
Chute-Bell generating facility

Completion of the anchoring of the weir's blocks



Project context and justification

Following the spring flood and record flows recorded in the Rivière Rouge in 2019, Hydro-Québec carried out major work in the winter of 2019–2020 to increase the discharge capacity of the Chute-Bell structures.

The investigations conducted during this work confirmed that we need to continue reinforcing the weir's concrete structure to comply with the *Dam Safety Act*.

Project

The weir is composed of ten side-by-side concrete sections or blocks (see photo above). The project consists in completing the work to anchor the weir blocks into the rock as it could not be completed during the summer of 2021.

Construction and work schedule

Hydro-Québec must finish anchoring the weir blocks before the next spring thaw.

The work will thus take place this winter, from the beginning of January to the end of March 2022.

Given that construction operations during winter are challenging in terms of worker safety and logistics, Hydro-Québec has opted for an intensive, 24-hour-a-day work schedule in order to finish anchoring the weir blocks on time.

The work is considered essential to ensure the integrity of the weir and the protection of the public, and Hydro-Québec will make sure to reduce the impacts on neighboring areas as much as possible.

Work description

As all necessary drilling was done during the summer, the work to be completed consists in demolishing the recesses housing the anchor heads, installing, injecting and tensioning the anchors and concreting the recesses.

A massive floating barge will be installed upstream of the weir to accommodate machinery and workers, allowing for the work to be done without lowering the river's level and limiting the impact on the environment.

- Workforce mobilization and start of jobsite (January 2022)
- Barge assembly and installation (January 2022)
- Civil engineering work on the weir (mid-January to late March 2022)
- Jobsite demobilization (late March 2022)
- Restoration of the premises (early April 2022)

Jobsite location

The topography on the generating station's left bank is too rugged to assemble and install the barge there. Consequently, construction operations will take place on the right bank.

Trucking will be limited to transporting machinery and a dozen people using Chemin Avoca, Chemin Tervette, Chemin Charles and Chemin du Lac-Campbell.

For more information

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