



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Updated: February 10, 2012

1. What is the current value of NEEF?

To date Rio Tinto Alcan has contributed a total of \$1,156,100 toward the original NEEF MC process and the work of the Nechako Watershed Council. The current NEEF MC process is expected to cost another \$100,000. These amounts paid by Rio Tinto Alcan are credited towards its NEEF obligations.

In addition, the 1997 Agreement notes that (Rio Tinto) Alcan may claim up to a total of \$10 million for any studies or work it conducted before 1997 as part of the Kemano Completion Project that is used to reduce the cost of implementing the environmental enhancement options chosen by NEEF MC. As such exactly how much money is available depends on what the fund is used for. In summary, currently the total remaining contribution from Rio Tinto Alcan is between \$38,743,900 and \$48,743,900, or between \$77,487,800 and \$97,487,800 if each dollar is matched by another party.

2. What is the geographic scope of the area in which candidate enhancement options are expected to be considered?

The geographic scope in which candidate enhancement options will be considered encompasses all tributaries to the Nechako, the reservoir and the river to its confluence with the Fraser River in Prince George, with a focus on enhancement options that address matters related to the Nechako Watershed downstream of the reservoir.

3. What level of detail is expected when preparing and submitting candidate enhancement options?

Our hope is that groups will engage in a conversation with us regarding ideas they feel are important. NEEF MC will then develop whatever work plan it feels is necessary to determine the technical feasibility, costs and benefits of options for enhancement. The MC expects to maintain an open dialogue through that process.

4. Where does accountability rest for what enhancement options are decided upon?

It is the NEEF Management Committee's responsibility to balance the costs and benefits of options and ultimately it is accountable for the decisions made and how the fund is used.

5. What specific criteria does NEEF MC have for deciding what the fund can be used for?

We will endeavour to be broad yet practical in our approach and take into consideration a number of factors such as the level of interest in particular options, potential costs and benefits, technical feasibility, measurable objectives and probability that environmental enhancement would be implemented. The four objectives which will be considered are:

- 1) Options that address enhancement related to flow changes in the Cheslatta River and Nechako River;
- 2) Options that seek to rehabilitate fish populations and fish habitat in the Cheslatta River and Nechako River;
- 3) Options that promote education and stewardship of water in the Nechako and Cheslatta watersheds; and
- 4) Options related to improving how water flow regulation decisions are made in consideration of all environmental aspects.

6. Is NEEF MC going to consider the costs of not implementing a decision to build a WRF facility?

The NEEF MC will not seek to determine the cost of not implementing any particular enhancement option. This is outside of the scope of the NEEF MC mandate.

7. Will funds be available for groups to become involved in preparing submissions on candidate enhancement options?

The NEEF MC process will invite the participation of interested parties, and will pay for any technical consultation that it may require to assess options. Separate funding for participants will be considered on a case by case basis.