

Environmental Stewardship Division Environmental Approvals Branch 1007 Century Street, Winnipeg Manitoba R3H 0W4 T 204-945-8321 F 204-945-5229 www.gov.mb.ca/sd

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February 19, 2020

Dave Bowen, P. Eng., M. Sc. Director, Keeyask Project Generation and Wholesale Manitoba Hydro 360 Portage Avenue (17) Winnipeg MB R3C 0G8 <u>dbowen@hydro.mb.ca</u>

Dear Mr. Bowen:

## Re: Keeyask Generation Project – Notice of Alteration concerning Water-up and Impoundment Environment Act Licence No. 3107

This is in response to your Notice of Alteration filed on behalf of the Keeyask Hydropower Limited Partnership on January 10, 2020. The alteration involves a change in the timing of water-up and impoundment for the Keeyask Generation Project, specifically from a fall event to a winter event, commencing in February, 2020.

The environmental review provided with the Notice of Alteration indicates that the incremental environmental effects of the alteration are insignificant. I concur with this assessment. Accordingly, the alteration is approved pursuant to Section 14(2) of The Environment Act. All mitigation measures and monitoring described in the environmental review shall be implemented. This includes mitigation measures to be implemented if backwater effects resulting from impoundment are observed on Clark Lake, and mitigation measures in case migratory caribou are observed in the Keeyask area.

I note that concerns with the alteration have been identified to me by Tataskweyak Cree Nation, York Factory First Nation, Fox Lake Cree Nation and War Lake First Nation, and that these concerns have not been resolved. While my approval of the alteration is based on the environmental review provided, I consider that choosing to proceed with the alteration under the circumstances is a matter for the Keeyask Hydropower Limited Partnership to resolve.

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Yours truly,

3. Kohlly

Shannon Kohler Director Environment Act

c: Peter Crocker/Cristal Huculak, Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Neil Fisher, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Tataskweyak Cree Nation: Chief Doreen Spence, Peter W. Jones, Legal Counsel York Factory First Nation: Chief Leroy Constant, Bradley Regehr, Legal Counsel Fox Lake Cree Nation: Chief Billy Beardy, Mark Beard, Legal Counsel War Lake First Nation: Chief Betsy Kennedy, Michael Cobb, Advisor Public Registries