

# Keeyask Project Manager Update

A quarterly publication on behalf of Manitoba Hydro as the Keeyask Project Manager

Winter 2015



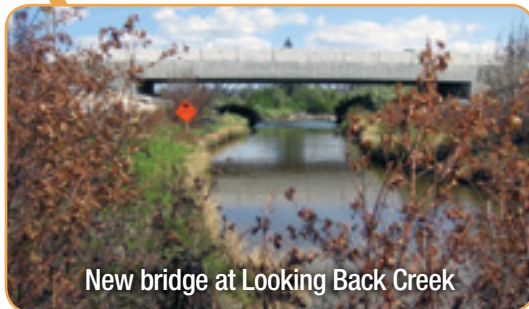
North Access Road Work



Keeyask Camp Dining Hall



North Channel Cofferdam



New bridge at Looking Back Creek



Cofferdam Construction

## Construction Highlights

## Greetings from Dave Bowen: Keeyask Project Manager

On behalf of the Keeyask Hydropower Limited Partnership, we are excited to be working on the construction of the Keeyask Generating Station with our First Nations partners: Tataskweyak Cree Nation and War Lake First Nation (acting as Cree Nation Partners), York Factory First Nation and Fox Lake Cree Nation.

Manitoba Hydro is acting as Project Manager for Keeyask, which will be capable of producing 695-megawatts of electricity – enough to power over 400,000 homes. When complete, we hope Keeyask will last for over 100 years. Construction of this new generating station will ensure our province has a long-term supply of renewable energy.

The Keeyask Project team and I have several goals, including building Keeyask safely and with as little effect on the environment as possible. It is also my responsibility to complete the project

on time and within budget. Our team will continually verify that the quality of the project meets all quality requirements.

We plan to publish this newsletter quarterly, providing regular Keeyask construction updates. Our goal is to help community members learn about the project and become familiar with its many interesting aspects. If you have any questions about the project or would like more information, please contact us at [KeeyaskProject@hydro.mb.ca](mailto:KeeyaskProject@hydro.mb.ca).

Dave Bowen - Project Manager



# How we got here

## Preparing for Keeyask

A lot of things had to happen before construction started on the Keeyask Generating Station last summer. Environmental studies and design work went on for almost 10 years (and in some cases longer) before the Keeyask Infrastructure Project (KIP), which prepared the property for construction of the station itself, began in 2012.

The KIP phase included completion of:

- access road to the project site;
- bridge at Looking Back Creek;
- preparing the site for the start-up camp and work areas.

This work was completed by KCN joint venture companies.

Phase one of the main camp was constructed during KIP. Services provided to operate both camps (start up and Phase one main camp) are provided by KCN joint venture companies. Services provided include:

- catering;
- janitorial;
- security;
- emergency medical;
- camp maintenance;
- employee retention and support.

## Regulatory approval

Manitoba Hydro received regulatory approval to start construction of the Keeyask Generating Station in July 2014. The approval and the infrastructure that was in place allowed the general civil contractor — a limited partnership between Bechtel Canada Co., Barnard Construction of Canada Ltd. and EllisDon Civil Ltd. (BBE) — to start the construction of the generating station very quickly.

This past summer, BBE began to assemble their heavy equipment, establish office space and work areas, build haul roads and material sources and start river management.

*River management means building structures, such as cofferdams, using large rocks to control the river's flow. This allows for the creation of dry areas in the riverbed for construction of principal structures such as the powerhouse (which produces electricity) or the spillway.*



Bridge Construction: Looking Back Creek: September 2012



Start Up Camp: May 2013

## Next steps

The following activities are scheduled over the next six months:

On the engineering side the main focus will be the detailed design for the dykes, powerhouse crane, intake and spillway gates and completing the design for the powerhouse and spillway concrete structures. Design work for the turbine and generator units is also underway and will continue for the next three years. Detailed design includes a 3D model that will help to create the engineering drawings which will instruct the contractor on what to build and how to build it.

On the construction side, the final components of the first phase of the 588-person Keeyask main camp will be completed this winter and work will continue to expand the camp by approximately 1,500 rooms. The general civil contractor will continue with the partial construction of the spillway cofferdams and excavation of the powerhouse and spillway areas will continue as well. Construction of the South Access Road, which will provide access from the south side of the Nelson River to Gillam, is expected to start this winter.

# Safety — the Keeyask Project's number one priority

Safety is everyone's responsibility at site. Our team continues to work with each contractor to ensure that everyone goes home safely. We do this by ensuring that:

- all personnel are trained properly and have the proper tools and equipment;
- safety plans are in place and followed;
- continuous improvement of safety practices.

The project team is proud to report zero lost time injuries and incidents to date with over 699,544 hours of work completed from July 1, 2014.

## Overcoming the challenges of winter construction

On the Keeyask construction site, freezing temperatures mixed with high water flows can cause large amounts of ice to gather where the rapids meet Stephen's Lake. This natural occurrence creates a local ice dam that raises water levels at the Keeyask site. These conditions could prevent work from getting done in the event that water overtops the cofferdams which would cause the project to fall behind schedule.

To help minimize the impacts of high ice and water levels on construction activities, an ice boom — a floating structure designed to help form stable ice cover upstream and reduce or eliminate an ice dam from forming — was installed this past fall. Unfortunately, unusually high water flows caused the boom to break in November, creating many issues for the project team — including higher than anticipated water levels throughout the winter months.

Overcoming this challenge involved a number of activities, including increasing the height and length of the cofferdams to hold back the higher water caused by the ice dam. In late January, a stable ice cover formed upstream of the rapids in Gull Lake and water levels have now stabilized at the site. Despite the difficulties involved with working in freezing temperatures and subject to the ice conditions that have developed at the Keeyask site, the project team continues to manage the situation and continue with construction.



Loading trucks with rock: August 2014



Rock blast: October 2014

## Transportation

Provincial roads PR 280, PR 290, PR 391 and PTH 6 provide access to the Keeyask site. As roads in the north are particularly difficult to maintain during the spring when frost starts to melt, Manitoba Hydro has been working with Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation (MIT) to improve this situation. MIT will be crushing and stockpiling material along PR 280 and PR 290 this winter. Other enhancements are planned for this summer, including road stabilization and grading along PR 280, and milling of discontinuous asphalt and grading along RP 280 and PR 290.

*The condition of roads providing access to the Keeyask site changes quickly due to weather. Always drive at a speed that is safe for the condition of the road you're on.*

## Camp life

The main camp kitchen is a key part of the lives of Keeyask employees. The first meal was served in the dining hall on August 1, 2014.

The kitchen operates 24-hours per day and the dining hall seats 375 people. It takes a staff of 30 to prepare approximately 600 kilograms of food to feed 500 employees each day.

The kitchen will eventually be expanded to seat 500 people. When construction peaks in 2016 approximately 4,000 meals per day will be served.



## How to get hired

- Register for Keeyask Project employment opportunities through the Province of Manitoba's Job Referral Service (JRS). Register online at:  
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/jrs/keeyask/index.html>
  - **Keeyask JRS Thompson**  
North Centre Mall, 118-3 Station Rd.,  
Thompson, MB R8N 0N3  
Employment and training inquiries:  
204-677-6544 or toll-free: 1-866-332-5077
- To register in person, visit your local Manitoba Jobs and Skills Development Centre. Find a location near you at:  
[http://www.gov.mb.ca/employment/emp\\_centre\\_locations.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/employment/emp_centre_locations.html)
- Keeyask Cree Nation (KCN) members and all northern Manitoba Aboriginals can be directly hired by KCN businesses that have been directly awarded contracts for work on the Keeyask project. Please visit  
<http://www.hydro.mb.ca/projects/keeyask/tenders.shtml>.
- KCN members who need more information about Keeyask Project employment and training opportunities can also contact their local Job Seeker Manager.

## Job Seeker Managers

Keeyask Cree Nation community Job Seeker Managers, located in the communities listed below, can help KCN members register for employment on the Keeyask Project.

- Tataskweyak Cree Nation  
Phone: 204-342-5054;
- War Lake First Nation  
Phone: 204-288-4315;
- Fox Lake Cree Nation  
Phone: 204-486-2463;
- York Factory First Nation  
Phone: 204-341-2236.

## Training opportunities

Interested in becoming a trainee? Training opportunities are currently available for the following positions:

- heavy equipment operators;
- utility workers;
- office clerks;
- security officers.

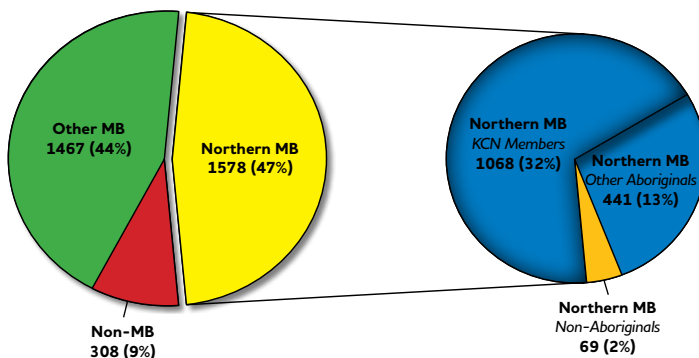
Future training opportunities include:

- emergency medical responders;
- catering/janitorial/housekeeping.

## Top five jobs hired to date

1. equipment operator;
2. labourer;
3. environmental field staff;
4. truck driver (Teamster);
5. catering/janitorial.

**Keeyask project breakdown of total hires\*  
January 2015**



\*Total Hires = 3353 (based on contractor data received from June 1, 2009 to January 31, 2015)  
Total Aboriginal Hires = 1895 (57% of Total Hires)

For more information on the Keeyask Project, visit [hydro.mb.ca/keeyask](http://hydro.mb.ca/keeyask) or [keeyask.com/wp](http://keeyask.com/wp)

## Have a business?

To be considered for future tendering opportunities, register your business with Manitoba Hydro at:

[https://www.hydro.mb.ca/selling\\_to\\_mh/vendor\\_information.shtml](https://www.hydro.mb.ca/selling_to_mh/vendor_information.shtml)