

Water-Up and Impoundment

Week #1, February 28, 2020

Water-up started on Wednesday, Feb 26 at Keeyask

Manitoba Hydro, as the Project Manager, received provincial and federal agreement to start water-up. Water-up is the process of filling enclosed work areas kept dry during construction. Water levels in these work areas will be raised until they match the current water level of Gull Lake at the Keeyask site. Federal approval has not yet been received for impoundment.

Water Levels as of Feb 27

Split Lake Level		
Last Week	Current Level	Forecast for Next Week
168.35 m 552.3 ft	168.18 m 551.7 ft	168.0 to 168.3 m 551.2 to 552.2 ft

Clark Lake Level		
Last Week	Current Level	Forecast for Next Week
167.94 m 551.0 ft	167.71 m 550.2 ft	167.5 to 167.8 m 549.5 to 550.5 ft

Gull Lake Level		
Last Week	Current Level	Forecast for Next Week
156.17 m 512.4 ft	156.57 m 513.7 ft	156.3 to 156.6 m 512.8 to 513.8 ft

Level at Keeyask GS (inside the water-up area)		
Last Week	Current Level	Forecast for Next Week
No water	No water	143 -145 m 469.1 to 475.7 ft

MH and ATK Monitoring Field Activities

Caribou

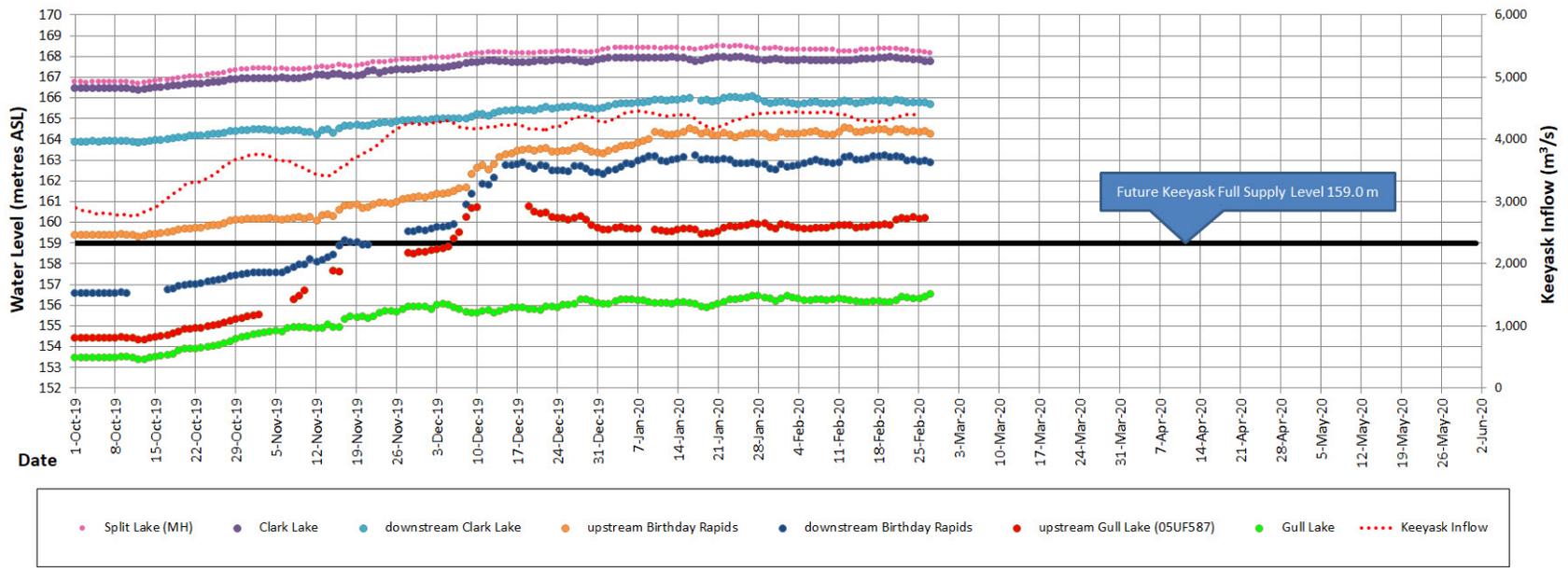
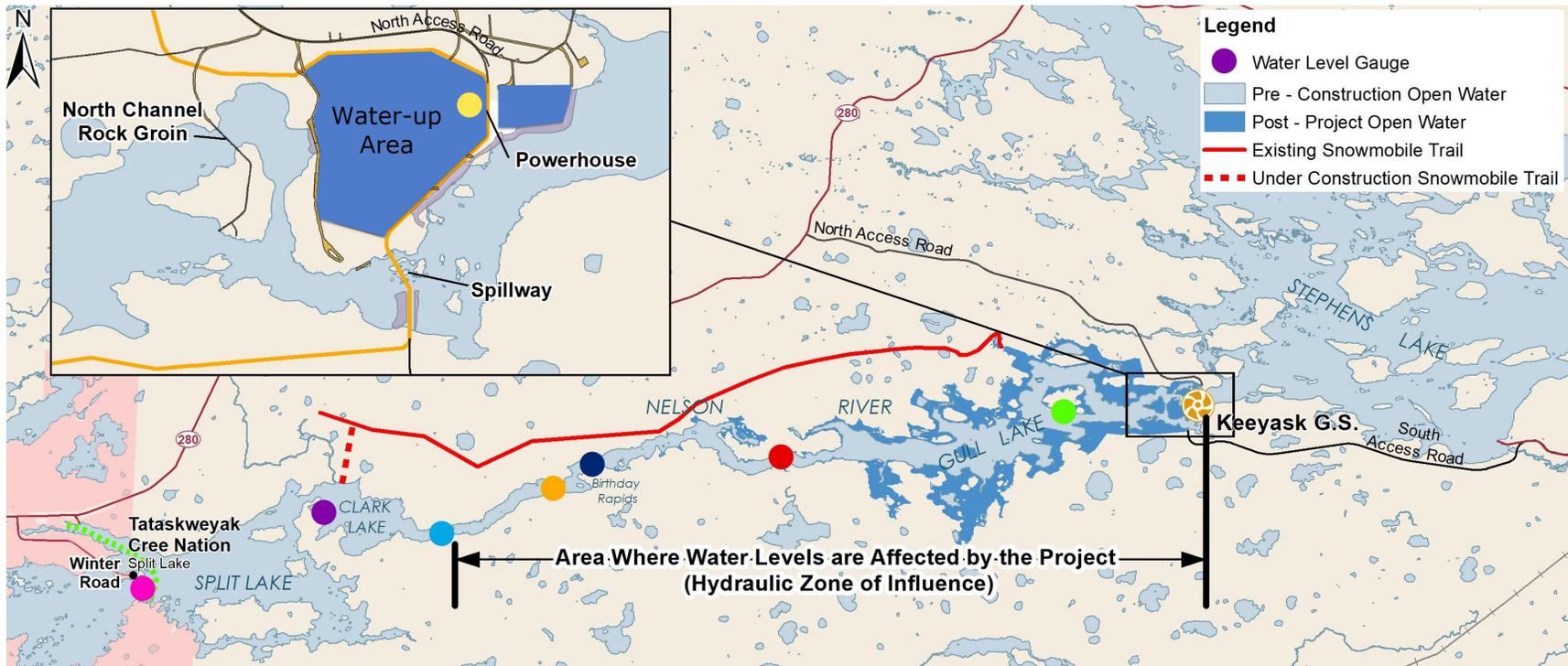
A small number of migratory caribou are still present in the Keeyask area. Around 60 caribou were observed during this week's aerial survey (carried out on Thursday, Feb. 27), similar to the previous week. No animals were observed on the north side of the river or near the water-up area. The next aerial survey is planned for Thursday, March 5. ATK staff from York Factory First Nation and Tataskweyak Cree Nation participated in this week's aerial caribou survey.

Ice Conditions/Water Level Gauges

One spillway gate was closed to allow water to flow into the water-up area upstream of the powerhouse. Water levels increased at the Gull Lake gauge as expected by about 0.2 m (8 inches). There was no increase due to water up at any of the gauges further upstream. Changing ice conditions at Split Lake's outflow through Clark Lake continue to cause small changes in water levels at all water level gauges (see chart on next page).

MB Hydro staff and community ATK monitoring staff are making weekly visits to maintain the Keeyask water level gauges and observe ice conditions. Fox Lake Cree Nation participated in field work activities on February 28. Ice conditions and gauges will continue to be monitored during water-up. Communities may notice increased helicopter activity in the area.

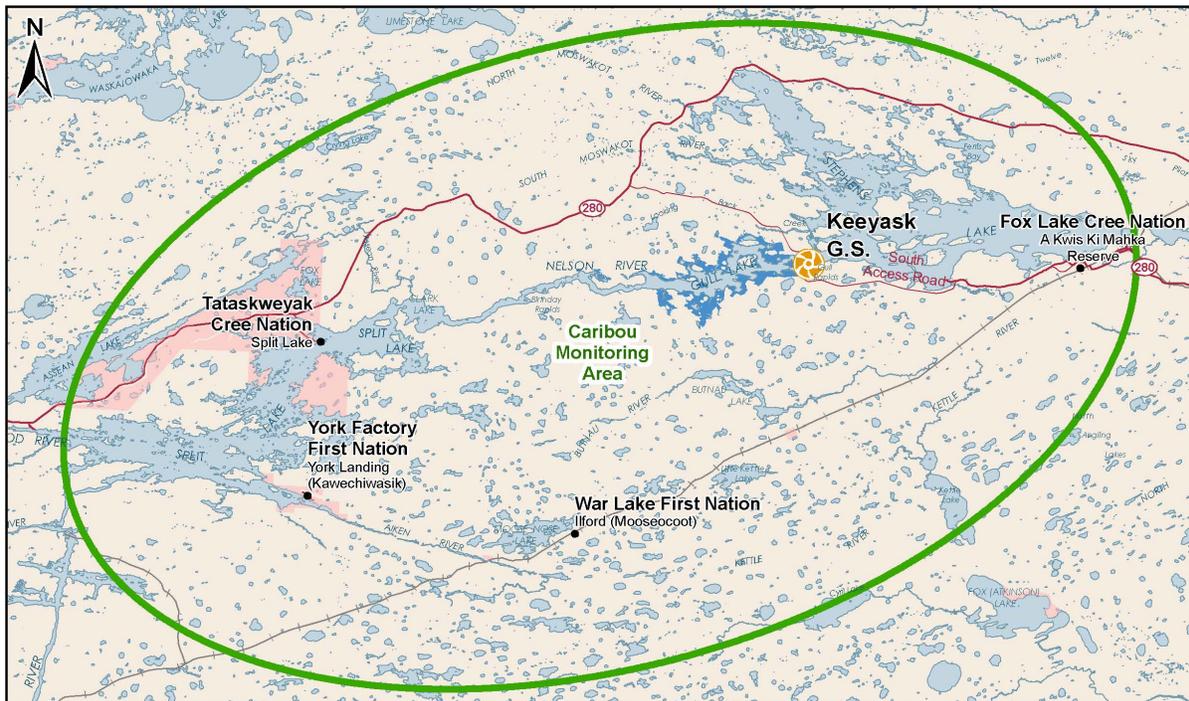




There are no effects from Keyask watering-up activities anticipated at Split Lake. After impoundment, the reservoir will extend approximately 42 km from the Keyask Generating Station to about 3 km downstream of the outlet of Clark Lake.



Water flowing into quarry during water-up.



Within the green circle is the general caribou monitoring area being covered by the Keyask 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, Keyask site staff, and aerial surveys under the Keyask Terrestrial Effects Monitoring Plan (TEMP).



FLCN and TCN ATK staff participated in monitoring of water level gauges and ice conditions.



MH and TCN ATK staff checking water level gauge accuracy.



Group of caribou observed during aerial survey on Jan 23.



Caribou aerial survey crew (WRCS, YFFN and TCN) on Feb 28.

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

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

