

KEEYASK

Project Manager Update



Finale Edition 2022

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

Keeyask Generation Project marks seven functioning units with on-site ceremony, but work continues.

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).

“It was an impressive ceremony and one that I enjoyed taking part in,” said Dave. “Marking the occasion with our Partners at Keeyask — after an absence of such opportunities — and spending time

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

During 2022 the project completed much of the remaining work. Including:

- Patching and finishing of the powerhouse complex;
- Guard rail installation on the ramps and access roads, and public safety fencing;
- Completed the powerhouse access road; and
- Ongoing site remediation and mitigation, including planting 241,650 trees, covering former work area pads with sand to prepare for future vegetation, and fuel farm remediation.



Balance of plant work continues on the installation and testing of various systems such as:

- Fire detection, alarm, and suppression systems,
- HVAC systems and controls,
- Lighting systems and controls,
- Powerhouse elevators,
- Domestic and wastewater treatment plant,
- Telecommunication systems, and
- Spillway diesel generator.

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Commissioning of systems continued, including:

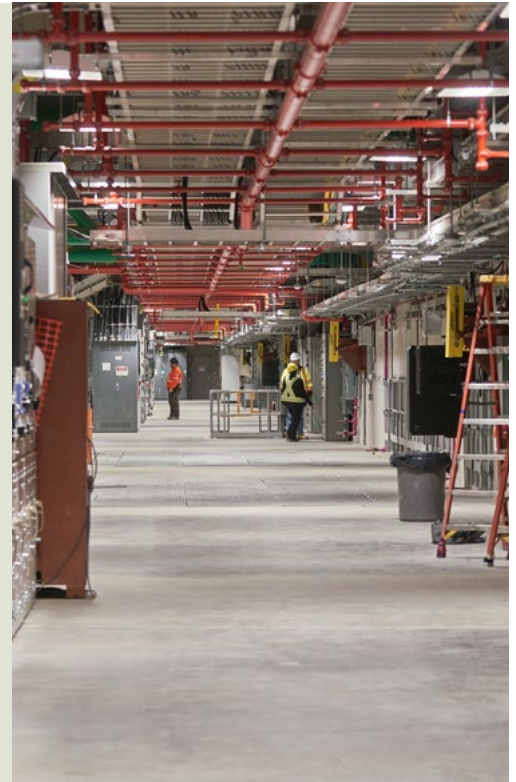
- Oil storage system and oil handling system,
- Black start generators for the black start system,
- Lighting controls,
- Video surveillance systems,
- Access control, and
- Life Safety Systems (fire detection, alarm, and protection).

“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 complete commissioning of the powerhouse’s balance of plant systems, continued demobilization and remediation, as well as the shut-down of the site camp.



Thank you to the Advisory Group on Employment

The Advisory Group on Employment (AGE) Committee was established in December 2014 under the Joint Keeyask Development Agreement as an advisory group to the Project Manager.

AGE was a forum for addressing employment issues, in particular Indigenous employment, related to the construction of the Keeyask project. While many hard conversations were had at the committee table, there were lessons learned and we can look back at several successes.

AGE completed a number of initiatives throughout the project, including community engagement sessions, the Keeyask Employment Referral List, the Keeyask Workplace and Essential Skills Training centre, direct name hires facilitated under Letter of Agreement 44 for on-the-job training programs, personalized skills assessment for KCN job seekers to align their experience and skills with available training & employment opportunities at Keeyask, annual KCN site orientation sessions

to improve community understanding of the work underway at Keeyask, and additional monitoring and reporting on employment/training outcomes (monthly, quarterly and at the KHLP meetings).

The AGE Committee also prepared a final report to present to the Project Manager which includes a number of lessons learned from the Keeyask AGE Committee around training and employment initiatives.

These initiatives contributed to the KCN and Indigenous employment outcomes.

Keeyask employment outcomes to November 30, 2022:

- TOTAL KCN Hires – 5,651
- TOTAL Indigenous Hires – 11,562 (40% of all hires on the project)
- TOTAL KCN hours worked – 4.98 million
- TOTAL Indigenous hours worked – 11.50 million

A big thank you goes out to all AGE Committee Members and everyone from the KCN communities who played a role in helping out with these initiatives.



Recognizing the work of the Construction Advisory Committee

The Keeyask Construction Advisory Committee (CAC) started in November 2014 and followed the progress on the project. The committee was made up of representatives from each Partner community and Manitoba Hydro.

The CAC has kept their eyes and ears on the construction progress, addressed issues of concern, and brought updates back to each Partner community.

Since 2014, the committee met regularly. Whenever feasible, meetings were held monthly at site and included a site tour to view the construction progress and see the changes that were taking place. Highlights included learning from the many contractors at site about their roles, seeing the Spillway and Powerhouse structures take shape, attending ceremonies to mark the river impoundment and commissioning of the final unit, and experiencing firsthand the 'life at camp'.

Thank you to all former and current CAC members for their contributions over the years. The committee will continue to meet until March 2023.



The Construction Advisory Committee in the service bay at the powerhouse, September, 2019

Monitoring Advisory Committee

The Keeyask Monitoring Advisory Committee (MAC) started in November 2014. They met about six times a year to share information on Keeyask's environmental monitoring and mitigation activities, from both technical scientific and Indigenous Traditional Knowledge (ITK) perspectives. MAC shared

environmental information beyond the committee by holding open houses in the communities and producing documents and newsletters.

Topics discussed at MAC included heritage resources, sturgeon stocking, wetland rehabilitation, zebra mussels,

water quality & levels and mercury & human health. A sub-committee of MAC, the Keeyask Caribou Coordination Committee (KCCC), is dedicated to the caribou monitoring in the region. The KCCC formed a very successful network to collectively monitor migratory caribou, near Keeyask, over the last few winters.

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The Monitoring Advisory Committee taking a boat tour, pre-impoundment.

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The MAC has participated in tours of the site, that focused on environmental mitigation measures like the tailrace sturgeon spawning shoal, the island constructed for gulls & terns and the location of the future wetland. A highlight for the MAC was a boat tour — from Split Lake to just upstream of Keeyask — in September 2019, to see the waterway prior to reservoir impoundment.

Thank you to all former and current MAC members for their participation, wisdom, insight and expertise to date. Monitoring the effects of Keeyask and the effectiveness of mitigation will continue for many years. Both the MAC and KCCC will continue to meet during the operational phase of Keeyask to discuss what is being learned through ITK and technical science.

A special acknowledgment goes to two late MAC members, Roy Redhead (YFFN) and Victor Spence (TCN). These men were long standing MAC members and strong advocates of their communities, stewardship of the environment and integrating ITK into monitoring & mitigation activities.

Environmental mitigation and monitoring continues at Keeyask

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

Many things that were planned to mitigate the effects from construction (and now from operating Keeyask) 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.

In addition to completing these mitigation measures, monitoring — using both technical science and Indigenous Traditional Knowledge (ITK) — is going to continue for decades. The monitoring plans we will be following were prepared prior to construction and approved by regulators.

Monitoring — including fish, wildlife, birds, plants, mercury, water quality and water levels & flows — occurred throughout construction to determine the effects of those 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.

Prior to the creation of the reservoir, the local Caribou used islands in Gull Lake for calving. Creating the reservoir changed some of the islands and created new ones; these islands are being monitored to see if caribou are using them and adapting to the change in their habitat.

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

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

Available in accessible formats upon request.

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