



**Conservation and Water Stewardship**

Environmental Stewardship Division  
Environmental Approvals Branch  
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**Client File 5550.00**

January 22, 2015

Dave Bowen, P. Eng, M Sc  
Keeyask Project Manager  
Manitoba Hydro  
360 Portage Ave (17)  
Winnipeg MB R3C 0G8

Dear Mr. Bowen:

**Re: Environment Act Licence No. 3107 – Notice of Alteration**

This letter acknowledges receipt of your letter, dated January 12, 2015, and Ms. Jodine McDuff's email, dated January 16, 2015 regarding a proposed alteration to the Keeyask Generating Station (KGS) Environment Act Licence to undertake cutting and blasting of border ice to facilitate the formation of an ice bridge upstream of the KGS in-stream construction site.

The original proposal upon which the licence was based was to install a boom upstream of the construction to act as a "seed" to cause a stable ice bridge and sheet cover behind the boom. You have advised that this approach has not been successful and that the lack of a stable ice cover presents extreme risk for the KGS project in terms of: project delays over a year and catastrophic failure of the boom resulting in adverse impacts to fish habitat and project infrastructure.

The Notice of Alteration identifies three potential border ice sites (Site 1, 2 and 3) that provide the best opportunity for ensuring success. The proposed methods for liberating the ice include a combination of ice cutting and blasting using detonation cord and conventional underwater blasting, if necessary.

Ms. McDuff's email provided additional information regarding the preferred option for cutting and blasting with detonation cord only at Site 1.

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship (MCWS) has reviewed the proposed alteration and the potential impacts of the proposed measures to aquatic species, notably the local adult Lake Sturgeon population. MCWS is satisfied that Manitoba Hydro has demonstrated that the potential environmental effects resulting from the preferred option at Site 1 can be mitigated. Based on MCWS's review of the proposed alteration, a limited approval of the Notice of Alteration is hereby approved pursuant to Section 14(2) of the Environment Act for ice cutting

and the use of detonation cord at Site 1 with the following conditions:

- where practical, scare techniques shall be used at three locations near the shoreline along the Site 1 outline in consultation with Fisheries Branch; and
- post-blast monitoring and reporting shall be conducted as described in Manitoba Hydro's email dated January 16, 2015.

Please be advised that this approval does not include authorization for underwater blasting at Site 1 or for any other blasting (detonation cord or conventional underwater) at Site 2 or Site 3. Should you have any questions about the review process, please contact Darrell Ouimet at (204) 803-1389 or [Darrell.Ouimet@gov.mb.ca](mailto:Darrell.Ouimet@gov.mb.ca).

Yours truly,  
*“original signed by”*

Tracey Braun, M. Sc.  
Director

cc. Don Labossiere, Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship  
Pierce Roberts, Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship  
Public Registries