

Slave Falls

New portage route coming spring 2021

What's happening?

Following a recent safety review at Slave Falls Generating Station, the existing safety boom and portage route around the station will be moving.

This fall, Manitoba Hydro will begin work on a new all-season safety boom – a barrier limiting water access around the station to make the area safe for the public. It will cross the entire Winnipeg River upstream of Slave Falls to limit access to the station and dangerous water zones. Warning buoys will also be installed on the downstream side of the generating station to alert boaters to the dangerous waterway zone in the area.

The new safety boom and buoys will block the existing portage route and so a new portage route is needed to provide safe passage around the generating station and enable access to the waterway downstream of Slave Falls.

Enhancing public safety

Waterways around generating stations can be dangerous. Currents, water flows and water levels are inconsistent and can create hazards for waterway users. The relocation of the safety boom will limit upstream access to the station in the interest of enhancing public safety around the dam.

Where will the new portage route be?

Slave Falls Generating Station is on the Winnipeg River about 35 kilometres east of Lac du Bonnet.

The new proposed route for the portage is on the west side of the Winnipeg River.



Feedback on the proposed new portage route will be collected this summer.

When will the route change?

Work to install the new safety boom and create the new portage route is expected to start in fall 2020 and be completed by spring 2021. The existing portage will be unavailable as of spring 2021.

What does the work involve?

Work associated with the installation of the safety boom and creation of a new portage includes clearing the new portage route, putting in instream anchors, and installing a boom and buoys.

Public engagement on new portage route and design

This summer, Manitoba Hydro will engage with local residents, Indigenous and surrounding communities, and recreational waterway users to collect feedback, understand concerns, and assess potential impacts related to the new proposed portage route. Input will inform final routing and design of the new portage. We expect to make a final decision on the new portage route this fall.

Protecting the environment

We completed comprehensive studies to understand the local landscape. A heritage resource impact assessment will also be conducted.

Authorizations by Manitoba Conservations and Climate (Parks), Manitoba Historic Resources Branch, Transport Canada, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada will be required before any work begins.

Getting involved: local contractors and businesses

An open tender for the design, supply and installation of the safety boom and buoys is currently underway. Contractors will be encouraged to use local services, such as accommodations for work crews.

What about COVID-19?

Any Manitoba Hydro employee or contractor working at Slave Falls will be required to follow current public health authority guidelines for COVID-19.

For more information:

To learn more, visit www.hydro.mb.ca/slavefalls or contact:

Waterway Community Engagement
204-360-3505
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Available in accessible formats upon request.