

Achimowin

Finale Edition - 2022



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Waciye Water Ceremony and Blessings held for the project, but work still to be done

On September 8, 2022, the Waciye Water Ceremony and Blessings was held at the Keeyask site to mark the major milestone of having all seven units on-line and the changes this milestone has made to the project area. The gathering was attended by leadership, elders, youth and advisors from the partner communities, and representatives of MB Hydro.

“After reaching a milestone that is so significant to all of us, it was important that we were able to gather together and share our perspectives,” said Dave Little (Site Support Manager, Keeyask).

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“Spending time for important ceremonies was a great reminder that so many people contribute and that we all build Keeyask together.”

While the ceremony marked the seven functioning generating units, work on the project does continue.

“Our focus to the end of 2022 will be to close down the community of Keeyask,” said Barry Nazar (Construction Manager, Keeyask).
“In 2023 we intend to close out all other things Keeyask.”

“Once the environmental remediation is completed, what the thousands of people that make up the Keeyask team will leave behind is a legacy for generations. One that we’re all proud of, and — most importantly — there will be the legacy of all the memories that will be kept by the wonderful people, from around the world, that made up the community that was the Keeyask Generation Project,” said Barry.

Still ahead for the project is the taking down & removing of structures and preparing areas to be returned to a natural state, as well as the planned shutting down of the site camp.





Environment, and Site Rehabilitation

Although construction of Keeyask is basically complete, there is still a lot of environmental work that lies ahead.

Many environmental projects were completed, such as the nesting island for gulls and terns that was built to replace the islands that existed at Gull Rapids. There are a few things left to complete — like the marsh wetland that is going to be built on the downstream side of the south dam — and there is the ongoing revegetation of areas that were disturbed for construction.

Monitoring — including fish, wildlife, birds, plants, mercury, water quality and water levels & flows — occurred throughout construction to determine the effects of our activities. Currently, they are still being monitored to determine the effects from creating the reservoir, from operating the generating station and determining if our measures are working as planned.

Impounding the reservoir caused the biggest change and so understanding what happens to fish — particularly Lake Sturgeon — and to water quality over the long-term is important. The Partnership is required to have self-sustaining Lake Sturgeon populations both upstream, in the generating station's reservoir and downstream in Stephens Lake. Lake Sturgeon are being stocked into both areas to assist with increasing the numbers and that will continue for at least 15 more years.

Environmental monitoring will continue and the reports on all of the studies are posted on Keeyask.com each spring.



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Keeyask.com

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