



UNDERTAKING MH-49: Provide explanation why predictions re average flow on Missi Falls is less than historical monthly discharge

RESPONSE: In 1977 Manitoba Hydro constructed a new water supply system for the Town of Churchill as part of the Churchill River Diversion project. Between 1977 and 1998 Manitoba Hydro controlled the outflows from Missi Falls to ensure that river flows in the Lower Churchill River were always adequate for the Town of Churchill water supply.

During periods of low tributary inflows to the Lower Churchill River, Manitoba Hydro maintained higher outflows from Missi Falls. Conversely, during periods of higher tributary inflows, Manitoba Hydro maintained lower outflows, always subject to the minimum Missi outflows required under the CRD Interim License. What this meant was that winter Missi outflows varied from year to year and were on average significantly greater than the minimums required under the CRD Interim License, especially during the winter.

In 1998 Manitoba Hydro applied for and was granted Environment Act License 2327 and constructed a weir across the Churchill River near the Town of Churchill. This project was part of an agreement with the Town of Churchill. As a result, the additional flow that historically had been released from Missi Falls (above the minimums specified in the Interim CRD License) was no longer required to ensure the reliability of the Town water supply.

However, Manitoba Hydro's License 2327 requires and Manitoba Hydro has maintained daily releases from Missi Falls no less than those which had been maintained for the period 1986 to 1998. These daily minimum releases were established as follows;

January 1 to 29	3,000 cfs
January 30 to February 20	2,000 cfs
February 21 to April 28	1,500 cfs
April 29 to October 17	500 cfs
October 18 to October 30	2,000 cfs
October 31 to December 9	4,000 cfs
December 10 to December 31	3,000 cfs