



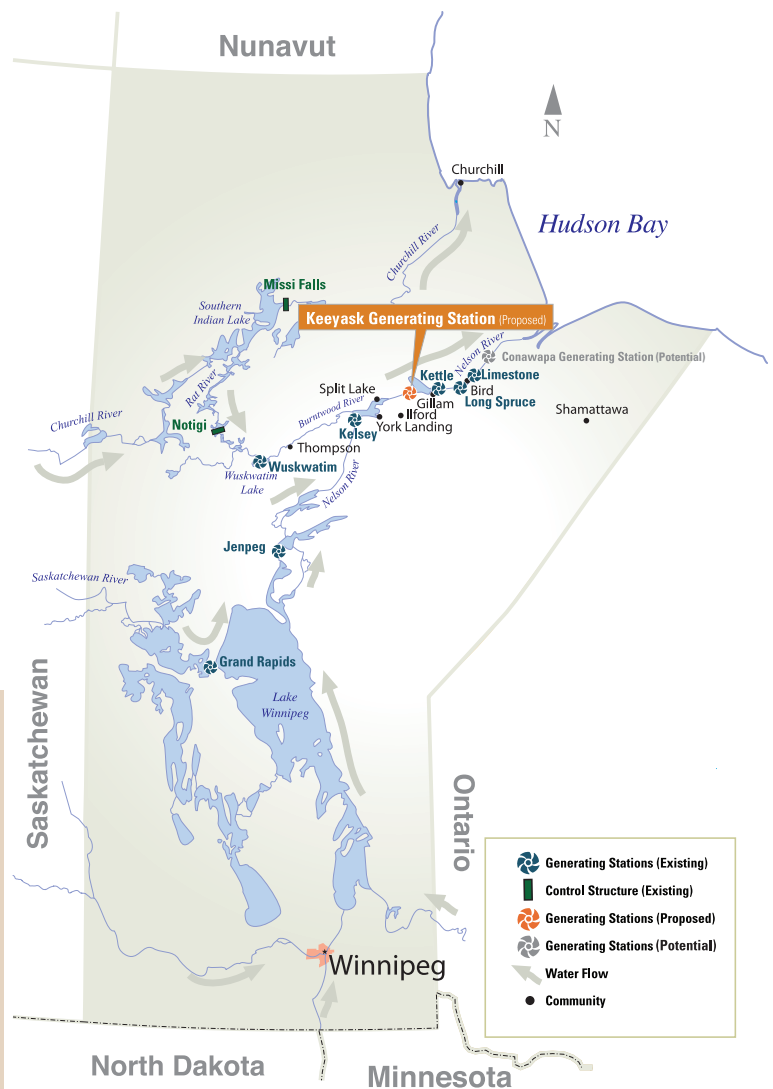
**ROUND THREE of the Keyask Public Involvement Program**

**NEWSLETTER**

April - May 2013

**Third Round of Keyask Public Involvement Program**

This is the third Public Involvement Program newsletter for the Keyask Generation Project (the Project), proposed to be built in northern Manitoba. This newsletter provides information about the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the public review process. The Keyask Public Involvement Program is intended to provide opportunities for people to receive Project information and to identify issues and potential effects about the proposed Project.



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## Keyyask Hydropower Limited Partnership

The Project Proponent is the Keyyask Hydropower Limited Partnership (the Partnership), which is comprised of four limited partners and one general partner. The four limited partners are Manitoba Hydro and companies representing the Cree Nation Partners (Tataskweyak Cree Nation and War Lake First Nation), York Factory First Nation and Fox Lake Cree Nation. The general partner is a corporation wholly owned by Manitoba Hydro.



## About the Proposed Keyyask Generation Project

The Partnership is proposing to develop the Project, a 695-megawatt hydroelectric generating station. The renewable hydroelectric energy produced by the Project will be sold to Manitoba Hydro and integrated into its electrical system for use in Manitoba and for export. It will be the fifth generating station on the lower Nelson River and will be the fourth largest generating station in Manitoba.

The Project will be located about 725 kilometres (km) northeast of Winnipeg at Gull Rapids on the lower Nelson River immediately upstream of Stephens Lake in northern Manitoba.



*This rendering shows: the layout of principal structures at Gull Rapids looking north with the river flowing from left to right; how a portion of the south channel may look following construction dewatering and; the locations of the north and south access roads.*

The Project site is approximately 58 km east of Split Lake, home of Tataskweyak Cree Nation, and approximately 30 km west of the Fox Lake Cree Nation reserve at Gillam. If a decision is made to go ahead with the Project and all approvals are in place, the earliest construction could begin in 2014; the plant could begin producing power in 2019.

The Project will consist of principal structures and supporting infrastructure. The principal structures consist of the powerhouse complex, spillway, dams and dykes. Supporting infrastructure consists of permanent facilities used to construct and/or operate the Project and temporary facilities required only to construct the principal structures.

# Status of the Public Involvement Program

Initiated in 2008, the Public Involvement Program is a key element of the Environmental Impact Assessment activities for the Project and involves three rounds of engagement.

The purpose of the public involvement process is to provide the public, particularly those who may potentially be affected by or are interested in the Project, with opportunities to receive information about the Project and provide input on its potential issues and effects.

The public includes residents of local First Nations and other northern communities; Aboriginal, community and environmental groups; the private sector; municipal governments; and the general public.

A variety of public involvement methods are available for each round including meetings, open houses, newsletters, information panels and a Project website at [www.keeyask.com](http://www.keeyask.com).

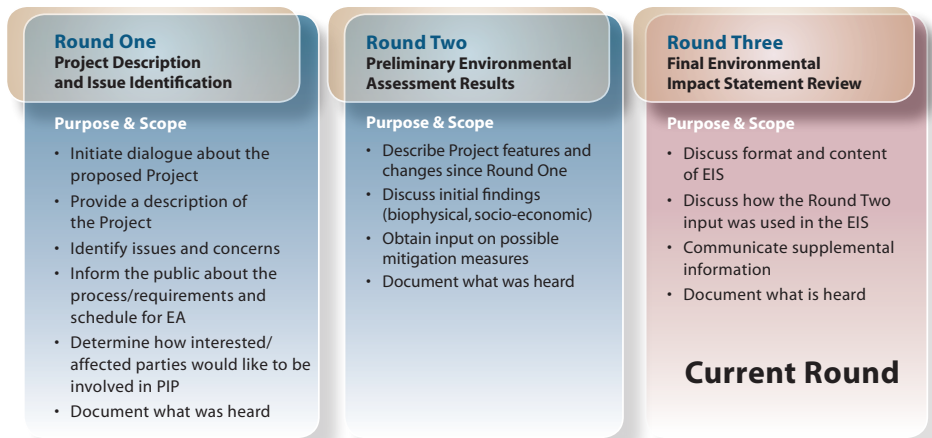
## Round One of Public Involvement

Round One of the Public Involvement Program introduced the Project to the public in 2008. Specifically, Round One of the Public Involvement Program:

- Initiated dialogue about the Project;
- Provided information about the Project;
- Identified issues and public concerns;
- Informed the public about the process/ requirements and schedule for the Environmental Impact Assessment;
- Determined how potentially affected/ interested communities/organizations wanted to be involved in the Public Involvement Program; and
- Documented what was heard from participants.

## Round Two of Public Involvement

In 2012, Round Two of the Public Involvement Program informed participants about any changes in the Project from Round One, provided



responses to questions raised in Round One and illustrated how the received input influenced the Project design and assessment. Public Involvement Program participants were also given opportunities to offer comments and provide input on preliminary results of the biophysical and socio-economic assessments of the Project and were encouraged to offer suggestions for avoiding or minimizing potential adverse effects. The comments and input received in Round Two were summarized into a report and incorporated into the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Issues identified in the first two rounds generally fell into seven categories: project planning; training, employment and business opportunities; physical environment; aquatic and terrestrial environment; socio-economic and heritage resources; resource use; and the consultation process. Please see Page 5 for a short discussion about some of the specific topics raised most often during first two rounds of the Public Involvement Program.

A complete summary of comments received during Rounds One and Two of public engagement is available on the Keeyask Generation Project website at [www.keeyask.com](http://www.keeyask.com).

## Round Three of Public Involvement

In Round Three of the Public Involvement Program, the Partnership will:

- Discuss the format and content of the EIS;
- Discuss how input received to date influenced the Project assessment;
- Communicate supplemental information since the filing of the EIS with regulators in 2012; and
- Document what is heard from participants.

Round Three meetings will be held in communities and with organizations in northern Manitoba and with organizations in southern Manitoba. Public open houses will occur in Thompson and Winnipeg. Information about the public open houses can be found on the Keeyask website ([www.keeyask.com](http://www.keeyask.com)) and Manitoba Hydro website ([www.hydro.mb.ca](http://www.hydro.mb.ca)). Results of Round Three will be summarized in a report and filed as supplemental information for the regulatory process. The report will also be made available on the Project website ([www.keeyask.com](http://www.keeyask.com)).

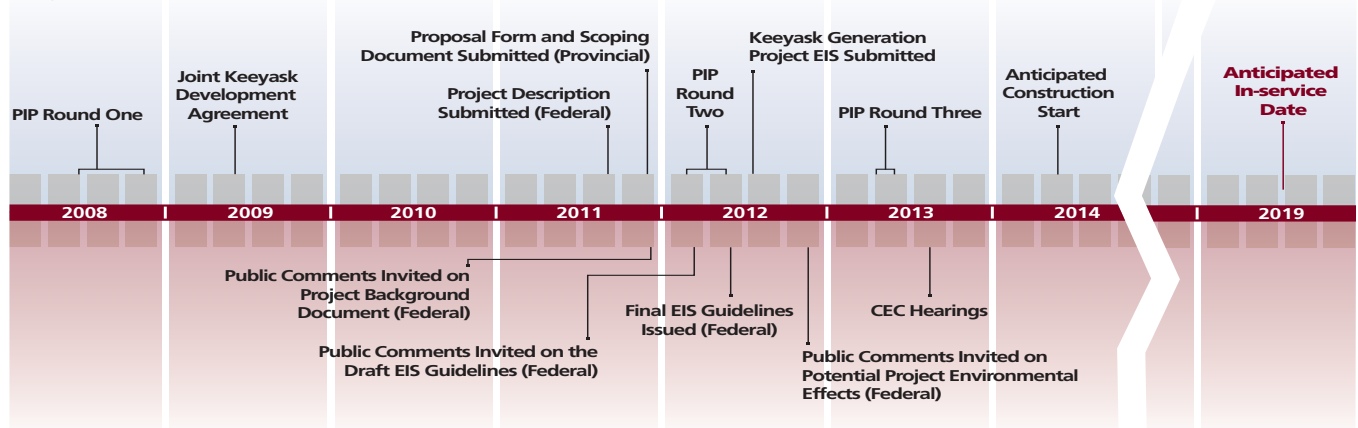
# The Environmental Assessment Process

For over a decade, Manitoba Hydro and the Keeyask Cree Nations worked together to collect and analyze information that contributed to the Project's EIS. In addition, the KCNs developed and undertook their own independent, community-specific processes to review and approve the Project. Over this time period, the

Partnership continued to identify ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate potential negative effects and enhance potential positive effects. Aboriginal traditional knowledge provided important perspectives on both the ecological and socio-economic implications of the Project. The Project is subject to an environmental

assessment under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* and *The Environment Act* (Manitoba) and must meet combined federal and provincial regulatory requirements before it can be built. Provincial and federal regulators are working together in the environmental review process.

## Key Environmental Assessment Milestones



## Environmental Impact Assessment

The Partnership undertook an environmental assessment using both technical science and Aboriginal traditional knowledge, along with information gained through extensive public and government consultation and involvement. The purpose of the environmental assessment process was to identify potential effects of the Project and to develop measures to avoid and mitigate adverse effects and to enhance Project benefits. The results of the environmental assessment are documented in the EIS.

The EIS consists of:

- A Partnership video, *Keeyask: Our Story*, which presents the Keeyask Cree Nations' history and perspectives related to hydroelectric development. Presented through the lens of their holistic Cree worldview, it explains the difficult journey undertaken by the KCNs as they evaluated their concerns about the Project, the nature of their participation as Partners, and the independent decisions they each ultimately made to support the Project;

- An executive summary, highlighting findings and conclusions from the EIS submission to regulatory authorities;
- The Response to the EIS Guidelines, which provides information required in guidelines issued by Canada on March 30, 2012, in response to an application by the Partnership for environmental approvals under the government regulatory environmental assessment process;
- The Keeyask Cree Nations Environmental Evaluation Reports providing each of the Keeyask Cree Nations' own evaluation of the effects of the Project on their community and Members and including Aboriginal traditional knowledge relevant to the Partnership's response to the EIS Guidelines;
- Supporting volumes developed by the Manitoba Hydro environmental team in consultation with the KCNs and their Members.

The EIS included a cumulative environmental effects assessment of effects that are likely to



result from the Project in combination with other projects or activities that have been or will be carried out. The EIS is a primary source of information for the regulatory review under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* and *The Environment Act* (Manitoba).

Monitoring and follow-up activities will take place within an overall Environmental Protection Program prepared for the Project. The monitoring programs will use both technical science and Aboriginal traditional knowledge to determine actual effects of the Project, including: whether they are consistent with the predictions in the environmental impact assessment; the effectiveness of mitigation measures; and whether further measures are required to address Project effects.

## Environmental Effects Identified in the Public Involvement Program

The following outlines the findings of the Environmental Assessment based on the issues that were most prominently raised in Rounds One and Two of the Public Involvement Program:



● **Caribou:** Noise, blasting, vehicle traffic and the presence of humans have the potential to disturb caribou during construction. In addition, flooding of the reservoir and clearing for infrastructure such as the camp and access roads will result in habitat loss, alteration and fragmentation. Potential effects to some areas of caribou calving habitat were avoided by modifying Project areas. Impacts will be further minimized by limiting clearing and blasting activity during calving season. Overall effects to caribou are expected to be adverse but regionally acceptable because habitat loss is small compared to its widespread regional availability, and there is a negligible change to intactness and mortality.

● **Employment and Training:** More than 4,000 person-years\* of Project employment over eight-and-a-half years will help build skills, capacity, job experience and economic benefits for Manitobans, but will especially help northern workers to sustain employment once the Project is complete. Preference measures are included in the Burntwood-Nelson Agreement for employing qualified KCNs Members, other Aboriginal and other northern residents. Measures to retain workers at the site will include cultural training, counselling services, on-site KCNs liaison workers and an Aboriginal union representative; and over 180 long-term operational jobs are targeted for KCNs Members over the next 20 years.

● **Flooding, Erosion, Sedimentation and Debris:** The construction of the reservoir will flood an area of about 45 km<sup>2</sup>, comprising mostly boreal forest and peatlands. During the first 30 years of operation the reservoir will expand in area by 7-8 km<sup>2</sup> because of shoreline erosion and peatland disintegration. The following plans and measures will be implemented to mitigate the effects of sediment and debris: the Reservoir Clearing Plan to remove inundated trees and woody vegetation, the Waterways Management Program to manage reservoir debris, and the Sediment Management Plan to manage suspended sediment concentrations during construction.

● **Lake Sturgeon:** Construction and operation of the Project will affect lake sturgeon and their habitat. Due to historic population declines caused by commercial over-harvest and past hydroelectric developments, and concerns about a continuing decline in numbers, the Partnership has focused considerable effort on finding ways to mitigate effects of the Project on lake sturgeon. Mitigation measures include the construction of new spawning habitat downstream of the generating station and a long-term conservation-stocking program that will increase sturgeon numbers in the region.

● **Mercury, Fish and Human Health:** Increased mercury levels, especially in jackfish and pickerel in Gull Lake and to a lesser extent in Stephens Lake, are expected during the period after impoundment. Efforts have been made to develop mitigation measures so that KCNs Members can continue to safely eat nutritious country foods from the land and waters over the 30 years it is expected to take until mercury levels return to current levels. Mitigation measures also include developing a risk-communications strategy for the KCNs, Gillam and other users of Gull and Stephens lakes.

● **Water Quality:** During construction, effects to water quality will be managed to avoid harmful effects to aquatic life in the Nelson River and Stephens Lake. The largest effects to water quality in the newly formed reservoir will occur in the first years after the station is constructed, particularly in shallow flooded areas. There will be little or no detectable change in water quality in the main flow of the Nelson River and downstream due to the large volume of water flowing in the river. Overall, water quality will always be suitable for aquatic life in the main part of the reservoir, and it will be suitable at most locations and at most times in the flooded area.

*More detailed information on potential effects, mitigation/enhancement and residual effects, including those identified during the Public Involvement Program, are included in the Keeyask Generation Project Executive Summary and EIS (notably in The Response to EIS Guidelines).*

## How to Get Involved in the Process

### Next Steps

The Manitoba Clean Environment Commission (CEC) public hearings are expected to take place in the latter part of 2013. The terms of reference which specify the scope of the CEC review were provided to the CEC in November 2012 by the Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship (see CEC website at [www.cecmanitoba.ca](http://www.cecmanitoba.ca)).



Gull Rapids on the Nelson River.



## Do You Have Questions, Concerns or Issues About the Proposed Project?

We invite you to contact us at the address below with any questions, concerns or issues you may have about the proposed Project.

### Mailing Address

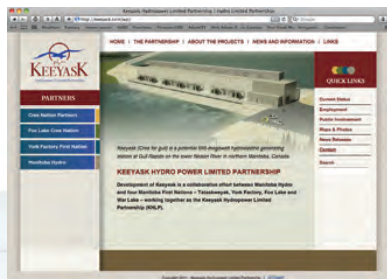
Keeyask Project  
Public Involvement Program  
c/o Major Projects Assessment  
and Licensing Department  
Manitoba Hydro  
360 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0G8

### Email Address

[Keeyask@hydro.mb.ca](mailto:Keeyask@hydro.mb.ca)

### Website Address

[www.keeyask.com](http://www.keeyask.com)



**Project documents are also available at** the Manitoba Conservation Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch Public Registry website (<http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/eal/registries/index.html>) or at Manitoba Conservation's Public Registries listed below:

- Millennium Public Library, 3rd Floor, 251 Donald St., Winnipeg
- Manitoba Eco-Network, 3rd Floor, 303 Portage Ave., Winnipeg
- Thompson Public Library, 81 Thompson Dr., Thompson
- Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, 701 Thompson Dr., Thompson
- Tataskweyak Cree Nation Band Office, Split Lake
- War Lake First Nation Band Office, Ilford
- York Factory Future Development Office, York Landing
- Town Office of Gillam, 323 Railway Ave., Gillam





# Comment Form

**Round Three Public Involvement Program  
for the proposed Keeyask Generation Project**

*Please take this opportunity to fill-out this brief questionnaire based on the information provided at this event and speaking with the Study Team regarding the proposed Keeyask Generation Project. Please drop the completed comment form in the box provided.*

Overall, was this information session helpful in providing you with a general understanding of format and content of the Environmental Impact Statement that has been prepared for the Keeyask Generation Project?

\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_ No

If no, what additional information would have been helpful?

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Do you have any suggestions on how we could improve the environmental assessment Public Involvement Program?

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Do you have any further questions or comments about the environmental assessment process that has been undertaken for the Keeyask Generation Project?

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Do you have any additional comments about the Keeyask Generation Project?

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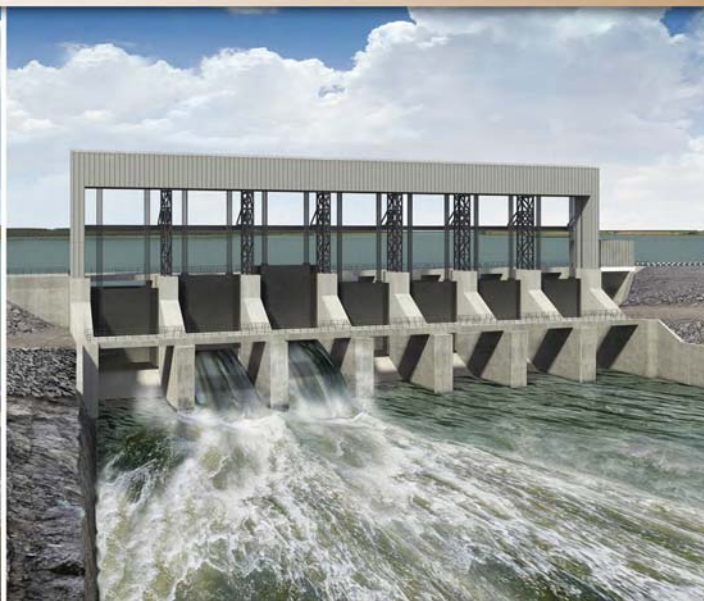
Thank you for taking the time to fill out the comment form. Your interest and participation are very important to the environmental assessment process.

For further information about the proposed Keeyask Project, please visit the Project website at [Keeyask.com](http://Keeyask.com) or for information about the public involvement program contact Harv Sawatzky of InterGroup Consultants at (204) 942-0654.

# Keeyask Generation Project

Keeyask kipayikani-atoskéwin

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**Environmental Impact Assessment  
Public Involvement Program  
Round Three**

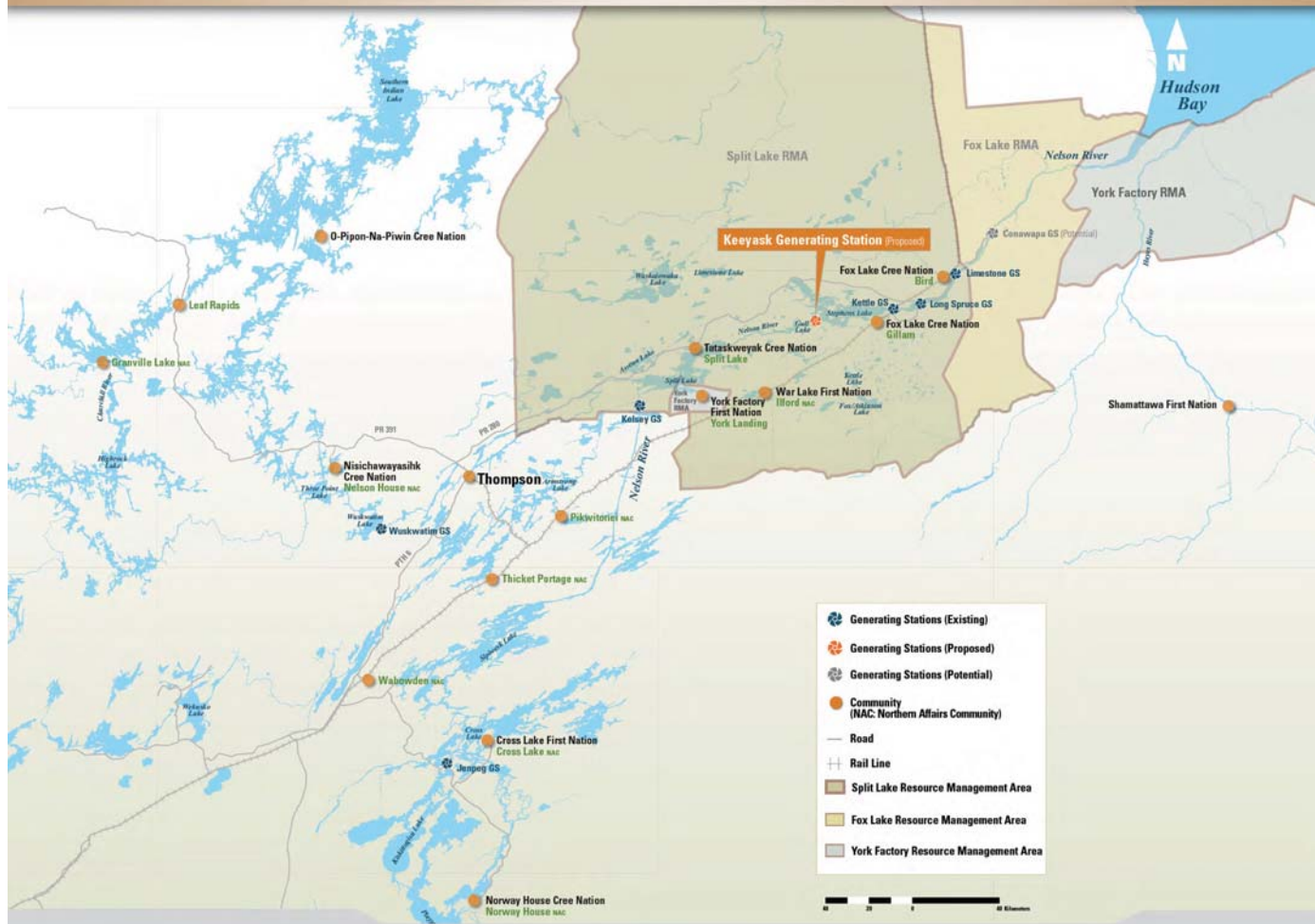
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Nistwáw mámawapiwin**

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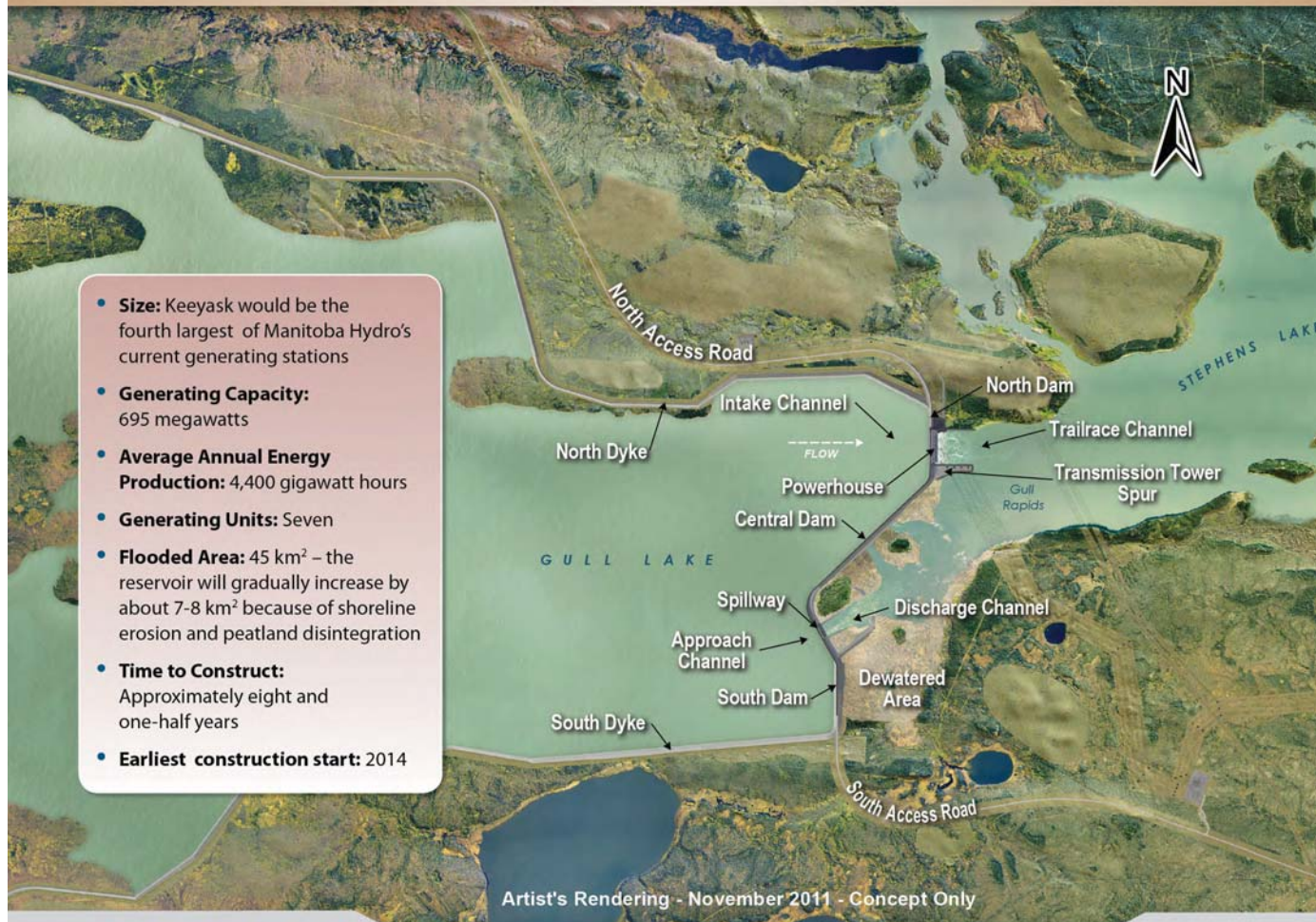




# Keeyask Project Location



# Keeyask Project Overview



# Round Three of the Public Involvement Program

## Round One Project Description and Issue Identification

### Purpose & Scope

- Initiate dialogue about the proposed Project
- Provide a description of the Project
- Identify issues and concerns
- Inform the public about the process/requirements and schedule for EA
- Determine how interested/affected parties would like to be involved in PIP
- Document what was heard

## Round Two Preliminary Environmental Assessment Results

### Purpose & Scope

- Describe Project features and changes since Round One
- Discuss initial findings (biophysical, socio-economic)
- Obtain input on possible mitigation measures
- Document what was heard

## Round Three Final Environmental Impact Statement Review

### Purpose & Scope

- Discuss format and content of EIS
- Discuss how the Round Two input was used in the EIS
- Communicate supplemental information
- Document what is heard

## Current Round

During the Public Involvement Program, other Aboriginal groups, other communities, interested groups and the general public raised many similar issues already identified by the Keeyask Cree Nations. These issues and perspectives helped to confirm the focus of the environmental assessment studies and the search for effective mitigation measures.



## Content of the Environmental Impact Statement



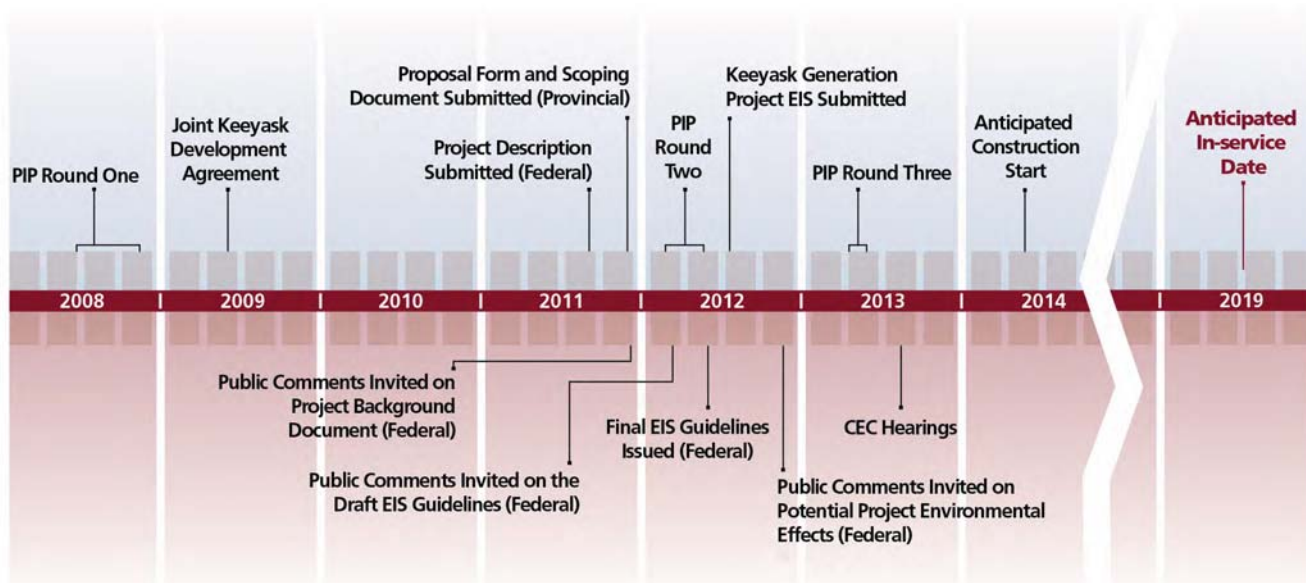
- 1 DVD, *Keeyask: Our Story*
- 2 Executive summary
- 3 Response to the EIS Guidelines
- 4 KCNs Environmental Evaluation Reports
- 5 Supporting volumes
- 6 Map Folio

### In the Executive Summary, the Partnership summarizes:

- Studies of 38 valued environmental components including 18 biophysical components and 20 socio-economic components; and
- The environmental effects assessment contained in the Response to EIS Guidelines.



# Key Environmental Assessment Milestones



# Cree Nation Partners Environmental Evaluation Report

- From 1998 to 2009, the Cree Nation Partners (CNP), comprised of Tataskweyak Cree Nation and War Lake First Nation, undertook to conduct an evaluation of the anticipated environmental effects of Keeyask on themselves. This assessment resulted in the Cree Nation Partners Environmental Evaluation Report (2012).
- CNP developed and used the Ancestral Homeland Ecosystem Model to assess the anticipated effects of Keeyask on themselves. The Model was used to compare the state of harmony and balance in their homeland ecosystem in its pre-contact state to their homeland ecosystem with the addition of the Keeyask Project, and by considering other important time periods after first contact (i.e. – present state, before hydro-electric development).
- By identifying and assessing anticipated impacts, CNP determined that the effects of Keeyask are best expressed as effects on CNP Members' vital relationships with Mother Earth and their ability to exercise their Treaty and Aboriginal Rights through activities which are integral to their distinctive cultural identity such as hunting, trapping, fishing and gathering.
- The CNP Environmental Evaluation Report tells the story of TCN and WLFN's approval of Keeyask by providing details regarding:
  - *Cree occupation of northern Manitoba for roughly 6000 years;*
  - *CNP's holistic Cree worldview;*
  - *The process used to identify and evaluate environmental effects;*
  - *The extensive consultation process used for CNP Members to consider and contribute to Keeyask;*
  - *CNP's influence on the design of the Keeyask project; and*
  - *Details of the negotiated agreements with Manitoba Hydro (JKDA, AEAs), including the expected economic and social benefits for each community.*
- By understanding the CNP evaluation, one can better understand TCN and WLFN's respective decisions to vote in favour of the Keeyask Project.

Ancestral Homeland Ecosystem Model



# Fox Lake Cree Nation Environmental Evaluation Report

- Since the early 2000s, FLCN and Manitoba Hydro have worked towards reaching a common understanding and establishing a mutually beneficial relationship
- FLCN ratified the JKDA on May 29, 2009 and, unlike the past, FLCN became a partner with extensive involvement in the Keeyask Generation Project development process. FLCN has completed several socio-cultural assessments on impacts of past and future developments including:
  - The FLCN History Document, Video, and Archiving Project;
  - The Keeyask Traditional Knowledge Program; and
  - The Preliminary Traditional Knowledge Study on Sturgeon.
- Through this involvement, FLCN hopes to be better prepared to work towards the institutions and processes our people know are needed to mitigate the negative impacts of the Project. In partnership with Manitoba Hydro, the FLCN will take the opportunity to recover, to prosper and to rebuild from the social, cultural, economic and human impacts of past hydro development projects.
- FLCN will continue to struggle with utilizing hydro development to assist in the goal of again living mino pimatisiwin. FLCN recognizes that the Project will change the landscape even further and will have further impacts on our people. The anticipation of hydro development alone raises fear in the hearts and minds of those that have experienced hydro development. However, it is this same fear that drives FLCN and our people into working to ensure there is no repeat of the past and that there is maximum opportunity for our people to become proud and healthy people.



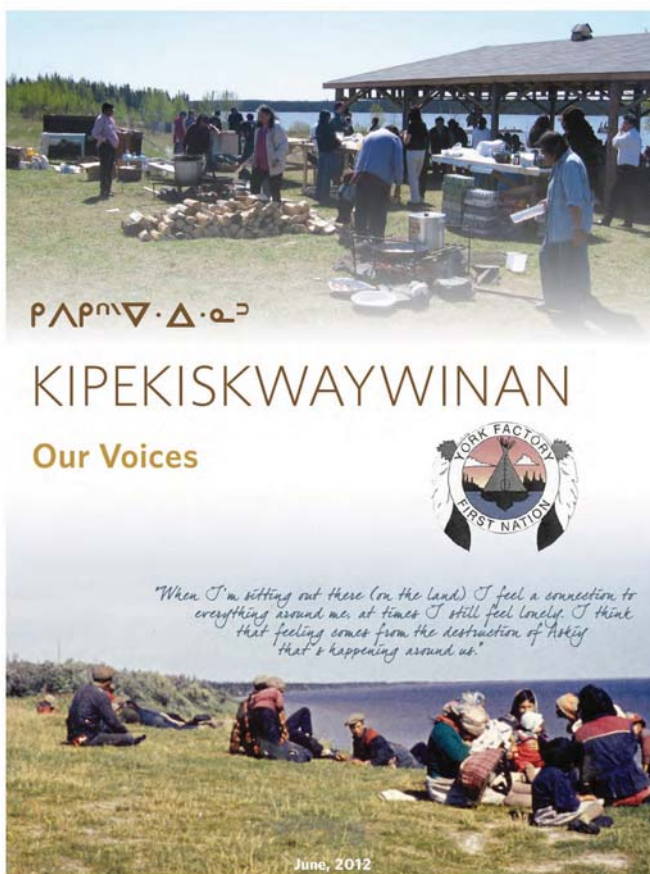
# Kipekiskwaywinan – “Our Voices”

**Kipekiskwaywinan** is York Factory First Nation's Evaluation Report for the Keeyask Project.

**Kipekiskwaywinan** means “Our Voices” in the Cree language.

It explains our community's history, experience and traditional knowledge. It tells our story about what the Keeyask Project means to us and how we came to be a partner in the **Keeyask Partnership**.

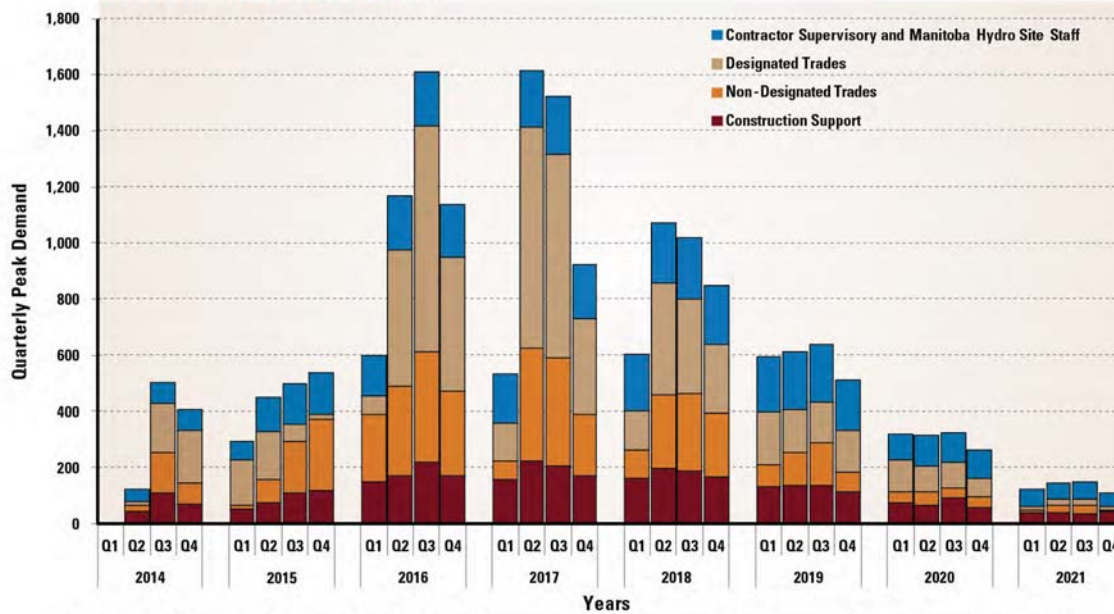
Copies have been handed out to York Landing households and are also available at the Future Development Office.





# Employment and Training

Construction Peak Employment

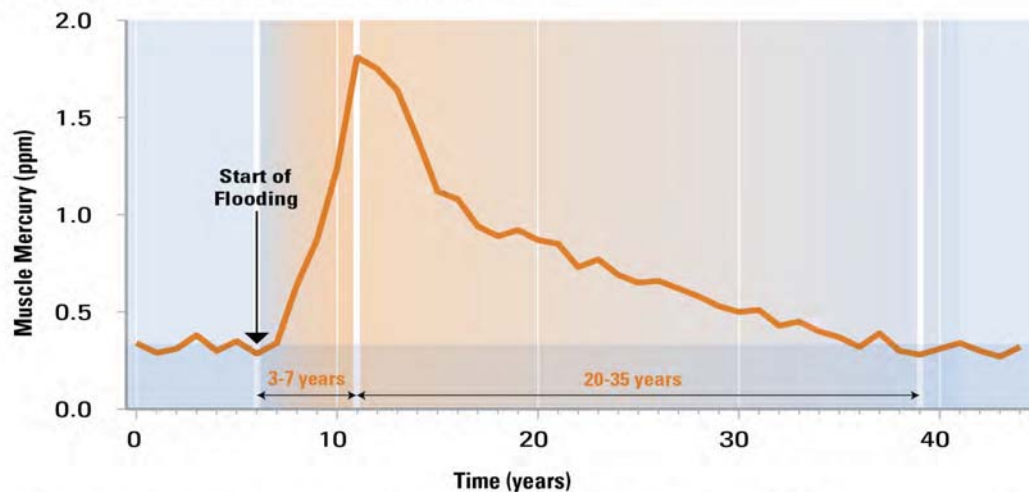


- More than 4,000 person-years of Project employment over eight-and-a-half years will help build skills, capacity, job experience and economic benefits for Manitobans, but especially will help northern workers to sustain employment once the Project is complete.
- Preference measures are included in the Burntwood-Nelson Agreement for employing qualified Keeyask Cree Nations Members, other Aboriginal and other northern residents.
- Measures to retain workers at the site will include cultural training, counselling services, on-site Keeyask Cree Nations liaison workers and an Aboriginal union representative.



## Mercury, Fish and Human Health

**Typical Time Course of Mercury Concentrations in Predatory Fish After Reservoir Flooding in Northern Manitoba**



- Increased mercury levels, especially in jackfish and pickerel in Gull Lake and to a lesser extent in Stephens Lake, are expected during the period after impoundment.
- Efforts have been made to develop mitigation measures so that Keeyask Cree Nations Members can continue to safely eat nutritious country foods from the land and waters over the 30 years it is expected to take until mercury levels return to current levels.
- Mitigation measures also include developing a risk-communications strategy for Keeyask Cree Nations, Gillam and other users of Gull and Stephens lakes.



## Flooding, Erosion, Sedimentation and Debris

- The construction of the Keeyask reservoir will flood an area of about 45 km<sup>2</sup>, comprising mostly boreal forest and peatlands.
- The Project has been designed so that water levels on Split Lake or Clark Lake will not be affected during open-water conditions.
- The reservoir level will fluctuate within a narrow 1m range to minimize environmental effects.
- During the first 30 years of operation the reservoir will expand in area by about 7-8 km<sup>2</sup> because of shoreline erosion and peatland disintegration.
- During construction, effects on erosion and sediment after mitigation are expected to be moderate and they will be addressed through careful construction management.
- During operation, the concentration of suspended sediment in the reservoir is expected to be lower with the Project than in the existing environment.
- The following plans and measures will be implemented to mitigate the effects of sediment and debris:
  - The Reservoir Clearing Plan to remove trees and woody vegetation before the reservoir is flooded;
  - The Waterways Management Program to manage debris once the reservoir is impounded (removal / prevention); and
  - A Sediment Management Plan to monitor the effects of construction activity on suspended sediment concentrations in the river.



# Water Quality



*View north across Gull Rapids, with the south channel in the foreground and the middle channel in the background. Once the Project is complete, both sets of rapids and much of the island between them will form part of the Keeeyask reservoir.*



*Laboratory analysis of samples.*

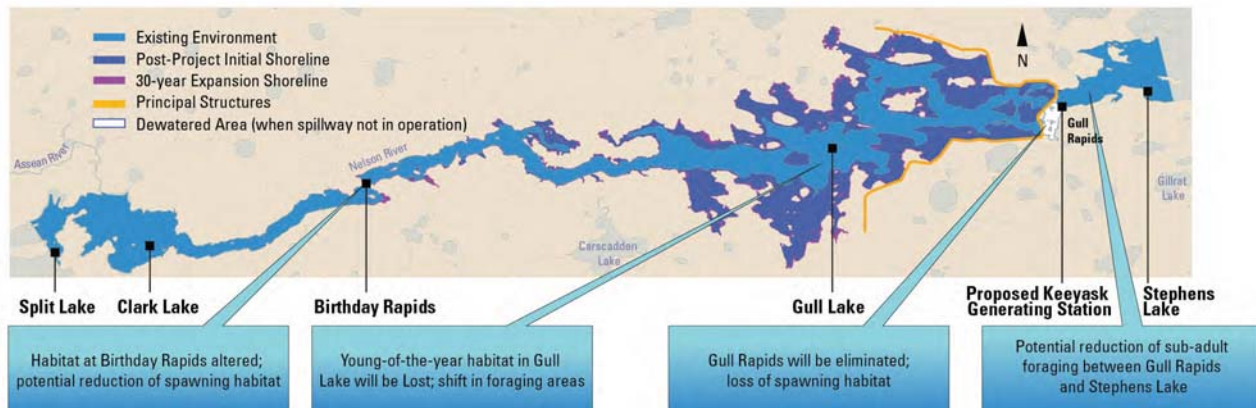


*Winter water-quality sampling on Split Lake.*

- During construction, effects to water quality will be managed to avoid harmful effects to aquatic life in the Nelson River and Stephens Lake.
- The largest effects to water quality in the newly formed reservoir will occur in the first years after the generating station is constructed, particularly in shallow flooded areas.
- There will be little or no detectable change in water quality in the main flow of the Nelson River and downstream due to the large volume of water flowing in the river.
- Overall, water quality will always be suitable for aquatic life in the main part of the reservoir, and will be suitable at most locations and most times of the year in the flooded area.



# Lake Sturgeon



- Construction and operation of the Keeyask Project will affect lake sturgeon and their habitat.
- Due to historic population declines caused by commercial over-harvest and past hydroelectric developments, and concerns about a continuing decline in numbers, the Partnership has focused considerable effort on finding ways to mitigate effects of the Project on lake sturgeon.
- Mitigation measures include the following:
  - A new spawning habitat will be constructed downstream of the generating station;
  - If monitoring shows that habitat to support all life stages of lake sturgeon is no longer available, additional replacement habitat will be developed; and
  - A long-term conservation-stocking program will increase sturgeon numbers in the region.



# Caribou



*Summer resident bull caribou in the Keeyask region.*



*Coastal caribou in the Keeyask region.*



*Barren-ground caribou in the Keeyask Region.*

- During construction, noise, blasting, vehicle traffic and the presence of humans have the potential to disturb caribou. In addition, flooding of the reservoir and clearing for infrastructure such as the camp and access roads will result in habitat loss, alteration and fragmentation.
- Potential effects to some areas of caribou calving habitat were avoided by modifying Project areas. Impacts will be further minimized by limiting clearing and blasting activity during calving season.
- Overall effects to caribou are expected to be adverse but regionally acceptable because habitat loss is small compared to its widespread regional availability, and there is a negligible change to intactness and mortality.



## Heritage Resources



*Artifacts collected during archaeological excavations (2003-2010) include items such as buckles, beads, projectiles and pottery.*

- An extensive program has been undertaken to identify heritage resources that the Project will disturb during construction or through flooding once the Project is in operation.
- Heritage resources will be salvaged to enable long-term preservation of portable artifacts and to enhance public and local heritage awareness through education kits, interpretive displays and other forms of cultural media.
- A cemetery, prepared and consecrated for the reburial of human remains found during construction and operation of the Project, including a memorial marker, will be developed in an area selected by Tataskweyak Cree Nation, in consultation with the other Partners. Keeyask Cree Nations Members will be involved in identifying and contributing to impact management measures at important spiritual and heritage sites.



# Public Registries and Contact Information

We invite you to talk with one of the Project representatives at the meeting today or to contact us at the address below with any questions or issues you may have about the proposed Project.

## Contact Information

### Keeyask Hydropower Limited Partnership

#### Public Involvement Program

c/o Major Projects Assessment and

Licensing Department

Manitoba Hydro

360 Portage Avenue (15<sup>th</sup> floor)

Winnipeg, MB R3C 0G8

**Website Address:** [www.keeyask.com](http://www.keeyask.com)

**Email Address:** [Keeyask@hydro.mb.ca](mailto:Keeyask@hydro.mb.ca)

#### The Environmental Impact Statement for the Keeyask Project is available at the following Public Registry locations:

- Millennium Public Library, 3rd Floor, 251 Donald St., Winnipeg
- Manitoba Eco-Network, 3rd Floor, 303 Portage Ave., Winnipeg
- Thompson Public Library, 81 Thompson Dr., Thompson
- Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, 701 Thompson Dr., Thompson
- Tataskweyak Cree Nation Band office
- War Lake First Nation Band Office, Ilford
- York Factory Future Development Office, York Landing
- Town Office of Gillam, 323 Railway Ave., Gillam.

#### Electronic registry:

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/eal/index.html>







## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

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[Current Public Involvement Events](#)

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## Current Public Involvement Events

The third round of the Keeyask Public Involvement Program is underway. The objective of this third and final round of engagement is to discuss format and content of the Environmental Impact Statement, communicate supplemental information, and document what is heard. The comments and input received in Round 3 will be submitted in a supplemental filing to the Environmental Impact Statement.

Open houses are planned for two communities, including the following:

### THOMPSON OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, May 16 (4:00-8:00 pm) at the Thompson Regional Community Centre

### WINNIPEG OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, May 23 (4:00-8:00 pm) at the Norwood Hotel at 112 Marion Street in Winnipeg

For more information about the Public Involvement Program please contact Manitoba Hydro at (204) 360-3473 or e-mail [Keeyask@hydro.mb.ca](mailto:Keeyask@hydro.mb.ca).



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## Public Involvement Documents

### Round One

[Keeyask Generation Project Newsletter – Round One, May 2008](#) (PDF)

[Keeyask Generation Project information panels – Round One](#) (PDF)

[Keeyask Generation Project Round One Summary Report](#) (PDF)

### Round Two

[Keeyask Generation Project Newsletter – Round Two Feb 2012](#) (PDF)

[Keeyask Generation Project Round Two Information Panels](#) (PDF)

[Keeyask Generation Project Round Two Summary Report](#) (PDF)

### Round Three

[Keeyask Generation Project Newsletter – Round Three](#) (PDF)

[Keeyask Generation Project Round Three Information Panels](#) (PDF)

Keeyask Generation Project Round Three Summary Report



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**Public Involvement**

Public involvement is key for the project’s environmental impact assessment activities, which will involve three rounds of consultation.

The public involvement process will provide opportunities for people to receive information and identify issues and potential effects about the proposed project, so they can be considered while the project is still in the planning stage.

**Round One of Public Involvement**

The Project was introduced to communities in northern Manitoba and other potentially interested/affected organizations in 2008. Comments received from participants were documented and include the following perspectives:

- Communities were positive about potential employment and training opportunities associated with the Project and provided comments on how best to participate in this opportunity.
- Concerns were raised about the effects of Project flooding on various fish and animals species (e.g., sturgeon, caribou). Potentially elevated mercury levels caused by Project flooding were also concerns raised by a number of northern communities.
- Concerns were raised about Project effects on resource users (e.g., trappers) and cultural sites (e.g., burial sites) and the need to have these issues considered in the environmental assessment



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## Public Involvement Plan

A **Public Involvement Plan (PIP)** was jointly developed by KCN and Manitoba Hydro in the fall of 2007 to guide engagement activities with Aboriginal communities and stakeholders beyond the in-vicinity KCN's.

Project engagement and consultation activities will be provided at key stages in the environmental review and planning process. Three extensive rounds of information-gathering and consultation activities are anticipated in the planning process.

### Stages of Public Involvement for the Keeyask Generation Project

#### ROUND ONE Project Description and Issue Identification

**PURPOSE & SCOPE**

- Initiate dialogue about proposed project
- Provide a description of the project
- Identify issues and concerns
- Inform public about the process/requirements and schedule for EA
- Determine how interested/affected parties would like to be involved in PIP
- Document what was heard

#### ROUND TWO Preliminary Environmental Assessment Results

**PURPOSE & SCOPE**

- Describe project features and changes since Round One
- Discuss initial findings (biophysical, socio-economic)
- Obtain input on possible mitigation measures
- Document what was heard

#### ROUND THREE Final Environmental Impact Statement Review

**PURPOSE & SCOPE**

- Discuss format and content of EIS
- Communicate supplemental information
- Document what was heard

### Round One of the Public Involvement Program

Round One PIP activities occurred between June 2008 and November 2008, focusing on communities in northern Manitoba and potentially interested/affected organizations. Its purpose was to:

- Introduce the public to the proposed Project;
- Learn about any issues or concerns the public had about the Project; and
- Hear from the public how they wished to be consulted in future rounds of the PIP.

Consultation has focused primarily on communities in the Churchill-Burntwood-Nelson area beyond the Keeyask Cree Nations, including First Nations, Gillam, Thompson, Churchill, Leaf Rapids and Northern Affairs communities. In addition, open houses were held in Winnipeg and Brandon.

A variety of public involvement methods were utilized during Round One including:

- Informal meetings with community leadership;
- Community information session following the meetings with the community leadership;
- Public open houses;
- Workshops; and
- Meetings with organizations.



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### Round Two of the Public Involvement Program

Round Two of the Public Involvement Program occurred between February 2012 and May 2012. The focus of Round Two was to inform participants about changes in the Project from Round One, provide responses to questions raised in Round One and illustrate how the received input influenced the Project design and assessment. Public Involvement Program participants were also given opportunities to offer comments and provide input on preliminary results of the biophysical and socio-economic assessments of the Project and encouraged to offer suggestions for avoiding or minimizing potential adverse effects. The comments and input received in Round Two were used as part of finalizing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

### Round Three of the Public Involvement Program

Round Three of the Public Involvement Program occurred between April and July 2013. The focus of Round Three was to discuss the format and content of the EIS; how input received to date influenced the Project assessment; communicate supplemental information since the filing of the EIS with Regulators in 2012; and document what was heard. Round Three meetings were held with communities in the Churchill-Burntwood-Nelson area as well as with communities, organizations, and other Aboriginal groups that may be potentially affected by or interested in the Project. Public open houses occurred in Thompson and Winnipeg. Results of Round Three have been summarized in a report and filed as supplemental information for the regulatory process. The report is available on the Project website ([www.Keevask.com](http://www.Keevask.com)).

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