



Oil released at Muskrat Falls generation facility contained

September 2, 2020: Nalcor Energy is advising of the release of turbine oil from the Muskrat Falls powerhouse that resulted in a sheen on the water immediately below the powerhouse, referred to as the tailrace channel. The sheen is contained to a small area in the tailrace channel and a boom is being deployed to contain the product prior to initiating clean up. The sheen has not extended beyond this area. With containment and clean up, it is not expected to move to the river or downstream.

The spill originated from a bearing inside one of the turbines within the powerhouse and is primarily contained within the powerhouse. An investigation is underway to identify the exact cause of the release as well as how much product has been released from the unit. The maximum volume of oil contained inside the turbine bearing is 960 litres (similar to a home heating fuel tank); however, much of the oil remains within the powerhouse, therefore the volume on the water is much less.

Nalcor has directed Andritz, the turbine and generator contractor, to cease work while the clean up and investigation into the incident is undertaken.

Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment and Environment Canada have been notified.

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Caption: Tailrace channel with location of oil sheen