

**Date:** January 8, 2018

**From:** Wabaseemoong Independent Nations (Darren Harper)

**To:** Candida Cianci, Environmental Assessment Specialist  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

**By email:** cnscc.ea-ee.ccsn@canada.ca

**Subject line:** Wabaseemoong EIS

**CEAA Reference number:** 80124

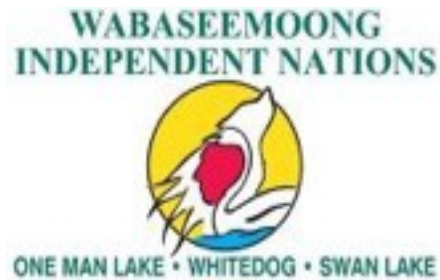
**Comments:**

Hi Candida,

Please see attached report. All the best in 2018 and I look forward to further comments and communication.

Warm Regards.

Darren



Traditional Knowledge and  
Environmental Impact Assessment

Report Submitted to  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Decommissioning of Whiteshell Nuclear  
Reactor #1

Prepared by:  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2016, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (“CNSC”) provided a letter written to the Grand Council Treaty 3 for notice of the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (“CNL”) proposal for the in situ decommissioning of the Whiteshell Reactor #1 (“the project”) at the Whiteshell laboratories site near Pinawa, Manitoba, from which the nuclear research reactor operated until 1985.

Subsequently WIN and the CNSC entered into a project agreement that provided some funding to help with the engagement for the project. The TK Protocol and Impact Assessment supports the gathering of information and use of the area in respect of the Project.

Traditional Knowledge is defined in the Protocol as;

“Traditional Knowledge”, (“TK”) includes the knowledge and values, which have been acquired through experience, observation, from the land or from spiritual teachings, and handed down from one generation to another amongst the people of Wabaseemoong Independent Nations. TK also includes beliefs, practices, innovations, arts, spirituality, and other forms of cultural experience and expression that belong to the people of Wabaseemoong Independent Nations.”

This final report describes the findings which were documented and mapped by WIN to better understand the potential impacts of the proposed Project. The final report includes maps of the identified community values and interests within and adjacent to the Project area including locations where WIN members undertake traditional and contemporary activities. This ultimately supports the Impacts of the project with WIN’s identified areas of sensitivity.

Additionally, WIN has identified various concerns and questions during community workshops and other activities. Many of these questions relate to the protection of the lakes and rivers from which WIN has relied upon for generations. The questions describe community issues and interests about the Project including specific concerns of how the environment and cultural resources of WIN will be protected.

The gathering of Project questions and concerns regarding possible impacts to traditional activities such as trapping, fishing and hunting, gathering and or culturally significant sites were documented during the TK work undertaken.

**Limitations:** This Final Report is compiled from previously conducted TK mapping projects and new information which was provided by participants involved in workshops or individual mapping sessions. Both data sources provide a snapshot of traditional and contemporary locations where WIN members and or their ancestors used and occupied, but does not include land use knowledge from all members. Thus, the collection of land use information is ongoing and this Final Report is for the purpose of Project and WIN to better understand the sites and areas that have been identified to-date that could be potentially impacted by the Project. Therefore, the Final Report is to be considered to be subject to revision as new information becomes available.

## **Previous Information from the Interim TK Report**

### **Study Objectives:**

The purpose of this study is to document the current land use practices and historical values of community members within areas particularly vulnerable to the development of the proposed Project.

### **Study Area:**

The spatial scope of the interviews has been focused primarily along the Winnipeg River system.

### **Study Population:**

The community members asked to take part in the interviews and mapping workshops as informants are individuals with a longtime relationship to the study area through activities such as hunting, fishing, trapping and the gathering of other traditional resources. For these individual community members to be considered for the study this relationship must also be current and ongoing, having participated in at least one of these activities within the past five to ten years either for substance purposes or as professional guides.

The number of community members directly impacted by the knowledge being shared with this study are much higher than the individual informants themselves. It is common practice within the community to share one's harvest with immediate and extended family. Whether it is moose or whitefish or wild rice, families rely on these members to hunt, fish, and gather traditional natural resources for their food and for other uses.

### **Community-Wide Engagement:**

A community information session was held on October 20, 2015 (see appendix A). Facilitated by Maawandoon, the meeting outlined the proposed project, as well as discussing the role of the community in the project through participation in the TK study. This session also provided an opportunity for community members to voice their concerns.

### **Community Research Technician Training:**

Three half-days were dedicated to training the community researchers who have been tasked with conducting the mapping interviews. From November 10 to 12, 2015 Marvin McDonald, the study's coordinator, trained interview staff in the operation of the interview equipment and software, interviewing techniques, record documentation and management, and general best practices for conducting research of this nature. Marvin himself was trained in these interview methodology and techniques over two one-week training sessions in November 2014 for a similar community mapping research project.

### **Data Collection:**

Desk-based Research - A review of datasets created during previous community TK mapping initiatives was conducted through the use of Google Earth, ArcGIS and QGIS software packages.

Focusing on both historical and current land use practices within the community's traditional territory, these existing datasets helped to establish the long-term relationship of the community to the areas of focus in this study, as well as to help describe the nature of those relationships. In addition, a review of the community's existing datasets, government hydrological and topographical datasets were also reviewed to help the community researchers better understand the nature of surface water movement within the region, specifically in relation to the proposed Project route and the community's land use activities.

**Interview Method** - A modified map-biography methodology is being employed for the mapping interviews. An interview questionnaire was developed and used in the mapping interviews already conducted. Details of each interview are recorded by hand by the interviewer on the questionnaire itself. Spatial aspects of the knowledge shared are directly digitized using Google Earth during the interview session. Additionally, when permitted by the informant, a digital audio recorder is also used to document the knowledge shared during each interview session. A digital photograph of each participant is also taken by the interviewer at the time of the interview when permitted by the participant.

**Mapping Interviews** - Twenty-five community members have been contacted to participate as informants in the mapping interviews. Seven interviews have been completed, with more planned in the new year. Many of the community members approached to participate in the study were reluctant to share their knowledge due to personal feelings of mistrust directed towards government and industry initiatives in general; a legacy of the flooding of the One Man Lake reserve and the mercury contamination of the local river systems. Other potential study informants commented that their schedules would not permit them the time for an interview as they were busy out on the land. This issue of available time is expected to improve through the winter however, as community members do not expect to be as active on the land during the winter as in the fall, as well as recognizing that winter is the time for sharing stories.

*"When you ask anyone to tell you a story/legend you do a tobacco offering, pay attention as you too may pass these legends on. You cannot tell stories/ legends once the snow is gone as a consequence the scary windgo will pay you a visit, and the frog will bother you so much that you'll feel the pressure. After each story/legend they story keeper points towards the sky and say, Na-EE-Wai-Te-Pena-WE-Tis- ga-ah-goo-Taag.*

*"We listened to the legends/ancient storied our grandfather told when we were very young grandfather sat us down in the long dark winter evenings snuggled in our rabbit skin blankets and listened to the ancient stories/legends that in the stories there are also teaching that come with the stories/legends. Grandfather would tell us to listen very carefully for it was up to us to pass it down to the next generation and tell them the way they were told to us. Some stories/legends had an impact on us kids, the scary one kept us on our best behaviour for days after we heard them. Each tribe tell their stories a little differently, but basically most of them are the same, not anyone can tell these ancient stories/legends to an extent, there is a time when you have to have that gift to be able to tell ancient stories/legends it is something like having a degree or just having the right however you still can tell ancient stories/legends to an extent."*

*Margaret Quewezance, Elder Historian*

**Preliminary Results:**

Not surprisingly, the documented historical extent of the community's activities on the Winnipeg and English river systems is broad in spatial scope as well as in variety. It appears from the data already collected and processed for this study, that today's community members on the land utilize much of this traditional range.

**Next Steps:**

A community mapping workshop is planned for the new year with a select group of community members who hold relevant knowledge regarding the study area.

Processing of the data collected during the mapping interviews and workshops will be completed in the new year, with spatial information processed using Google Earth and GIS software, this will be used to create maps. In addition to the GIS mapping, interview audio recordings will be transcribed and information backups finalized.

Verification sessions are also planned for the new year, where individual interview and workshop participants will have an opportunity to view how the knowledge they shared has been represented in the final maps and databases that will be shared with Project and other outside parties.

Community information sessions are also being planned for the new year, which will allow researchers to share their findings with concerned community members. These sessions will include an information kiosk set up at the next general band meeting to share the TK study findings, as well as to encourage other community members to contribute their knowledge.

**Introduction**

First Nations have always been self-governing. Traditionally, our government, and the tools and methods used to govern our community, have been based on our culture, our people, our unique relationship with the Earth, and the responsibility given to us by the Creator to take care of it.

This Final Report describes the TK documentation and mapping completed by WIN as part of its commitment to work with Project on the assessment and comments of the proposed Project. The proposed Project WIN is pursuing this initial partnership with Project to assess potential impacts on its traditional lands and their interests related to the proposed Project.

The Project is a federal work and undertaking subject to the regulatory jurisdiction of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). The Project will be subject to CNSC regulation for its entire life cycle and operation.

In order to support Project in meeting its duty to consult with the First Nation communities who are located within the Project area, this Final Report provides information pertaining to WIN interests, resources and values, specifically trapping, hunting, fishing, gathering, plants and forest resources,

sites of significance/interest and other values and interests. This further supports our comments as it relates to impacts by the project.

## **Community Profile**

The Wabaseemoong Independent Nations include the communities of One Man Lake, Swan Lake and Whitedog. The land base of our three communities represents 111 square kilometres located in North-western Ontario approximately 110 kilometres north of Kenora, Ontario. Wabaseemoong represents 1280 First Nation members living on the Reserves in addition to 100 non-band members and non-status people.

Wabaseemoong is a community which has stood witness to relocation, environmental degradation and social turmoil. All aspects have posed significant challenges to our First Nation. In spite of setbacks, our community recognizes a need to assert economic development opportunities that are hoped to manage the failings of our history.

The Wabaseemoong Traditional Land Use Area occupies some 6,720 square kilometres (2,600 square miles) adjacent to the Ontario - Manitoba border, north of the Town of Kenora. The area is approximately 60 kilometres wide and 120 kilometres long. The Whitedog Parkway is located in the southwest corner of the Traditional Land Use Area. It follows Provincial Road 525 from the intersection of Highway 596, through the Whitedog Reserve IR 29 and then extending north to Caribou Falls. The Parkway reaches about one third of the way into the Traditional Land Use Area and provides the only road access to a vast wilderness area to the north.

Caribou Falls is located at the junction of the English River system and the Winnipeg River system. From this merging of rivers, water routes extend hundreds of kilometres in all directions, to developed areas in Manitoba and Ontario and to the vast northern wilderness. While the Road portion of the Parkway is approximately 50 kilometres in length, the water portion is virtually endless.

Wabaseemoong Independent Nations is a member of the Bimose Tribal Council, which supplies technical advisory services to the community, and the Grand Council of Treaty No. 3, which advocates for political rights of Treaty No. 3 First Nations.

## **Information Sharing Workshops**

In order to begin to engage the members of WIN about the project, it was decided to take the process through an information session. The information session was critical in developing the background of information to the membership that included routing, objectives, timelines and why this project was being developed with the community.

The importance of the traditional knowledge sharing exercise and engagement with the membership was key in identifying sensitive areas within WIN's traditional territory. The elders played a vital role in developing the Polygram's and areas of importance to ensure that project has an idea of where and why these areas are so important in the event of any nuclear catastrophe.



Our workshop events included elders, members of Chief and Council and invited guests whom gathered at the community complex and opening by traditional ceremony and prayer. It was important to recognize the past, present and future of our people and greet all participants with the ceremony that provides an open and trustful meeting when sharing information. The project was facilitated by our project liaison and traditional knowledge Manager that explain the knowledge collection and mapping would be undertaken and gave a presentation of the involvement with the project.

Interviews and mapping were undertaken in small groups that allow participants to share their knowledge of the area. WIN conducted interviews, with the Project liaison by recording of the sessions and interviews, by which the mapping exercise was successful in providing identified information that is important to the community in ecological and traditional areas.

### **About the Project**

Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) is proposing to decommission the Whiteshell Reactor #1 (WR-1 Reactor), a former nuclear research reactor that operated until 1985. The WR-1 Reactor is located at the Whiteshell Laboratories (WL) site in Pinawa, Manitoba, which is situated approximately 100 kilometres northeast of the city of Winnipeg and located near the towns of Lac du Bonnet and Seven Sisters.

CNL is proposing an in situ (leaving in place) decommissioning approach. In situ decommissioning of the WR-1 Reactor involves preparing systems and structures for grouting whereby the below-grade sealed structure will encapsulate and contain radiological sources and hazardous materials for a defined period of institutional control.

The following activities are being proposed:

- preparation for in situ decommissioning
- grouting of below-grade (underground) structures and systems
- removal of above-grade structures and systems
- installation of engineered cover over grouted area
- final site restoration
- long-term care and maintenance activities

Some temporary infrastructure – such as construction trailers and equipment paddocks, as well as an increase to the electrical services – would also be required in order to facilitate decommissioning. Additional groundwater monitoring wells would be installed, as required, to monitor the performance of the in situ decommissioned facility.

Under the Nuclear Safety and Control Act, CNL's proposal requires an amendment to its existing Decommissioning Waste Facility Licence issued by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). An environmental assessment conducted under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 is required, and an EA decision affirming that the proposed activities will not cause significant adverse environmental effects, before the CNSC can make a licensing decision on this proposal.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> In Situ Decommissioning of the Whiteshell Reactor #1 - <http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/details-eng.cfm?evaluation=80124>

## **Study Description – Project Goal**

The TK project goal is to support WIN to collect and map Traditional Knowledge (TK) to better prepare the community to engage Project within Project planning. This will be accomplished by identifying, documenting and mapping TK including but not limited to sites and areas relating to sustenance (hunting, fishing, gathering), sensitive (burial, medicine, etc) and occupation (cabins, homes and campsites). The TK mapping will be managed through a standard based methodology; and supported by Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and other applicable tools and related technology advancements.

The Project requires this information as a pre-cursor to development. Identification of WIN TK during the Project's environmental assessment period will help ensure long-term environmental integrity of the Project.

The TK project results will clearly portray WIN's traditional and contemporary land use and knowledge which will be demonstrated through hard copy mapping and a report. The TK Project will also create a relationship building exercise that will lead to discussion of potentially impacted sites and areas and required mitigation of any adverse impacts.

## **Study Area**

The geographic scope of the study area was aforementioned by a map for the purpose of this Protocol will be the area defined as the Project footprint which is the land that is proposed to be operation, clean-up and decommissioning activities, including associated physical works and activities.

The Study Area could extend beyond the Project footprint to the Local Study Area where there is reasonable potential for localized Project effects. To the extent that sites, land and resource uses (e.g., trapping, hunting, fishing and harvesting areas) exist adjacent to the Study Area and have the potential to be directly affected by the Project, these areas shall become part of the Study Area and considered and evaluated as part of the Study Area where appropriate.

## **TK Principles**

The TK project deployed key principles before and during documentation and mapping activities. Before the project began WIN and their TK manager outlined the scope of the relationship between the parties and how the disclosure of TK information would be protected. An Assignment of Interest was also established to pledge how the intellectual property rights associated with the disclosure of the Traditional Knowledge by WIN would be met. The documents work together to ensure that:

- WIN must always retain ownership of the information collected.
- WIN controls how the knowledge and information is shared and to whom it is shared with.

## **Traditional Knowledge Collection and Mapping**

Traditional Knowledge collection involves the interviewing and consultation of Elders and other community members over the course of scheduled events and meetings. WIN introduced this process through the Information sharing workshop.

The Information sharing workshop was utilized as a focus group methodology as a preliminary research technique to explore the participants traditional and contemporary land use. The participants were introduced to the project and mapping activities through a PowerPoint presentation. Upon conclusion of the presentation the participants were to undertake collection and mapping activities. Permission Forms were signed prior to undertaking collection activities.

A follow-up workshop was held with the participants to confirm mapping results. Additionally, personal interviews were conducted with WIN members who were unable to attend the workshops. There will be continuing discussion with all participants when the Project responds to this TK and Environmental Impact Assessment .

The methodology for collection and mapping was created and evolved by the WIN principle collection representative, since 1993 and modified to meet the demands and needs of WIN and the Project. A TK Recording Guide was utilized which describes the collection process and the type of information to be recorded and documented based on community's guidelines and wishes. The guide relates to a series of tools that are designed to assist with the orderly and efficient collection of community values to a uniform standard and specification.

The information contained in the guide provides a culturally appropriate approach and a GIS friendly vocabulary for describing diverse sites and features. The use of a classification and coding scheme for data collection ensures information consistency across the project and simplifies data storage, retrieval and exchange. This collection process included four separate tools which work together to provide a cohesive methodology for a WIN's TK collection project.

- Site Identification Working Form; which is a form for documenting individual values and their attributes.
- Land Use Interview Questionnaire; which is a comprehensive series of traditional land use and values questions that are utilized to interview community Elders and other members.
- Value Coding Table; which describes and manages values based on classification, entity, code and type fields in a data table.
- TK File Geo Data Base; a geodatabase was designed to match the collection and coding tools and manage the information in Google Earth and QGIS. The geodatabase contains three primary dataset types feature classes, raster datasets and tables.

## **TK Mapping Results**

During the TK project legacy information was compiled and integrated with new information that was collected through the workshops and individual mapping sessions. In total, there are over 100 point, line and polygon features which represent the legacy information and 75 point, line and polygon features which represent new information that was collected for the Project.

All the information was organized and displayed on thematic mapping which represent these themes.

- Legacy Information: displays previously recorded information

- Information Sharing Workshop 1: displays information collected during the first workshop
- Community Member Registered Trap lines
- Fishing Sites and Lakes
- Hunting Areas and Kill Sites
- Cabins, Campsites and Travel Routes
- Gathering Sites and Areas
- Sensitive Sites and Areas

The maps are organized into various themes and are produced at various scales to present the mapping on legal size paper. For reading and viewing purposes the maps are located in this report.

### **Statement of Principles and Use**

These maps were created from the cultural resource knowledge of the Elders and other members of WIN. The maps are exclusively owned by WIN and are protected by a Statement of Principles Use which acknowledges the following:

“All information displayed whether published or unpublished is and shall remain the sole and exclusive property of WIN and who alone shall be responsible for exercising all rights of ownership over such property. The maps and the information represented cannot be copied or distributed without written permission from WIN Chief and Council.”

### **Summary of Environmental Implications to WIN**

An independent consultant team was retained by WIN to review the proposed project’s Environmental Assessment (EA). The objectives of the review were to:

- Assess the EA’s level of adequacy in addressing WIN’s Aboriginal Rights and Interests by evaluating bio-physical and socio-economic components of the EA;
- Assess the EA’s Environmental Protection Plans, Emergency Response Plan and other mitigation, management and monitoring measures’ level of adequacy;
- Evaluate the risks to impacts on WIN’s Aboriginal Rights and Interests; and
- Identify suggested measures by which to address these risks.

This review was carried out in order to support the WIN’s objectives of an engagement process with CNSC under WIN’s traditional and current laws which are to:

- Understand potential effects of the Project on the environment in the WIN Territory and on its members rights and interests;
- Determine whether the WIN will provide consent to the Project and if so, the conditions of such authorization; and
- If authorization is granted, to provide a basis for negotiating agreements between CNSC and WIN to establish a mutually beneficial relationship.

The review team worked closely with the WIN to develop an understanding of the values, rights, interests and concerns. It is through this holistic worldview that this review was conducted.

This report opens with a description of WIN's values, inherent rights and interests, community concerns, WIN's species of interest, as well as natural resource developments in the territory that contribute to the ongoing cumulative effects that need to be considered more fully when assessing project developments such as this one. Individual subject areas pertaining to the ecological, social and cultural aspects of the proposed project's EA were reviewed and reported on in detailed, separate review sections within the report.

The following provides a synopsis of key issues identified for each subject area and the potential implications or risks WIN's rights and interests that these issues represent.

## **Surface and Ground Water**

Baseline surface water quality and quantity conditions for areas within WIN's Territory near the project have not been established and should be before any other actions take place.

There were no Sites of Interest selected within the WIN Territory, and CNSC has not provided any comment as to how the spill or nuclear waste assessments conducted at the site would be adequately extrapolated to apply to sites within WIN Territory. Assessments for the Sites of Interest were overly simplistic, relying on a mass balance-type approach and in the case of acute toxicity, inappropriately comparing acute thresholds to a mixed scenario.

The locations of Highly Sensitive Receptors (HSRs) has not been made public, but the criteria with which these HSRs were selected followed a blanket approach, which did not take in to account the individual values of the historical transportation corridor. In the case of WIN, for example, this might include local drinking water intakes that are not of public record (i.e., Ministry of Environment and Climate Change water well records).

The section through the WIN Territory is a notable issue with respect to spill detection and spill response of nuclear waste. The greater the length of time required to respond to and contain a spill, the greater the potential is for contaminating surface water or groundwater resources, regardless of the other factors acting on spill volume and migration.

## **Implications for WIN Rights and Issues**

The effects and issues pertaining to surface and ground water described above have implications for numerous WIN rights and interests given that water is the foundation of life and community wellbeing. As such, risks to water resources trigger risks to numerous WIN rights and interests including:

- Risks to water and watersheds;
- Barriers to access to resources and livelihood;
- Risks to economic opportunities;
- Risks to clean water for cultural, ceremonial and spiritual purposes;
- Risks to environmental integrity and compounding cumulative impacts;
- Risks to health and community wellbeing; and
- Barriers to stewardship and planning for seven generations.

## **Fish, Fish Habitat and Aquatics**

WIN members have rights and established interests in fish and fishing, access to fish, fishing resources and the quality/safety of the fish. As stewards of the land members of WIN have a responsibility to protect ecosystems and ensure ecosystem function including trophic impacts of contamination. Potential adverse impacts on fisheries from the Project would negatively impact the ability of WIN members to collect these fisheries resources and damage their relationship with them. Moreover, changes to concentrations of contaminants (e.g. nuclear spills) in fish tissues could have negative consequences on human health.

The primary risks to fish and fish habitat from the Project are related to impacts from:

- the destruction or alteration of fish habitat from the decommissioning of the reactor;
- introduction of deleterious substances (e.g. spills, sediment), which can degrade water quality causing direct mortality and sub-lethal effects on fish; and
- modified ecosystem function and cumulative impacts on fish and fish habitat.

## **Implications for WIN Rights and Issues**

The issues pertaining to fish, fish habitat and aquatics described above have inter-related implications for numerous WIN rights and interests including:

- Barriers to access to resources and livelihood;
- Risks to economic opportunities;
- Risks to environmental integrity and compounding cumulative impacts;
- Risks to health and community wellbeing;
- Barriers to stewardship and planning for seven generations; and
- Risks to water and watersheds.

## **Wildlife, Wildlife Habitat and Vegetation**

No specific surveys were conducted for mammals within the WIN territory, and only desk-based information was relied on. Further, wildlife habitat features targeted during baseline surveys excluded features needed to support wildlife of high value to WIN such as beaver lodges, dams, mineral licks, deer/moose winter habitats, muskrat dens, river otter burrows, bear and wolf dens, and many more. In addition, no baseline data were collected on benthic invertebrates, even though they are one of the most vulnerable groups to long-term effects of oil spills, and are valued by WIN due to their recognized importance at the base of food chains. Benthic invertebrates supply food to numerous fish, amphibians, small mammals, and birds; these species subsequently act as food items for terrestrial species at higher trophic levels (bear, herons, mink, etc). It is also important to collect baseline information on benthic invertebrates as a reference point for determining when an area has been fully remediated following a nuclear mishap. For these reasons, the wildlife and wildlife habitat baseline data are not currently adequate for use in properly informing an EA or as a reference point for remediation after a nuclear disaster within the WIN Territory.

As demonstrated by the review of the Project, it is clear that vegetation of traditional importance was not targeted during baseline surveys, assessed during the EA, or prioritized by

mitigation methods. Further, there is a low level of information about the real-life success of various clean-up techniques within Manitoba and Ontario, particularly for nuclear waste. Depending on the severity of nuclear spill and age of the vegetation community lost, it may take many decades for the vegetation to be returned to similar conditions. Even if a nuclear spill occurs, however, remediating an area such that it can host vegetation used for traditional purposes (e.g., medicine, foods) is not currently a requirement for mitigation. Therefore, the current project – as proposed – may pose a potential risk to WIN rights with regard to access to, use of, and management of traditional vegetation resources to maintain cultural practices, to sustain a livelihood and for economic well-being.

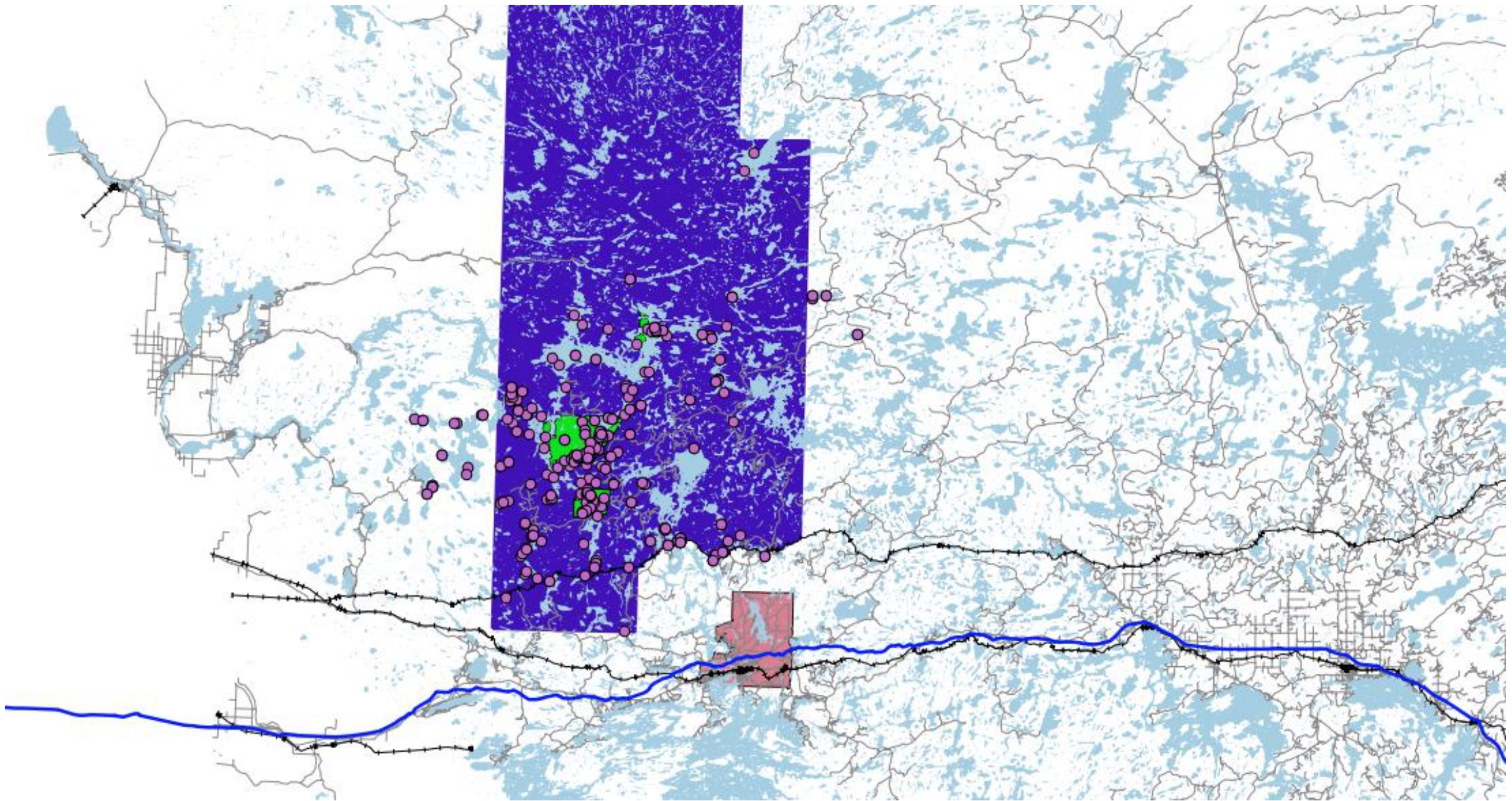
### **Implications for WIN Rights and Issues**

The issues pertaining to wildlife and wildlife habitat described above have inter-related implications for numerous WIN rights and interests including:

- Barriers to access to resources and livelihood;
- Risks to economic opportunities;
- Risks to environmental integrity and compounding cumulative impacts;
- Risks to health and community wellbeing; and
- Barriers to stewardship and planning for Seven Generations.

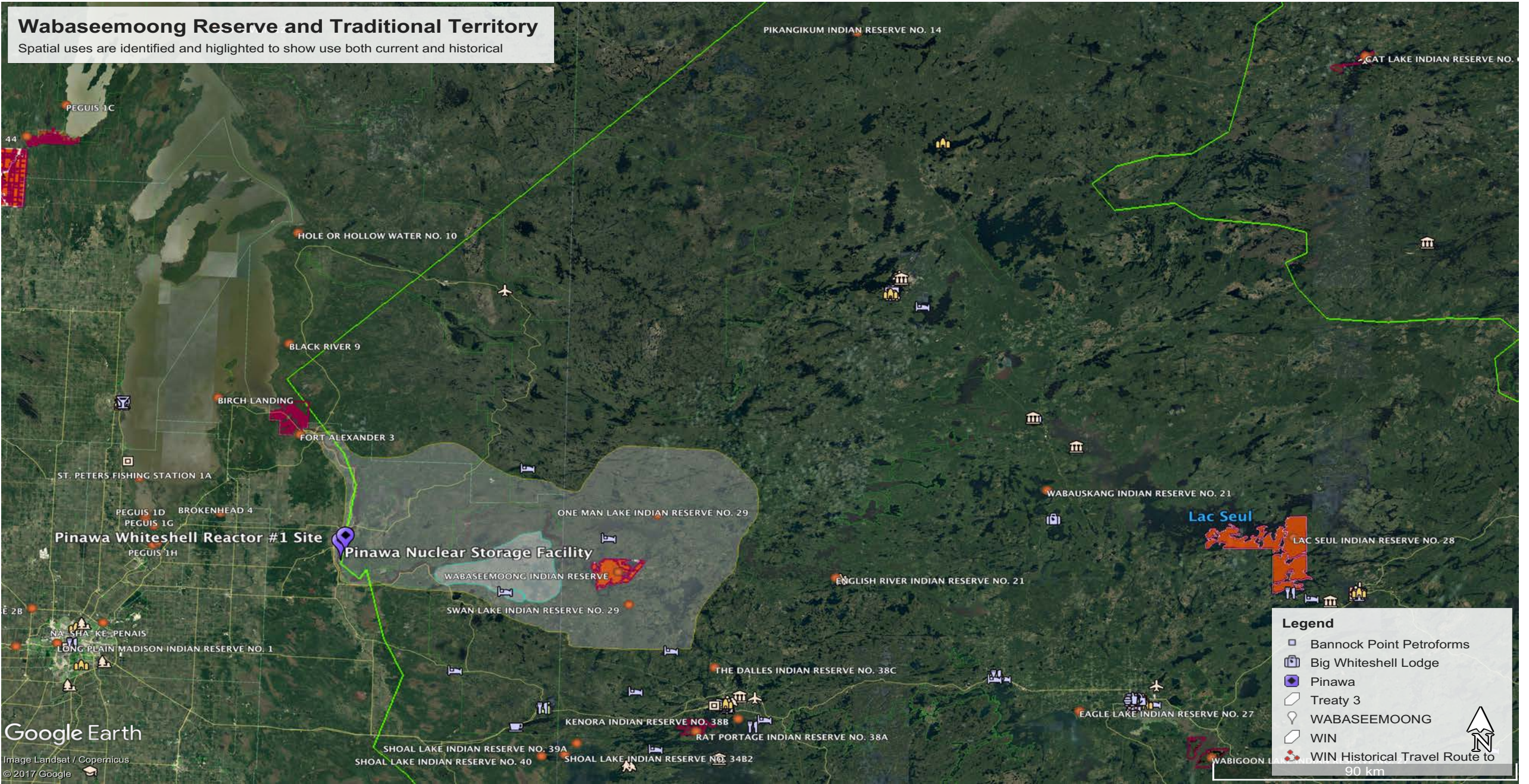
WIN has the right to access and harvest wildlife for spiritual, cultural, health, or economic purposes. They have the right to sustain a livelihood from the lands and resources, which includes hunting, trapping, fishing, tourism, and employment from resource development. They have a right to healthy, interconnected habitat that supports diverse and abundant species that are free of disease and migrate freely through their territory. Further, they have the right to manage the land and water according to their traditional teachings, which include a deep appreciation for ecosystem interactions and trophic relationships. The review of the EA resulted in a failure to conclude that the Project will have merely negligible impacts on the Rights of WIN from impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat.





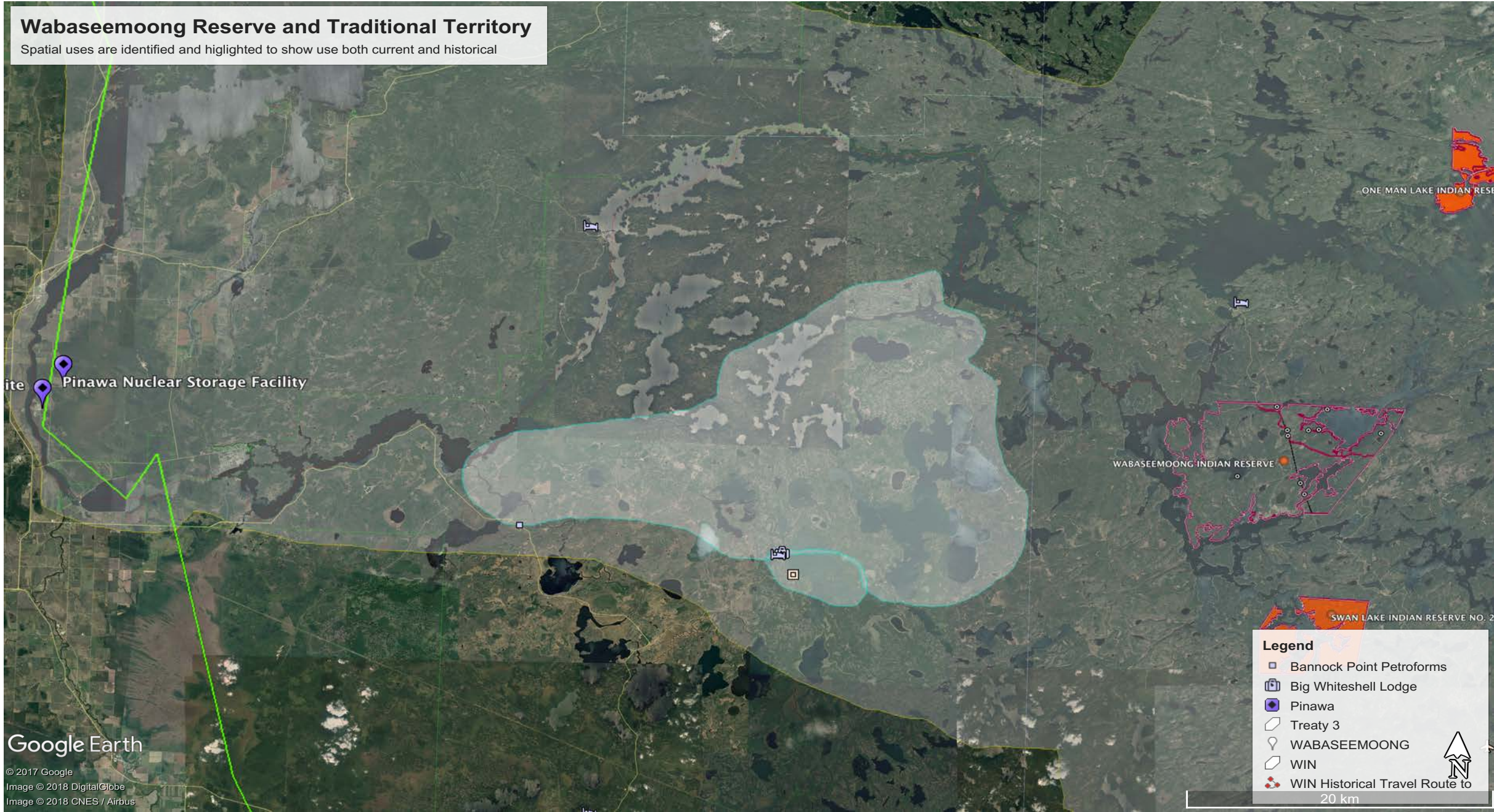
Map 1





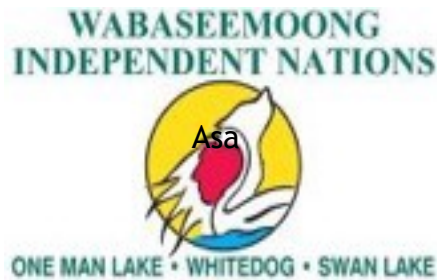
Map 2





Map 3

## **Appendix A: Community meeting poster**



# **Information Session of the Wabaseemoong Traditional Knowledge Interviews on The CNL – Whiteshell Reactor #1 Project**

**On Tuesday October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**The Resource Centre**

**At 10:00 a.m.**

**The information and facts will guide you to understand what the project is and how your voice matters to the process for documenting your knowledge, issues, concerns and how this project can impact Wabaseemoong.**

***Refreshments will be provided***

## **Appendix B: TK Study Information Pamphlet**





## Comments

One most important aspects of this information brochure is for you, as members of Wabaseemoong Independent Nations, to understand that you have a voice in the way we provide information to Project. The noted information and facts are there as a guiding tool to understand what is the Project Project and how your voice matters to the process for documenting your knowledge, issues, concerns and how this project will impact our membership.

The community leadership values your input, knowledge and assistance with our current revisions to the current Traditional Knowledge Interviews. Our goal is to ensure that all of our membership has had a voice and that it is valued.

We encourage your participation and feedback and say "MIIGWECH" for all of your support and assistance.

For further information and clarification on the Project and Process, please contact Shayne Carpenter.

WABASEEMOONG  
INDEPENDENT NATIONS



Wabaseemoong  
Independent Nations

White Dog,  
ON P0X 1P0  
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The office hours of  
the Wabaseemoong First  
Nation Administration  
offices are 9:00 A.M. to  
4:30 P.M.  
Monday to Friday

WABASEEMOONG  
INDEPENDENT NATIONS



Information and  
Facts on the  
Wabaseemoong  
Traditional  
Knowledge  
Interviews on  
the Whiteshell  
Nuclear Reactor

#1

[www.win-tlua.ca](http://www.win-tlua.ca)

## **Appendix C: Mapping interview questionnaire**

## WABASEEMOONG INDEPENDENT NATIONS PROJECT LAND USE INTERVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE

<u>Interview Date:</u>	<u>Location:</u>		
<u>Expert Name (Elder):</u>	<u>First Nation:</u>	<u>Age:</u>	<u>Sex:</u>
<u>Birth Place:</u>	<u>Occupation:</u>	<u>Residence:</u>	<u>Interviewer:</u>

### Questionnaire

1. Have you heard about the Project Project?

***Explain the project in more detail, and answer any questions he/she may have.***

Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) is proposing to decommission the Whiteshell Reactor #1 (WR-1 Reactor), a former nuclear research reactor that operated until 1985. The WR-1 Reactor is located at the Whiteshell Laboratories (WL) site in Pinawa, Manitoba, which is situated approximately 100 kilometres northeast of the city of Winnipeg and located near the towns of Lac du Bonnet and Seven Sisters.

CNL is proposing an in situ (leaving in place) decommissioning approach. In situ decommissioning of the WR-1 Reactor involves preparing systems and structures for grouting whereby the below-grade sealed structure will encapsulate and contain radiological sources and hazardous materials for a defined period of institutional control.

Is there anything you would like to say about this project? Do you feel it is important and why?

2. I wish to ask questions of your history relating to the land, water and wildlife. Is this alright with you? It is very important for us to hear your stories and knowledge of the area.
3. Is it all right if I tape record your answers and information and ask you to point out locations on this map? Is it all right to take a picture of you for use in our report?



## **Wabaseemoong Independent Nations**

### **Project Knowledge Resources Collection and Mapping Project**

#### **PERMISSION FORM**

"Project Knowledge Resources Collection and Mapping Project" is an undertaking of Wabaseemoong Independent Nation. The purpose of this undertaking is to document and map your cultural knowledge and traditional uses within the project area. The information collected is to be used to improve and inform the management and planning of the decommission the Whiteshell Reactor #1 within Wabaseemoong Independent Nation traditional lands and protect and promote natural and cultural resources, which are within the project area.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ agree to participate in "Project Knowledge Resources Collection and Mapping Project. I agree that Wabaseemoong Independent Nation leadership may use this information for the purpose and advancement of Wabaseemoong Independent Nation's participation in the planning and management of the Project and other projects which may be undertaken.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Interview Questions**

### **Personal / Sensitive**

1. Where were you born?
2. How long have you lived in this area?
3. Do you remember where your parents and grandparents were born?
4. Do you know of any special meeting places and celebration areas that were used in the past or are still used today?
5. Do you know the location of any sacred sites/pictographs or where artifacts' could be that need protection along the English/Winnipeg Rivers?
6. What other areas do you feel are in need of protection?

### **Cabins & Campsites**

7. Do you remember where there are old campsites, cabins, or tent frames located along the English and Winnipeg rivers?

### **Trapping**

8. Do you or did you have a registered trap line (trap line#) and do you still actively trap and sell your furs?
9. Do you know whose trap line it was before?
10. What time of year did you trap in these areas?
  - Early Fall and during Freeze-up
  - After Freeze-up to Early Winter
  - During Winter
  - Early Spring before Ice Break-up
  - Spring After Ice Break-up
  - Summer
11. Why did you stop using certain areas?
12. What areas are you currently using for trapping?
13. Do you have any trapper cabins?

## **Hunting**

14. What areas along the English/Winnipeg Rivers did you or are you using for hunting and for what animals?
- ☐ Moose
  - ☐ Deer
  - ☐ Geese
  - ☐ Ducks
  - ☐ Other
15. What time of year did you hunt in these areas?
- ☐ Early Fall and during Freeze-up
  - ☐ After Freeze-up to Early Winter
  - ☐ During Winter
  - ☐ Early Spring before Ice Break-up
  - ☐ Spring After Ice Break-up
  - ☐ Summer
16. How often did or do you hunt?
17. Is hunting better, worse or the same as it was in the past?

## **Fishing/Commercial**

18. What areas did you or do you use for fishing and for what species do you fish?
19. What time of year did you fish in these areas?
- ☐ Early Fall and during Freeze-up
  - ☐ After Freeze-up to Early Winter
  - ☐ During Winter
  - ☐ Early Spring before Ice Break-up
  - ☐ Spring After Ice Break-up
  - ☐ Summer
20. How often do you fish?
21. How often do you eat fish?
22. Is fishing better, worse or the same as it was in the past?
23. What do you think has caused the changes if any?

## **Wild Rice Harvesting**

24. Are you aware of any wild rice areas along the English/Winnipeg Rivers?
25. Do you or anyone in your family still pick wild rice?

**Wildlife Population Levels** – To the best of your knowledge, what is the population level of these species?

<b>Species</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Scarce</b>	<b>Common</b>	<b>Abundant</b>
1. Beaver				
2. Muskrat				
3. Mink				
4. Otter				
5. Weasel				
6. Marten				
7. Fisher				
8. Wolverine				
9. Lynx				
10. Red Fox				
11. Timber Wolf				
12. Coyote				
14. Raccoon				
15. Badger				
16. Hare/Rabbit				
17. Grouse/Partridge				
18. Porcupine				
19. Woodland Caribou				
20. Moose				
21. White-tailed Deer				
22. Black Bear				
23. Other				

26. Do you know of any calving areas for moose?

27. What special areas are there that you think need protection for these animals to live?

### **Plants**

What areas did you use to collect plants for food, medicinal, ceremonial or other purposes along the English/Winnipeg Rivers?

What kind of Plant?	When would you collect	What is it used for?

Can you still collect in these areas and if not why?