

Socio-economic

- regional employment opportunities
- regional business opportunities
- regional training opportunities
- hunting and fishing in local area

Archaeological, Historical and Cultural

- archaeological sites identified around the station

Land Use

Each of the DEW Line sites has been or is, in general, used exclusively for the purposes of operating a military radar station, which includes on-site operation and maintenance of infrastructure and off-site transportation by air and sealift. Limited local use of the immediate site area occurs (i.e., for hunting and fishing, etc.). In some cases, there are regularly used fishing and hunting areas immediately adjacent to the sites (i.e., Cambridge Bay).

PART 4 - DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS

As part of the DEW Line Clean Up project, a public consultation program has been carried out in communities across the north since August of 1992. In 1992 and 1993 teams from the Department of National Defence and other federal departments conducted a broad range public consultation sessions to consult the local residents about the project and to obtain input regarding specific concerns about the work.

During the public consultation process, meetings were held in those communities in the vicinity of DEW Line sites as well as briefings to government officials in Iqaluit, Cambridge Bay and Yellowknife. Advertisements, information packages and translation services were provided in English as well as Inuktitut. Minutes were recorded at each of the meetings and action items passed on to the responsible agencies.

The purpose of these meetings were several fold, including:

- inform the community of the status and schedule for the project;
- provide information regarding the process for the closure and clean up of the sites as well as providing information for providing socio-economic opportunities (business and employment);
- present information concerning the DEW Line Clean Up protocol which has been adopted for the project;
- provide general information regarding the demolition and disposal of facilities;
- obtain information regarding public concerns through discussions at the meetings and questionnaires; and
- Obtain information regarding local labour and contracting capabilities to assist in developing implementation strategies.

For the DEW Line Clean Up project, DND has sought to integrate the views of all interested stakeholders, including individuals or groups, into the decision making process undertaken by the Department of National Defence. For this project, the approach to public involvement in environmental assessments includes two major elements:

- adequate public notification; and
- appropriate public consultation.

For DEW Line Clean Up, public notification has been used as a secondary source of public consultation, using a one-way exchange of information with the public. The purpose of this particular process is to provide notification of report preparation, decisions that are made and actions that have been or are planned to be taken. For this project, this particular methodology has not been considered 'participation'. Public notification has been used mainly for notifying the public of the results of previous environmental assessments.

Public consultation has been used to involve the public in the environmental assessment process through dialogue between northern residents and the project representatives. This dialogue has proved useful in identifying public concerns, needs and values before final decisions on courses of action were made.

1992 Program

Nine communities were visited in 1992:

- Broughton Island
- Clyde River
- Igloolik
- Hall Beach
- Taloyoak (Spence Bay)
- Pelly Bay
- Gjoa Haven
- Kugluktuk (Coppermine)
- Cambridge Bay

The main goals in 1992 were to present the base clean up protocol and plan as well as hear suggestions and ideas from the public. The objectives of the initial meetings included the following:

- a. Provide general information to the community regarding the status and schedule for the project;
- b. Provide information regarding the process for closure and cleanup of the DEW Line;
- c. Present environmental information regarding the DEW Line Clean Up (DLCU) Protocol adopted for the project;
- d. Provide general information regarding the demolition/disposal of facilities;
- e. Obtain information regarding public concerns through discussions at the meetings and through questionnaires; and

- f. Obtain information regarding local labour and contracting capabilities to assist in developing implementation strategies.

A report prepared by the project management team outlined the information provided to the public and summarised questions/concerns which arose during the meetings.

Many questions and concerns were raised regarding various aspects of the project and almost half of these dealt with two main areas: employment opportunities and environmental impact protection. There is a serious desire among the people in the communities to obtain training and to be involved in the clean up of the sites. The second major issue of environmental impact and protection was expressed as concern about the short and long-term impact on the food chain. Perhaps the most serious concerns expressed centred on previous disposal practices, particularly ocean dumping.

The appearance of the sites, particularly those adjacent to communities, was a concern. The proposed cleanup protocol was generally accepted to be the most practical. Some details related to performance of long term monitoring were yet to be worked out. This will be addressed with the new monitoring plan.

In general, the meetings were well attended, the project team was well received and discussions were wide ranging and lively. People seemed to appreciate the initiative taken by DND to inform the communities regarding DLCU and the public provided valuable insights into the project. In some cases people have unrealistic expectations regarding the project and it was important to correct these. In this region of high unemployment it is important to be truthful and not be too optimistic concerning the economic impact of a one time project such as this clean up.

1993 Program

The same nine communities in the Nunavut Settlement Area were visited in May and June 1993. The objectives for this second round of meetings were as follows:

- a. Update the communities on the current status of the project;
- b. Present information on the site investigations and the 80% Design Submission for the ten sites studied in 1992;
- c. Provide clean up protocol information on the 11 DND sites surveyed in 1993;
- d. Present information on the plans for the 21 DIAND sites; and
- e. Request suggestions and ideas regarding community concerns with the cleanup plans.

Questions and concerns were raised by the public regarding a variety of aspects of this project. While the majority of concerns were in regards to socio-economic effects and benefits (employment opportunities) there was also a concern over the environmental protection measures that were to be employed during the clean up. The residents of these communities have expressed a desire to obtain job training and to be involved with the clean up of these sites. With respect to environmental protection, concern was expressed as to how the clean up of these sites would impact the food chain over the short and long terms. There were a number of concerns over how previous disposal practices, particularly ocean dumping, was conducted and what the effects have and will be. Another aspect of environmental protection raised by the public was that of aesthetics. Questions were asked about how the sites would look like at the end of the clean up. No major concerns about the effect of the clean up operations were raised.

The issues outlined above were addressed through discussions during the meetings and concerns were alleviated through these consultation sessions.

1994 Program

In 1994, public consultation focused on involvement of both the territorial (GNWT) government and recently formed Inuit organisations. Two meetings were held in late 1994 with Nunavut officials in Cambridge Bay (Kitikmeot Inuit Association/Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated joint meeting and Nunavut Planning Commission).

1996 Program

In 1996, the DEW Line Clean Up project resumed its public consultation program by holding public meetings at those communities that would be closest to those sites undergoing clean up in 1996. Within the Nunavut Settlement Area, the communities of Broughton Island and Clyde River were invited to participate in a public meeting discussing upcoming DEW Line Clean Up activities.

1997 Program

The DEW Line Clean Up project office followed up on the 1996 community visits in cases where there is local interest to do so. Both Clyde River and Broughton Island hosted a public information session. These meetings focused on providing planning details as to the upcoming work at the site. Community interest continued to be high, especially in the area of employment opportunities, environmental protection and salvage opportunities.

Future Public Involvement Activities Starting in 1998

As the project enters the implementation phase, public involvement will focus on providing communities with an update on clean up activities within their local area. Several community specific activities will be undertaken:

- The project management office will hold a community information briefing in the community or communities closest to each DEW line site just prior to the start of clean up (i.e., 1 to 2 months in advance). The aim of these meetings will be to provide community residents with an overview of final details concerning the start of work at each site. The first such meeting will take place in Cambridge Bay in May, 1998.

- The community closest to each DEW Line site will be invited to form a joint advisory committee with DND. The purpose of this committee, which is expected to typically include the community mayor and another resident plus the on-site representatives from the project, is to serve as a forum for addressing local concerns and questions about the clean up during the period when actual activity is taking place. It is expected that this committee will meet monthly during the summer periods.

- As part of the pre-clean up site delineation work, local communities will be asked to provide traditional local knowledge about the DEW Line site area, particularly related to landfills. Typical questions to be posed are shown in the DND/NTI Agreement (Annex D) and are summarised in Annex M.

DND/NTI Project Review Committee

As part of the Agreement between the Department of National Defence and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (Annex D), there are to be regularly scheduled meetings between these two organisations. These meetings, which will involve senior management from both organisations, are designed to provide a regular forum to discuss the clean up program within the Nunavut Settlement Area and to bring up concerns relating to environmental and/or socio-economic concerns.