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Sanikiluaq, Nunavut

Sanikiluaq Switching to Wind Power – Energy Purchase Agreement Signed Between Qulliq Energy Corporation and Nunavut Nukkiksautiit Corporation for Nunavut's First Community-Led, Inuit-Owned Renewable Energy Project

A wind and battery energy storage development in Sanikiluaq, Nunavut has achieved a major milestone as of today, following the signing of an Energy Purchase Agreement (EPA) between Qulliq Energy Corporation (QEC), and Nunavut Nukkiksautiit Corporation (NNC). The project, named the Anuriqjuak Nukkiksautiit Project (Anuriqjuak meaning Big Wind, in Inuktitut) by local elementary school students, has been striving for such a contract since its ideation in 2015.

Nunavut Nukkiksautiit Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Qikiqtaaluk Corporation (Inuit Birthright Development Corporation under the Qikiqtani Inuit Association), was created in response to the desire and opportunity to develop renewable energy in partnership with communities across the Qikiqtani Region. The 100% Inuit-owned company makes history as the first Independent Power Producer (IPP) to sign an EPA with the crown-owned electricity utility, QEC; and together, they are launching Nunavut's entrance into the clean energy transition.

Harry Flaherty, CEO of NNC and Qikiqtaaluk Corporation shared, "Today is a very exciting day for Nunavut, for Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, and the community of Sanikiluaq. Leading societal change is never easy, but this agreement proves it can be done. When we come together like NNC and QEC have over these last several months, and put the needs of community first, what used to be thought of as impossible becomes achievable. We've known for a long time that renewable energy is the right choice for Nunavummiut, and the environment. Anuriqjuak Nukkiksautiit is a demonstration for all Nunavut communities, so they can realize – we can do this too."

Like every community in Nunavut, Sanikiluaq (population: ~1,010) is entirely dependent on fossil fuels for meeting heat and electricity demands. That is, until the Arctic-rated 1 MW wind turbine and 1 MWh battery energy storage system comes online through the Anuriqjuak Nukkiksautiit Project. With a peak electricity demand of approximately 750 kW, the Hamlet is expected to achieve diesels-off scenarios when QEC's system conditions permit. The wind turbine, battery energy storage system, and the diesel generators at QEC's power plant will work in tandem to ensure safe, reliable electricity provision to Sanikiluarmiut. The goal of the Anuriqjuak Nukkiksautiit Project is to offset 50% of Sanikiluaq's overall diesel consumption for electricity generation.

"As you can tell, we have lots of wind energy available in Sanikiluaq, all year round. This is clean energy, and it does not emit pollution into the air. It does not need diesel to be shipped in from down south. Some of the revenue of this project will be shared with Sanikiluarmiut through a Community Enhancement Fund, set up by NNC. We are very excited to see how clean energy will benefit our community. Taking care of the environment, working together, sharing resources – these are all Inuit Societal Values. Renewable energy meshes so well with Inuit culture, and it is our great pleasure to be leading Nunavut on this transition," said Emily Kattuk, Sanikiluaq's acting Mayor.



The EPA sets out the terms and conditions upon which NNC will sell and QEC will purchase renewable energy when it can be absorbed by the grid. QEC's obligations to provide safe, reliable, affordable energy are maintained and honoured throughout the agreement, to ensure electricity prices do not increase for customers. The term of the agreement is 25 years from the start of commercial operation, which is anticipated for late 2024. As is typical with similar projects across Canada, design and construction of the wind energy facility must adhere to good utility practice, and meet QEC's Technical Interconnection Requirements. QEC and NNC are working closely together to finalize the control systems and modes of operation for integrating renewables into QEC's existing diesel power system.

"Working together with NNC allows the corporation to support sustainable energy options while delivering on its mandate to provide safe and reliable power to all Nunavut communities without increasing costs. Both parties' patience and willingness to collaborate while working through the details of the program is a testament to their careful consideration of safety, reliability and affordability of electrical service," said Rick Hunt, CEO of QEC.

The Independent Power Producer Program – open for applications as of October, 2022 – is a community-scale electricity generation initiative that allows Inuit-owned proponents to generate electrical power from renewable energy systems and sell it directly to QEC. Integrating renewable energy systems in the territory's energy grid helps decrease Nunavut's dependency on diesel fuel, displacing diesel fuel consumption and enabling the corporation to reduce carbon emissions.

"Working closely with potential partners to seek innovative solutions through projects like the Anuriqjuak Nukkiksautiit Project is a priority for the Government of Nunavut. A significant evaluation of Nunavut's electrical infrastructure helped us in finalizing this agreement to move the project forward for the benefit of Sanikiluarmiut. We are committed to strengthening collaborative relationships with independent power producers. The goal is to bring sustainable energy solutions to the territory without sacrificing reliability and affordability for Nunavummiut," said P.J. Akeeagok, Premier of Nunavut.

MLA for Hudson Bay and newly appointed Minister of Environment, Daniel Qavvik expressed, "The Anuriqjuak Nukkiksautiit Project represents the future of Sanikiluaq; it is sustainable, it is innovative, and it is collaborative. Sanikiluarmiut have always been advocates for our environment given our histories with the land and renewable energy offers an unprecedented opportunity to blend innovation with environmental protection. I have been pleased to support this project the last few years in advocating for its success and encouraging fair policy development at the Territorial level. With this milestone, it is fantastic to see tangible progress being made to ensure Sanikiluarmiut will truly benefit from renewable energy development in our community.

In his speech at the local signing ceremony, Olayuk Akesuk, President of Qikiqtani Inuit Association commented, "The Qikiqtani Inuit Association is proud to support the Anuriqjuak Nukkiksautiit Project in Sanikiluaq. The progression of energy sovereignty is an important part of Reconciliation with Qikiqtani Inuit, and in turn honouring articles in the Nunavut Agreement. By advancing self-reliance and economic self-determination together with the Government of Nunavut, QEC, and Inuit-owned proponents like NNC, we can make a united effort to make renewable energy systems possible. We can do our part to reduce fossil fuels, protect the environment from the impacts of climate change and we can ensure the clean energy transition in Nunavut is led by Inuit, for Inuit."

Communities and Indigenous organizations around the world are leading the clean energy transition towards a more sustainable future for generations to come. Successful renewable energy projects across the Arctic have



been operating effectively for years, such as the solar and energy storage project in Old Crow, Yukon; and, the solar, wind, and energy storage projects in Kotzebue, Alaska. The Anuriqjuak Nukkiksautiit Project is evidence that the clean energy transition has arrived in Nunavut – a symbol of collaboration between Federal, Territorial, Municipal, and Inuit Organizations; as well as the local Hunters and Trappers Association and community members of Sanikiluaq.

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources concluded, "Congratulations to the Qulliq Energy Corporation, and Nunavut Nukkiksautiit Corporation on the finalization of this historic agreement. The Government of Canada is pleased to have supported the Anuriqjuak Nukkiksautiit wind and energy storage project. Indigenous-led clean energy innovation is a vital part of the fight against climate change, while creating sustainable jobs and helping communities transition from diesel to cleaner sources of energy."

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