



Hydropower Limited Partnership



ROUND TWO of the Keeyask Public Involvement Program

NEWSLETTER

February 2012

Second Round of Keeyask Public Involvement Program Underway

This is the second Public Involvement Program newsletter for the Keeyask Generation Project (the Project) proposed to be built in Northern Manitoba. This newsletter provides information including preliminary results of the environmental assessment and seeks input on possible mitigation measures. Further information regarding the Environmental Impact Statement and the public review process will be provided in a subsequent newsletter. The Keeyask Public Involvement Program is intended to provide opportunities for people to receive Project information and identify issues and potential effects about the proposed Project.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- P.2 About the Proposed Project
- P.2 Keeyask Hydropower Limited Partnership
- P.3 Status of the Environmental Assessment Process
- P.4 Status of the Public Involvement Program
- P.5 Environmental Impact Assessment Studies
- P.6 Employment and Training
- P.8 Flooding
- P.10 Water Quality
- P.10 Mercury, Fish and Human Health
- P.12 Lake Sturgeon
- P.14 Caribou
- P.16 How to Get Involved in the Process



About the Proposed Project

The Keeyask Hydropower Limited Partnership (the Partnership) is proposing to develop the Keeyask Generation Project (the Project), a 695-megawatt hydroelectric generating station. The renewable hydroelectric energy produced by the Project will be sold to Manitoba Hydro and integrated into its electric system for use in Manitoba and for export. It is anticipated that the average annual production of electricity will be approximately 4,400 gigawatt hours. It will be the fifth generating station in the lower Nelson River and will be located between two existing stations. The environment has already been disrupted by these previous projects.

The Project will be located about 725 kilometres (km) northeast of Winnipeg at Gull Rapids on the lower Nelson River immediately upstream of Stephens Lake in northern Manitoba. The nearest communities to the Project are Split Lake to the west and Gillam to the east.

Project Description

The Project will consist of principal structures and supporting infrastructure. The principal structures consist of the powerhouse complex, spillway, dams and dykes. A reservoir consisting of 48 km² of existing river environment and approximately 45 km² of newly flooded land will be created upstream. Supporting infrastructure will consist of permanent facilities (e.g., roads, boat launches and a portage) that will be used to construct and/or operate the Project and temporary facilities (e.g., borrow sources, work camps and work areas, coffer dams and a construction ice boom) required only to construct the principal structures.



This rendering shows: the layout of principal structures at Gull Rapids looking north with the river flowing from left to right; how a portion of the south channel may look following construction dewatering and; the locations of the north and south access roads.

The Project will also include operation of the North Access Road between PR 280 and Gull Rapids, constructed as part of the Keeyask Infrastructure Project (KIP). Temporary facilities constructed as part of KIP will be decommissioned.

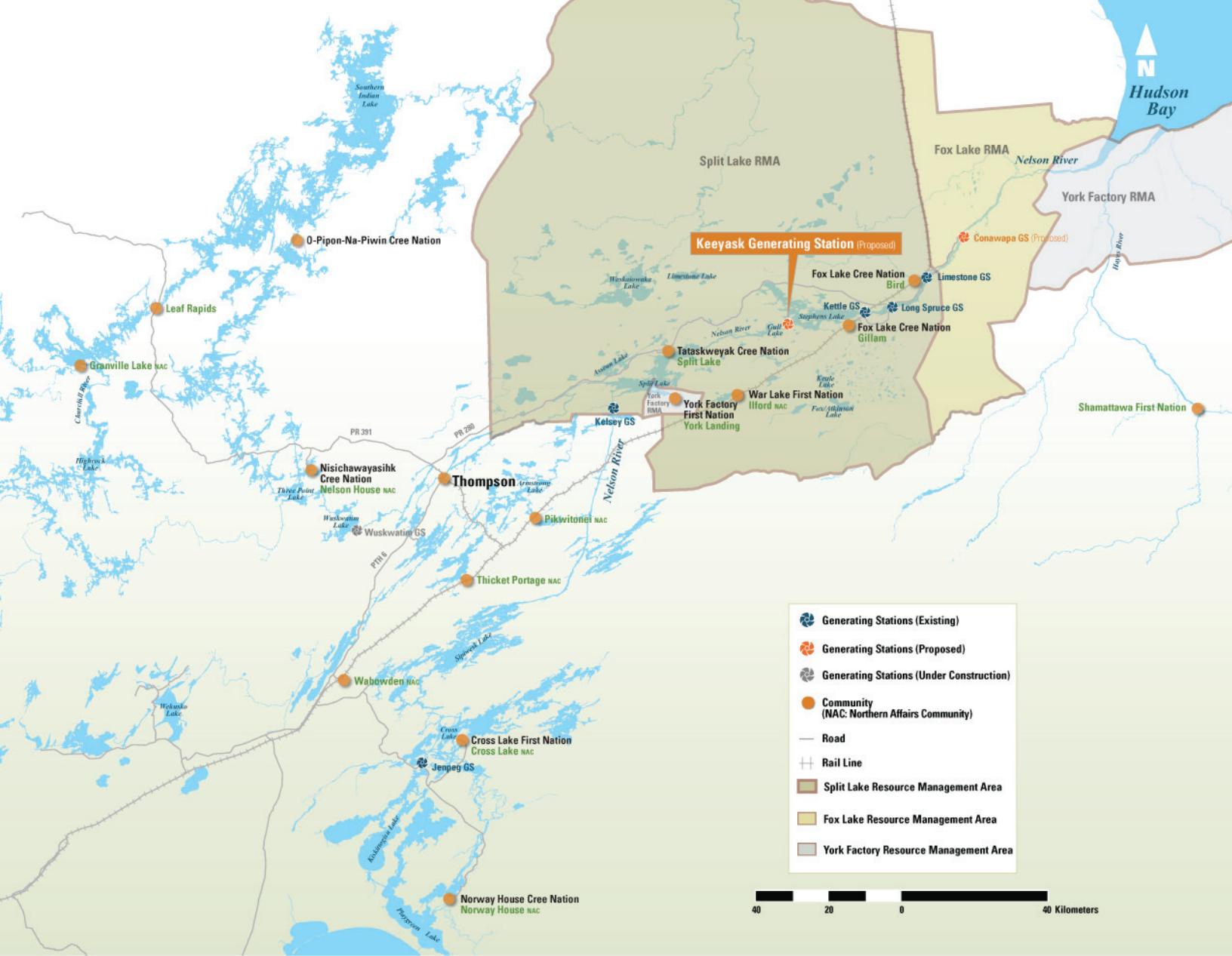
Construction of the Project could begin as early as 2014. The Project will take approximately seven and one-half years to construct and will begin producing power about one and one-half years before construction is fully completed. If built, the Keeyask generating station will become Manitoba's fourth-largest generating station and its seven turbine units will produce enough electricity to supply about 450,000 homes.

Keeyask Hydropower Limited Partnership

The Project proponent is the Keeyask Hydropower Limited Partnership comprised of four limited partners and one general partner. The four limited partners are Manitoba Hydro and companies representing the Cree Nation Partners (Tataskweyak Cree Nation and War Lake First Nation), York Factory First Nation, and Fox Lake Cree Nation. The general partner is a corporation wholly owned by Manitoba Hydro.

The Partnership has benefitted from the involvement of the Cree Nations with Manitoba Hydro in planning and undertaking a decade-long program of studies for the

environmental assessment, including a commitment to utilize Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK). Each of the Keeyask Cree Nations (KCNs) has made its own decision to support the Project. While these decisions are beyond the scope of the environmental assessment and the federal and regulatory processes, the KCNs may provide reports explaining their evaluations of the Project to assist other process participants to understand their independent decisions to be Project proponents.



Status of the Environmental Assessment Process

Since 2001, Manitoba Hydro has been working with the KCNs to collect and analyze information that will contribute to the Project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), continually identifying ways to avoid, reduce or mitigate potential negative effects and enhance potential positive effects. ATK is providing important perspectives on both the environmental and socio-economic implications of the Project.

Results of these studies, including commitments to follow-up and monitoring, will be compiled in an EIS that will be available to the public and submitted for review and approval under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* and *The Environment Act* (Manitoba). The Province is expected to ask the Clean Environment Commission to hold hearings, and the minister responsible for Manitoba Hydro has also indicated that the Province will have an independent body undertake a review of the need for and alternatives to

major new hydroelectric projects, including the Keeyask Generation Project.

On August 31, 2011, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency accepted a project description in accordance with the Establishing Timelines for Comprehensive Study Regulations and a comprehensive environmental assessment study commenced on November 29, 2011, as required by the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*.

On December 9, 2011, an application was filed under *The Environment Act* (Manitoba) to initiate the provincial regulatory process.

Canada and Manitoba are expected to carry out a cooperative assessment as mandated under the Canada-Manitoba Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation.

Status of the Public Involvement Program

Initiated in 2008, the Public Involvement Program is a key element of the Environmental Impact Assessment activities for the Project and involves three rounds of engagement.

The purpose of the public involvement process is to provide the public, particularly those who may potentially be affected by or are interested in the Project, with opportunities to receive information about the Project and provide input on its potential issues and effects.

Generally, the public will include local residents, community groups, environmental groups, the private sector, municipal governments and the general public. The KCNs are conducting separate consultation programs with their own Members.

A variety of public involvement methods are available for each round including meetings, workshops, open houses, newsletters, information panels and a project website.

Round One of Public Involvement

The Project was introduced to communities in northern Manitoba and other potentially interested/affected organizations in 2008. Comments received from participants were documented and include the following perspectives:

- Communities were positive about potential employment and training opportunities associated with the Project and provided comments on how best to participate in this opportunity.
- Concerns were raised about the effects of Project flooding on various fish and animal species

(e.g., sturgeon, caribou). Potentially elevated mercury levels caused by Project flooding were also a concern raised by a number of northern communities.

- Concerns were raised about Project effects on resource users (e.g., trappers) and cultural sites (e.g., burial sites) and the need to have these issues considered in the environmental assessment.

A complete summary of comments received during Round One of public involvement activities is available on the Project website at Keeyask.com.

Round Two of Public Involvement

In the current Round Two phase, participants will be given the opportunity to offer comments and provide input on preliminary results regarding the biophysical and socio-economic effects of the Project and to offer suggestions for minimizing or avoiding potential adverse effects. Round Two meetings will be held in communities in northern Manitoba and public open houses will occur in Gillam, Thompson and Winnipeg. Information about the public open houses can be found on the Keeyask website (Keeyask.com).

Comments and input received in Round Two will be used in finalizing the EIS. This round will also inform participants about any changes in the Project since Round One, respond to questions raised in Round One and illustrate how the received input influenced the Project design and assessment.

Results will be summarized in a Round Two report and incorporated into the EIS. The report will also be made available on the website at Keeyask.com.

Round Three of Public Involvement

Round Three of the public involvement program will commence after the EIS has been filed with the government regulators. The purpose will be to communicate the content of the EIS. Round Three is expected to occur in the summer and fall of 2012.

Round One Project Description and Issue Identification

Purpose & Scope

- Initiate dialogue about the proposed project
- Provide a description of the project
- Identify issues and concerns
- Inform the public about the process/requirements and schedule for EA
- Determine how interested/affected parties would like to be involved in PIP
- Document what was heard

Round Two Preliminary Environmental Assessment Results

Purpose & Scope

- Describe project features and changes since Round One
- Discuss initial findings (biophysical, socio-economic)
- Obtain input on possible mitigation measures
- Document what was heard

Round Three Final Environmental Impact Statement Review

Purpose & Scope

- Discuss format and content of EIS
- Communicate supplemental information
- Document what was heard

Current Round

Environmental Impact Assessment Studies

The Partnership is undertaking an environmental assessment to identify potential effects of the Project in order to avoid and mitigate adverse effects and to enhance project benefits. The results of the assessment are being documented in the EIS. It will include the cumulative environmental effects that are likely to result from the Project in combination with other projects or activities that have been or will be carried out. The EIS is a primary source of information for the regulatory review under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* and *The Environment Act* (Manitoba). The EIS will be based on technical sciences and ATK.

Components of the environment included in the assessment are as follows:

- Physical Environment – climate, land, surface water, ice and ground water;
- Aquatic Environment – aquatic ecosystems and habitat, algae and aquatic plants, aquatic invertebrates, fish, mercury concentrations and other characteristics of fish quality;
- Terrestrial Environment – terrestrial ecosystems and habitat, terrestrial plants, terrestrial invertebrates, amphibians, birds, mammals, mercury in wildlife and species of conservation concern; and
- Socio-Economic Environment – economy, population, infrastructure and services and personal, family and community life, land and resource use and heritage resource use.

Mitigation measures will be established for effects caused by the construction and operation of the Project. These measures are intended to reduce or eliminate any residual negative impact(s) resulting from the Project.

Planned monitoring and follow-up activities will take place within an overall Environmental Protection Plan prepared for the Project. The monitoring programs will determine actual effects of the Project, including: whether they are consistent with the predictions in the environmental impact assessment; the effectiveness of mitigation measures; and whether further measures are required to address Project effects.



Gull Rapids on the Nelson River.

The effects discussed in this newsletter include issues that were most prominently raised in Round One of the public involvement activities, including the following:

- Employment and Training;
- Flooding;
- Water Quality;
- Mercury, Fish and Human Health;
- Lake Sturgeon; and
- Caribou.

Employment and Training

Since 2001, there has been a concerted effort to train northern Aboriginal people to prepare them for employment opportunities on major hydroelectric development projects and other construction-related work in the north. This was done through the Hydro Northern Training and Employment Initiative - a \$60 million pre-Project training program funded by Manitoba Hydro, the Province and Canada. It provided funds directly to communities and Aboriginal organizations.

The emphasis was on community-based training for skills and occupations that could serve both the Project and northern needs. Between 2002 and 2010, over 1,000 Aboriginal people completed occupational training, life skill training and skills upgrading.

Employment opportunities available during the Project's construction period include designated trades (e.g., electricians and other licensed skilled trades), non-designated trades (e.g., heavy equipment operators and truck drivers), technical or professional occupations (e.g., administration) and construction support (e.g., catering and security).

Project employment is organized under the Burntwood Nelson Agreement, which provides preferential hiring to qualified candidates from Northern Manitoba with first preference to Aboriginal people in the Churchill/ Burntwood/ Nelson River areas. In addition, KCN joint ventures can hire their own Members without going through the normal referral system on their direct negotiated contracts (e.g., contracts negotiated between the joint venture and Manitoba Hydro).

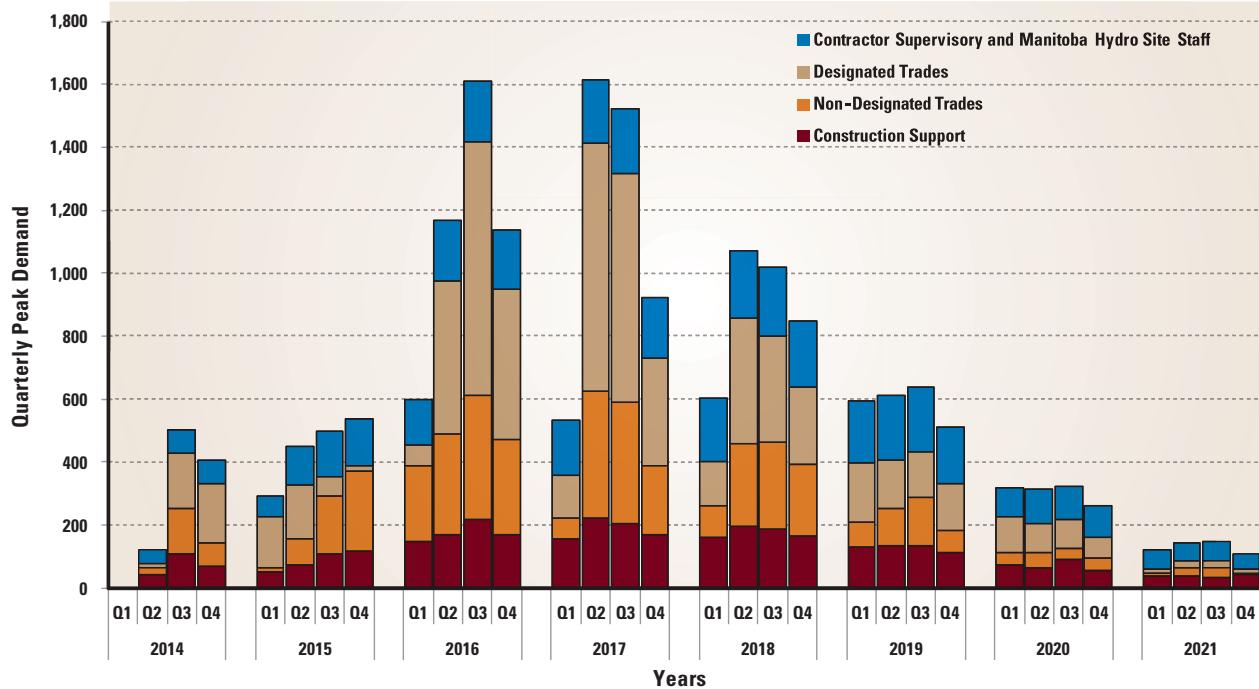
Depending upon regulatory approvals, the Project is expected to generate approximately 4,200 person-years (one person-year approximates the amount of work that one worker could complete during twelve months of full-time employment) of direct construction employment throughout the seven and one-half-year construction period. Construction support jobs, many filled through direct negotiated contracts, will vary in length and, over the course of construction, will tend to be more stable than other categories of construction employment (see bar graph on page 7).



Winter water-quality sampling on Split Lake.



Artist's drawing of the Keeyask Project structures.



As shown in the graph, the peak employment years are during the mid-construction period from 2016 to 2018. There will also be seasonal peaks from Q2 and Q3 (April to September) when the largest workforce of approximately 1600 workers is expected in 2016 and 2017. Workers from the KCN communities are projected to account for between 7% and 16% of the total construction workforce.

Source: Derived from data provided by Manitoba Hydro, 2011. Note: Employment opportunities in 2021 (Q3 and Q4) are for the decommissioning of temporary supporting infrastructure. Estimated construction schedule is subject to change by contractor.

Experiences with northern development, such as the Wuskwatim Generation Project currently nearing completion, have provided insight into potential challenges relating to employment of northern Aboriginal workers. To address the challenges and uncertainties associated with Project employment a number of steps are being taken, including the following:

- An Advisory Group on Employment will be tasked with receiving, reviewing and finding solutions to address challenges to construction employment such as turnover rates. Employee profiles will be created to increase communication and awareness of employment and job availability.
- Community-based mechanisms will be established to assist getting qualified KCN workers to the job

site within the Burntwood Nelson Agreement's timing conditions.

- Shuttles from key communities (e.g., Gillam and Thompson) will transport employees to the job site.

The strategic approach developed by the Advisory Group on Employment will be applied to the Northern Region. Tracking of both KCN and Aboriginal Northern Region employment will be part of a socio-economic monitoring plan. A monitoring plan will track whether the negotiated employment targets are being met.

In the operations phase, an estimated 46 new full-time local positions will be created over the long term.

Project operation is expected to generate a small number of additional part-time and full-time jobs in the retail and public sectors required to support new workers and their families.

Flooding

The construction of the Keeyask reservoir will flood an area of about 45 km², comprising mostly boreal forest and peatlands. The area flooded by the reservoir will be cleared of woody vegetation to prevent and minimize the amount of timber and other debris that could enter the waterway when the reservoir is filled.

The open-water hydraulic zone of influence (that area of the river where operation of the Project causes measurable changes in water levels and water level fluctuations) indicated in the figure below is the area in which the Project affects the water directly. It extends from about 41 km upstream from the powerhouse (almost to the outlet of Clark Lake) to about 3 km downstream of the powerhouse. The Project is not expected to affect water levels on Clark Lake and Split Lake during the open water seasons.

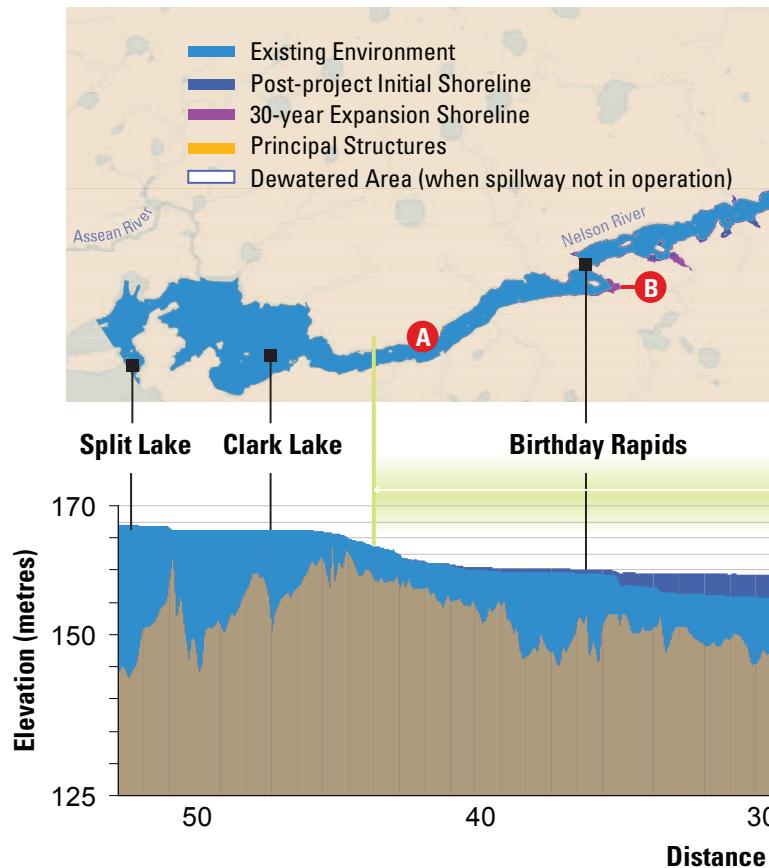
During construction, effects on erosion and sediment after mitigation are expected to be small in the main river channel as they will be addressed through careful construction management.

During the winter season, the predicted Project effects on ice conditions in the vicinity of the Project include the following:

- A thinner and smoother ice cover will form on Gull Lake to approximately 25 km upstream of the Project and downstream of the Project into Stephens Lake;
- A thicker, rougher ice cover will develop upstream of Gull Lake and will progress upstream of Birthday Rapids every year, but it will not reach Clark Lake;
- Water levels on Split Lake during the winter could be slightly higher (approximately 0.2m) during very low flow conditions; and
- Approximately 800 m of open water will exist immediately downstream of the powerhouse.

During Project operation, effects on erosion and sedimentation will include the following:

- During the first 30 years of operation the reservoir will expand in area by about 7-8 km² because of shoreline erosion and peatland disintegration;
- Additional woody debris resulting from reservoir expansion that may affect the use of the reservoir will be managed through the Waterways Management Program;
- Less erosion of shorelines is expected immediately downstream of the Project; and
- Less suspended sediment is expected in the water in the main channel through the reservoir and in the water flowing downstream to Stephens Lake.

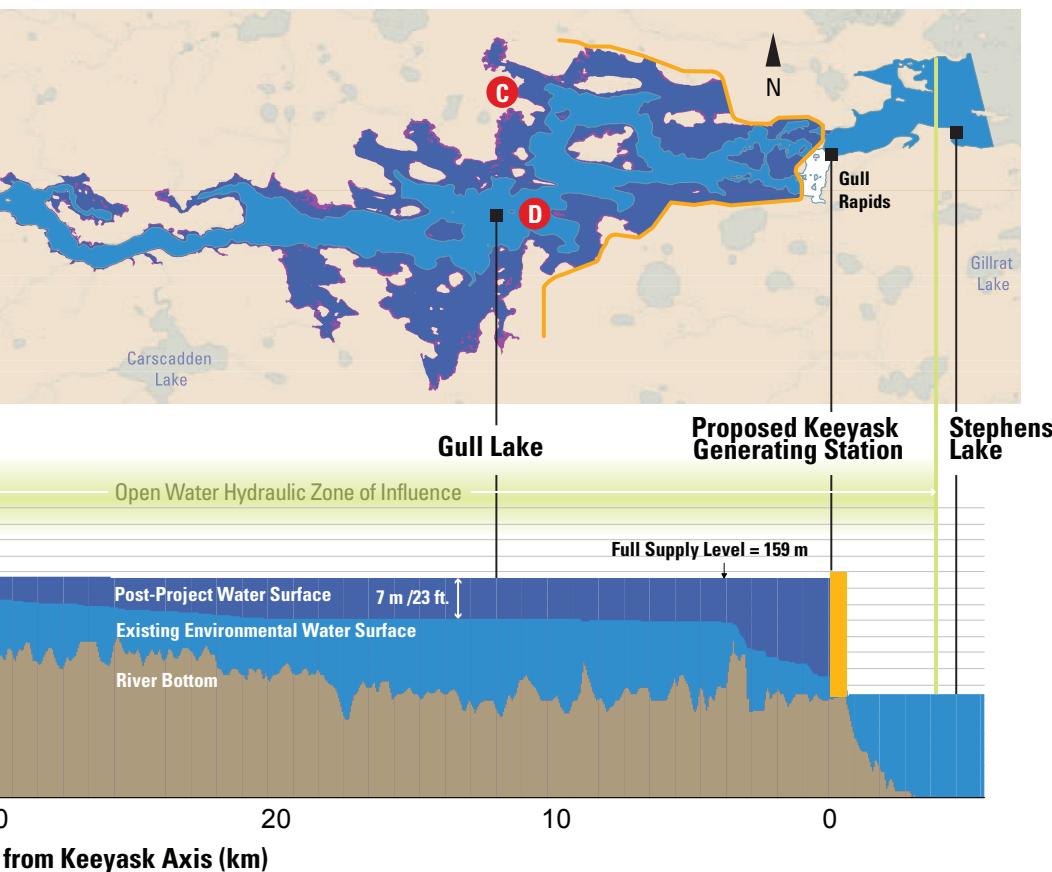


The Waterways Management Program has been developed to address KCNs concerns about debris and to mitigate potential effects of debris on resource use, safety and aesthetics during operation. Input from KCN representatives based on their experience with previous hydroelectric development was key in the preparation of this mitigation program.

Some KCN members are concerned that water level increases upstream of the Project will be greater than expected by Manitoba Hydro. Because KCN members are concerned that the Project will affect shoreline erosion, the local aquatic environment

and water quality, monitoring programs will be established to determine if Project-related effects extend to Split Lake.

Monitoring of water levels, ice conditions, shoreline erosion and sediment will occur during construction and during the initial years of operation. During operation the monitoring programs will be adapted based on monitoring results.



A Water levels will increase approximately 41 km (25.6 mi.) upstream of the generating station almost to the outlet of Clark Lake. Water levels on Split Lake will not be affected during open-water conditions.

B Shoreline expansion in the bay immediately upstream of Birthday Rapids is predicted to occur with or without the Project.

C Approximately 45 km² (17.4 mi²) of flooding will occur immediately, primarily in the low-lying areas adjacent to Gull Lake. During the first 30 years of operations, the reservoir will expand by 7-8 km² due to erosion of shorelines and peatland disintegration.

D The water level on Gull Lake will be raised approximately 7 m (23 ft.).

Open water flow showing existing environment and post-project environment.

Project flooded area and water surface profiles (50th percentile).

Water Quality

Project construction, flooding of terrestrial areas, erosion and changes in water flows/levels can alter water quality by allowing materials to enter the water.

During construction, effects to water quality will be managed to avoid harmful effects to aquatic life. For example, sewage effluent and wastewater from concrete production will be treated prior to release to the river.

The largest effects to water quality will occur in the first years after the station is constructed. In shallow flooded areas, the concentrations of many substances, such as suspended solids, nutrients (e.g., nitrogen and phosphorus), and metals will increase due to the decomposition of vegetation and the breakdown of peat. In winter, the amount of dissolved oxygen in the water will decrease under ice cover, and reach very low levels

in bays away from the main flow of the river. There will be little or no detectable change to the water quality in the main flow of the Nelson River and downstream due to the large volume of water flowing in the river. In the long term, by contrast, the concentration of suspended solids in the reservoir and downstream in Stephens Lake is expected to be slightly lower than at present because more sediment will settle in the reservoir.

Regular monitoring of effects to water quality will occur during the construction and operation phases of the Project. Monitoring will include measurement of specific effects within the reservoir (e.g., flooding in off-current bays) as well as sites located over a broader spatial area extending from upstream of the Project (Split Lake to the Nelson River estuary). Monitoring will indicate whether unanticipated effects to water quality occur.

Mercury, Fish and Human Health

Country food – locally harvested plants, fish and animals – is an important part of the diet in northern Aboriginal communities. Post-flooding studies of past hydroelectric projects have shown that fish from newly flooded reservoirs often have substantially elevated mercury concentrations in their muscles. Because consumption of fish is the main pathway of mercury uptake by humans, the issue of mercury and human health is of concern.

In response to this concern, the KCNs have each negotiated individual Adverse Effects Agreements that enable them to harvest country foods in areas not affected by flooding. In addition to these programs, the following measures will be undertaken:

- Regular monitoring of mercury concentrations in fish in Gull Lake and Stephens Lake after flooding the reservoir; and



Walleye caught on Stephens Lake in 2006.

- A voluntary collection of samples of wild game, waterfowl, plants and gull eggs will also be tested for mercury to confirm if, as expected, mercury concentrations will continue to remain acceptable for consumption (and, if not, to institute a program to inform people who may harvest these food sources).

To further enhance understanding and address the effects of the Keeyask Project on human health, a Mercury and Human Health Technical Working

Group was established by the KCNs and Manitoba Hydro. The main goal of the working group was to understand and address the potential risks to human health as a result of the Project and to develop communication strategies for affected communities. Several communication products were developed to emphasize the benefits of a healthy diet (including eating country foods) and to recommend safe consumption levels for both pre- and post-flooding periods.

Higher mercury levels appear in fish a few years after reservoir creation due to increased production of a form of mercury that can be taken up by plants and animals as a result of the flooding of soils and undergrowth vegetation. After the Project is in operation, mercury concentrations in fish are predicted to increase both in the Keeyask reservoir and Stephens Lake and will reach maximum levels within three to five years in lake whitefish and four to seven years in northern pike (jackfish) and walleye (pickerel) of an average adult size. Maximum levels of mercury concentrations are not expected to persist for more than a few years. However, it may take about 20-30 years until concentrations in these fish species return to levels in the reservoir similar to those observed in Gull Lake before flooding. Mercury concentrations in fish from Stephens Lake (which is not being flooded by the Project) will likely return faster to natural levels. The illustration below provides a typical timeline of mercury concentrations in pike and walleye (thick orange line) and the approximate range within

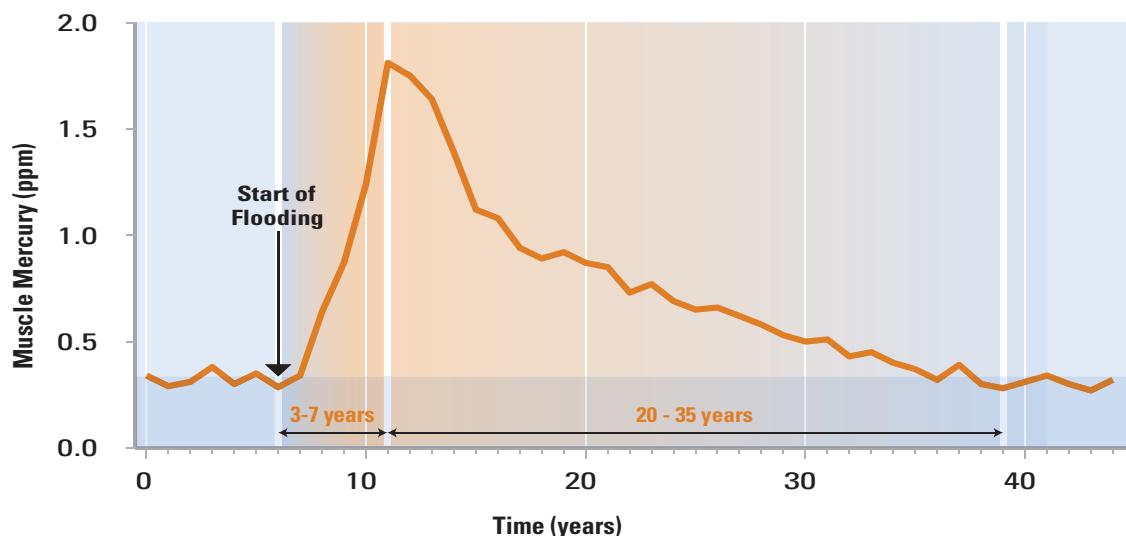


Researcher placing digested muscle sample into mercury auto-analyzer.

which mercury levels have changed after past reservoir creation in northern Manitoba.

The Mercury and Human Health Technical Working Group also prepared a communication strategy for the KCNs, Gillam and other resource users in the Project area based on pre-impoundment mercury levels in country foods. As part of the communication strategy, a series of products have been prepared for use in local communities to inform people of the issue and provide recommendations on eating certain fish species.

Typical Time Course of Mercury Concentrations in Predatory Fish After Reservoir Flooding in Northern Manitoba



Lake Sturgeon

Due to historic population declines caused by commercial over-harvest and past hydroelectric developments, and concerns about a continuing decline in numbers, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada assessed lake sturgeon in the Nelson River as endangered. This species is currently being considered for listing under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA).

Given the current status of lake sturgeon, the Partnership has focused considerable effort on finding ways to mitigate effects of the Project on lake sturgeon.

In the reservoir, upstream of the generating station, lake sturgeon habitat will be affected by the following:

- Changes to water levels and flows at Birthday Rapids, which is one of two known spawning areas in this part of the river (spawning habitat at Long Rapids, approximately seven km upstream, will not be affected). Sturgeon have specific requirements for spawning habitat, and it is not known if these changes will make Birthday Rapids unsuitable for spawning;
- Loss of existing habitat for newly hatched young sturgeon in Gull Lake. The habitat used by this life stage is very specific, and it is not certain whether suitable habitat will be present in the river channel after the reservoir is formed; and
- Changes to existing habitat for adult lake sturgeon in the reservoir. Older lake sturgeon can use a

much wider range of habitats than very young sturgeon, so the reservoir is expected to provide suitable habitat, despite these changes.

Monitoring of lake sturgeon after the reservoir is formed will determine whether or not habitat for spawning and newly hatched sturgeon is present. If not, the Partnership has identified practical ways to create these important habitats in new locations.

The main effect to lake sturgeon living in Stephens Lake downstream of the Project will be the loss of spawning and feeding habitat in Gull Rapids. Therefore, new spawning habitat will be constructed downstream of the tailrace of the generating station. Sturgeon use of this structure will be monitored and the structure will be modified as required.

The generating station will affect the movement of lake sturgeon upstream and downstream through Gull Rapids. At present, a few fish move over the rapids each year. These movements are not associated with a migration for a specific purpose (e.g., spawning). Fish passage is not required to maintain populations in the reservoir and Stephens



Large adult lake sturgeon captured at the mouth of the Odei River in 2008.



Gull Rapids looking west on the Nelson River.

Lake since habitat to support all life stages will be available in both areas. However, the Partnership is considering whether fish passage could provide any additional benefit to the sturgeon population.

Given that changes to sturgeon habitat will begin during construction of the Project, and some time may pass before the constructed habitat is fully functional, the lake sturgeon populations in the reservoir and Stephens Lake will be supplemented by introducing fish raised in a hatchery. Stocking will also work to increase the abundance of sturgeon upstream and downstream of the Project, as numbers are currently very low. In addition, sturgeon will be stocked where the current population is lower than could be supported by the available habitat in the Nelson River between the Kelsey and Kettle generating stations. This program is expected to



Young-of-the-year lake sturgeon.

result in an overall increase in the numbers of sturgeon in this area.

The key components of the stocking program include the following:

- A new hatchery will be built in the lower Nelson River area of Manitoba;
- Local fish will be used as the source of brood stock for the hatchery;
- Fish of a range of ages, from a few weeks to a year, will be released; and
- The program will continue in the long-term until numbers reach levels where the populations are self-sustaining.

As with other parts of the mitigation program, monitoring will be used to determine the success of the stocking program and whether modifications are required.



Sub-adult lake sturgeon from the Odei River.



Researcher holding year-old lake sturgeon caught on Stephens Lake.

Caribou

Barren-ground and coastal caribou migrate from Nunavut and Ontario and spend the winter in Manitoba's boreal forest, and partly in the Keeyask region. Some animals remain in this area year-round, calving in the spring on islands in lakes and in peatland habitats. Because population sizes and migratory routes change over time, the number of caribou varies seasonally. The Manitoba government does not identify the caribou in the Keeyask region as SARA-listed boreal woodland caribou; however, some local First Nation Members describe a woodland caribou type that is distinct from the coastal and barren-ground caribou.

Potential Project effects on caribou were reduced by changes to the Project design, including the routing of access roads to avoid known caribou calving habitat and to provide a greater buffer from potential noise disturbances.

During construction, caribou abundance, distribution and movements will be altered as caribou avoid construction sites, habitat is altered and lost, and caribou are lost to predators, hunters and vehicle collisions. Blasting and other noisy construction activities near quarries will be limited from late April to the end of June in the vicinity of high quality caribou calving habitat to minimize effects on calving females and their young. Potential vehicle collisions will be managed with the use of signs at specific areas along the access roads

warning users of caribou activity. Workers will not be allowed to have firearms in camps and at work sites to manage safety concerns and to prevent hunting. As a result, caribou harvest mortality by workers is not anticipated.



Coastal caribou crossing a lake in the Keeyask region.

During Project operations, the potential long-term effects on caribou include: the physical loss of caribou habitat; the alteration of local caribou abundance, distribution and movements associated with habitat fragmentation and; potential mortality primarily related to harvest and predation. Although new islands will be created within the reservoir, flooding is expected to remove between three and ten km² of caribou calving habitat. The anticipated loss of caribou calving habitat represents a small portion of the total available habitat in the region. Additional measures to reduce the loss of calving habitat continue to be discussed by the Partnership.





Coastal caribou in the Keeyask region.

Caribou are expected to avoid the area near the generating station, resulting in a reduction in the number of caribou calving in the vicinity of the Project. A small decrease in the amount of core habitat due to fragmentation is expected to result in small changes in the distribution of caribou. Where possible, long-term access effects related to caribou harvest and predation will be reduced with the decommissioning of trails used during construction. Lastly, a small change in caribou movements is likely to occur where stable ice conditions will result in better animal crossing opportunities at the reservoir. As with any reservoir or natural water body crossing, there is a small risk of caribou mortality during these crossing attempts, especially during early and late winter.

The Project will affect habitat and may affect individual mortality of caribou in the local study area, and could act cumulatively with other projects by adding additional access for hunters and predators along linear features in the region. The Partnership is examining potential mitigation measures to address this concern.

Monitoring of effects on caribou will take place during the construction and operation of the Project and will include aerial surveys, ground tracking, ATK and resource user information.

Barren-ground caribou in the Keeyask Region.



How to Get Involved in the Process

Next Steps

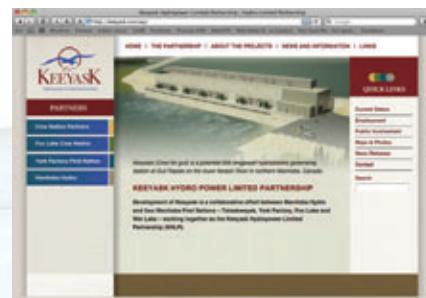
The Environmental Impact Statement for the Project is expected to be filed with regulatory agencies in late spring 2012 and will be available through the Province's public registry. The EIS submission will incorporate input received during the public involvement process.



Gull Rapids on the Nelson River.



Hydropower Limited Partnership



Do You Have Questions, Concerns or Issues About the Proposed Project?

We invite you to contact us at the address below with any questions, concerns or issues you may have about the proposed Project.

Mailing Address

Keeyask Project
Public Involvement Program
c/o Major Projects Assessment and Licensing Department
Manitoba Hydro
360 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0G8

Email Address

Keeyask@hydro.mb.ca

Website Address

Keeyask.com

