

Pointe du Bois Site and Slave Falls Generating Site
Water Power Act Short Term Extension Licence Requirement:
Winnipeg River Indigenous Engagement Report
June 16, 2022 to June 15, 2023

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Manitoba Hydro has a presence right across Manitoba, on Treaty 1, Treaty 2, Treaty 3, Treaty 4 and Treaty 5 lands – the original territories of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples – and the homeland of the Métis Nation.

We acknowledge these lands and pay our respects to the ancestors of these territories.

The legacy of the past remains a strong influence on Manitoba Hydro’s relationships with Indigenous communities today, and we remain committed to establishing and maintaining strong, mutually beneficial relationships with Indigenous communities.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

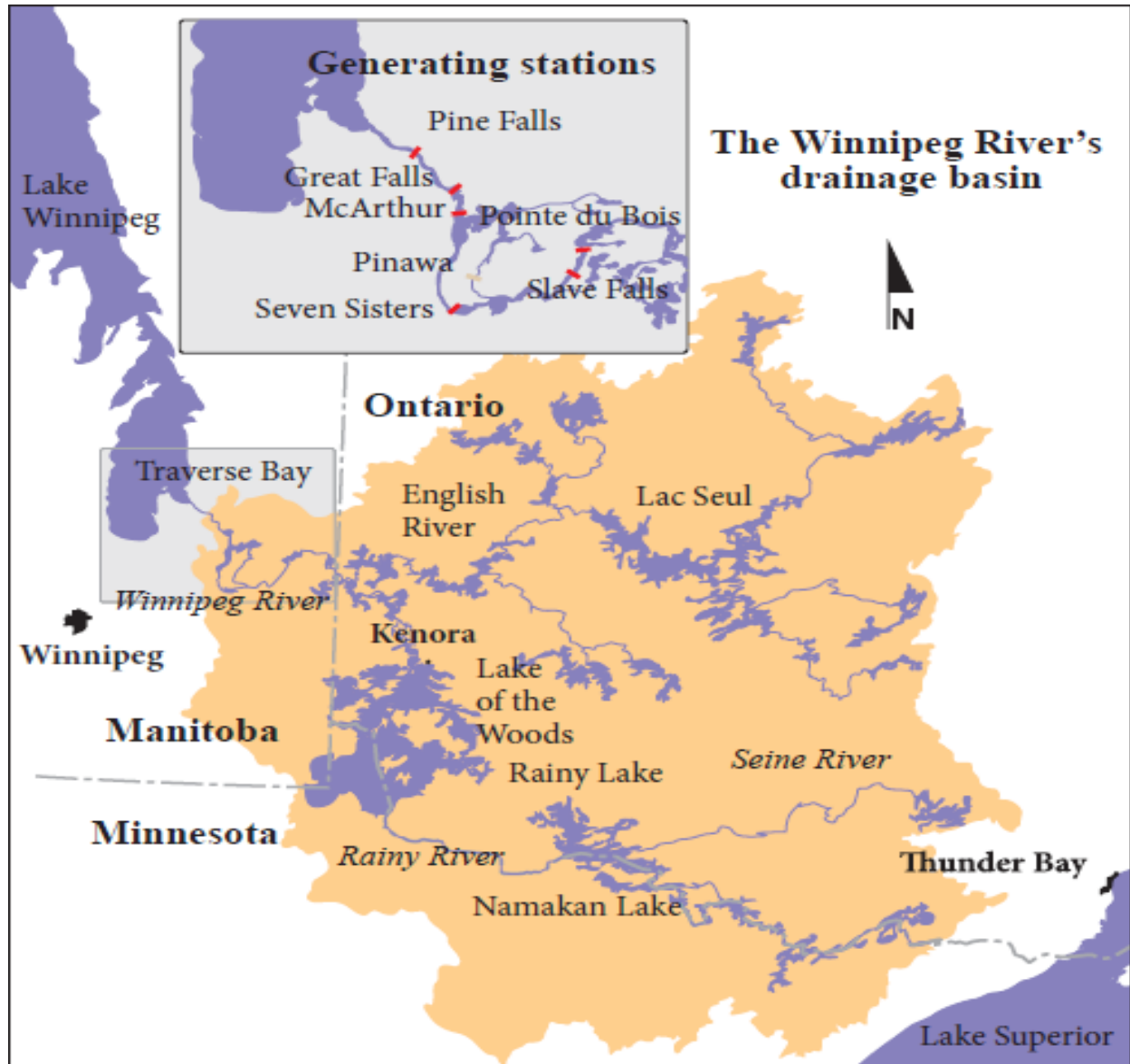
This report includes two sections:

- **Section 1 – Introduction:** This section of the submission provides background, purpose of the report and identifies communities included in the report.
- **Section 2 – Community-Specific Summaries:** These summaries describe the activities that have occurred with individual communities over the reporting period. The summaries are not intended to document every conversation between Manitoba Hydro and a particular community, but rather provide a general overview of activities and dialogue that have occurred over the June 16, 2022 to June 15, 2023 reporting period. The community-specific sections include information that may be considered private by individual communities, and are therefore submitted to satisfy conditions of the Water Power Act licences for the Pointe du Bois and Slave Falls Generating Stations but are not intended to be made public.

1.2 BACKGROUND

The Winnipeg River flows northwest from Lake of the Woods in Ontario to Lake Winnipeg in Manitoba. The river spans approximately 260 kilometers from the Norman Dam in Kenora to its mouth at Lake Winnipeg. The Winnipeg River watershed spans approximately 150 000 square kilometers in area, with two-thirds of this drainage basin area in northwestern Ontario, one-fifth in northern Minnesota and the remainder in eastern Manitoba.

Map 1.1: The Winnipeg River's Drainage Basin



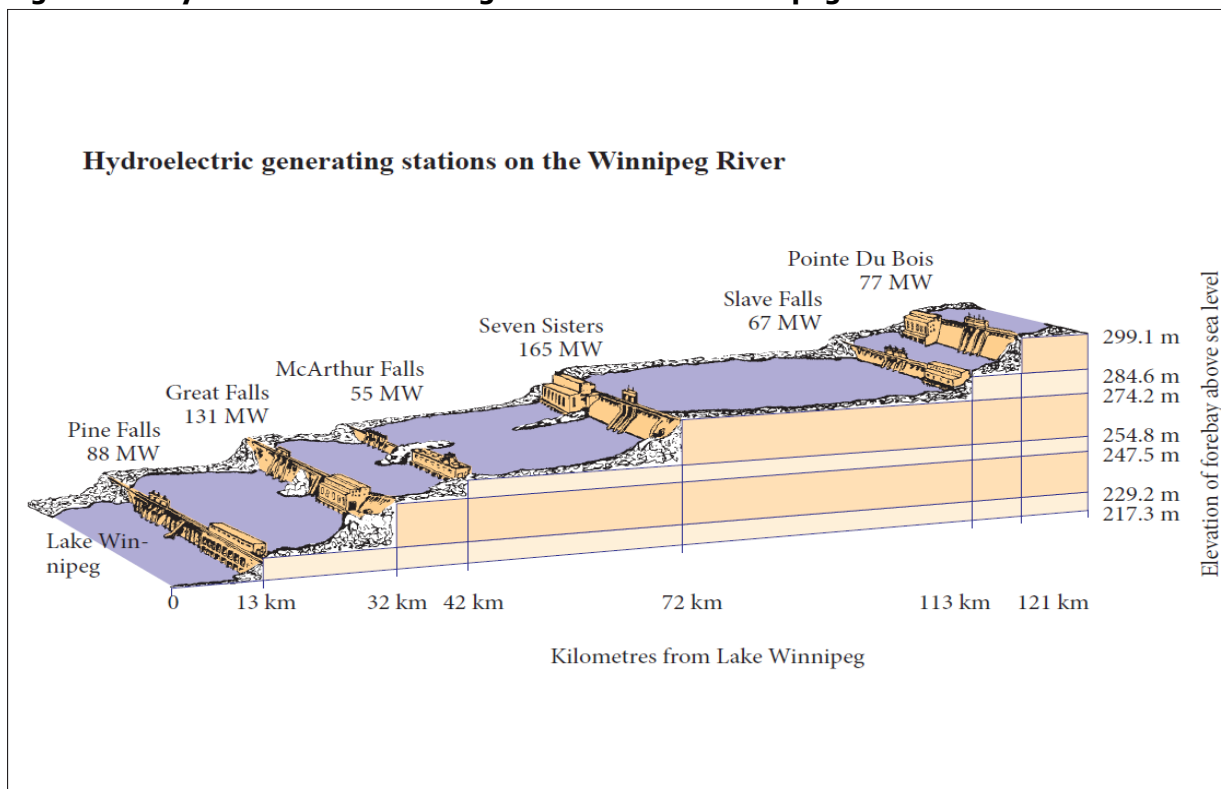
For thousands of years the Winnipeg River has been an integral part of the lives of Indigenous peoples, including as a source of traditional foods and other resources, travel and trade. The river also historically served as a major transportation route for fur traders and early explorers, and its powerful waters were later used to provide electricity to a growing province. Throughout the 20th century to the present day, the waters of the Winnipeg River have played, and will continue to play, a vital role in Manitoba's economic, cultural and social well-being.

The first generating station on the Winnipeg River, the Pinawa Generating Station, became operational in 1906 and was constructed to supply the needs of the growing City of Winnipeg. The Winnipeg Electric Company was the owner. The facility operated for 45 years, after which

time the water flowing through its generators was returned to the Winnipeg River's main channel to enhance water flow to other Winnipeg River generating stations.

Between 1911 and 1952 six generating stations were built along the Winnipeg River, producing about 583 megawatts (MW). From east to west, generating stations are located at Pointe du Bois, Slave Falls, Seven Sisters Falls, McArthur Falls, Great Falls and Pine Falls (see Figure 1.2). All of these generating stations are owned and operated by Manitoba Hydro; however, the two furthest upstream stations, Pointe du Bois and Slave Falls, were built in 1911 and 1928 respectively by City Hydro, later known as Winnipeg Hydro. Manitoba Hydro purchased these facilities in 2002 as part of its purchase of Winnipeg Hydro. The six Winnipeg River generating stations are run-of-the-river facilities with limited capacity to store and release water.

Figure 1.2: Hydroelectric Generating Stations on the Winnipeg River in Manitoba



1.3 PURPOSE

Manitoba grants the right to develop water power under the authority of The Water Power Act. Manitoba Hydro received Water Power Act Short Term Extension Licences (STELs) for the Pointe du Bois and Slave Falls sites on December 31, 2021. These STELs contain new terms and conditions, including the following ongoing requirement:

- The Licensee shall within 6 months of the issuance of this Third Short-term Extension Licence, and annually thereafter submit a report to the Director documenting the Licensee's engagement with Indigenous communities on the continued operation of the Undertaking (article 6 in both Licences).

The objective of this report is to demonstrate compliance with this ongoing requirement in the Water Power Act STELs for the Pointe du Bois and Slave Falls sites. Information provided is for the period June 16, 2022 to June 15, 2023. Information is provided for engagement activities undertaken with respect to all plants on the Winnipeg River, as dialogue with Indigenous communities is not generally specific to an individual generating station.

This report documents activities Manitoba Hydro either leads or participates in. Separate community engagement activities, related to the operation of the projects led by Manitoba or Canada, and that Manitoba Hydro has not participated in, are not reported here.

Project specific engagement activities are noted in this report; however, the outcomes of these engagements will be reported on through separate regulatory processes.

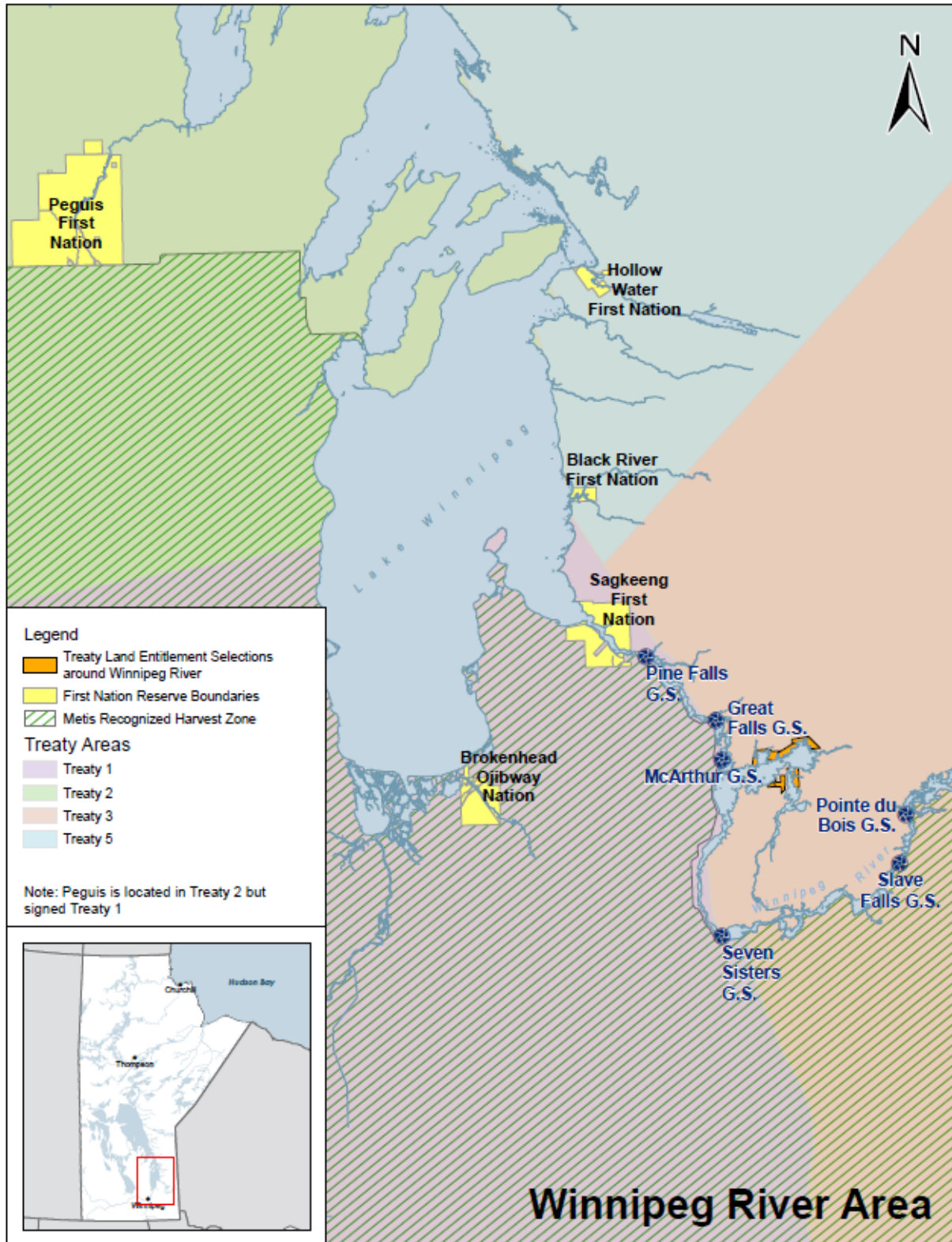
1.4 COMMUNITIES INCLUDED IN THE REPORT

Over the reporting period Manitoba Hydro undertook engagement activities with:

- Black River First Nation
- Brokenhead Ojibway Nation
- Hollow Water First Nation
- Peguis First Nation
- Sagkeeng First Nation
- The Manitoba Métis Federation

Map 1.3 highlights the location of geographic communities included in this report.

Map 1.3: Communities Included in the Report



2.0 COMMUNITY SPECIFIC SUMMARIES (JUNE 16, 2022 TO JUNE 15, 2023)

The community specific summary tables included in the confidential section of this report describe the engagement activities that have occurred over the reporting period by community. This report summarizes Manitoba Hydro's perspective of the activities that have been undertaken during the reporting period. Communities may have their own perspectives of the activities completed during the reporting period. This engagement report does not include activities led by either Manitoba or Canada.

The Heritage Resources Monitoring Program, Coordinated Aquatic Monitoring Program and employment and training programming are system wide initiatives that include engagement across large regions and multiple communities. These programs are described below and referenced in the community specific summaries.

The Heritage Resources Monitoring Program

Manitoba Hydro is committed to safeguarding cultural and heritage resources through its Heritage Resources Monitoring Program (HRMP). Under the HRMP annual rotational monitoring of registered heritage sites occurs throughout MH's hydraulic system. The purpose of this monitoring is to identify any changes in site conditions since the last monitoring visit, and to determine whether any future monitoring or mitigation is required. The HRMP also includes the screening of construction or maintenance projects to determine the chances of finding or disturbing heritage resources in the work area so that appropriate protection measures can be implemented prior to work being initiated. Manitoba Hydro works with Manitoba's Department of Sport, Culture and Heritage to review and develop appropriate protection plans to ensure Manitoba's rich cultural history is preserved. This monitoring and protection planning work includes notification and collaboration with local communities on a rotational basis depending on annual field work requirements.

Coordinated Aquatic Monitoring Program

The Coordinated Aquatic Monitoring Program (CAMP) was developed in partnership by Manitoba Hydro and the Province of Manitoba to study and monitor the health of waterbodies affected by Manitoba Hydro's generating system. The program established consistent sampling protocols for a range of ecological parameters at various levels in the ecosystem and at specific on-system and off-system waterbodies in order to track ecosystem health over the long-term. Sampling under CAMP began in 2008.

Where opportunities arise, contract employees are hired from communities near where the work is taking place to assist with monitoring activities.

The reporting framework developed for CAMP includes annual activity reports, information, and data presentation via a dedicated program website (www.campmb.com) and detailed synthesis

reports prepared every three years. The website offers summary reports, as well as technical reports and maps. It is also populated with sampling results for key parameters. All CAMP data are publicly available upon request and have been shared with communities, researchers, government organizations and individuals.

Employment and Training

Manitoba Hydro has dedicated programming intended to enhance both operational and project-related Indigenous employment, training, and business opportunities.

Manitoba Hydro has pre-placement programs for Indigenous candidates who do not meet the minimum academic qualifications of our Power Electrician/Mechanical Technician and Power Line Technician training programs. These pre-placement programs provide paid academic upgrading and on-the-job training and experience. These are six-to-nine-month programs with no guarantee of continued employment upon completion. These recruitments are posted on Manitoba Hydro's external website when they occur.

Since program inception to March 31, 2023:

- 507 trainees had been hired; and
- 436 trainees had moved on to employment at Manitoba Hydro.

These programs have contributed to a significant increase in Manitoba Hydro's operational Indigenous employment over the years. As of March 31, 2023:

- 1045 Indigenous employees worked at Manitoba Hydro;
- 20.3% of total corporate employees self-identified as Indigenous;
- 47.8% of total northern employees self-identified as Indigenous;
- 6.7% of total management employees self-identified as Indigenous; and
- 10.2% of total professional employees self-identified as Indigenous.