

CONSTRUCTION NOTIFICATION

REFURBISHMENT OF TUSKET FALLS MAIN DAM

The Tusket Hydro System has been generating electricity since 1929. It is an important part of our renewable energy strategy and is a significant generation source for Yarmouth County. It is important we bring the hydro system up to modern national standards on dam safety. The construction area must be dry in order to complete the work. The Lake Vaughan reservoir and two connected lakes (Gavels and Kings) will be lowered to natural levels to allow work to move forward. This will take place starting the week of July 26 to mid-February 2022.

WE WILL START CONSTRUCTION THE WEEK OF JULY 26.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS

Property owners are responsible for removing residential docks and pleasure crafts from the water before this work begins. Any damage to property left in the water or to any privately owned items on our property during the construction period, will be the responsibility of the residents.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MI'KMAW NEIGHBOURS:

The lands and waters used by the Tusket Hydroelectric system have been our Mi'kmaw home since time immemorial. Generations of our families have witnessed it change, and we have changed with it, as glaciers have come and gone, sea levels rose and fell and rose again; we have been here forever. Today's lakes and rivers were our highways, our food sources, our paths to our neighbours and shaped who we are today. Some of these lakes have even covered our grandparents' homes, where they raised our mothers and fathers, uncles and aunts. The remains of those homes and lives - our Mi'kmaw archaeological heritage - is precious and irreplaceable. We ask that you honour and respect these connections to our families, our home and our heritage by leaving them untouched and in place if you happen upon archaeological sites or artifacts. We are working to record and protect them, and we need the support of our neighbours and fellow Nova Scotians. If you see someone moving or taking anything, please let the Mi'kmaw Onsite Monitors know immediately or contact the local RCMP (902-742-9106). Unauthorized disturbance of the site is prohibited by law and subject to fines starting at \$10,000. If we lose these non-renewable heritage resources, this part of our story becomes lost to all of us, forever. Wela'lin Nitap / Thank-you, my friend.



Sincerely,
Your Mi'kmaw neighbours

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Over the last five years we have appreciated the ongoing engagement we have had with local residents, the Mi'kmaq, municipalities, fishers and other stakeholders regarding the project. Our project team is looking forward to continuing to engage and work closely with you. We remain committed to sharing important information, updates and timelines and answering any questions you may have. Updates will be provided as different milestones are reached throughout the project.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

Timelines: Lake Vaughan and the two connected lakes (Gavels and Kings) will be lowered the week of July 26 to mid-February 2022. A second lowering is anticipated mid-July 2022 to mid-February 2023. It is expected to take two construction seasons to complete the work.

Work Hours: It is anticipated the majority of work will take place between 6:30am-5pm Monday to Friday with work after hours and on weekends as required.

Noise Levels: Most construction activity will be restricted to daytime hours and we will make efforts to reduce impacts.

Traffic: Expect increased traffic and slowdowns at the intersection of the Lake Vaughan Road and Raynardton Road as trucks supplying the construction site access the west side of the dam. Please exercise caution when crossing the single lane bridges and do not linger to watch construction.

Water Levels: Will be lowered about 13 feet to reach natural levels. The water level of the reservoir is expected to match the current elevation of the Tuskent River downstream of the existing dam.

Shoreline: Will recede from current levels during the lowering. Areas with shallow water and flatter grade will be more exposed than areas with deeper water and steeper grades.

Access: Residents will be able to access the lakes during this time, however, it is done at your own risk. With lower water levels the shoreline will recede exposing slippery, uneven and unstable surfaces.

Protecting the Environment and Fish Habitat: There is an extensive environmental protection plan for the project, including measures to address erosion, sedimentation, wetlands and fish migrations and spawning activities. The timing of the lowering is driven by maintaining water levels until the upstream migration of Gaspereau is completed.

Protecting Mi'kmaw Heritage: Archaeologists will be onsite and there will be monitoring and security to protect any Mi'kmaw archaeological resources exposed by lower water levels. Unauthorized disturbance of the site including digging, collecting and metal detecting is prohibited by law and subject to fines starting at \$10,000. Please contact the Mi'kmaw Onsite Monitors or local RCMP at 902-742-9106 to report anything being moved from the site.

COVID-19 AND CONSTRUCTION WORK

Safety is priority for us. We have taken measures to make sure our teams are trained in COVID-19 prevention safety protocols and along with their job specific protective gear, our teams will be wearing masks, disposable gloves and face shields where appropriate. Safe physical distancing will be practiced which means having 6 feet between our teams and you. For more information: nspower.ca/covid-19

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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