

CONTROL BLASTING ON THE CROSS LAKE WEIR PROJECT

DON WHITMORE, P. ENG., VECTOR CONSTRUCTION LTD.
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
GEORGE McIVOR, MID NORTH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
CROSS LAKE, MANITOBA
BRAD RHUDE, WESTERN EXPLOSIVES LTD.
FLIN FLON, MANITOBA
BILL THOMPSON, P. ENG., WESTERN EXPLOSIVES LTD.
CALGARY, ALBERTA

INTRODUCTION

In 1972 Manitoba Hydro decided to develop the hydro electric potential of the Nelson River. This program included the construction of the Jenpeg Generating Station at the point where the channel of the Nelson River discharged into Cross Lake. The Jenpeg station serves two primary functions:

- 1) Provides a control structure for the regulation of Lake Winnipeg.
- 2) Acts as a 126,000 kilowatt hydraulic generating station.

By regulating the level of Lake Winnipeg, Manitoba Hydro was able to:

- ◆ maintain a desirable recreational level in Lake Winnipeg
- ◆ utilize the huge area of Lake Winnipeg for summer ponding
- ◆ maximize water release during fall and winter to satisfy peak power demands at maximum prices

Unfortunately the regulation project adversely affected the water level of Cross Lake and the native community spread out along the shoreline of the lake. Summer ponding at Jenpeg allowed the lake level to drop each summer creating a wide mud flat where docks

had been. Fishing and trapping were seriously affected. In winter additional flows would flood the ice cover and create slush under the snow. When flows were cut back the water would leave dangerous hollows under the ice.

The Weir Project was designed to maintain the water level of Cross Lake in a natural range. In order to do this it would be necessary to restrict lake outflow during a normal summer and provide additional capacity to handle floods or increased winter flow.