

Water-Up and Impoundment

Week #3, March 13, 2020

Cofferdam removal starts at Keeyask

The enclosed work areas (tailrace and intake channel) kept dry during construction are now filled with water. Water levels in these work areas were raised to match the current water level outside the project work areas. Cofferdams enclosing these work areas are now being removed or lowered to improve water flow and allow safe travel for boats after impoundment.

Federal approval has not yet been received for impoundment.

Water Levels as of March 12

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

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

Gull Lake Level		
Last Week	Current Level	Forecast for Next Week
156.44 m 513.25 ft	156.05 m 512.0 ft	155.5 to 156.5 m 510.1 to 513.5 ft

Level at Keeyask GS (inside the water-up area)		
Last Week	Current Level	Forecast for Next Week
148.2 m 486.2 ft	152.88 m 501.6 ft	152 to 154 m 498.7 to 505.2 ft

MH and ATK Monitoring Field Activities

Caribou

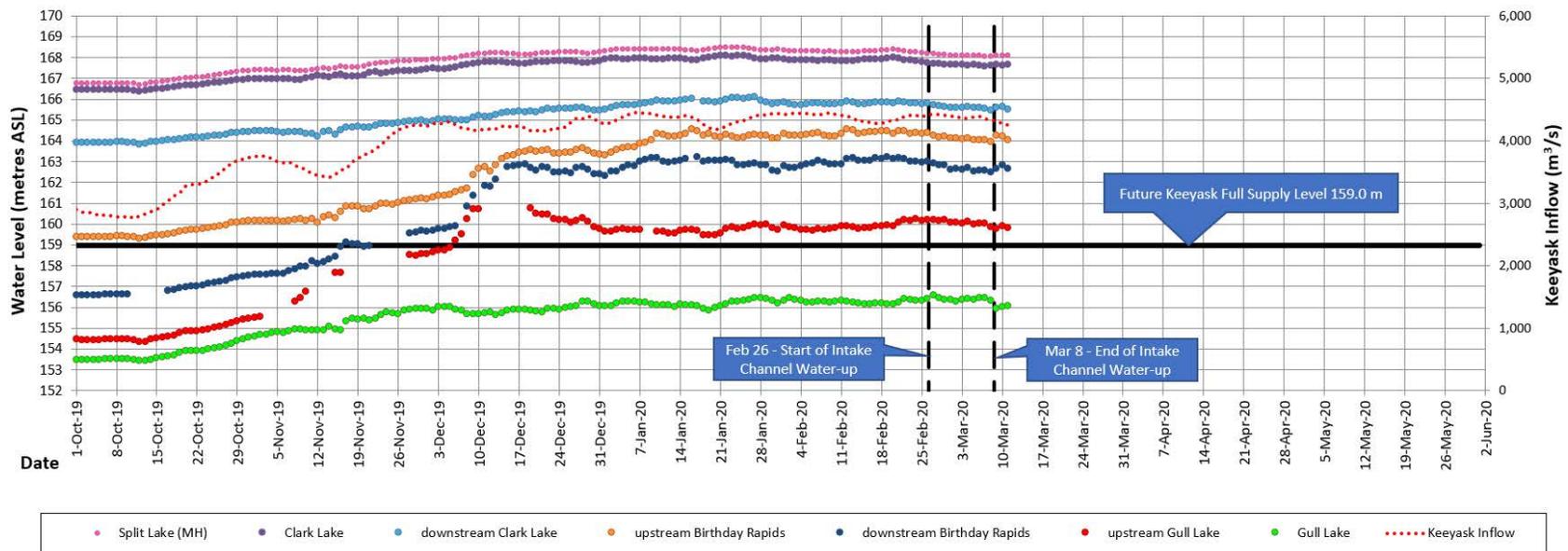
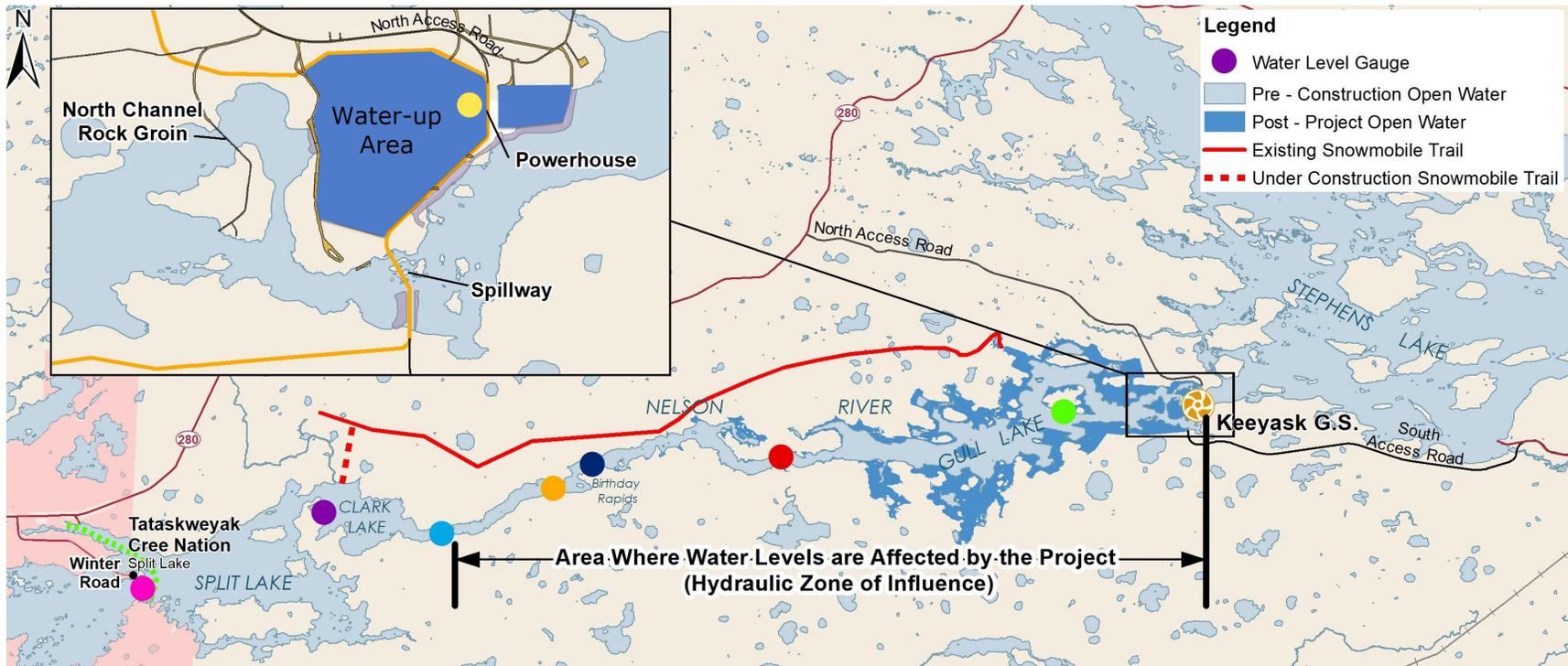
A small number of migratory caribou are still present in the Keeyask area. The number of caribou observed during aerial surveys on March 6 and 12 was down from the previous weeks (8 and 12 animals, respectively). No caribou or fresh tracks were observed on the north side of the river or near the water-up area during these two surveys. ATK staff from York Factory First Nation and Tataskweyak Cree Nation participated in this week's aerial caribou survey. The next aerial survey is planned for March 19.

Ice Conditions/Water Level Gauges

Spillway gates were fully opened on March 8 after water-up of the intake channel was completed (see time lapse photos of water up against the Keeyask Generating Station powerhouse). With the spillway gates fully open, water levels dropped on Gull Lake as expected (see chart on next page). Water levels on Gull Lake and further upstream continue to change due to weather, ice and flow conditions.

MB Hydro staff and community ATK monitoring staff are making weekly visits to maintain the Keeyask water level gauges and observe ice conditions. A community representative from War Lake First Nation participated in field work activities on March 13. 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.



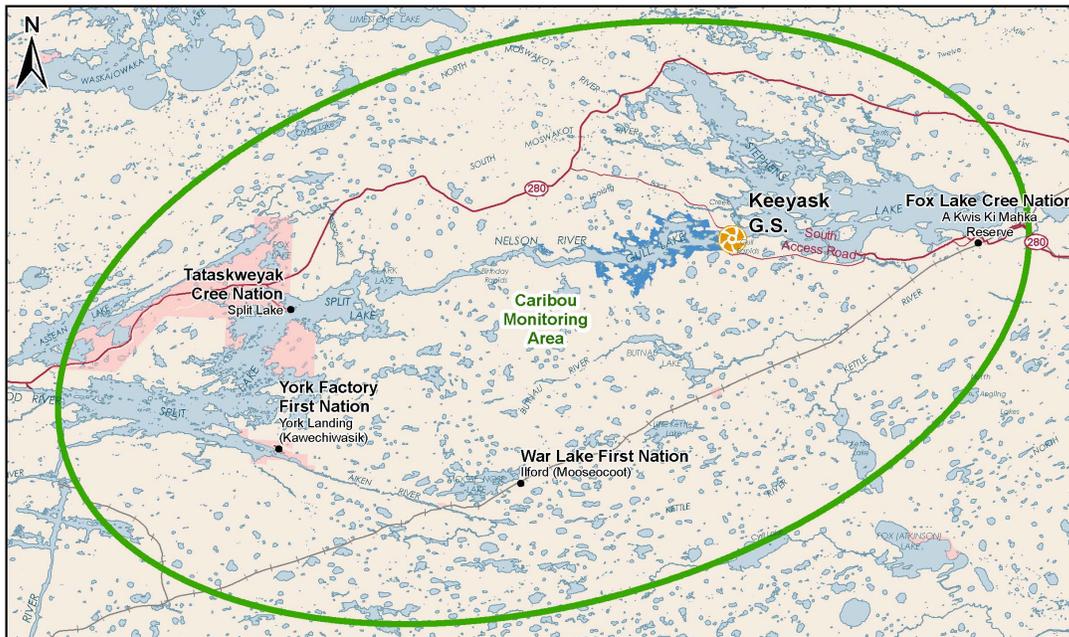
Water-up of intake channel Feb 28, 2020



Water-up of intake channel on Mar 5, 2020



Water-up of intake channel on Mar. 10, 2020



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).



Group of caribou observed during aerial survey on March 12.

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: keyyask.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

