

Slave Falls

Work on concrete structures starting fall 2020

Slave Falls Generating Station has served Manitoba with renewable, reliable hydroelectricity for over 90 years thanks to a long history of proactive maintenance.

Now Manitoba Hydro is planning new work to address deteriorating concrete in some of the dam's structures starting as early as fall 2020.

What's happening?

Manitoba Hydro is completing a detailed assessment of all concrete structures at Slave Falls this summer. Results will be used to develop a plan that will likely require work over multiple years and may involve a one- to two-metre (about three to six feet) drop in the water level between Slave Falls and Pointe du Bois Generating Stations, as early as fall 2020. While any reduction in water level will be temporary, it may need to continue for an extended period to accommodate the work.

Why is this work needed?

Slave Falls is one of Manitoba Hydro's oldest stations and nearly a century of constant water flow, ice, and freeze-and-thaw cycles has worn on the dam's concrete structures.

In 2018, the concrete in one of the station's sluiceway piers was found to be in poor condition.

At that time, the water level was lowered by one metre (three feet) over the 2018-19 winter season to allow repairs. Further tests on some of the station's other structures found additional concrete in poor condition.

Safety is our priority

Manitoba Hydro is acting proactively to ensure Slave Falls remains stable and safe.

The work will be critical to maintaining the integrity of the dam and preserving the safety of surrounding waterways and the people who use them.



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

Who will it impact?

Any decision made with respect to Slave Falls – including lowering water levels – will impact local residents, Indigenous resource users, recreational waterway users and visitors to Whiteshell Provincial Park.

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

No interruption to power service is expected.

Public and Indigenous engagement to limit impacts

This summer, we will inform anyone who might be affected by the planned or potential work at Slave Falls. We will also invite those who live along or use the waterways to provide feedback to help us understand the impacts of any such work. This input will inform our plans and assist in finding ways to limit impacts where possible.

We will also work with regulatory agencies, such as Fisheries and Oceans, Manitoba Conservation and Climate Change, Manitoba Historic Resources Branch, and Environment and Climate Change Canada to identify any actions or offsetting measures required.

All required authorizations will be obtained to address federal and provincial legislation, including the Provincial Parks and Wildfires Act, Canadian Fisheries Act, Migratory Birds Convention Act, and Navigation Protection Program.

A one- to two-metre reduction in water level is within operating limits set out by the station's Water Power Act licence.

Getting involved: local contractors and businesses

Any tenders for work at Slave Falls will be an open bid. 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.