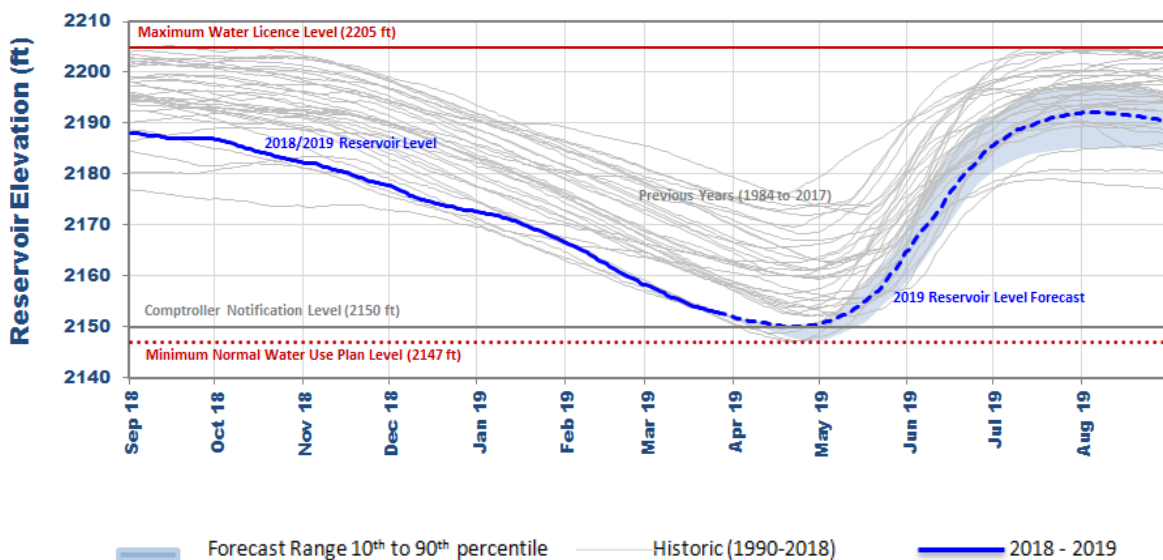


## BC HYDRO UPDATE: WILLISTON RESERVOIR OPERATIONS SPRING 2019 (March 29, 2019)

- Cooler weather across late January, a record cold February – the coldest since 1945 – and a cool start to March resulted in increased provincial energy demand during the last two months.
- Inflows recorded in February and March to date were well below average. A number of our other basins also had inflows well below average for this time of year.
- The likelihood of drafting Williston Reservoir below elevation 2150 feet remains the same as estimated last week. As of March 29 the reservoir elevation was 2152.5 feet.
- The annual lowest Williston Reservoir level occurs between mid-April and mid-May, but most often in late April. Much uncertainty remains across the next six weeks, meaning the overall likelihood of drafting below 2150 feet can shift quickly with small changes in provincial system load demand and reservoir inflows.
- Warmer than average temperatures in recent days continue to help reduce the likelihood of water levels dropping more relative to last week. However, temperatures are expected to return to normal, or slightly below normal, next week. As a result, we estimate the likelihood of drafting below 2150 feet is holding in the range of 40 to 70 per cent around the second to third week of April 2019.
- BC Hydro will now provide updates twice a week for the Williston Reservoir elevation forecast. While accurate weather forecasting is always challenging, trends in warmer and wetter weather will help keep reservoir levels higher on Williston.
- BC Hydro manages its generation system in a reliable manner by balancing all its resource options, including dependence on large basin reservoir storage and energy imports when needed. In particular, this spring, the Columbia and Peace, plus many coastal reservoirs, are expected to be operating near minimum normal levels to support provincial energy needs.

### Williston Reservoir Forecast (Spring 2019)

2019-03-28 10:40 2152.8 ft



Updated: March 28, 2019 based on the March 2019 Water Supply Forecast and current operations.