

# Muskrat Falls Generation Project Stakeholder Update

## April 16, 2020

Providing updates about important topics regarding the Muskrat Falls generation facility remains our priority. Here's some information about the current work status at the site, monitoring of the facilities, and upcoming spring melt.

## Essential operations continuing through the COVID-19 pandemic

With construction work at Muskrat Falls now paused, we're maintaining essential systems and operations at the site. A team of essential workers is responsible for spillway operations and dam safety monitoring; site services such as medical, safety, security, catering and accommodations; and, monitoring the facilities such as heating, lighting, and dewatering/pumping systems.

Our essential team includes individuals from the dam safety team who continue to frequently monitor all of the dam structures to confirm that they are performing as designed. All structures continue to perform as expected and there are no safety concerns with any of the structures. Our spillway operators are on site and adjust the gates in the spillway as needed to keep the water level in the reservoir at around elevation 39 m.

## Spring thaw

As temperatures start to warm up, the annual spring melt of ice and snow in the Churchill River watershed will soon begin. Over the coming weeks, the melting snow will increase local water inflows into the Churchill River. As this happens, the ice on the river will begin to thaw and break-up. As the spring melt occurs, we'll adjust the spillway gates to pass the increased water flows through the spillway and maintain the water level in the reservoir at our targeted elevation of around 39 m.

## Monitoring on the lower Churchill River

The Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment - Water Resources Management Division (WRMD-MAE) continues water level monitoring on the lower Churchill River. Through the spring melt WRMD-MAE will regularly post information on its website:

[https://www.mae.gov.nl.ca/waterres/flooding/lc\\_flood\\_warning.html](https://www.mae.gov.nl.ca/waterres/flooding/lc_flood_warning.html)

## Be safe around ice and water

Always keep safety top of mind when participating in outdoor activities. The ice cover around the Muskrat Falls facility is unsafe for recreational use due to fluctuating water flows and changing ice conditions. Please be aware that there are areas of thin ice and open water on the river and we advise people to avoid the ice and river upstream and directly downstream of the facility.

## CONTACT US

For more information or to speak to a member of our team, contact us:

1-888-576-5454

lowerchurchill@nalcorenergy.com

 Twitter: @nalcorenergy

 Facebook: facebook.com/nalcorenergy

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## COVID-19 precautionary measures in place for the Muskrat Falls site

Precautionary measures are in place to ensure the health and safety of our workers and the public. At this time there have been no reported cases of COVID-19 at the Muskrat Falls site.

Only those individuals who are essential in maintaining the site are working at Muskrat Falls. The essential workforce is made up of two teams of about 80 workers per team. Each team works a two-week rotation and all workers remain on site for their rotation. The next rotation change is expected to occur on Monday, April 20.

Some of the precautionary measures in place for the site include:

- Temperature checks before travelling and daily while working at site.
- Pre-screening questionnaires and on-site screening and monitoring.
- Workers who travel by air to Happy Valley-Goose Bay are brought directly to and from the airport and the work site without stopping in Happy-Valley Goose Bay.
- Physical distancing protocols are in place for all flights, buses, vehicles, work sites, and, dining and living facilities.
- More information on these safety measures is available on our Muskrat Falls Project website at: [muskratfalls.nalcorenergy.com](https://muskratfalls.nalcorenergy.com/april-2-2020-measures-in-place-at-the-muskrat-falls-site-to-keep-people-safe/) or directly at: <https://muskratfalls.nalcorenergy.com/april-2-2020-measures-in-place-at-the-muskrat-falls-site-to-keep-people-safe/>

We'll continue to actively monitor and address the evolving COVID-19 pandemic and the potential risks to our people, our communities and site operations.



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