



NEWS RELEASE

The North West Company a powerhouse of energy efficiency

The North West Company (NWC), the owner of Northern & NorthMart stores in Canada has set a new standard for energy efficiency in the North. Over the past several years NWC has invested millions in energy efficiency upgrades at seven of their NWT stores.

In 2009, the Fort Simpson store was targeted for energy efficiency improvements. NTPC then completed a commercial energy audit at the store. The process included analyzing three years of historical energy use to set a pre-audit baseline and identify anomalies and opportunities to reduce energy usage and costs. NTPC also completed site visits to confirm details of the existing installed equipment.

Acting on the audit's findings, NWC invested nearly \$500,000 to upgrade refrigeration, lighting, and heating systems.

The new refrigeration system is a good example of investments in leading edge technology. It utilizes cold air from outdoors for cooling and maximizes the efficiency of the mechanical systems, and also recovers heat from refrigerator motors to produce ambient warmth for the store's interior.

In recognition of the commitment to energy conservation, the Fort Simpson Northern Store and The North West Company have been nominated for an Arctic Energy Alliance, 2009 Energy Action Award.

"We share the environmental concerns of the communities we serve and improving the efficiency of our stores is part of our culture. We invest millions every year to reduce our energy consumption and our greenhouse gas footprint right across Canada," says North West's Dan McConnell, Vice President of Real Estate and Store Development.

In 2009, NWC invested \$6 million in energy efficiency projects across Canada, 85% in the North and roughly half of that in the NWT. Upgraded Northern Stores also include Behchoko, Fort Liard, Fort Good Hope, Fort Smith, Tuktoyaktuk and Ulukhaktok each of which shares success in energy efficiency that's similar to the Fort Simpson store.

The Fort Simpson store has been operating with its suite of improvements since the end of September and electricity reductions for the October-December period exceed 25%.

"We think the Northern Store upgrades are real time examples of just how effective energy efficiency investments can be in the North. That's why we piloted the commercial energy audit program in 2009. Efficiency improvements can work just as well in residential settings helping to reduce customer power bills," says Leon Courneya, NTPC's Chief Executive Officer.

The Power Corporation offers an abundance of low-cost and no-cost energy efficiency tips on its website: www.ntpc.com

The North West Company Inc

Based in Winnipeg, Manitoba the North West Company Inc. is a leading retailer of food and everyday products and services to rural communities and urban neighbourhoods in Canada, Alaska, the South Pacific and the Caribbean. The Company employs 6,800 people in 223 locations, more than half of which are Northern and NorthMart Stores. In 2008 the North West Company reported consolidated retail sales of \$1.4 billion. The Company is traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange (NWF.UN).

Northwest Territories Power Corporation

NTPC operates 28 separate power systems, serving a population of approximately 42,000 over a region that spans more than 1.2 million square kilometres. The Corporation's portfolio includes hydro, natural gas and diesel generation. NTPC has received national recognition for safety and environmental initiatives and an NWT honourable mention for energy efficiency initiatives. A GNWT crown corporation since 1988, NTPC is based in Hay River, NWT.

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