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**For Immediate Release**

## **General Civil Contract awarded for proposed Keeyask Generating Station**

The general civil contract (GCC) for the proposed 695-megawatt Keeyask Generating Station has been awarded to a limited partnership between Bechtel Canada Co., Barnard Construction of Canada Ltd. and EllisDon Civil Ltd. for \$1.4 billion. Keeyask, on the lower Nelson River in northern Manitoba, is a proposed development by the Keeyask Hydropower Limited Partnership (KHLP) — a venture between Manitoba Hydro and the four Keeyask Cree Nations: The Cree Nation Partners (composed of Tataskweyak Cree Nation and War Lake First Nation), Fox Lake Cree Nation and York Factory First Nation.

Manitoba Hydro will manage construction of the project on behalf of KHLP, including the tendering and awarding of contracts like the GCC, and operate the project on behalf of the partnership once it is completed. This project is similar to Manitoba Hydro's previous partnership with the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation to develop the 200-megawatt Wuskwatim Generating Station, which was completed in 2012.

Work covered by the Keeyask GCC includes rock excavation, concrete for the powerhouse and spillway, earthen structures, electrical and mechanical work, and the construction and removal of temporary cofferdams needed to manage the river flow during construction. The GCC is the largest of the contracts that will be awarded as part of the project. Bechtel was a key player in the general civil construction work on the Limestone Generating Station, completed ahead of schedule and under budget in 1992. The Keeyask site is located 69 kilometres upstream from Limestone.

“We are very pleased to have Bechtel on board as part of the group for this contract,” said Bruce Barrett, president of KHL P and vice-president of major capital projects for Manitoba Hydro. “They know the river, they know the area, and we expect their experience with past projects in Manitoba’s north will be a real benefit to the joint venture group. Every one of these companies is a leader in their field, and as a group we think they offer real value to the partnership and Manitoba Hydro in terms of ensuring this project is completed safely — as well as on time and on budget.”

A key component of Manitoba Hydro’s preferred development plan, Keeyask is part of the current Needs For and Alternatives To (NFAT) review of the utility’s plan by the Manitoba Public Utilities Board. The Clean Environment Commission also completed an environmental review of the Keeyask project in January and is expected to file a report with the provincial government in the next month.

As per industry standard, the GCC was awarded in advance of these regulatory approvals to allow Manitoba Hydro and KHL P to continue towards meeting the proposed in-service date for the Keeyask Generating Station of 2019. Should all necessary regulatory approvals be received, construction is scheduled to begin this summer.

Construction of Keeyask is expected to generate approximately 4,000 person-years of employment over a seven-year period.

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