

KEYYASK

Project Manager Update



Summer 2021

A publication on behalf of Manitoba Hydro as the Keeyask Project Manager

Keeyask project continues to attain milestones in 2021

In the first half of 2021, major milestones are being met - starting with the first of seven units being brought online on February 16, and also being certified for commercial service since then. This achievement means that the project is now contributing power to the grid - providing renewable energy for all Manitobans. Units 2 and 3 were brought online respectively in April and June.

In March of this year, the final concrete placements in the spillway (done during work on completing the rollways) marked the end of all major concrete operations for Keeyask.

The work on the Balance of Plant continued with installation of piping; exhausting piping; fire alarm systems; lighting and control installations;

communication systems; Isolated Phase Bus (IPB); and Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems.

Iron North (a CNP joint venture contractor) continues to work at multiple work fronts on site including:

- **Tree planting and seeding in the closed borrows and Excavated Material Placement Areas (EMPAs)**
- **Traffic barrier installation along the crest of the dams and ramps**
- **NAR traffic gravel placement and stockpiling**
- **Wood debris clean-up in the forebay (Waterways Management is administering that contract)**

As the project approaches completion, infrastructure is being decommissioned and removed from site. There was removal of haul roads; shaping of EMPAs; and demobilization of buildings, trailers, equipment, and laydown areas - including the warehouse building and mechanic building.

Acknowledging changes with ceremonies

Project milestones come with profound changes to the land and water near the Keeyask site and affects those who have traditionally used this area. The project

continues to acknowledge these changes and their impacts through ceremonies and cultural events that are led by Employment Retention & Support Services (ERS).

This year there have been ceremonies and prayers for each of the generating units as they are brought online to recognize the sacrifices - made by all - to reach these significant milestones. For National Indigenous Peoples Day, Alex Beardy of ERS held a sharing circle and, to mark the summer solstice & Father's Day

(continued page 2...)



Alex Beardy smudging before prayer and blessing at Unit 3 of the Powerhouse



Alex Beardy and site liaison hanging prayer flags

(... continued from page 1)

and to recognize residential school survivors, hung prayer flags with the site liaison.

The prayer flags were used to send out prayers and healing thoughts to all plants, animals, and humans. The flags were tied on trees, with a tobacco offering, to carry the thoughts and prayers out on the wind to reach others - not just locally but globally. Sending out positive intentions is important in these challenging times when site visits are restricted due to the COVID-19 pandemic and people are unable to take part in ceremonies or cultural events at site.

Managing fire response through preparation and planning

On August 3, a fire north of Split Lake had grown in size and was moving closer to the community of Split Lake. This fire also resulted in the closure of Provincial Road 280 (PR280) shutting off that access to the Keeyask site. Manitoba Hydro - in consultation with Manitoba Conservation and Climate Wildfire Service - actively managed the situation in case the fire moved toward the Keeyask site.

A Manitoba Hydro Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was not activated, although preparation and planning took place to ensure that in the event the fire moved towards the project - or the closure of PR280 was for a long duration - the site was prepared to respond.

Due to the closure of PR280 at the time, alternate arrangements were made to utilize air transportation on August 4, to ensure workers that normally travel on the Thompson shuttle were not negatively affected by the situation.

Due to community evacuation concerns for Tataskweyak Cree Nation (TCN) during the PR280 road closure, communication with TCN leadership was established. This ensured workers who reside in the community of Split Lake would be able to return home safely if they needed to leave Keeyask. A daily brief was also sent to all partner First Nation communities to update them on fire activity and worker safety at site.

Manitoba Hydro continues to monitor the fire situation and is prepared to initiate appropriate action if required.

EVERY CHILD MATTERS — a walk to honour the missing children

On July 1, Employee Retention and Support Services (ERS) held a walk to honour the missing children from

residential schools. Alex Beardy began with a prayer and opening remarks. Residential and day school survivors carried a banner and led the walk around the Ring Road at camp. As the walk progressed, the banner was passed to other community members as they led the group.

At the completion of the walk, a sharing and healing circle was held in ERS, as well as a meal.

Over 200,000 trees planted in 2021

Our 2021 revegetation program involved Iron North, Outland Consultants, Manitoba Hydro's Environmental Licensing & Protection Department, and Keeyask's Earthworks and Environmental teams. Together they got out on site and planted seedlings to start the revegetation process.

This year was unique because planting was done on islands. Trees (seedlings) and equipment had to be helicoptered over, and workers took boats to the islands each day.

In total 217,500 trees were planted this season (190,000 jack pine and 27,500 black spruce) over an area of 75 hectares. The total area encompassed the two islands plus portions of the mainland.

In addition to planting trees, two excavated material placement areas were seeded with an annual grass seed to support erosion control and stabilize the placed material. Approximately 20 hectares were seeded this season.



Keeyask workers walk the road around camp in remembrance of missing children

Keeyask joins with Northern Manitoba Sector Council to provide employment services for work after Keeyask

In order to help lessen the impact of job loss, the Northern Manitoba Sector Council provides workforce adjustment services to Northern Manitobans to help lessen the impact of job loss due to Keeyask workforce reductions. Services are being made available in Thompson at the Keeyask Workforce Adjustment Office.

Assistance is provided in finding alternate employment through confidential assessment and development of individualized action plans. To ensure success for an individual's plan, referrals are made to community organizations that currently provide the required services, or they will be provided by one of Northern Manitoba Sector Council's Employment Consultants.



Services may include:

- Job Search
- Resume Writing
- Interview Preparation
- Individual Employment Counselling
- Labour Market Information & Opportunities
- Training/Retraining options
- Self-Employment Information
- Credit Counselling
- Financial Planning for Retirement
- Personal Counselling
- Upgrading Information



Gabriel Spence – From OJT To A Journeyman

Gabriel Spence, a member of War Lake First Nation, completed his Plumbing Technical Training at Red River College (RRC) this year.

Gabriel began his apprenticeship with Northern Maintenance Services (NMS) in June 2016, with no experience in the plumbing industry. Since then he has completed five levels of technical training at RRC and accrued over 9,000 training hours.

With his red seal certification on the way, Gabriel continues working with NMS at site fulfilling the duties of a Journeyman Plumber.

Available in accessible formats upon request.

For more information on the Keeyask Project, visit keeyask.com