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For Immediate Release

Construction Begins on Keeyask Generating Station

The Keeyask Hydropower Limited Partnership (KHLP) officially broke ground today on the 695-megawatt Keeyask Generating Station in northern Manitoba. The project, which will provide renewable hydroelectricity to meet future demand in Manitoba and in export markets, is a collaborative effort between Manitoba Hydro and four Manitoba First Nations — Tataskweyak Cree Nation, War Lake First Nation, York Factory First Nation, and Fox Lake Cree Nation — working together as the KHLP.

“With today’s announcement, we have reached a significant milestone in our Nation’s history,” said Michael Garson, chief of the Tataskweyak Cree Nation. “Since we first proposed a partnership model for future hydroelectric development in Manitoba over 15 years ago, our Nation has overcome enormous obstacles, and we will now finally begin to realize the hard won benefits set out in our development agreements, including a brighter future for generations to come.”

“On behalf of War Lake First Nation, I am pleased to see the Keeyask Project receive regulatory approval,” said Betsy Kennedy, chief of War Lake First Nation. “After over a decade of negotiation and consultation, in which our Members actively and meaningfully participated in developing Keeyask, War Lake’s vision is one step closer to becoming a reality. The Keeyask Project includes significant training and employment opportunities, enabling our businesses and Members to not only earn valuable experience on Keeyask, but to join the mainstream economy of Manitoba and empower them to secure ongoing employment after Keeyask is constructed.”

Walter Spence, chief of Fox Lake Cree Nation, said “As a partner in the KHLP, Fox Lake Cree Nation is pleased that the start of construction of Keeyask is now upon us. We would like to congratulate our other partners in the KHLP on this important milestone. We look forward to our continuing work within the KHLP as an active partner in all levels of the project. Fox Lake Cree Nation will be vigilant, particularly within areas of governance and monitoring, to ensure our position within the partnership remains viable. Fox Lake will ensure that our many investments in Keeyask pays dividends for future generations of Fox Lake members.”

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“The project is now becoming a reality for our community. We are committed to fulfilling our First Nation-led contracts, to reaching employment targets, and to meeting our commitments as environmental stewards in the years to come,” said Ted Bland, chief of York Factory First Nation.

“We are pleased to be moving forward on Keeyask with our First Nation partners and to be continuing a responsible model of resource development that sees potentially impacted First Nations benefitting from an ownership position in the project,” said Bruce Barrett, president of the KHLP and vice-president of major capital projects for Manitoba Hydro.

A 2009 joint development agreement between Manitoba Hydro and the four First Nation partners governs how the project will be developed and sets out understandings related to potential income opportunities, training, employment and business opportunities. Manitoba Hydro provides administration and management services for KHLP and will own at least 75 per cent of the equity of the partnership. The four First Nations together have the right to own up to 25 per cent of the partnership.

The first generator unit in-service date is targeted for 2019 with all units being commissioned by 2020 at a total cost of \$6.5 billion. Once completed, the Keeyask Generating Station will provide an average of 4.4 billion kilowatt hours of renewable energy each year.

The generating station will be located on the Nelson River approximately 30 kilometres west of Gillam, within the Split Lake Resource Management Area.

Additional information on the Keeyask Generating Station, can be found on [KHLP's website](#) or on [Manitoba Hydro's website, under Projects](#).

-30-

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