



# Newsletter

Issue 7 | Summer 2023



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## The Facts of The Flow

### Water Rights on the Kootenay River

With our big beautiful lake full to the brim and Nelson Hydro's Kootenay River turbines turning full tilt each Spring, our customers sometimes inquire as to why the City-owned power company has to buy electricity from elsewhere throughout the year. As much as 50 percent of Nelson Hydro's power is purchased from FortisBC.

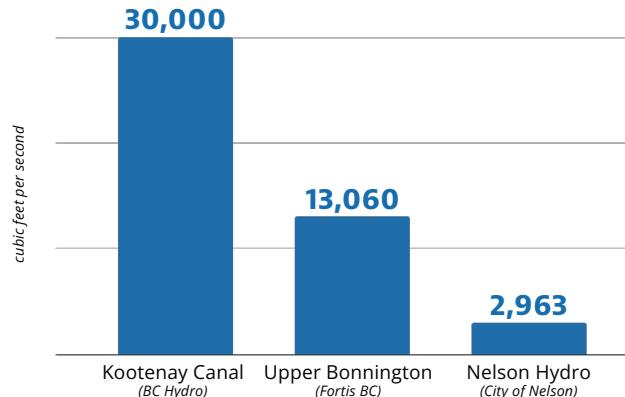
Fact is, while it may look like the river provides a limitless amount of water, flows are accounted for year-round, by the provincial government's Controller of Water Rights.

The Nelson Hydro power plant gets only a small percentage of the Kootenay River's water. Very specific totals are earmarked for generating stations downstream.

The exception is during the spring freshet. (A freshet is a flood of water that occurs due to heavy rain, or in the case of our Kootenay springtimes, melting mountain snow.) During freshet, there is extra water available, and most dams in BC, like the Upper Bonnington, spill water during freshet.

For comparison's sake, here's a look at who gets what, when it comes to water: Nelson Hydro, owned of course by the City of Nelson, captures 2,963 cubic feet per second (cfs) — or the maximum output of its 16 megawatt (MW) power plant during freshet. One megawatt would supply power for about 750 homes at a time. Just across the river, Fortis BC's Upper Bonnington generating facility gets 13,060 cfs, or 65 megawatts. Further down, the Kootenay Canal, owned by BC Hydro gets 30,000 cfs, enough to produce 580 megawatts.

Nelson Hydro, founded in 1892, today one of Western Canada's few municipal-owned hydro generating systems, is just a piece of the province's power puzzle.



### E-NEWSLETTERS

Want to receive these newsletters in your email inbox in the future? We're transitioning to e-newsletters. Scan the QR code or visit [nelson.ca/hydronewsletter](http://nelson.ca/hydronewsletter) to sign up.



### NELSON HYDRO ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Nelson Hydro has launched new Facebook and Instagram accounts!

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

#### FOLLOW US!

@nelson.hydro  
 @nelsonbc.hydro

# What's Happening

Over the summer months here is what our crews will be working on.

## CREWS AT WORK

- ⚡ 96 power poles are being replaced, mostly in the Long Beach Road area on the North Shore.
- ⚡ Crews are focusing on vegetation management in the Blewett and Taghum areas this summer, however work will continue along the North Shore.
- ⚡ At the generating station, a new DC battery bank will be installed and the final connection and commissioning of the back-up generator will be completed.
- ⚡ New service requests continue to come in at a higher-than-average rate, keeping the design team and line crew very busy.



2022 Coop engineering student Eve Sankar



## VEGETATION AROUND SERVICE LINES

### Keeping Service Lines Clear Around your Property

Clearing vegetation and hazard trees around the lines that provide service to buildings are the property owners' responsibility. A minimum of 1m clearance is required. Nelson Hydro will disconnect/re-connect service lines for free if there is a risk of contacting these powerlines when homeowners are falling trees on their property. Call our toll-free line for more information. 877-324-9376 (877-32-HYDRO).

# Energy Saving Tips

## SUMMER ENERGY TIPS

As the temperature rises, it's essential to find ways to stay cool while also saving energy. We've gathered some practical tips to help you beat the heat without putting a strain on your energy bill. Check out these energy-saving tips.

- ⚡ Set your thermostat to the highest comfortable temperature. Each degree lower can increase energy consumption by 3-5%.
- ⚡ Use ceiling fans or portable fans to circulate air in your home. They create a cooling effect and use less energy than air conditioning.
- ⚡ Close curtains or blinds during the hottest parts of the day to block out direct sunlight and reduce heat gain.
- ⚡ Consider using a programmable thermostat to automatically adjust the temperature when you're away from home, saving energy while you're out.

## ECOSAVE

Interested in saving energy and money in your home? The Regional Energy Efficiency Program can help you find rebates, get a home energy evaluation, and figure out your next steps. Learn more at: [nelson.ca/EcoSave](http://nelson.ca/EcoSave)

## Online Account Portal

### SIGN UP TODAY!

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

[nelson.ca/hydrobill](http://nelson.ca/hydrobill)

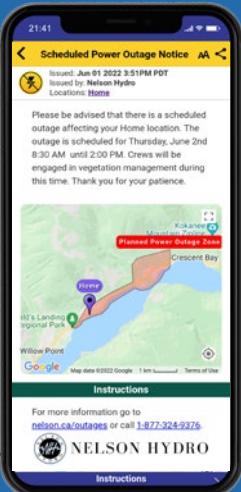
### VOYENT ALERT!

Nelson Hydro is pleased to announce the launch the new Voyent Alert! notification service to communicate important information to our customers such as planned power outages.

Get the Voyent Alert app at the App store or Google Play.

For email, sms or phone registration get started here: [nelson.ca/em\\_info](http://nelson.ca/em_info)

For more information please visit: [voyent-alert.com/ca/community](http://voyent-alert.com/ca/community)



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