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2020 01 10

Director  
Environmental Approvals Branch  
Manitoba Conservation and Climate  
1007 Century Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3H 0W4

**RE: KEYYASK GENERATION PROJECT – NOTICE OF ALTERATION, CHANGE OF TIMING OF WATER-UP AND IMPOUNDMENT  
ENVIRONMENT ACT LICENCE NO. 3107, CLIENT FILE 5550.00**

Manitoba Hydro, pursuant to its contract to manage construction of the Keeyask Generation Project, is submitting a notice of alteration to Environment Act Licence (EAL) No. 3107 to change the timing of water-up and impoundment.

The Keeyask Generation Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) assessed effects of reservoir impoundment and associated removal of structures between August and October 2019. Water-up and Impoundment of the Keeyask Reservoir to elevation 159m is now proposed to commence in February 2020. This will allow the Project to achieve the earliest first power in-service date and will lower construction risks and related costs (a fall water-up and impoundment timing has significant cost implications given the current construction schedule).

An environmental review was undertaken to assess the potential environmental effects of water-up and impoundment (and associated work) commencing in February 2020 under ice conditions rather than open water. This review is attached. The EIS provides the overall project effects whereas the attached review focuses on any incremental effects of water-up and impoundment commencing in February 2020. Taking into account the additional proposed mitigation, it is not anticipated that there will be any additional environmental effects of significance due to undertaking reservoir water-up and impoundment and the associated removal of structures under ice conditions.

An application will also be made to Fisheries and Oceans Canada requesting a modification to the conditions outlined in section 2.1.1 of the Fisheries Act Authorization, specifically to conduct in-stream work during the DFO Northern Manitoba restricted activity timing windows.

Extensive efforts to review and discuss the updated timing of water-up and impoundment with Tataskweyak Cree Nation, War Lake First Nation, York Factory First Nation and Fox Lake Cree Nation have taken place since April 2019. Concerns about the timing of impoundment

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during the winter months were raised by all four First Nations. To address key concerns, Manitoba Hydro proposed a series of additional mitigation measures and these are documented in the attached review. Manitoba Hydro reviewed the predicted effects, key concerns heard to date and proposed mitigation and monitoring measures with representatives of these First Nations.

We understand as of the date of this letter that the leadership of these four First Nations are opposed to the change in the timing of water-up and impoundment.

If additional information is required, please contact Jodine MacDuff at 204-250-1017.

Yours truly,



Dave Bowen, P. Eng, M.Sc  
Director, Keeyask Project  
Generation & Wholesale

Att.