

Bay d'Espoir Hydroelectric Generating Station Major Refurbishment and Expansion Projects

THIS ISSUE:



- 2026 Vegetation Management Program and Fire Break Tree Cleaning
- Unit 7 Life Extension Project Approval
- Penstock #3 Project Approved for Early Execution Work
- Planned and Proposed Bay d'Espoir Projects At-A-Glance

2026 Vegetation Management Program

Vegetation growth along our right-of-ways and properties, such as power lines, access roads and terminal stations, is a safety concern to both Hydro crews and the public. Trees are excellent conductors of electricity – when they grow too close or fall into power lines, trees can cause public safety risks like contact with high voltage power lines, fire, and power outages.

Under Hydro's Vegetation Management Plan, several methods are used to control vegetation in order to maintain the safety and reliability of our lines including manual brush clearing, tree trimming and the selective use of federally registered and highly regulated herbicides. Selective herbicide use helps to greatly reduce potential power outages, fire hazards, and safety risks.

This year's program begins on May 11 and is expected to run until October, pending weather and vegetation conditions. Signage will be posted in each area following treatment. For a complete list of areas and program status, visit: www.nlhydro.com/2026-vegetation-management-program/

Fire Break Tree Cleaning

Reducing wildfire risk is top of mind for communities, residents, emergency responders, forestry officials— and for Hydro, too. Earlier this year, our crews completed important wildfire mitigation work around our Bay d'Espoir facility by creating fire breaks.

Fire breaks help slow or stop the spread of wildfires by reducing the amount of vegetation that can fuel a fire. This work included clearing brush, removing dead vegetation, and trimming or removing certain trees to create a safer buffer around key infrastructure.

In consultation with the provincial Forestry division, we identified an approach to cleared brush and softwood trees, such as spruce and fir, around the hydroelectric plant and transmission facilities while preserving many hardwood species, including birch and aspen. This approach helps reduce wildfire risk while maintaining the area's natural landscape where possible.

These proactive measures help protect our facilities, the surrounding forest, and nearby communities.



Unit 7 Life Extension Project Approval

Hydro's proposed Unit 7 Life Extension project at the Bay d'Espoir Hydroelectric facility was approved by the Public Utilities Board (PUB) in April 2026. The project is part of proactive maintenance to ensure effective operation of the unit, which has been in service since 1977. Unit 7 is actually the largest unit at the Bay d'Espoir facility, capable of generating 154 Megawatts!

The application to the PUB was submitted in June 2025, following a condition assessment in 2023 that recommended that the unit undergo a major refurbishment in order to extend its operating life, ensure continued reliable operation, and potentially increase energy production. An environmental assessment is not required for the Unit 7 Life Extension project.

The work being planned will involve the complete dismantling of the unit to allow for replacement of the turbine runner, rewinding the stator, reinsulating the rotor field windings along with inspection, and repair or replacement of numerous components such as the wicket gates, head cover, bottom ring and operating mechanism.



This approval represents an important milestone for the project and reflects the strong work completed to date across system planning, engineering, major projects, and regulatory departments at Hydro. With PUB approval now in place, the project can proceed into the next phase in accordance with the approved scope and conditions.

Work is anticipated to begin for Unit 7 in 2028, with a peak construction workforce of 40-50. We look forward to sharing updates on the project status when available.



PHOTOS: Crews undertook several months of work for a major refurbishment of unit 7 at the Bay d'Espoir generating plant in 2019. The unit was completely disassembled for the project, including removal of the rotor (above) and cleaning the shaft coupling (left).

Penstock #3 Refurbishment Project Approved for Early Execution Work

On March 13, 2026, Hydro filed an application with the Public Utilities Board (PUB) requesting approval of capital expenditures for section replacement and weld refurbishment of Penstock #3 at the Bay d'Espoir Hydroelectric Generating Facility.

As part of the Application, Hydro requested approval to proceed with certain aspects of the work in advance to allow for regulatory review of the overall application without impacting the construction timeline for the proposed project. This request was approved by the PUB on April 9, 2026.

Penstock #3 is approximately 1,200 meters in length and constructed from a series of steel cans that vary in length and plate thickness. It now requires partial replacement and refurbishment to extend the life of the asset, returning it to reliable operation.

The engineering work associated with the line relocation, site clearing work, and the surveying/staking for the pole locations have all been completed.

Onsite construction is forecasted to begin in 2027. Work will include: (1) excavation, disposal, and replacement of the approximately 335 meter long steel section including exterior protective coating and associated backfill; (2) detailed inspection of approximately 792 meter long existing penstock, including full remediation of any deteriorated welds and/or steel with protective coating on the

interior; and (3) provision of supporting activities, such as backfilling tasks, drainage system upgrades, and installation of pressure monitoring systems.



PHOTOS: Photos of the Penstock #1 Refurbishment and Replacement Project that was approved by the PUB in 2023, and completed in December 2025. The Penstock #3 Refurbishment Project will involve a similar scope of work and construction schedule.

Planned and Proposed Bay d'Espoir Projects At-A-Glance

1

Penstock #1 Refurbishment

Completed December 2025.

2

Penstock #3 Refurbishment

Front End Engineering and Design (FEED) stage. Application to PUB submitted March 2026; Early Execution Work approved April 2026. Environmental assessment not required.

3

Penstock #2 Refurbishment

Feasibility and Front End Planning stage. Application to PUB not yet submitted. Environmental assessment not required.

4

Unit 7 Life Extension

Received PUB approval April 2026. Work anticipated in 2028, with a peak construction workforce of 40-50.

5

Unit 8 Build

In PUB review. Released from environmental assessment with conditions in November 2025. Early execution work continues in 2026.





Have questions or would like additional information
about any of the projects? Connect with us:

ProjectFeedback@nlh.nl.ca



Scan here
to learn more
about these and
other major
projects on the
horizon for Hydro