



3NE Completes Construction of Canada's Largest Remote Community Solar Farm – Virtual Celebration

November 18, 2020 – Fort Chipewyan and Around Alberta

The owners of Three Nations Energy GP Inc. (3NE) held a virtual gathering by Webinar today to announce and celebrate completion of their 2.2 MW_{DC} solar farm in the remote northern community of Fort Chipewyan Alberta - on time and under budget. The Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Mikisew Cree First Nation, and Fort Chipewyan Metis Association formed 3NE in 2018 and worked in partnership with ATCO to plan and design the farm, and to secure funding. The Government of Alberta and Natural Resources Canada both contributed towards the total cost of about \$7.8 million.

COVID-19 restrictions prevented 3NE from having a community gathering, but a small group of Leaders from 3NE and ATCO assembled at the site with Elders and local Drummers in a short celebration of offerings, thanks and prayers for the success of the project (*with -15 deg C, masks and distancing*).

Construction started in February 2020 when winter ice road access into the community opened briefly for heavy truck transport. ATCO completed an adjacent phase 1 solar farm of 600 kW_{DC} capacity in July 2019 and both solar farms feed into a 1.5 MWh battery storage system owned by ATCO (and also just completed). Collaboration between ATCO Power (General Contractor) and 3NE resulted in cost savings which are being used to add another 150 kW_{DC} of solar capacity this winter. The combined 2.95 MW_{DC} solar farm is Canada's largest remote off-grid solar generating facility. Together the solar farms and storage system will supply over 25% of Fort Chipewyan's total annual electricity needs, eliminate more than 800,000 litres of diesel fuel AND reduce greenhouse gases emissions by about 2,250 tonnes of CO_{2eq} each year. In January 2021 power will flow onto the isolated community grid serving about 1,100 residents, once final commissioning is completed. 3NE Solar is also one of the first projects to be permitted by the Alberta Utilities Commission under the 2018 Small Scale (Community) Generation Regulation.

“Our people have a proud tradition of making our livelihood from the sustainable use of local renewable resources. We are committed to being good stewards of the land for future generations. Reducing carbon emissions by replacing imported diesel with our locally owned solar farm uses new technology to act on these values in a way that will increase our energy security and self-sufficiency.”

Blue Eyes Simpson – V.P. Fort Chipewyan Metis Association; 3NE Director

“We are already seeing the impacts of Climate Change on the Peace Athabasca Delta. Yes, our Nations are dependent for jobs and investment revenues on prosperity of the oilsands but that doesn't mean forcing us into a false choice between a strong fossil fuel industry and protecting climate and the environment. We can do both. It all starts with what we do here at home, cleaning up our own emissions like this solar farm will do for electricity in Fort Chip.”

Chief Allan Adam – Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation



“The 3NE Solar Farm Partnership demonstrates how Cree, Dene and Metis peoples of the Delta can work together to bring new technologies into our communities. This builds the capacity of our own tradespeople, workers, and contractors to participate in the emerging green energy sector – just as we now play a major role contributing to the success of the fossil fuel industry of Alberta. We extend our thanks to ATCO, Alberta, and Canada for their partnership roles in the Solar Farm.”

Chief Peter Powder – Mikisew Cree First Nation

“This outstanding project showcases how industry and Indigenous communities can work together to develop sustainable and renewable energy solutions that will benefit today’s and future generations. Partnering with Indigenous communities in a meaningful economic way is something we take very seriously. Together with 3NE, we are fostering community ownership and self-sustaining economic development through job creation, investment in infrastructure, and revenue from the sale of clean power.”

Nancy Southern - Chair & Chief Executive Officer, ATCO

“I would like to congratulate Three Nations Energy GP Inc. and partners for completing the largest solar energy system in a remote community in Canada. This is a model for Canada’s green energy future - one that is Indigenous led.”

The Honourable Seamus O’Regan - Canada’s Minister of Natural Resources

“Opening the 3NE solar farm gives the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Mikisew Cree First Nation and Fort Chipewyan Métis Association the power to heat and light their community. Indigenous people must have an equity stake in resource projects if there’s going to be a healthy future for our vital resource industries and for communities to prosper. Projects like this one will benefit generations to come.”

Minister Rick Wilson – Alberta’s Minister of Indigenous Relations

Three Nations Energy LP Inc. Board of Directors are:

Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation: Councillor **Teri Villbrun** and
Director of Strategic Advisory Services **Jason Schulz**

Mikisew Cree First Nation: Councillor **Roxanne Marcel** and
Councillor **Russell Kaskamin**

Fort Chipewyan Metis Association: Vice President **Blue Eyes Simpson**
Kelly Piche - Executive Director, Fort Chipewyan
Metis Commercial Enterprises Corporation



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See attached Factsheet

Additional Background is also available at www.3NE.ca

Site Ceremony Photos, Videoclips and Materials from today Webinar will be posted up to the 3NE Website above by end of day November 18th for your use or background information.



3NE Fort Chipewyan Solar Farm Quick Facts

Generation Capacity

<i>Phase One Solar Farm completed July 2019:</i>	<i>600 kW_{DC} capacity – owned and operated by ATCO.</i>
<i>Phase Two Solar Farm completed Oct. 2020:</i>	<i>2,200 kW_{DC} capacity – owned by Three Nations Energy</i>
<i>Phase Two Additional “Bonus” Capacity:</i>	<i><u>150 kW_{DC}</u> (also by 3NE - being added Spring 2021)</i>
<i>Total Generation Capacity (from Panels)</i>	<i>2,950 kW or 2.95 MW_{DC}</i>
<i>Total Generation Capacity from Inverters:</i>	<i>2,390 kW or 2.4 MW_{AC}</i>
	<i>15 SMA String Inverters: 1500 V_{DC} in - 600 V_{AC} output</i>

Battery Bank, Storage and Energy Control System

1.50 MWh energy storage capacity – owned and operated by ATCO; ABB Lithium Ion Batteries

Three Nations Energy Solar Farm Project

Energy Production	2,653 MWh / year (approx. 20% of annual requirements) 3,303 MWh / year (approx.. 25%) including ATCO phase one farm
Project Capital Cost	\$7.76 million (3NE Solar Farm; <u>excludes</u> ATCO phase 1 & batteries)
Panels	5,760 for 3NE Phase 2 only (excluding additional install Spring 2021) Hanwha Q cells – 395 W per panel 7,298 including ATCO Phase 1
Land size of farm	Approximately 6.5 hectares, adjacent to ATCO Third Lake Generating Station, less than 1 km from Fort Chipewyan Airport
Reduction in diesel use	estimated - 650,000 litres per year for 3NE solar farm 800,000 litres per year including ATCO phase one farm
Reduction in tanker trucks	approximately 25 large tank truck trips each way, per year
Reduction in GHG emissions	1,813 tonnes CO _{2eq} Per year 2,257 tonnes CO _{2eq} Per year including ATCO phase one
3NE Solar In-service Date:	January 2021
Power Sale Agreements	Through AESO Balancing Pool and Regulated System Under Alberta Small Scale Generation Regulation (2018)