



Newsletter

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INTAKE GATE REINFORCEMENT AT BONNINGTON FALLS GENERATING STATION

Nelson Hydro crews and contractors recently completed some major work at the power plant during a scheduled outage on April 8. The intake gates for two out-of-service units were reinforced to comply with BC Dam Safety requirements. This work required a complete plant outage and had to be carefully planned to limit the amount of power purchased from FortisBC.

In one very long day, contract crews removed the wooden gates that prevent water from entering the obsolete penstocks and replaced them with engineered steel reinforcement plates to eliminate the risk of an uncontrolled release of water into the powerhouse. Nelson Hydro crews also took the opportunity to complete a number of inspections and planned maintenance tasks during the outage.

UPDATE ON HISTORIC G2 GENERATOR

During annual maintenance on G2 last fall, crews discovered cracks in the operating ring, posing a safety risk to both our operators and other powerhouse equipment. Given these concerns, the decision was made to not restart the unit indefinitely.

Repairing G2 would require a full disassembly and overhaul—an expensive undertaking relative to the power it generates. As a result, Nelson Hydro is evaluating options for its future. Originally commissioned in 1910, G2 has long exceeded its expected operating life.

For a bit of history: When the decision to add G2 came to a vote in 1908, the results were overwhelming—1,976 in favor, 24 opposed. Over a century later, its legacy remains an important part of Nelson Hydro's story.



NOTICE: NELSON HYDRO NEWSLETTER IS GOING DIGITAL

This will be the last full-size printed edition of the Nelson Hydro newsletter. As part of our effort to reduce paper use, we're moving to a digital format. To continue receiving updates and staying informed about what's happening at Nelson Hydro, sign up for our email newsletter at nelson.ca/hydronewsletter or scan the QR code.

Thank you for helping us make this transition toward a more sustainable way to stay connected!



What's Happening

SPRING FRESHET

As we head into spring, it's nearly freshet season—a time when melting snow and ice cause a surge in water flow in local rivers and streams. This natural event plays a key role in maintaining healthy ecosystems and replenishing our water supply.

For Nelson Hydro, freshet also impacts power generation. The longer the freshet period, the more water we have available to generate electricity locally—reducing the amount we need to purchase from FortisBC. In 2024, the freshet lasted 26 days, slightly shorter than 2023's 28 days. The longest recent freshet was an impressive 112 days in 2017.

We'll be watching closely as this year's freshet unfolds.

Year	Start	End	March	April	May	June	July
2015	May 3	June 12					
2016	Apr 19	Jun 13					
2017	Mar 22	Jul 12					
2018	May 5	Jul 3					
2019	May 18	Jun 14					
2020	May 10	Jul 21					
2021	May 17	Jun 14					
2022	May 24	Jul 26					
2023	May 10	Jun 7					
2024	May 21	June 14					

Freshet dates at the Bonnington Falls Generating Station over the past 10 years.

COMING SOON: A NEW LOOK FOR YOUR BILL

Nelson Hydro paper bills are getting a facelift! The updated design will be more user-friendly, featuring clearer definitions and a refreshed look in line with our branding. Expect to see the new design on your next bill!

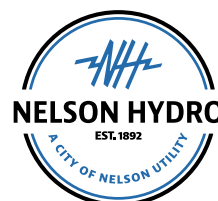
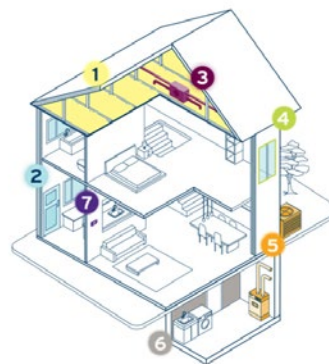
Your "House as a System"

Do you know what it means to look at your house as a system? The "house as a system" approach considers how different components of your home – like windows, insulation, air sealing, ventilation, and heating & cooling – all work together. Energy upgrades can help save on power bills and reduce health risks, and they are most effective when done in the correct order.

For example, upgrading your heating system won't be as effective if insulation and air leaks haven't been addressed first. Similarly, homeowners should consider air sealing before adding insulation to prevent mould and improve indoor air quality, especially during wildfire season.

Thoughtful planning ensures every improvement works together for maximum energy savings and comfort. To access support in planning your energy retrofits and to learn more about available rebates and financing, talk to an Energy Program Assistant with the Regional Energy Efficiency Program.

Register for the Regional Energy Efficiency Program by selecting the "Register now" button at: nelson.ca/EcoSave



PAY BILLS ONLINE

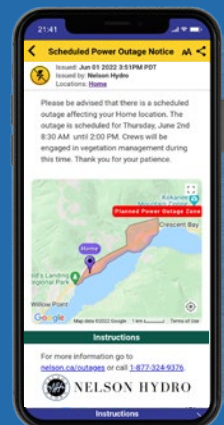
You can now pay your hydro bills online through the online account portal.

nelson.ca/hydrobill

VOYENT ALERT!

Sign up for the Voyent Alert! notification service for alerts on important information to our customers such as power outages.

For email, sms or phone registration get started here: nelson.ca/em_info



NELSON HYDRO ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Nelson Hydro is on Facebook and Instagram!

We encourage you to follow along to stay up to date on projects, initiatives, outages, stories, and more!

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