

Lower Churchill Project reaches another milestone with first concrete pour at Muskrat Falls hydroelectric generating facility

August 18, 2014, St. John's, NL – The Lower Churchill Project reached another project milestone with the first pour of concrete for the spillway structure for the Muskrat Falls hydroelectric generating facility.

“We have reached yet another significant milestone for construction of the Muskrat Falls Project,” said Gilbert Bennett, Vice President, Lower Churchill Project, Nalcor Energy. “This milestone was achieved through the commitment of the entire team working together on this historic project. Their dedication to safety, productivity and teamwork is evident on this project every day.”

Since construction of the Muskrat Falls Project began in 2012 work has started as planned on all major sites for the project, including Muskrat Falls, Soldiers Pond, Churchill Falls, the Strait of Belle Isle, and the transmission routes. In June, almost 2,600 people were working on the project of which about 86 per cent were Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. To date, over seven million person hours have been worked by the Lower Churchill Project team, contractors and sub-contractors with a safety record that exceeds the Newfoundland and Labrador construction/forestry industry average. Continued efforts are made daily to ensure the safety of everyone working on the Lower Churchill Project.

Quick Facts:

- Once built, the 824 megawatt (MW) Muskrat Falls facility will be the second largest hydroelectric generating facility in Atlantic Canada, the largest is Churchill Falls with 5,428 MW capacity.
- Muskrat Falls will have two dams. The north dam will be 32 metres (m) high and 432m long; the south dam will be 20m high and 325m long. Combined, the two dams will be longer than seven CFL football fields.
- Major concrete work is required for the spillway, powerhouse and dam structures at Muskrat Falls. The powerhouse and spillway structures will require 560,000 cubic metres of concrete – the equivalent of three Hebron gravity-based structures (GBS). An additional 200,000 cubic metres is required to build the dams.
- The powerhouse/intake structure will be approximately 85m high. This will be 21 metres higher than the Confederation Building.
- The generating turbines at Muskrat Falls will be among the most efficient in North America and some of the largest Kaplan units in the world.

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