

2020 09 09

Eshetu Beshada, PhD, P.Eng.  
Environmental Engineer  
Municipal and Industrial Section  
Environmental Approvals Branch  
Manitoba Conservation & Climate

Dear Dr. Beshada,

As you know, a condition of our Environment Act Licence 1645R5 is to complete CEMS audits and RATA tests on a recurring timetable. The former is required every year and the latter every two years for both natural gas-fired units at Selkirk GS. Our schedule requires both CEMS and RATA this year. However, problems with Unit 1 and the declaration of the pandemic in March prevented that work at Selkirk GS. Since that time, Manitoba Hydro decided to discontinue operations at the GS. Manitoba Hydro expects operations to end by December 2020 or January 2021.

Meanwhile, a critical component of Unit 1 remains inoperable. With the decision to cease operations now made, repairs to Unit 1 will not take place. Unit 2 is on standby and ready to operate but will only do so if a serious power supply emergency develops in the province over the next few months. Decisions concerning decommissioning are pending but the GS will not produce power after at least January 2021.

With cessation of operations in three to four months, Manitoba Hydro considers CEMS and RATA work no longer necessary at Selkirk GS, including in 2020. The tests are meant to assure atmospheric emissions remain within licensed control limits and that instrumentation to monitor emissions functions properly. However, the units at the GS will not produce emissions again, emergency situations notwithstanding. Manitoba Hydro requests that you exempt this Licence requirement under the current circumstances and with the future of the GS in mind.

Please consider this request and provide your written response. Preparation for CEMS and RATA work will not proceed in the interest of COVID-19 safety; the contractors who perform this work travel from outside the province. Also note Unit 2 would only operate to complete RATA tests, withdrawing water and creating atmospheric and other emissions for no other purpose. If you require additional information, please contact me.

Eshetu Beshada

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Yours truly,



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