



green green water

February 27, 2006

Chief Jerry Primrose
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
NCN Band Office
General Delivery
Nelson House, MB R0B 1A0

Dear Chief Primrose,

Thank you for reviewing our rough cut of *Green Green Water*. We apologize for not responding sooner, but we have been in the middle of major revisions on the film. We are disappointed that you believe the film is "hurtful" to your people and "offensive" to your First Nation. However not everyone from Nelson House First Nation (NCN) feels that way. We have spoken with many NCN band members who welcome this project and agree with its message.

Overall, while we do not agree with your objections, your concerns are being considered for the final edit of the film. In particular we are scrutinizing research on the environmental impacts of the Wuskwatim Dam projects and other items of concern in your letter. (We do not need to remind you that each dam has transmission lines and corridors and roads associated with it, and that the Wuskwatim transmission lines impact 61 traplines, and a considerable extent of boreal lands and waters outside the traditional territory of your First Nation.)

We would like to address a few of your concerns. One is the placement of Chief John Miswagon in the film. We believe it is clear that Chief John Miswagon is the leader of the Pimicikimak Nation. He was well spoken on Aboriginal culture and tradition and therefore was used throughout. As the leader of a Hydro impacted First Nation, his knowledge and experience is surely at least as relevant as your own.

As for Ken Bradley, although we do not agree that he is an advocate for the windpower industry (there is nothing to support this claim in ME3's financials), we have taken your concerns as well as those of other reviewers into account and reduced the number of times Mr. Bradley is in the film.

We have adjusted the introduction of the film to briefly address the impact of colonization and the residential schools (industrial schools as they were called in the U.S.), so the audience understands that today's situation in northern Manitoba is the result of numerous factors which include, but is not limited to impacts from the hydro dams. One of the challenges of filmmaking is to focus a story to its emotional essentials. We did that to the best of our abilities, and resources.

We are sad that you feel the film "denigrates the efforts of our people to move forward following decades of struggle". We see the First Nations of northern Manitoba as incredibly vibrant, strong, and full of promise. We are not telling these communities how they should proceed into the future. However, we are concerned when so many people in the communities of South Indian Lake, Nelson House, and Cross Lake expressed such a profound level of distrust and pain in regard to Manitoba Hydro and the Northern Flood Agreement (NFA), and more recent implementation agreements. These voices deserve to be heard

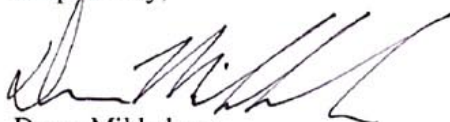
and unfortunately, when you are speaking contrary to Manitoba Hydro's agenda, you do not receive equal media attention in Canada or the United States. Pro-dam perspectives and voices have, as you know, the resources, the money and the clout through their PR firms to be heard by the general public. This film's purpose is to provide a platform for the voices of those in the communities whose voices have been silenced by the power and money behind the pro-dam forces. In order for any community to make a genuinely democratic decision, both sides need to be heard equally

As for other bands being happy with their implementation agreements, we have been contacted by members of other NFA First Nations, including those in Norway House, who have not only expressed support for *Green Green Water*, but have pleaded with us to include their stories as well. Your attempt to single Carol Kobliski out as one disgruntled tribal member who is unhappy with the outcome of Nelson House tribal elections fails to explain why there are others who share her views throughout Northern Manitoba, despite never having met or spoken with Carol.

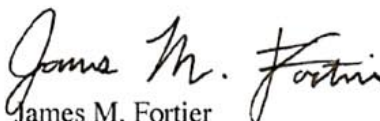
Frankly, when we were in Nelson House we were also confronted by many individuals who made allegations against you and your fellow council members. To be fully "objective" we would have to put these stories in the film as well. However then the film turns into an expose of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, which is not what our intention was for the film.

Green Green Water was made because we believe northern Manitoba First Nations are moving forward and finding the strength within to make your communities stronger. We wish you the best in the future.

Respectfully,



Dawn Mikkelson
Director
Green Green Water



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Green Green Water

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cc:

Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Grand Chief Ron Evans
MKO Grand Chief Sydney Garrioch
York Factory First Nation Chief Roy Beardy
Tataskweyak Cree Nation Chief Norman Flett
Norway House Cree Nation Acting Chief Fred Muskego
O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Headman Chris Baker
Pimicikimak Cree Nation Chief John Miswagon
Manitoba Hydro CEO and President Robert Brennan
Xcel Energy CEO and President Richard C. Kelly
Jim Compton
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James Nicholas
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