



Kilowatt Connection

BUILDING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Learn about TransAlta's operations at the TransAlta Open House, Sat., Aug. 7

The public is invited to attend TransAlta's Open House at the Jack Pine Community Hall, Sat. Aug. 7 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. TransAlta representatives will be available to answer questions and all guests will have an opportunity to enter a free prize draw.

"TransAlta's Open House is an excellent opportunity to meet face-to-face with TransAlta's employees and to hear about the company's plans in the Wabamun area for the future", says Ralph Leriger, manager Stakeholder Relations. "I truly hope you will drop by for a visit."

Tours of the Highvale mine and the Wabamun Lake Water Treatment facility will be available. The following displays will be featured in the hall:

- Highvale mine
- Wabamun Lake Water Treatment facility and Wabamun Lake level
- Wabamun power plant decommissioning
- Sundance power plant and Keephills power plant
- Environmental monitoring

Also, tours of the West Central Airshed Society air monitoring trailer will be available in the parking lot.

The Jack Pine Community Hall is located on the northwest side of secondary highway 759 at the intersection with Sundance Road.

We hope to see you there – everyone is welcome to attend! Refreshments will be provided.

Wabamun Whitewood Conservation Properties to get nesting boxes



On June 3, the Spruce Grove Cubs and Scouts received a \$1,200 Project Planet grant from TransAlta for nesting boxes at the Wabamun Whitewood Conservation Properties. Pictured from left: Rob Soeldner, executive vice-president of Operations at TransAlta presents a cheque to Rick Lee, Bob Lee, and Colin Kolle from the Spruce Grove club.

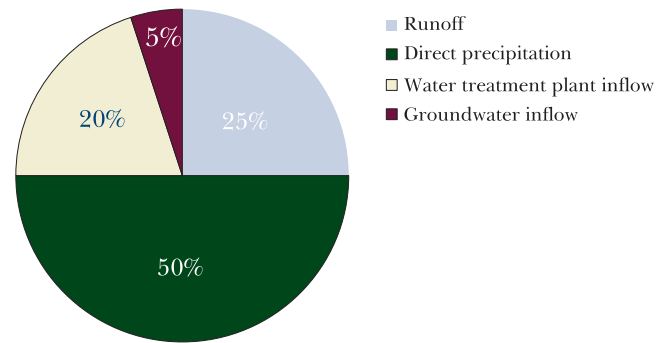
Wabamun Lake Water Treatment facility prepares operational plan

By the end of 2004, TransAlta will submit to Alberta Environment an operational plan detailing how the facility will operate after TransAlta either repays its debt or reaches the weir. The plan will address the timing of repayment and the ongoing impacts on lake level.

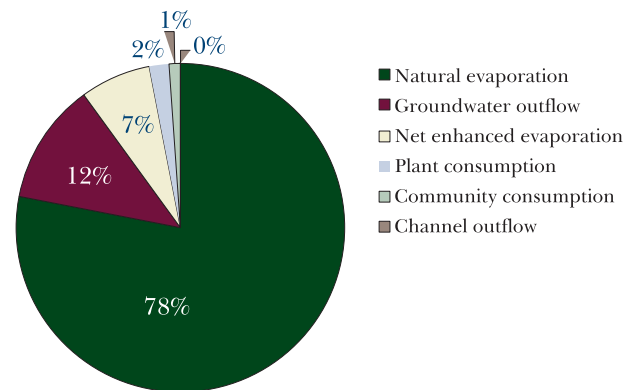
In putting together the operational plan, TransAlta will meet with various stakeholders over the next three to four months. More details of the plan will be reported this fall.

To provide your input, attend the August 7 open house, or e-mail ralph_leriger@transalta.com

Wabamun Lake Inflow: Percentage of total



Wabamun Lake Outflow: Percentage of total



Wabamun Lake Risk Assessment under review

Alberta Environment and Alberta Health are currently reviewing five studies examining the risks Wabamun power plant's ash lagoon may present to humans, wildlife and fish. The comprehensive risk assessment conducted by Golder Associates Ltd. for TransAlta was ordered by Alberta Environment after concerns were identified in the summer 2002.

“Preliminary conclusions indicate ash lagoon discharge has contributed to concentrations of metals in Lake Wabamun sediment in areas near the discharge. Other sources, for example, geological and human, have also contributed to metals in the lake as metals are naturally occurring in our environment,” explains Dr. Rick Robinson, senior environmental scientist, Golder Associates. “There is no significant increased risk to human health from exposure to the ash lagoon area when compared to reference exposures to metals from other areas in the lake and/or exposures due to background

metal concentrations. Similarly, there is no significant increased risk to wildlife and fish exposed to the ash lagoon area when compared to other areas in the lake.”

Reports sent to Alberta Environment include: Wabamun Lake Risk Assessment: Human and Wildlife Health Component; Wabamun Power Plant Ash Lagoon Treatment System Mass Balance; Distribution of Metals in Lake Sediment near the Wabamun Power Plant Ash Lagoon Treatment System Discharge; Historical Trends in Concentrations of Metals in Sediments of Wabamun Lake, Alberta; and, Wabamun Lake Risk Assessment – Aquatic Life Component.

As the Risk Assessment project comes to a close, TransAlta will keep you informed through communication with the Wabamun Watch Committee, updates on www.transalta.com and *Kilowatt Connection*. Contact Ralph Leriger at (780) 892-5560 or ralph_leriger@transalta.com with questions.

West Central Airshed Society keeps an eye on ambient air monitoring

The West Central Airshed Society (WCAS) is a multi-stakeholder non-profit society made up of representatives from industry, agriculture, non-government environmental organizations, health organizations and municipalities who serve as WCAS board members. Its goals are to provide a forum for discussion and co-ordination of issues related to the management of air sheds; to promote understanding by all stakeholders with regard to air quality within the West Central zone; to identify air quality issues and make recommendations; and to co-ordinate activities within the zone using Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA) guidelines.

TransAlta is a founding member of the West Central Airshed Society (WCAS) and since 1995, WCAS has performed ambient air monitoring west of TransAlta's facilities to the British Columbia border. The West Central Airshed zone encompasses an area of about 35,000 square kilometers.

WCAS, is a non-profit society that works with both EPCOR and TransAlta to provide transparent air quality monitoring with the aim of seeking remedies for air quality issues. The group provides a forum for stakeholder input and access to both WCAS and online ambient air data.

In 2003, WCAS expanded its monitoring area to include the Wabamun and Genesee areas, leading to the expansion of the ambient air monitoring network. With the help of Dr. Warren Kindzierski of the University of Alberta, four new monitoring trailers have been built, sited and are operational, as of May 31, 2004. These locations will continue to monitor SO₂ and NO_x parameters, windspeed and direction, while also monitoring updated parameters such as fine particulates (PM10/PM2.5), solar radiation precipitation, ozone and more.

Wabamun power plant decommissioning update

- As part of TransAlta's application to the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (EUB), the company responded to information requests regarding Unit 3 until the end of June 2004.
- Information requests regarding the application of the retirement of Units 1 and 2 will start July 15, 2004; TransAlta will respond to those requests by Aug. 5, 2004.
- Preparation continues for an EUB hearing on the Wabamun decommissioning, scheduled for Oct. 26, 2004.
- As of the end of 2004, Units 1 & 2 will be shut down and retired.

For more information on the Wabamun decommissioning project, contact Ralph Leriger at (780) 892-5560.

"This has been a multi-year project involving the efforts and support of many individuals, and it is very satisfying to see the hard work come to fruition," says Jim Bolton, manager of Environmental Operational Services for TransAlta's Canadian plants. "It's designed to meet the needs of stakeholders who have an interest or concern with ambient air quality in the region."

For more information or to view online data, visit the WCAS Web site at www.wcas.ca. Information is also available online on the Web site for Clean Air Strategic Alliance at www.casahome.org.

Wabamun Watch update

by Rob Dickie, Chair of the Wabamun Watch committee

As we approach the summer season, water levels on Lake Wabamun are at the highest they have been since July 2000. Some early rainfalls in May and June have certainly helped soil moisture issues, as well as the overall water level, as we move further into the summer season. It is our understanding that some communities have already gotten complaints of high water levels. It should be realized that we have nearly 18 inches more to go before the lake will overflow the weir.

Lake Wabamun Watch continues to monitor the Risk Assessment report and when the review is completed by Alberta Environment and Alberta Health the results will be shared at a public meeting.

Decommissioning plans for the Wabamun power plant are continuing and it is Wabamun Watch's understanding that an additional two units will be coming offline on or before December 31, 2004. The final unit will then come offline in 2010. At this time or just before, mining will also cease at the Whitewood mine. TransAlta has indicated they currently have no plans to continue the mining or shipping coal to the south side of Wabamun Lake for use at either the Sundance or Keephills plants. Final decommissioning of the Wabamun plant is not expected until 2013.

Lake Wabamun Watch has also learned that post-mining groundwater levels in the Whitewood mining area are recovering to pre-mining elevations in the reclaimed areas. This kind of recovery is encouraging as it means permanent negative impacts to the water table will not be experienced.

Executive from Lake Wabamun Watch attended the grand opening of the Wabamun Whitewood Conservation Properties, located north of Highway 16 at the Wabamun overpass. This reserve area is a beautiful site

and we encourage people who feel that mining impacts are leaving major scars on our landscape to take a few minutes to view this area on your way to East Pit Lake.

Currently, Lake Wabamun Watch meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the County of Parkland Office. We have one executive position open and would be pleased to have additional input from other stakeholders on the Lake. For further information, please visit our Web site at www.wabamunwatch.com.

TransAlta participates in Paul Band Traditional Land Use study

TransAlta recently agreed to participate in the Paul Band's Traditional Land Use Study, along with government and industry partners. The Paul Band, like other First Nation communities, is interested in documenting traditional land use to assist in economic and resource development in the area, as well as to preserve the Band's cultural history. The Band's oral history, passed down through generations to elders, is being documented through tape-recorded interviews.

The multi-phased project is expected to take approximately two years, resulting in education and employment opportunities for band members. The research methodology is anything but traditional: computers, global positioning systems and video technology will be used to capture data, which will be shared in summary form with partners. TransAlta has lent financial and in-kind support towards the project, and is participating in community advisory meetings.

Highvale Mine applies to renew operating licences

This year, TransAlta will apply for a ten-year renewal to the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (EUB) mine licence and Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (AEPEA) approvals that expire at the end of December 2005.

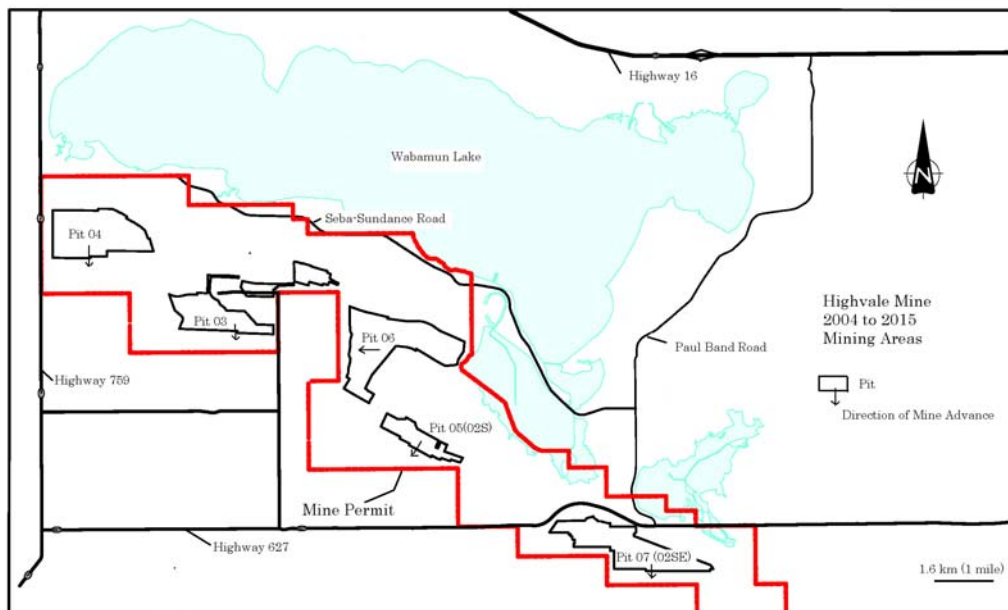
The areas to be mined are shown in the diagram below. All mining will be within the current permit area, using the same mining methods currently used. Only one mile of road, a section east of Sec 30-52-5-W5M affected in 2011, will need to be closed. This road currently serves TransAlta. Little Volga Cemetery access will be maintained.

With regard to water, diversions away from Wabamun Lake will continue to be offset by operations of the Wabamun Lake Water

Treatment facility, and existing water-well investigations and water replacement procedures will address any effects on wells. Blasting and noise levels will continue to be controlled to remain below EUB-approved energy industry levels. Dust management has been improved by the addition of two, 100-ton water trucks.

Once mining concludes, the land will be reclaimed following the Parkland County-approved Highvale End Land Use Area Structure Plan developed in 1997 with public input.

For more information, plan to attend the Aug. 7 open house, or contact Cam Bateman at 403-267-7128 or cam_bateman@transalta.com



TransAlta's 2003 Report on Sustainability will be available online

At TransAlta, we are committed to sustainable development. As part of that commitment, we are obligated to provide an open and frank accounting each year towards our progress as a leader in sustainability. TransAlta is pleased to share our sixth annual report on the

environmental, economic and social aspects of our business. For the full report, check out TransAlta's Report on Sustainability on our Web site, Aug. 15, 2004, at www.transalta.com, Community & Sustainable Development, SD Reports, 2003 Annual Report.

Address update/Subscription form

If you'd like to receive *Kilowatt Connection* or update your address information, please complete the following and mail or fax to:

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Personal Information Protection Act

On January 1, 2004, new legislation was proclaimed in Alberta dealing with the protection of personal information. The legislation balances the right of individuals to have their personal information protected and the need of organizations to collect and use information for reasonable purposes.

TransAlta respects your right to privacy. Any personal information that TransAlta holds about you including your name, address, phone number and e-mail address are used only for the purposes of preparing a mailing list for *Kilowatt Connection* and for purposes of TransAlta making direct contact with you for matters which TransAlta believes is of interest to you. TransAlta does not sell its mailing lists or make them available for any commercial use.

If you prefer that we do not store or use your personal information in any way (for example, mailing list for *Kilowatt Connection*), please notify us by telephone or e-mail.

- Our Privacy hotline is: 1-888-806-6646
- Our Privacy e-mail: pitransalta.com If you do not notify us, we will consider you to have consented to our continued use of your personal information for the purposes described above.

Kilowatt Connection

Kilowatt Connection is published three times per year by TransAlta to share information with the communities in the Wabamun Lake area.

If you have any questions about TransAlta or our operations in the area, please contact:



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