

Slave Falls Spillway Pier Stabilization

What is it?

A ten kilometre stretch of the Winnipeg River between the Pointe du Bois and Slave Falls generating stations needs to be lowered by about three feet to reduce the load on one of the spillway piers and perform stabilization work.

Rehabilitation of the pier was already underway this summer when a detailed inspection found the concrete to be in worse shape than expected.

What impacts will it have?

The water levels upstream of Pointe du Bois (including Lake of the Woods) will not be affected at all and the water levels downstream of Slave Falls will not change in any noticeable way.

Cottagers downstream of Pointe du Bois who may be impacted by the lower water levels will be notified so remedial measures can be taken, if necessary.



Slave Falls generating station is over 70 years old, making it one of Manitoba Hydro's oldest stations. It is located on the Winnipeg River, about 35 kilometres east of Lac du Bonnet.

When will it happen?

Work is expected to begin at the end of October 2018 and be completed this winter. The impacted water levels between Pointe du Bois and Slave Falls are expected to be restored to normal in spring 2019.

Why do we need it?

Reducing the water levels and stabilizing the spillway pier will avoid further damage that could ultimately require much more extensive and disruptive repairs. Further degradation could also make access to the powerhouse difficult and impact regular operations and maintenance.

Manitoba Hydro will arrange to supply supplementary potable water (5 gallon containers) to cottagers whose year round (all season) water systems are confirmed to be impacted by the draw down.

The potential effects on fish have been considered and discussed with provincial regulators. Water levels are expected to be restored to normal in early spring 2019, prior to the spring fish spawning season.

The project will not affect electricity supply in the area.

Efforts will be made to notify local municipal officials, Indigenous communities, cottage owners, and other stakeholders who may be impacted by this work.

Are permits or regulatory approvals required?

Manitoba Hydro has consulted the Whiteshell Provincial Park, as a park permit will be required to complete the work. Although no formal regulatory approvals will be required, the Fisheries, Wildlife, and Parks branches of Manitoba Sustainable Development have been notified of the planned reduction in water levels. The change is within the operating limits set out by the station's Water Power Act licence.

Will there be employment opportunities?

There will be limited employment opportunities associated with the pier stabilization work. Given that the nature of the stabilization work is very similar to the pier repair work that was already underway, it is being treated as an extension of the original repair contract.



For more information

Questions related to the Slave Falls Spillway Pier Stabilization can be directed to:

Dale Hutchison
Manitoba Hydro
Waterway Community Engagement
204-360-3505
WCE@hydro.mb.ca

