

CHURCHILL RIVER DIVERSION

The table below details some of the common issues expressed by Indigenous communities with corresponding conditions required for Manitoba Hydro to address those concerns.

- The new licensing conditions stipulated in the Churchill River Diversion are to address concerns.
- The Licence Cover Letter contains additional conditions that require Manitoba Hydro to take more immediate steps to address issues.
- Licensing and non-licensing conditions impose new conditions or direct Manitoba Hydro to continue mitigation activities already underway.

Issue	New Conditions to Further Address Issues
<p>Water Level Fluctuations Communities expressed issues around water level fluctuations, noting the need for flexibility in the maximum upper water level. Communities also expressed that operating rules should be developed in consultation with communities to consider impacts to traditional use of the land.</p>	<p>Final Licence Conditions:</p> <p>7.8 The Licensee shall participate in future planning, studies and other initiatives as instructed by the Minister, in areas impacted by the Undertaking along with affected communities and other stakeholders.</p> <p>7.11 The Licensee shall submit an annual report to the Director documenting the Licensee’s engagement with Indigenous communities on the continued operation of the Undertaking.</p> <p>7.13 The Licensee shall, to the satisfaction of the Minister, prepare a licence implementation guide, within one year of the date of this Final Licence.</p> <p>Note: the Licence Implementation Guide will detail how Manitoba Hydro plans to meet the licensing and non-licensing conditions.</p> <p>The Licence Cover Letter also contains the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Licensee shall participate in the future licence modernization processes directed by the Province of Manitoba. The Province intends to evaluate The Water Power Act and Regulation to determine what amendments may be required for modernization. • The Licensee shall participate in any future large area planning initiative that may include studies, in areas impacted by hydroelectric development along with affected communities with other stakeholders.

<p>State of Local Fisheries Communities detailed the decline of their local fishery, including issues related to the commercial fishery as well as access to fish (sturgeon/whitefish) for sustenance and in traditional activities.</p>	<p>The License Cover Letter contains the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manitoba acknowledges the traditional importance of the fishery to Indigenous resource users, has heard their concerns about the ongoing impacts of the project, and recognizes the activities and Agreements that Manitoba Hydro has undertaken to address these impacts. In preparation for renewal of the Final Licence and participation in large area planning, it is expected that Manitoba Hydro will work with Manitoba to undertake studies that may be employed to improve the environment for fish downstream of Missi control structure. These may include habitat studies, investigating flow regime scenarios, and any associated analysis. • The Licensee shall continue to monitor and evaluate water quality, including toxicology and methylmercury (MeHg) in fish. <p>Final Licence Condition: 7.9 The Licensee shall, to the satisfaction of the Minister, continue to participate in a system-wide monitoring program in the lands and waters that are affected by the Undertaking, including Indigenous community participation and Indigenous traditional knowledge.</p>
<p>Shoreline Debris Accumulation: Communities attributed Manitoba Hydro’s operations as causing debris to accumulate in their local communities’ shorelines which caused environmental damage and issues related to water quality; transportation/navigation, access to lakes and shorelines; and impacts on wildlife.</p>	<p>Final Licence Condition: 7.10 The Licensee shall, to the satisfaction of the Minister, continue to implement a public safety and debris management program in lands and waters within the Severance Line, and report annually to the Director.</p>

<p>Shoreline Erosion Communities attributed shoreline erosion to Manitoba Hydro’s operations, leading to environmental damage including water quality issues; access to the shorelines; and impacts on wildlife.</p>	<p>Final Licence Condition: 7.12 The Licensee shall continue to evaluate, report, and implement options for mitigating shoreline erosion due to the Undertaking consistent with existing and future settlement agreements.</p> <p>The License Cover Letter contains the following condition: The Licensee shall work with Manitoba to expand the Coordinated Aquatics Monitoring Program to other areas including shoreline erosion, shoreline wetland issues (such as traditional plants, medicines and waterfowl) and monitoring of terrestrial and riparian components and shoreline health with the inclusion of Indigenous community participation and Indigenous traditional knowledge.</p> <p>Final Licence Condition: 7.8 The Licensee shall participate in future planning, studies and other initiatives as instructed by the Minister, in areas impacted by the Undertaking along with affected communities and other stakeholders.</p>
<p>Water Quality: Communities attributed declining water quality within the lakes and rivers to the CRD project.</p> <p>Related issues included too much silt in the water (reducing the oxygen in water), algae “green water”, rotting debris, and skin conditions in people.</p> <p>Mercury levels also increased due to the flooding following the CRD project, which impacted fish species and commercial fishing.</p>	<p>The License Cover Letter contains the following condition: The Licensee shall continue to monitor and evaluate water quality, including toxicology and methylmercury (MeHg) in fish.</p>