



Nishnawbe Aski Nation
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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NAN APPLAUDS SELECTION OF WATAY POWER TO CONNECT FIRST NATIONS TO ELECTRICITY GRID

THUNDER BAY, ON: Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler, on behalf of the Executive Council, applauded today's announcement that Wataynikaneyap Power LP (Watay) has been selected to connect 16 remote First Nation communities that currently rely on diesel power to the provincial electricity grid.

"This is a major achievement and I am pleased recognize to the tremendous work that Wataynikaneyap Power has accomplished to bring reliable supplies of electricity to northern and remote communities," said NAN Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler. "We are pleased that Ontario has identified this project as a priority. We hope that Watay Power's application to the Ontario Energy Board OEB and all environmental assessment work is completed and approved as quickly as possible so that construction can begin on schedule to connect all of these communities to the grid by 2024."

Wataynikaneyap Power is a transmission company owned by 20 First Nations. The First Nation-led energy partnership between Wataynikaneyap Power, FortisOntario Inc. and Renewable Energy Systems Canada Inc. (RES/FortisOntario) was launched in August 2015 to expand grid connection for remote First Nations.

"Many of our First Nation communities still rely on diesel generation for electricity, but the cost of electrical power generated by diesel is considerably greater than energy costs in cities across Ontario," said Fiddler. "The Watay Power consortium is designed to significantly reduce the financial burden for many First Nations while eliminating the health, safety and environmental impacts associated with diesel generation."

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