - Proven Track Record Deploying First of Kind Projects.
  - Partnership-First Business Model.
  - Diversified Value Streams and Monetization
     Strategy.
  - Trusted Relationships.
  - Impact Investments.



Utilities



Microgrids

Enabling clean, flexible and reliable electricity systems through large-scale n energy storage projects

Partnering with remote communities and mines to reduce dependence on diesel fuel using clean energy microgrids



Empowering residential customers to take control of their energy supply



# **NRStor Remote Communities and Mines**

NRStor Remotes actively engages and partners with Indigenous communities to deliver clean energy microgrids reducing dependence on diesel fuel

- Partnerships First: We actively seek opportunities for more meaningful engagement, involvement and partnership on community projects
- Local Economic Benefits: Our projects can enable significant infrastructure ownership and local revenues for indigenous communities
- Locally Tailored Solutions: Our technology agnostic approach identifies community's needs, technology preferences, and economics for owning and operating renewable microgrids





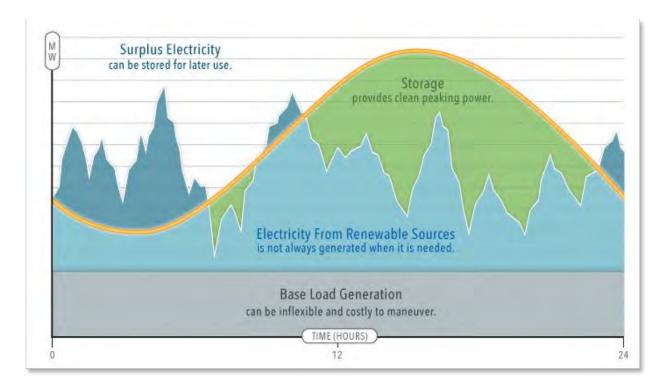




# **Unlocking Value with Energy Storage**

- Energy storage can balance energy supply and demand to maximize the use of renewable energy, and also make the energy system more reliable.
- Energy storage allows wind or solar energy to be stored and used when the wind is not blowing, or the sun is not shining.
- Without energy storage, variable renewable generation (wind and solar) may be limited to ~20% penetration of energy needs. Storage is needed to move beyond that.

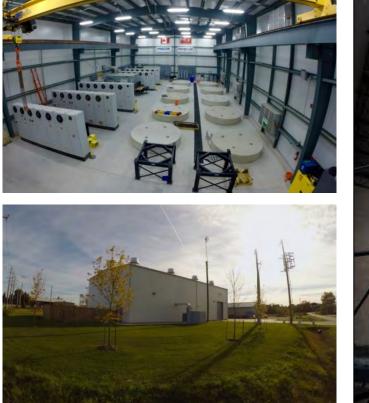
 Energy storage improves the efficiency of the whole system





# Energy Storage is Fast & Flexible

- Energy storage can respond much more quickly and precisely compared to traditional assets.
- NRStor's 2MW Minto Flywheel Facility has been operating for over 5 years.
- It provides frequency regulation to the Ontario grid under a contract with the IESO.
- The facility is able to provide **more than 2x the value** that traditional resources can provide.

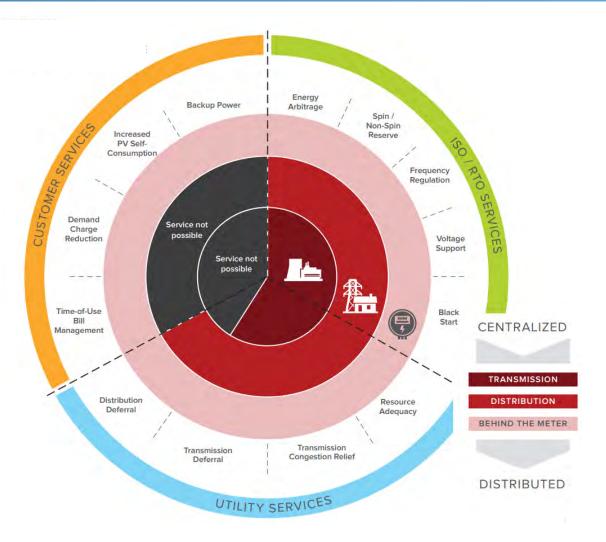






# **Energy Storage Can Provide Many Different Services**

- Energy storage can be used to "stack" multiple services
- Consider whether storage should be **behind-the meter vs. in front of the meter**
- In a microgrid, services could include:
  - Backup power and resilience (if behind-themeter)
  - Renewable energy integration
  - Spinning reserves
  - Voltage support
  - Optimizing the operations of existing diesel generation
- Ex. Aggregating Tesla Powerwalls in Toronto to save on system costs and increase power resilience for homes





## **Choose Technology Vendors & Partners With the Right Experience**

There are many types and sizes of energy storage – choose the right one for your specific needs.

2MW Minto Flywheel Facility	4MW Strathroy Battery Facility	2MW Goderich CAES Facility
Service: Frequency Regulation	Service: Frequency Regulation	Service: Capacity, Operating Reserve
- No degradation. 30 year+ asset.	<ul> <li>Degrades with usage. Need to augment/replace cells based on life of project.</li> <li>Not all battery cells made equal; needs to match application.</li> </ul>	- No degradation. 30 year+ asset.
<ul> <li>Brand new technology. Impacts maintenance, upgrades, inventory, accessibility requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Well-known technology. O&amp;M</li> <li>requirements can be easier to define.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>First of a kind project. Undefined permitting process. Delays and cost overruns likely.</li> </ul>



## Introduction: Clean Microgrids



#### **Climate Action Leadership**

Significant reductions in greenhouse gases (GHGs) means remote communities can lead a path towards decarbonizing the global energy system, and thereby playing a role in mitigating climate change.

#### **Local Pollution Reduction**

Clean energy sources like solar and wind do not involve burning fuels and creating air contaminants like NOx and SOx. Wind, solar, and majority of storage technologies have little noise footprints, and visual impact can be controlled with appropriate siting. This can have direct benefits towards the health and wellbeing of the community.



#### **Economic Development**

Microgrid projects carry significant long-term economic benefits in gaining low risk returns throughout the project lifespan, which can be reinvested into more community initiatives. Microgrids also involve construction and operating activities, which can be excellent community employment opportunities.

Clean
Microgrid

#### Improved Energy Security

Microgrids based on renewable energy sources receive energy from a virtually never-ending resource within or nearby the community. As the sun shines, the winds blow, rivers flow, and the trees grow, clean energy can be sourced without the need for complicated buying and shipping. This also removes the risk of fuel price changes in the future.



# **Energy Use in the Hamlet of Arviat**

Arviat's energy currently comes 100% from Diesel Fuel

- Right now, diesel fuel is barged into Arviat and burned in diesel generators in order to create power. Burning diesel creates harmful greenhouse gas emissions contributing to climate change.
- Our vision is to use renewable energy sources, like the sun and the wind, to create clean energy.
- The Hamlet started working with NRStor in late 2016 to design a clean energy solution.





# Arviat Clean Microgrid Project

#### We looked at the energy needs in Arviat and local wind and solar resource to design the project

After many studies, we determined that the best solution for Arviat will include:



Preliminary analysis shows that over 20 years, this project could:

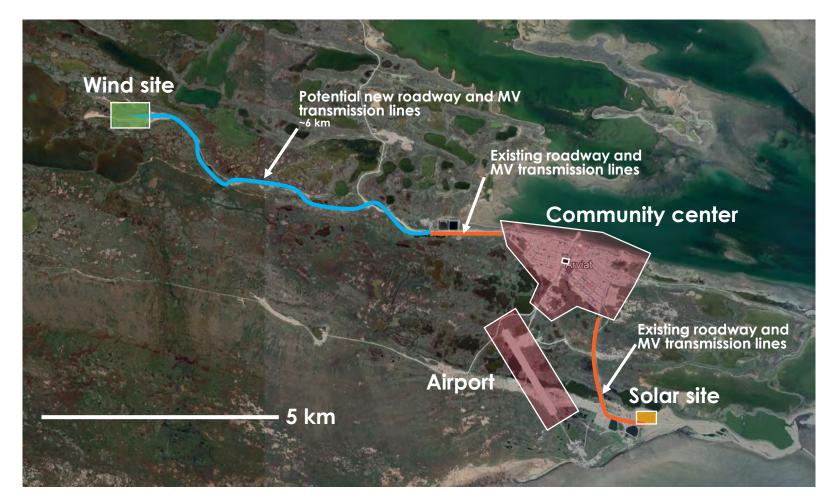
- Prevent over 160 thousand tonnes of  $CO_2$  from entering the atmosphere
- Avoid burning ~ 30 million litres of diesel fuel

The Hamlet of Arviat will own the project with NRStor and make revenues from it by selling the clean energy to the utility (QEC).



# **Project Siting**

Sites were selected considering technical requirements and local preferences, and are located on Hamlet Lands.



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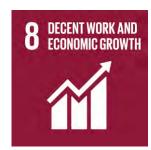
AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

# **Project Benefits**



#### **Environmental Benefits**

- Prevent over 160 thousand tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> from entering the atmosphere
- Avoid burning ~30 million litres of diesel fuel
- Reduce diesel by more than 50%
- Provide Arviat with a reliable and renewable source of energy



#### **Economic Benefits**

- Creation of a long-term revenue stream
   to the Hamlet of Arviat, for reinvestment into the community
- Job and training opportunities directly through the project, especially during construction
- Increase in jobs enabled by the community's project revenues



#### **Social Benefits**

- Improved air quality and health benefits of reduced diesel consumption
- Increase in community initiatives enabled by the revenue provided by the project
- Increased understanding of clean energy technologies and clean energy education in the community



# **Remote Microgrid Project Challenges**

# Remote microgrid projects come with unique considerations and challenges that must be managed through strong partnerships and a willingness to think creatively.

- Independent Power Producer and PPA model may be new to the region and utility
- Data can be challenging to obtain
- Project Siting can be sensitive and requires robust community involvement and support
  - Wind siting can be limited by proximity to airports, which are present in all remote, fly-in communities. Increased distance from the airport must be weighed against cost of transmission line to connect wind to the microgrid
- Permitting pathways for renewable projects may be unclear and undefined
- Logistics must be managed and may impact project timelines
  - Constrained by the number of barges to a community (i.e. 3 barges a year in Arviat)
- Integration with existing diesel system
  - Diesel equipment may be very old
  - Connection assessments for high penetration of renewables is new for utilities
- Extreme cold weather in the north must be taken into consideration in project design

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# **Example of Community Involvement**

We have learned firsthand how local involvement in all aspects of the project makes for stronger outcomes.

• Bird Surveys conducted by local HTO in summer of 2020 were able to move forward as planned, rather than being delayed by the pandemic





# Partnerships for Climate Action

Remote microgrid projects require a high level of interface and collaboration between Project Partners and Stakeholders

We believe community-driven projects require:

- Local Involvement and Community Leadership
- Project Partner with Project Development & Financing Experience
- Collaborative Utility with a clear IPP process to make projects a success

Clean Energy Microgrids present an important opportunity for remote communities to gain ownership in their energy systems while reducing dependence on diesel.

As project partners, NRStor can help enable community-led clean energy microgrids to be deployed seamlessly and successfully.



Thank you

L'**e** Matna "Yesterday is ashes. Tomorrow is green wood. Only today does the fire burn brightly" -Inuit proverb

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Path Forward for Renewables Development in the Beaufort

Grant Sullivan, Nihtat Energy Ltd. April 27, 2022

# Who are the Nihtat Gwich'in?

## Nihtat Energy Ltd (NEL)

- Northern, Indigenous owned.
- Subsidiary of Nihtat Corporation
- Focused on developing and operating clean energy alternatives.
- Operating in Beaufort Delta region & other areas of northern Canada.

## Nihtat Corporation

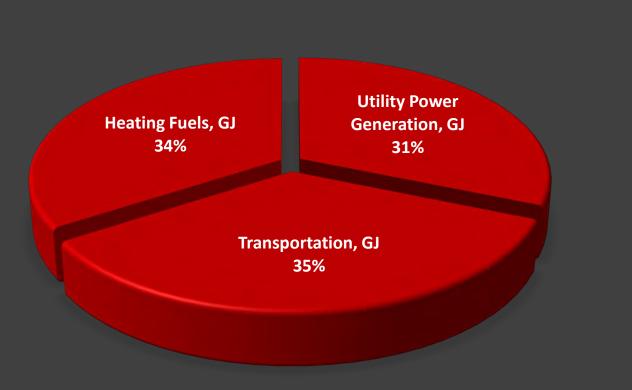
- > Wholly owned by the Nihtat Gwich'in Council.
- Located in Inuvik, NWT.

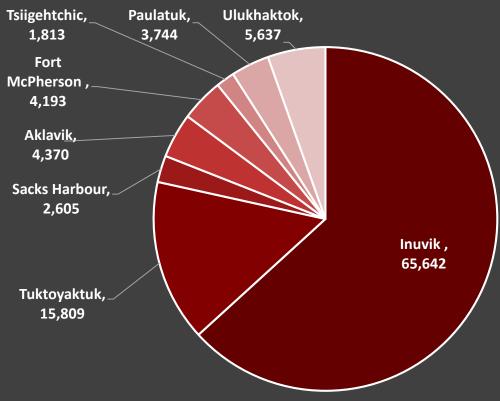


# Beaufort Delta Context – Fuel Use

#### Breakdown of Beaufort Delta Thermal Fuel Use

#### Beaufort Delta GHG Emissions by Community





Nihtat Energy Ltd was formed to take on, and solve, the challenges defined by Nihtat Corporation's early experience in project planning; and find opportunities to develop renewable energy projects in Beaufort Delta and other areas of the north that could achieve the following *Core Planning Objectives*:

+imparts

#### **1. Facilitate Development of Renewables**

 Facilitate development of renewables that can displace fossil fuels for electricity, heating or transportation uses in remote communities.

#### 2. Enhance Indigenous Participation

 Enhance Indigenous participation in utility project planning and implementation; including ensuring that long term benefits from energy projects also flow to local Indigenous communities.

#### **3.** Ensure Meaningful Role in Climate Action

• Ensure local Indigenous communities have a meaningful role to play in taking action to mitigate climate change impacts.

	North Mart Inuvik	Solar Residential Program	Mackenzie Hotel Inuvik	ISSF Project
	<ul> <li>165 kW AC</li> <li>164.5 t/yr GHG emissions reduction</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>• 214 kW AC</li> <li>• 154 t/yr GHG emissions reduction</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>99 kW AC</li> <li>76.5 t/yr GHG emissions reduction</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>60 kW AC</li> <li>66 t/Yr GHG Emissions reduction</li> </ul>
Aklavik IPP	Iqaluit North Mart	Inuvik 1 MW Solar	NEL Installed / Planned Solar in Northern Canada	
			≻ 2019	379 kW AC
			≻ 2020	99 kW AC
			≻ 2021	60 kW AC
			▶ 2022/23	<u>1,450 kW AC</u>
150 kW AC	300 kW AC Installed	• 1 MW AC	Total	1,988 kW AC
155 t/yr GHG emissions reduction	297 t/ yr GHG emissions reduction	• 784 GHG Emissions Reduction		

# Inuvik Wind Hydrogen Project



2020-21

2021

2022-23

High Penetration Renewables Study

- Confirm initial
  - feasibility of 3.5 MW Wind
- Identified excess electricity

Assess uses for excess electricity

- > Hydrogen
  - Feasibility Study
- Initial concept/ scale

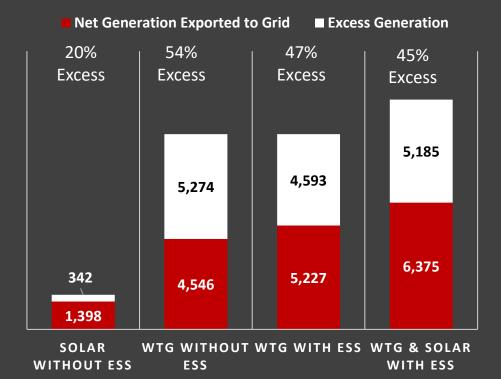
/ind-Hydrogen

Wind-Hydrogen Feasibility Study

- Site assessment
- > Design
- Business Case
- > Agreements
- Engagement

# Inuvik Wind-Hydrogen Project

#### Total Generation Potential and Net Generation Exported to Grid (MWh)



Solar Project

# **NTPC** Power Plant

Wind site 3 km north of Inuvik

Alternate wind

- ► 4.2 MW wind turbine
- Electrolyser sized at 1.4 MW capacity
- Hydrogen production rate of 121-134 m<sup>3</sup>/hr
- 7% gas blend

# Dempster Highway Electrification Project





**Install** EV fast chargers at 6 locations along the Dempster Highway



**Link** northern Yukon and the Mackenzie Delta region to southern Yukon

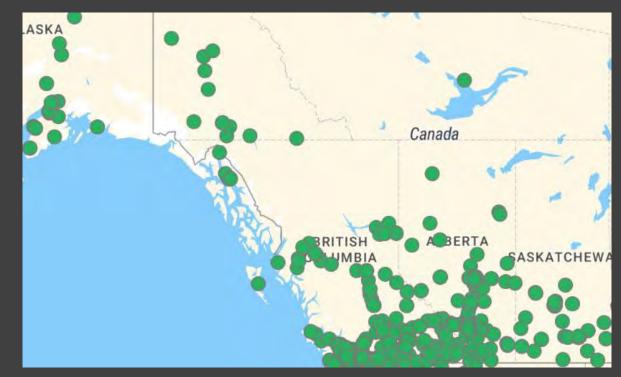


**Enable** electric vehicle corridor from coast to cost to coast across Canada, and above the Arctic Circle



**Demonstrate** off-grid, lower carbon, EV fast chargers and systems in arctic and sub-artic climates

#### Map of EV Charging Stations



### **Barriers to EV adoption in northern Canada**

- Geographic distances
- Off-grid nature of communities
- Low population densities

# Dempster Highway Electrification Project

### Self Contained System

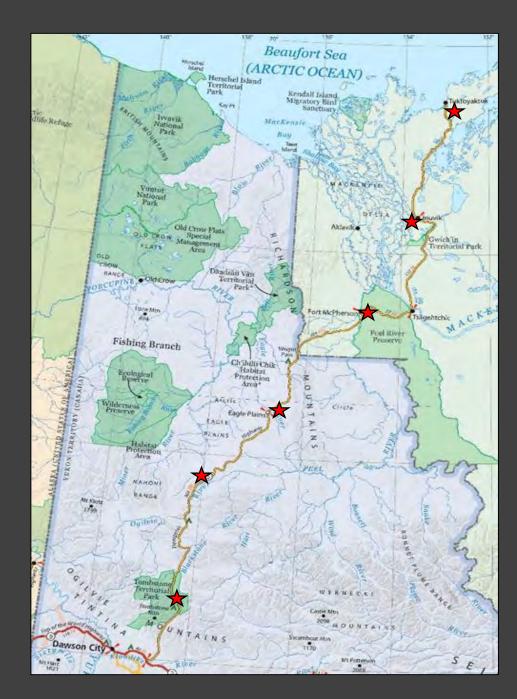
- > Autonomous microgrid deployment on remote roads
- Standard 40' high cube dry ISO container
- > Solar array for adjacent to charging station

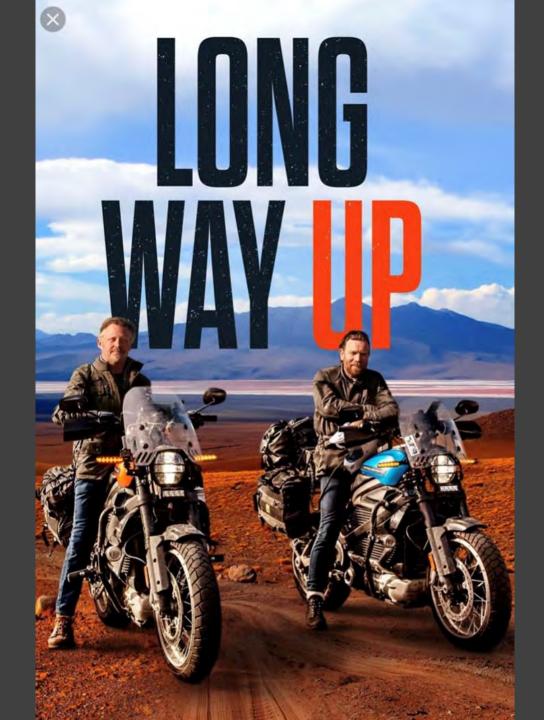
# Remote fast charging stations along the Dempster Hwy:

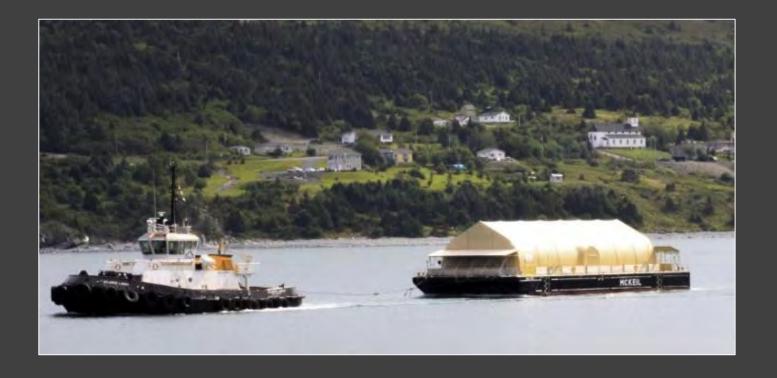
- > At km 450 (Yukon/NT border)
- > At km 272 (a NWTel site)
- > At km 142 (an abandoned quarry with access road)

### **Regular charging stations in NT:**

- Tuktoyaktuk (at NTPC's plant)
- Inuvik (at NTPC's plant)
- Fort McPherson (at NTPC's plant)







# Inuvik Biomass Supply Chain – Bulk Shipment via Barging



### **Current Biomass Requirement**

- Inuvik Biomass heating requirement of 3,000 to 4,000 dry t/year.
- GNWT 40% target for biomass heating use

# Supply Chain Costs & Reliability Issues

- Trucked from LaCrete, Alberta (approximately 3,100 km distance)
- Minimal margin below current fossil fuel heating costs
- Winter Road Constraints
- Competing against established fossil fuel supply chains

Inuvik Biomass Supply Chain – Bulk Shipment via Barging

### **Proposed Approach:**

- > Truck haul from LaCrete to Hay River;
- > Barge haul from Hay River to Inuvik;
- Option for bulk delivery using dedicated barge

## Use barge service is currently owned by Marine Transport Services [MTS]

- Summer shipping season five months (June to October).
- Up to 1500 tonnes per barge

#### **Summer 2022**

 Barge 1000 tonnes of biomass wood pellets (totes) for winter 2022/23 heating season

### 2022/23

- Studies to optimize barging supply chain approach
- Work with MTS and GNWT
- Work with local biomass suppliers

#### 2024 onwards

• Optimized long term solution

# Thank you

# Grant Sullivan Nihtat Energy Ltd





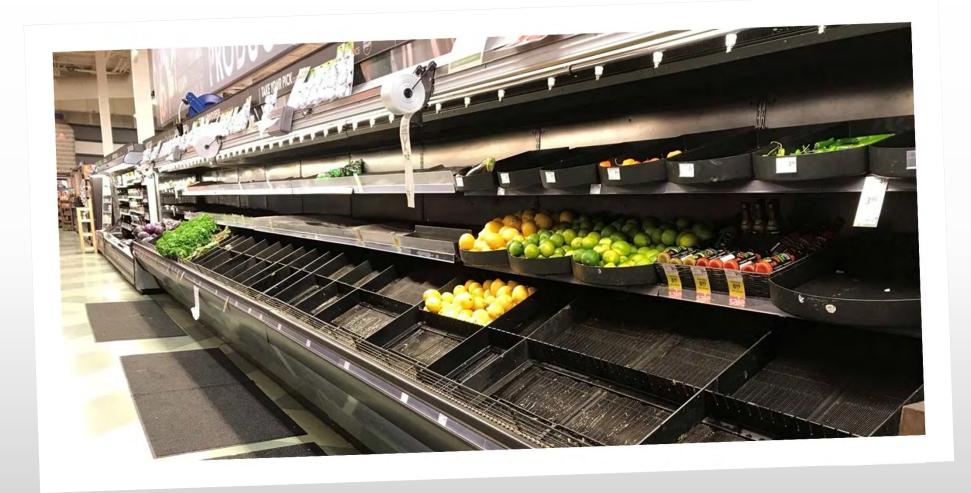
# Tu Deh-Kah GEOTHERMAL

## **TU Deh-Kah PROJECT UPDATE** JAMIE CAPOT-BLANC Project Coordinator

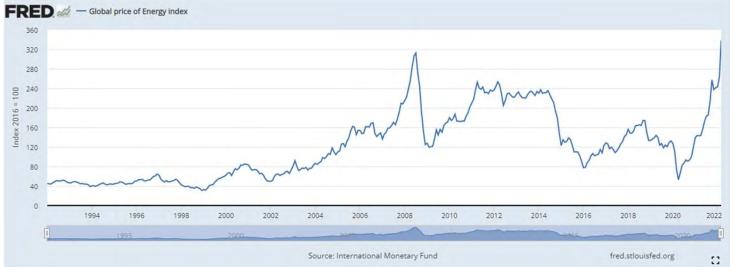




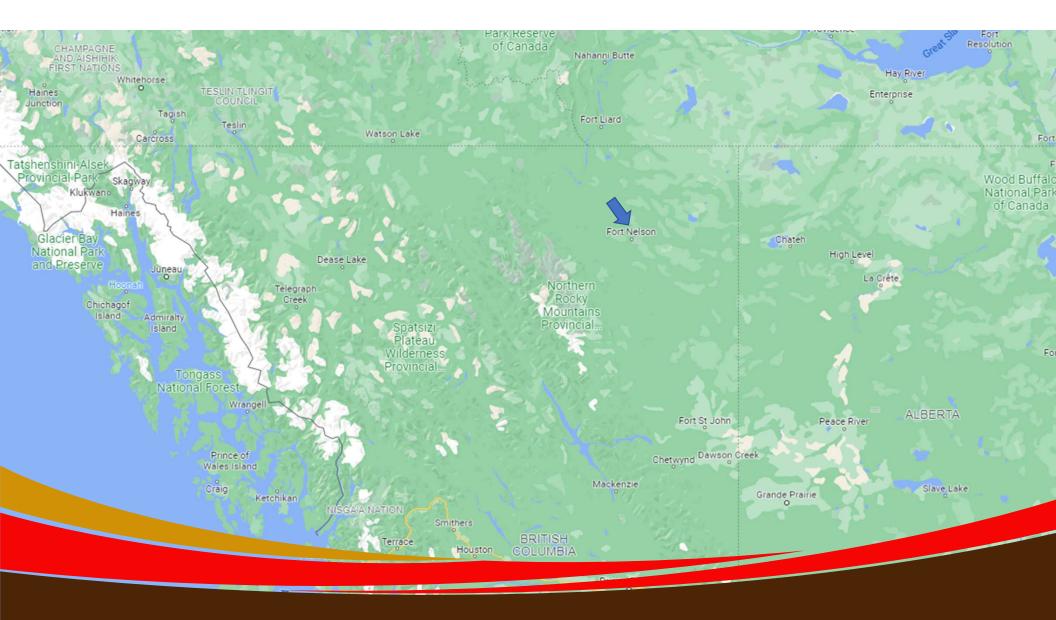


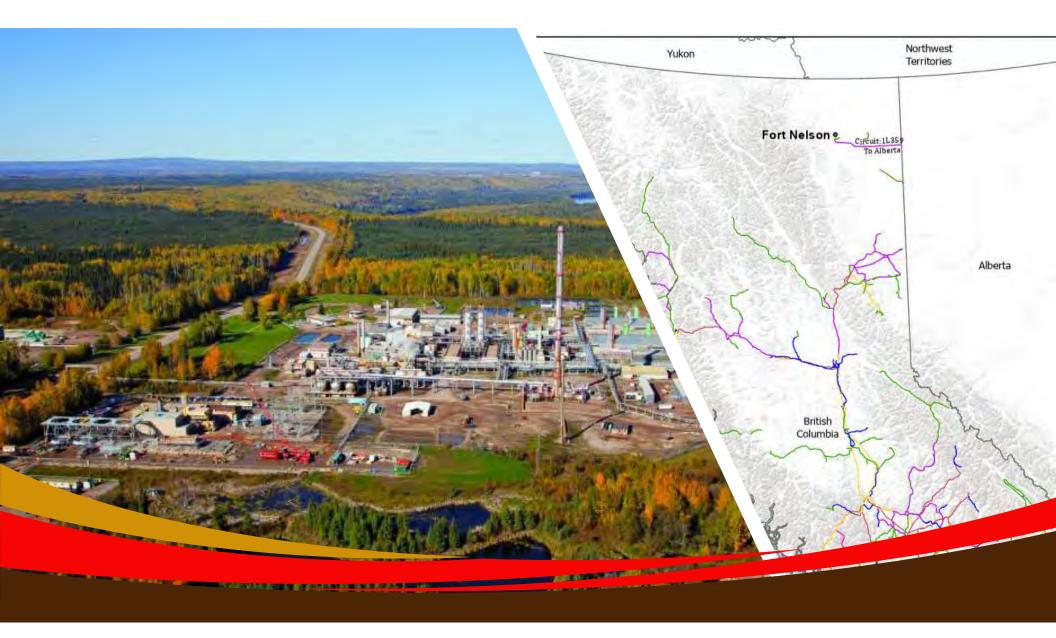










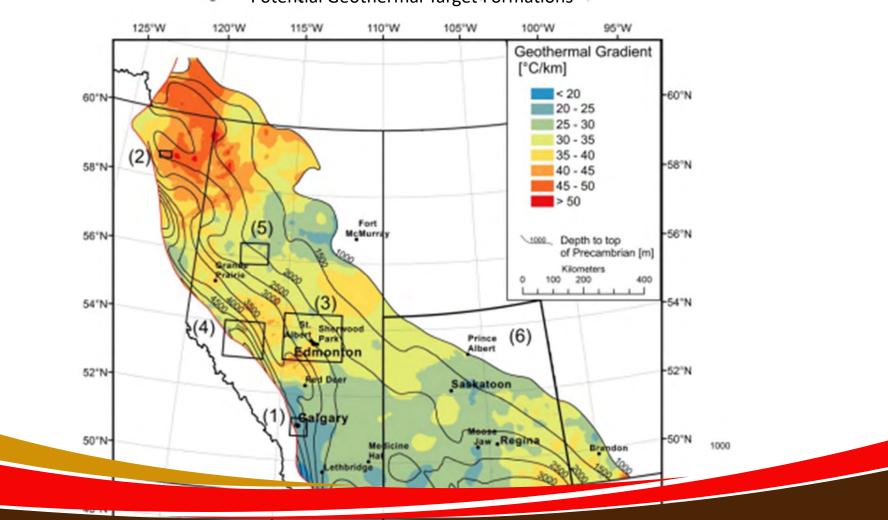




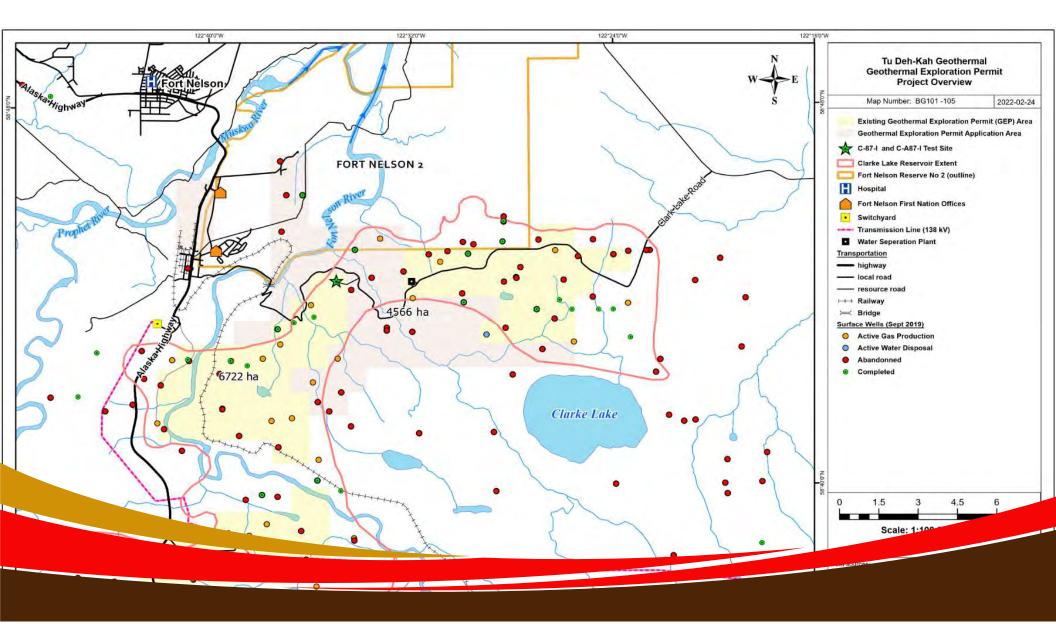
## 5.6 MW Rhine Valley, Germany

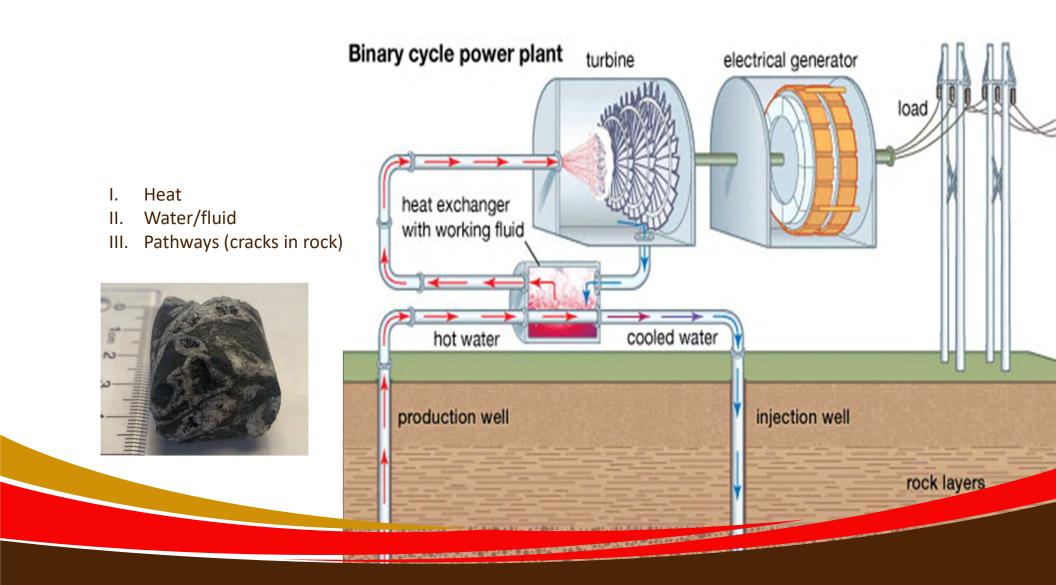
82 MW Ngatamariki Power Station, New Zealand

45 MW McGuiness Hills, Nevada USA



Temperature at Depth and Distribution of
 Potential Geothermal Target Formations





2020	2020	A 2022	2023	2025	2. 201 2020 0. 2011 2020
Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4 9	Phase 5	Phase 6	O <sup>V</sup> Phase 7
Office Based - Resource analysis - Business details - Community info - Engineering - Permitting	Field Based - Well drilling - Well testing - Training	Office/field Based - Engineering - Tendering - Business Planning - Financing - Permitting - Marketing - Training	Wellfield Dev/Drilling - Procurement - Manufacture - Well drilling - Training	Plant Construction & Commissioning - Construction - Piping - Transmission - Training - Commissioning	Operation - Training - Operations - Wrap up
		- Round 2 testing			

# August 2021



