

Slave Falls

Plans for new work on concrete structures

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.

What's happening?

Manitoba Hydro completed a detailed assessment of all concrete structures at Slave Falls and we are now developing a work plan based on those results and the feedback collected from local residents, Indigenous communities, and waterway users in our initial outreach and survey.

Any plan for Slave Falls is likely to require work over multiple years and may involve a one- to two-metre (about three to six feet) drop in water level between Slave Falls and Pointe du Bois Generating Stations. While any reduction will be temporary, it may need to continue for an extended period to accommodate the work.

We do not expect to lower water levels in 2022. An update on our work plan will be provided later this year.

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.

If the water level needs to be lowered, the water 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

In our initial outreach, we informed anyone who might be affected by the planned or potential work at Slave Falls. We also invited those who live along or use the waterway to provide feedback through an online survey on the potential effects of any work involving lowered water levels, so we could better understand the impacts. This input will inform our work plan and assist in finding ways to limit impacts where possible.

We are also working 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.

For more information:

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

Waterway Community Engagement
204-360-3505
WCE@hydro.mb.ca

Available in accessible formats upon request. (June 2022)