

Water Level & Flow Update for the Lower Nelson River

Weekly Update # 3 January 24, 2020

Lower Nelson River (Split Lake to Hudson Bay)

Water up and impoundment has not started at Keeyask (planned to begin early February). Flows on the Nelson River are high as heavy Fall rainfall in the southern parts of the watershed flows north on its way to Hudson Bay - this will continue all winter.

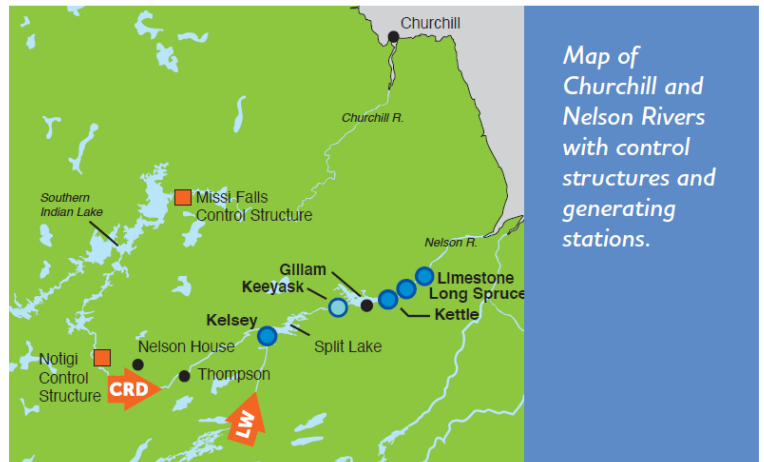
Hydro system flows to Split Lake and the Lower Nelson River come from 2 sources – Lake Winnipeg (LW) outflows through Kelsey generating station (at 3090 cms or 109,100 cfs) and Churchill River Diversion (CRD), through Notigi control structure (960 cms or 33,900 cfs)- *see map*. These combined flows (of 4,050 cms or 143,000 cfs) have been relatively constant since early December. The Nelson's flow downstream of Keeyask is 4,125 cms (or 145,700 cfs) (measured at Limestone GS).

As of January 22, Lower Nelson River lake and forebay levels are:

- Split Lake 168.49 m (or 552.8 ft)
- Clark Lake 168.09 m (or 551.5 ft)
- Gull Lake 155.87 m (or 511.4 ft)
- Stephens Lake 139.87 m (or 458.9 ft)
- Long Spruce forebay 110.03 m (or 361.0 ft)
- Limestone forebay 84.95 m (or 278.7 ft)

Note: Gull lake gauge not reporting after Jan 20*

Graphs of Split, Clark and Gull Lakes and Nelson River flow are available on the following pages.



Changing ice conditions at Split Lake's outflow through Clark Lake can cause water levels to fluctuate quickly on

Split Lake as either ice forms and backs up water in the lake, or melts and releases more water downstream.

Since early December water levels on these lakes have fluctuated due to ice conditions by almost 2.0 feet, while hydro system operations have remained relatively constant.

This update is based on a combination of current and forecasted weather data from Environment and Climate Change Canada; recent and historic stream flow conditions based on both federal and Manitoba Hydro data.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

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Waterway Community Engagement

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More information on water level forecasts and current year actual outflows are on our website at:

awbs://www.hydro.mb.ca/water_levels



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Lower Nelson River Lake Levels and Flows to Split Lake (December 1 to present)

Note: The water gauge on Clark Lake was out of order for a three day period (Jan 2020). All values shown above are daily averages.

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Stephens Lake Water Levels (December 1 to present)

