

# Muskrat Falls Generation Project Stakeholder Update

SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

## Impoundment Update

With the completion of impoundment, we are maintaining the reservoir level in its normal operating range of 38.5 – 39.0 metres.

## Next Steps for Construction

Completing impoundment is a critical step towards achieving first power from Muskrat Falls later this year. We have achieved a significant milestone, but there is still a lot of work happening at the Muskrat Falls site. Here's a quick snapshot of some of our ongoing construction activities:

- Rollways – work continues on the construction of the rollways in Bays 2, 3 and 4 in the Spillway. Rollways are concrete slabs placed on each of the floors of each of the Spillway bays that allow the gates to sit higher within their bays. The gates are used in the Spillway to maintain the water level in the reservoir. The rollways are already constructed in Bays 1 and 5.
- Balance of plant – the majority of the common systems (mechanical and electrical systems) in the powerhouse will be completed by the end of the year.
- Unit 1 – the turbine and generator unit is nearing mechanical completion. Activities are currently focused on commissioning Unit 1 which requires backfeed power from the transmission switchyard. This preparatory work for backfeed is in progress.
- Tailrace rockplug – we are currently removing the tailrace rockplug. The rockplug is the rock dam located at the end of the tailrace channel on the downstream side of the powerhouse that was used to keep the powerhouse and tailrace channel dry during construction. When the powerhouse is in operation, water will exit it through the tailrace channel and re-enter the river.
- Transfer to Operations – commissioning activities continue for all of the structures.

## Dam Safety Monitoring Update

The safety of our dams and facilities is our priority. We have a comprehensive Dam Safety Program for the Muskrat Falls generation facility. Our monitoring indicates that all of the structures are behaving as expected. There are no safety concerns with the Muskrat Falls dams and facilities.

Here is the surveillance monitoring and instrumentation summary for [September 9 to 15](#). This information has been also been posted to our Muskrat Falls Project [website](#).

We have designed our dam safety monitoring program to detect any effects arising from the force or pressure of the water from the reservoir on permanent structures including the South Dam, Powerhouse, Spillway, North Dam, North Spur and three Transition Dams. We use a combination of manual and automated processes to frequently monitor the facility to confirm that the structures are performing as designed and expected. Trained staff walks around the structures to inspect, observe, and record the structures' behaviours and they travel by helicopter to survey the entire reservoir area.

## CONTACT US

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Various instruments measure and record conditions such as water pressure, movement, water level and temperature.

## **Safety Awareness in the Muskrat Falls Reservoir**

As a number of hazards exist in and around the reservoir, we continue to advise people to avoid the Muskrat Falls reservoir downstream of the Gull Island site. Conditions in the river, along the banks, and in the newly impounded areas, are constantly changing and changing rapidly.

## **Water Level Monitoring on the lower Churchill River**

The Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment - Water Resources Management Division regularly reports water levels on the lower Churchill River on its website:

[https://www.mae.gov.nl.ca/wrmd/ADRS/v6/Lower\\_Churchill/Lower\\_Churchill.asp](https://www.mae.gov.nl.ca/wrmd/ADRS/v6/Lower_Churchill/Lower_Churchill.asp). The water level monitoring gauge just upstream of the Muskrat Falls facility is 03OE001:  
[https://www.mae.gov.nl.ca/wrmd/ADRS/v6/Template\\_Station.asp?station=03OE001](https://www.mae.gov.nl.ca/wrmd/ADRS/v6/Template_Station.asp?station=03OE001).

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