

Water-Up and Impoundment

Week #7, April 9, 2020

Water-up at Keeyask almost complete

Lowering and removal of the North Channel Rock Groin (NCRG) and the haul road leading to the NCRG is nearing completion. With those structures lowered or removed, water-up will be considered complete. Tailrace Cofferdam removal continues and now meets minimum requirements to allow for wet commissioning of two units. Work continues to be conducted with additional safety, health and hygiene precautions that follow Health Canada and Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living pandemic guidelines.

Impoundment is postponed until early Fall 2020.

Water Levels as of April 8

Split Lake Level		
Last Week	Current Level	Forecast for Next Week
167.84 m 550.7 ft	167.83 m 550.6 ft	167.6 to 168.0 m 549.9 to 551.2 ft

Clark Lake Level		
Last Week	Current Level	Forecast for Next Week
167.34 m 549.0 ft	167.32 m 549.0 ft	167.1 to 167.5 m 548.2 to 549.5 ft

Gull Lake Level		
Last Week	Current Level	Forecast for Next Week
156.4 m 513.1 ft	156.3 m 512.8 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
155.7 m 510.8 ft	155.7 m 510.8 ft	155.0 to 156.0 m 508.5 to 511.8 ft

MH and ATK Monitoring Field Activities

Caribou

On-the-ground caribou monitoring is still occurring by community ATK monitors. No new updates were received this week. Based on recent observations, it is expected that the migratory caribou are continuing to move out of the Keeyask region.

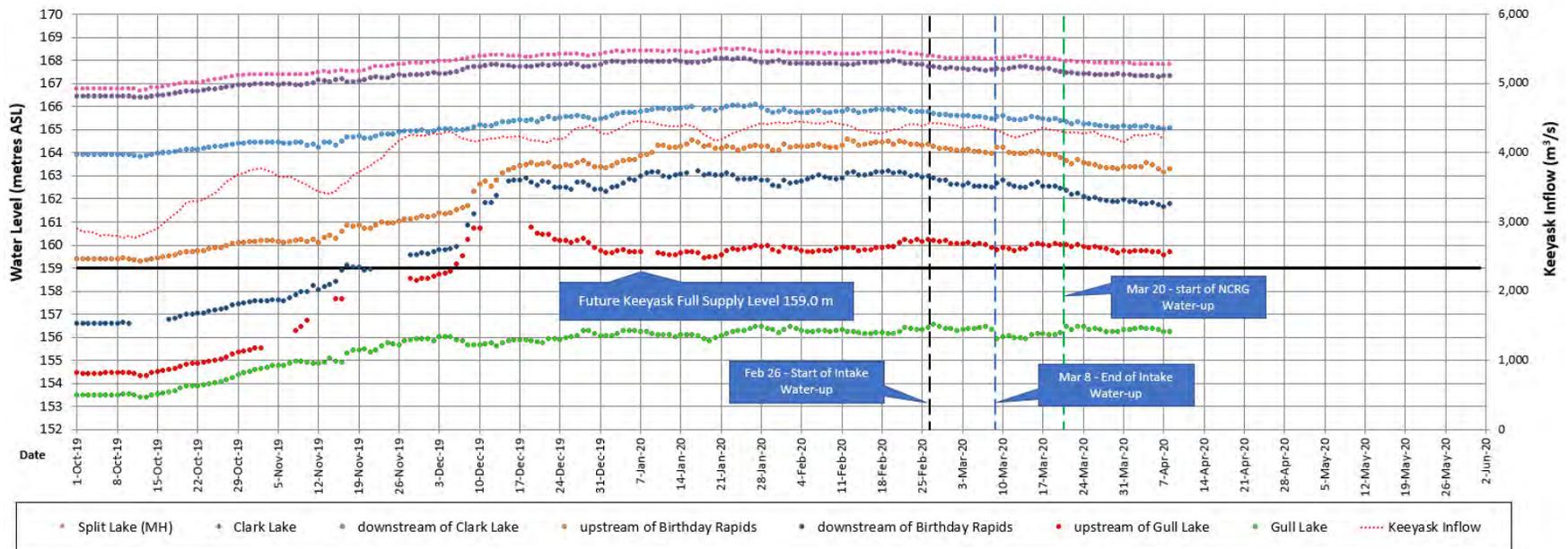
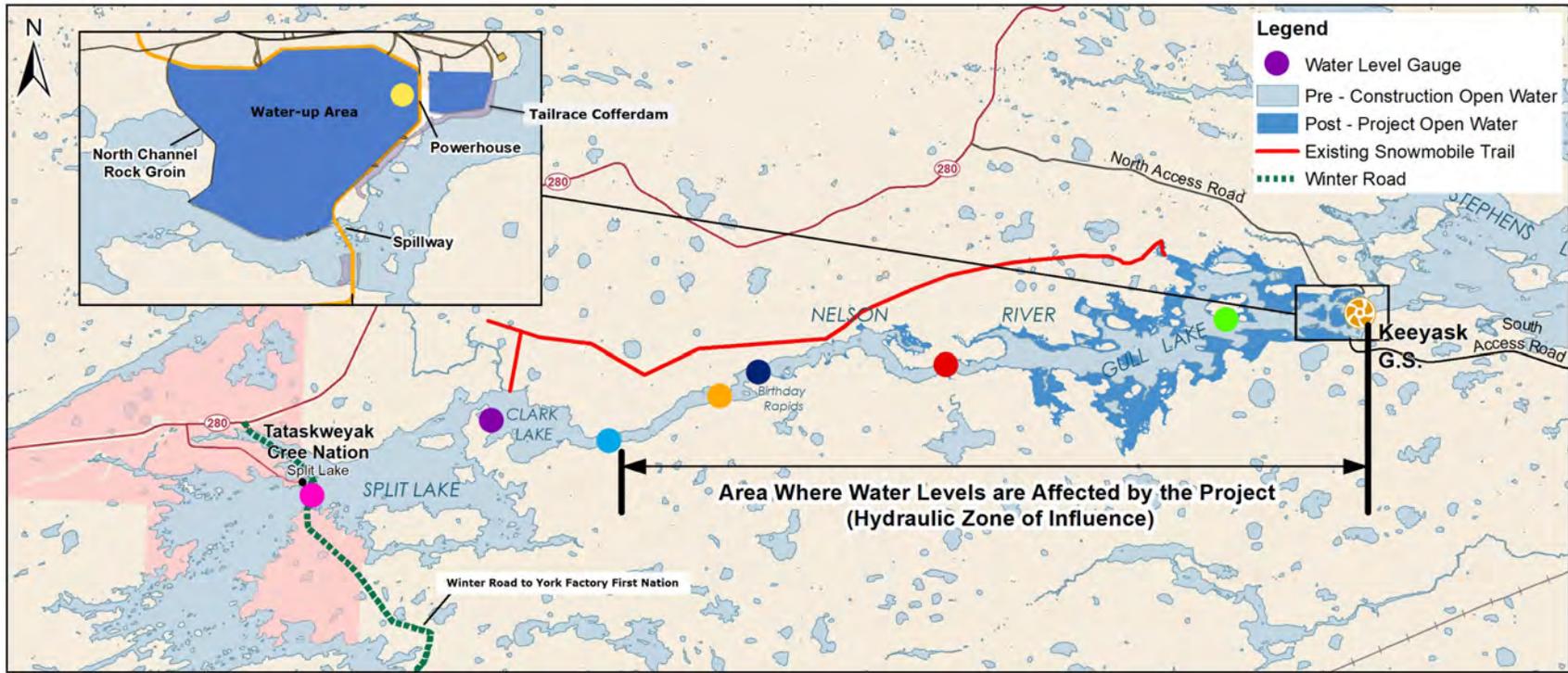
Ice Conditions/Water Level Gauges

The water level on Gull Lake had small variations due to spillway gate operations and remains elevated relative to the water level prior to water-up for North Channel Rock Groin removal. Further upstream, flows have been relatively steady with water levels slowly declining over the last several weeks as expected at this time of year. Upstream levels continue to respond to weather, ice and flow conditions and do not indicate any impact due to continued water-up activities.

The open water area in Clark Lake has begun to widen as edges of the border ice begin to deteriorate and break off. The ice front has been stalled below Birthday Rapids since reaching that point in mid-January.

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.

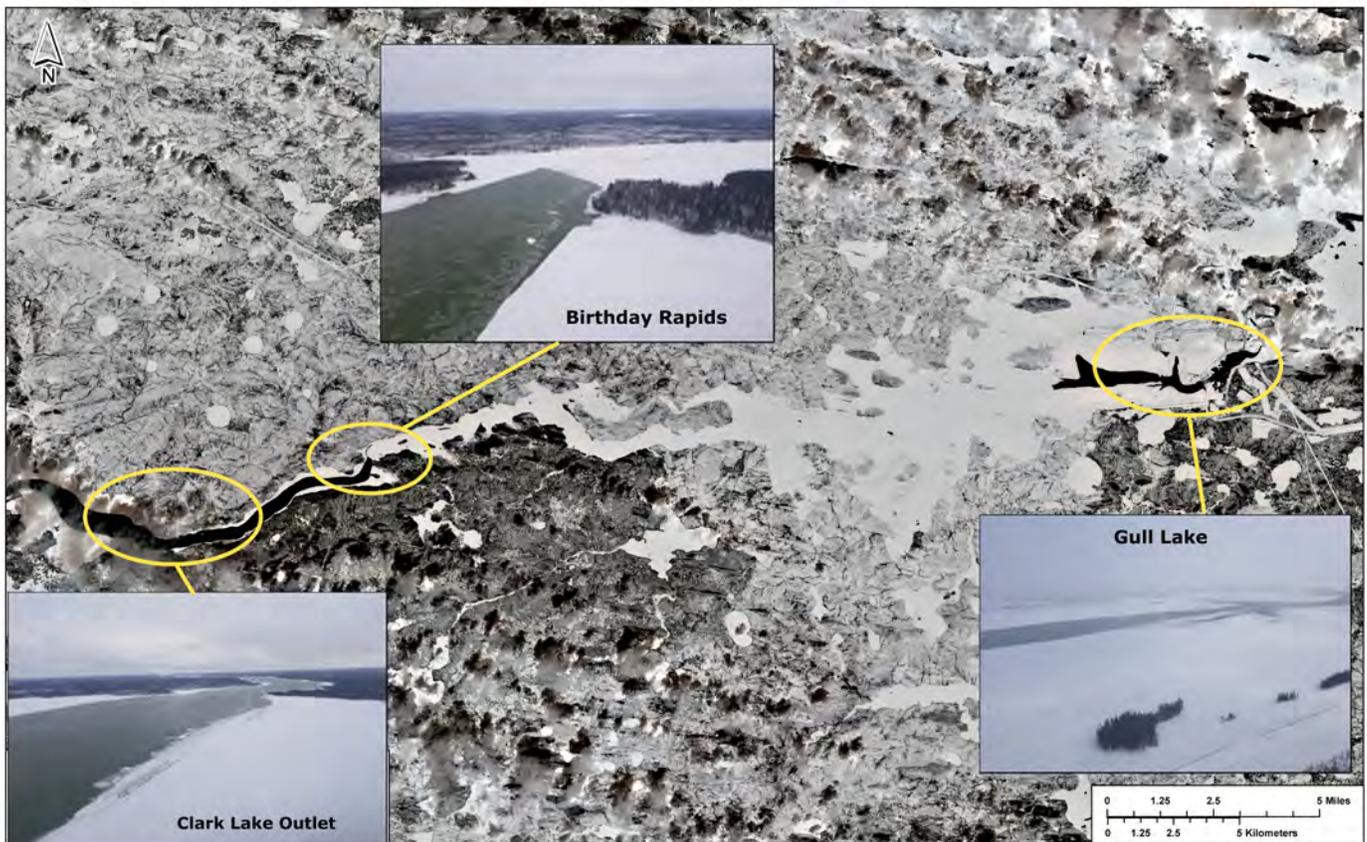




There are no effects from Keeyask watering-up activities anticipated at Split Lake. After impoundment, the reservoir will extend approximately 42 km from the Keeyask Generating Station to about 3 km downstream of the outlet of Clark Lake.

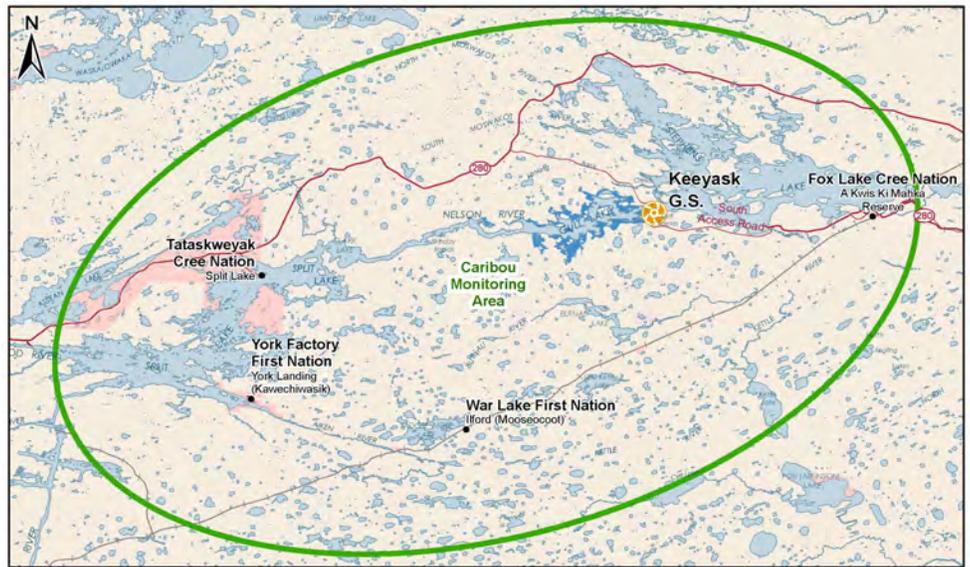


Keeyask tailrace and future reservoir area on Apr 6, 2020.



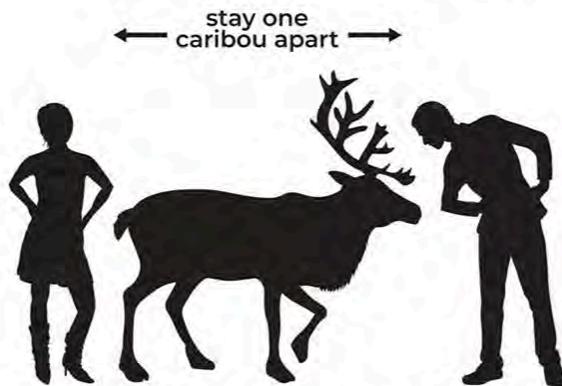
Satellite image of ice conditions April 5, 2020 from Clark Lake to Gull Lake showing signs of ice starting to deteriorate at Clark Lake and downstream of Birthday Rapids.

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).



What does physical distancing look like?

(also known as “social distancing”)



(or 2 metres/6 feet)

Note: please stay at least 90 metres / 300 feet away from actual caribou.

Yukon

A sign developed by the Government of Yukon to show physical distancing requirements during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

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

The winter road from PR280 to York Landing and Iford was officially closed for the season by the province March 26, 11:59 p.m.

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

