

## NEWS RELEASE

### **Safety is Job One! NTPC measures up on Safety Audit**

December 21, 2010, Hay River – NTPC has made a significant improvement in safety performance earning a 77.4% rating, a 15% increase over its last comprehensive audit.

“We take safety very seriously and we work at it every minute of the day. It’s a process of continuous improvement.” says Brian Willows, Chief Operating Officer. “These results demonstrate that we’re focused on the right things and we’re doing them pretty well.”

The 2010 audit was performed by Utility Risk Management (URM), a national leader in safety management systems.

Jim Fawcett, URM Managing Partner, conducted NTPC’s benchmark audit in 2005 and returned to the Corporation to carry out the 2010 evaluation.

“I expect to see progress between audits, but don’t always see this level of progress. The 2010 audit was more stringent than the first. NTPC is on the cusp of becoming an “excellent” performer in safe work practices; something few utilities achieve.”

The audit examines 22 aspects of safety performance in five key areas: Leadership, Risk Management, Education, Control & Protection, Monitoring & Feedback.

NTPC performance scores improved in all 22 aspects of safety practices and the Corporation achieved an “excellent” performance rating (80%+) in ten areas: management commitment, safety strategic planning, job planning, management training, safety promotions, public safety, occupational health, emergency procedures, contractor safety and audits and assessments. The Corporation also received a “good” rating in 10 other aspects of the audit.

NTPC began its safety quest earlier this decade and in 2005 received the Canadian Electricity Association President’s Award for Employee Safety.

“Safety is part of our corporate mission,” says Willows. “We contracted URM in 2005 to help us go from good to great. We followed their initial recommendations and have built and implemented rigorous safety systems over the past five years. There’s always room for improvement and we won’t be satisfied until we have an accident free workplace, but this audit tells us we’ve built a great foundation for the future.”

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