

Water-Up and Impoundment

Week #4, March 20, 2020

North Channel Cofferdam removal is 90 per cent complete

MH has scaled back on work at the Keeyask site due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Essential seasonal work, such as water-up, that has already started and must take place within regulatory windows will continue. This work is being conducted with additional safety, health and hygiene precautions that follow Health Canada guidelines. The lowering and removal of additional cofferdams continues in preparation for Unit 1 wet commissioning.

On March 17, 2020, during a meeting with KCNs leadership, Manitoba Hydro agreed to the KCNs request to delay impoundment until early Fall 2020.

Water Levels as of March 19

Split Lake Level		
Last Week	Current Level	Forecast for Next Week
168.10 m 551.5 ft	168.04 m 551.3 ft	167.8 to 168.2 m 550.5 to 551.8 ft

Clark Lake Level		
Last Week	Current Level	Forecast for Next Week
167.68 m 550.1 ft	167.60 m 549.9 ft	167.4 to 167.8 m 549.2 to 550.5 ft

Gull Lake Level		
Last Week	Current Level	Forecast for Next Week
156.05 m 512.0 ft	156.13 m 512.2 ft	156.2 to 156.6 m 512.4 to 513.5 ft

Level at Keeyask GS (inside the water-up area)		
Last Week	Current Level	Forecast for Next Week
152.88 m 501.6 ft	152.8 m 501.6 ft	156.0 to 156.5 m 511.8 to 513.5 ft

MH and ATK Monitoring Field Activities

Caribou

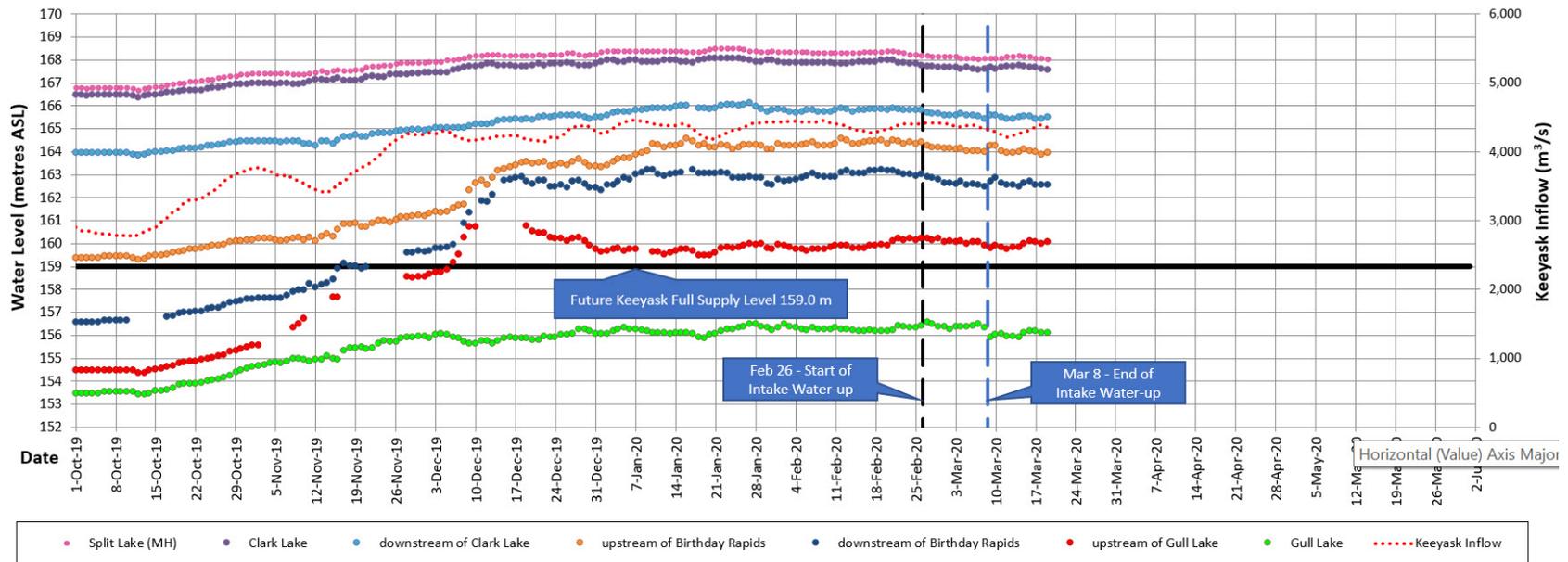
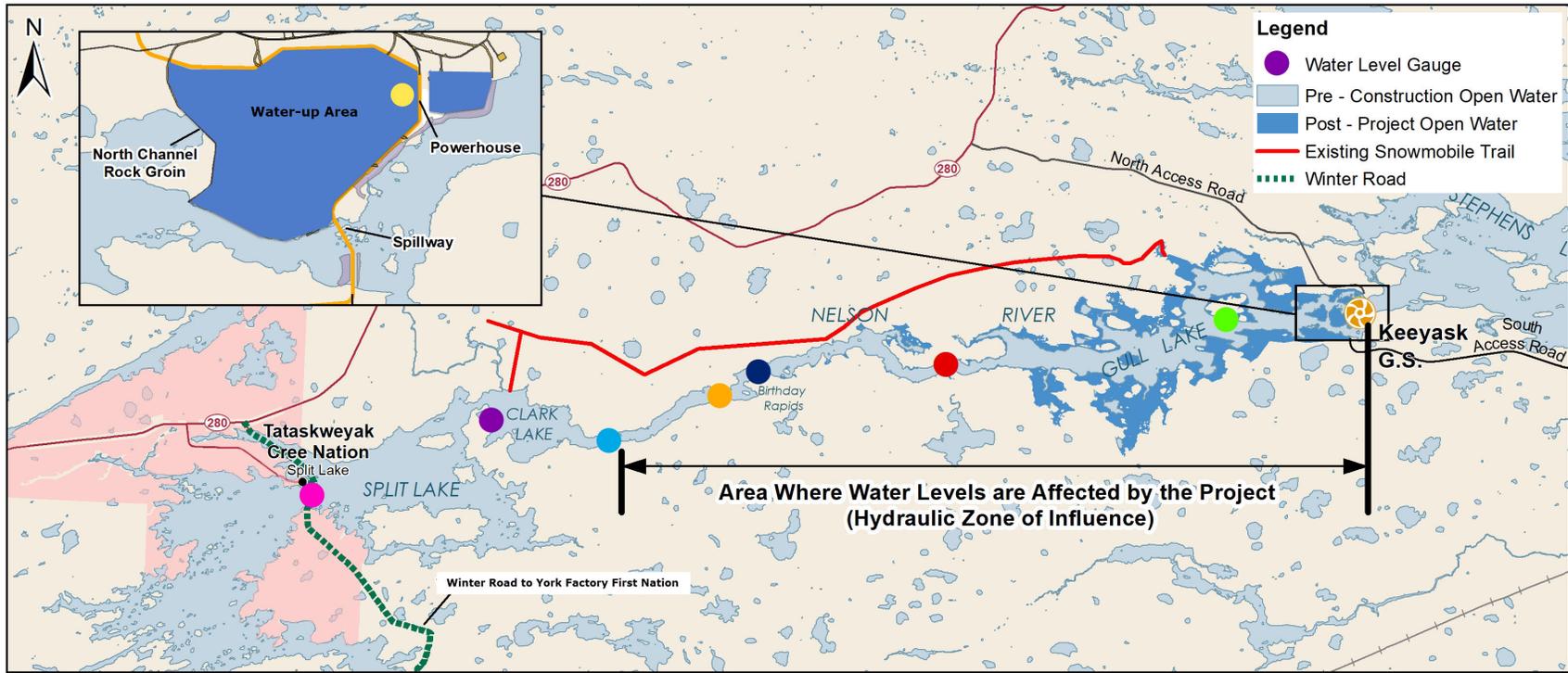
A small number of migratory caribou are still present in the Keeyask area. Only 12 caribou were observed during the aerial survey carried out last week on March 12 (similar to the previous week). No animals were observed on the north side of the river or near the water-up area. As impoundment is now being delayed until the fall, the weekly caribou aerial surveys being done to support a decision on caribou mitigation are no longer being carried out. ATK monitoring staff from each community will continue to share on-the-ground updates over the next couple of weeks.

Ice Conditions/Water Level Gauges

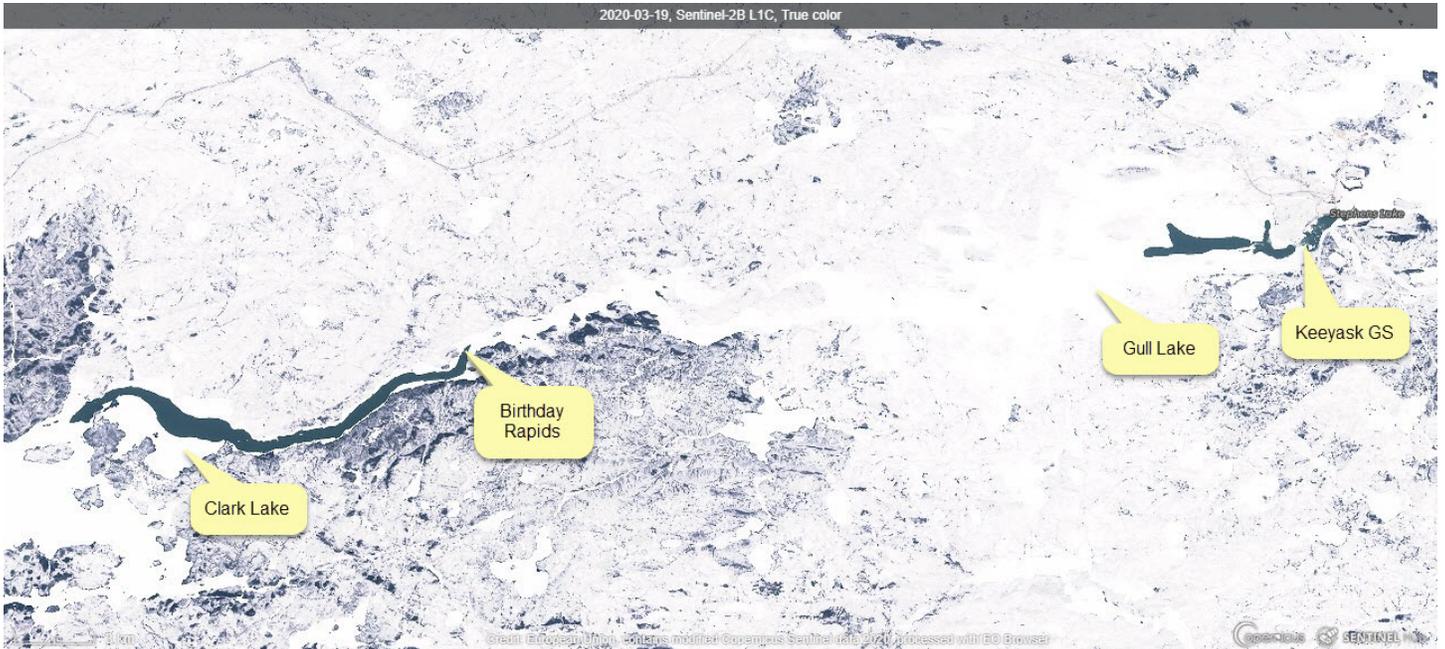
Small water level changes of up to about 0.4 m on Gull Lake (with no increases expected upstream of Gull Lake) will occur when water levels are raised below the North Channel Rock Groin (see map) to closely match levels upstream of the structure. This water-up is planned to begin on March 20, and will allow for removal of the structure over the next two weeks. Changing ice conditions at Split Lake's outflow through Clark Lake continue to cause small changes in water levels at all water level gauges.

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, MB Hydro staff and community ATK monitoring staff are no longer able to do joint weekly monitoring of the Keeyask water level gauges (see map) and ice conditions. Ice conditions and gauges will continue to be monitored during the remainder of water-up by MH staff.





There are no effects from Keyask watering-up activities anticipated at Split Lake. After impoundment, the reservoir will extend approximately 42 km from the Keyask Generating Station to about 3 km downstream of the outlet of Clark Lake.

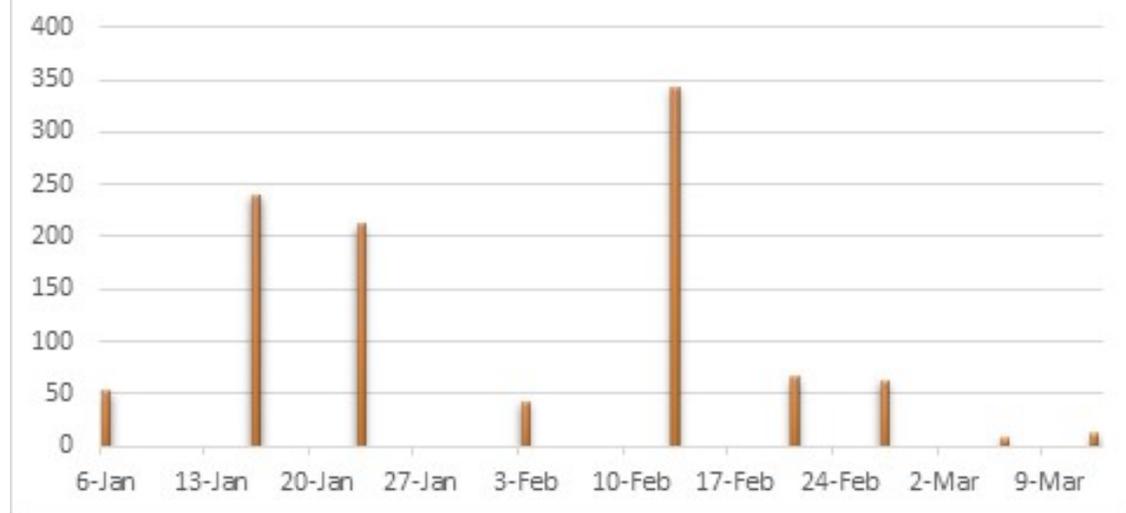


Satellite image from Split Lake to Keeyask GS taken on March 19, 2020. Ice front remains at Birthday Rapids.

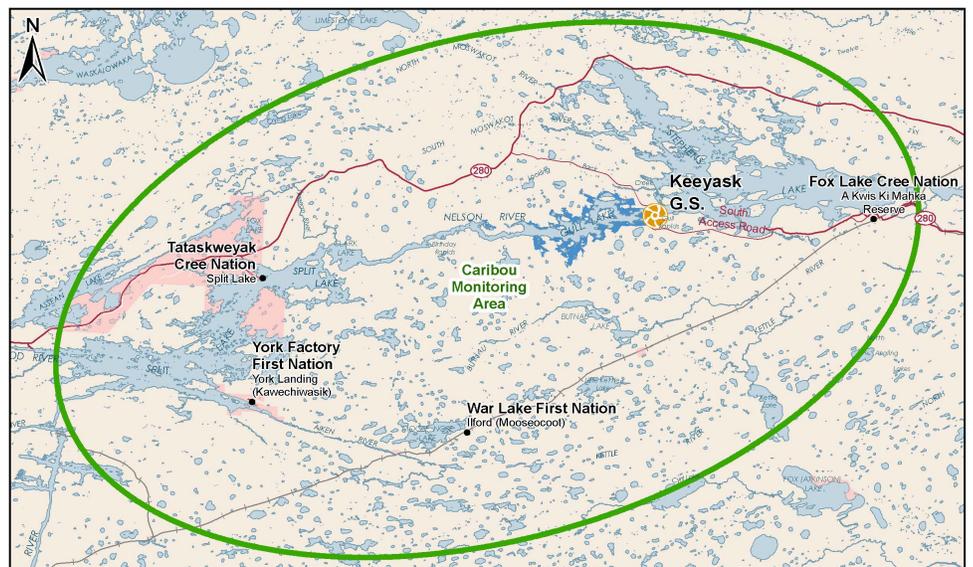


Satellite image from March 19, 2020 of the winter road to York Landing crossing Split Lake.

Number of Caribou Observed - Aerial Surveys



Within the green circle is the general caribou monitoring area being covered by the Keeyask Caribou Coordination Committee's caribou monitoring network. This network includes observations from partner First Nations members out on the land, ATK monitoring staff, Provincial Wildlife Branch staff, Keeyask site staff, and aerial surveys under the Keeyask Terrestrial Effects Monitoring Plan (TEMP).



STAY SAFE: Due to rapidly changing conditions, please avoid all travel on the Nelson River from Clark Lake to the Keeyask Site. A land-based trail from Clark Lake to Gull Lake on the north side of the Nelson River is a safe, alternate travel route.

Visit these websites for more information on:

Water-up and impoundment activities: keyask.com

Water levels and flows: www.hydro.mb.ca/waterlevels

Winter Roads: <https://www.manitoba511.ca/en>

Weather: https://weather.gc.ca/forecast/canada/index_e.html?id=MB

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your **KCN Site Rep** or **Diana Mager** at dmager@hydro.mb.ca

