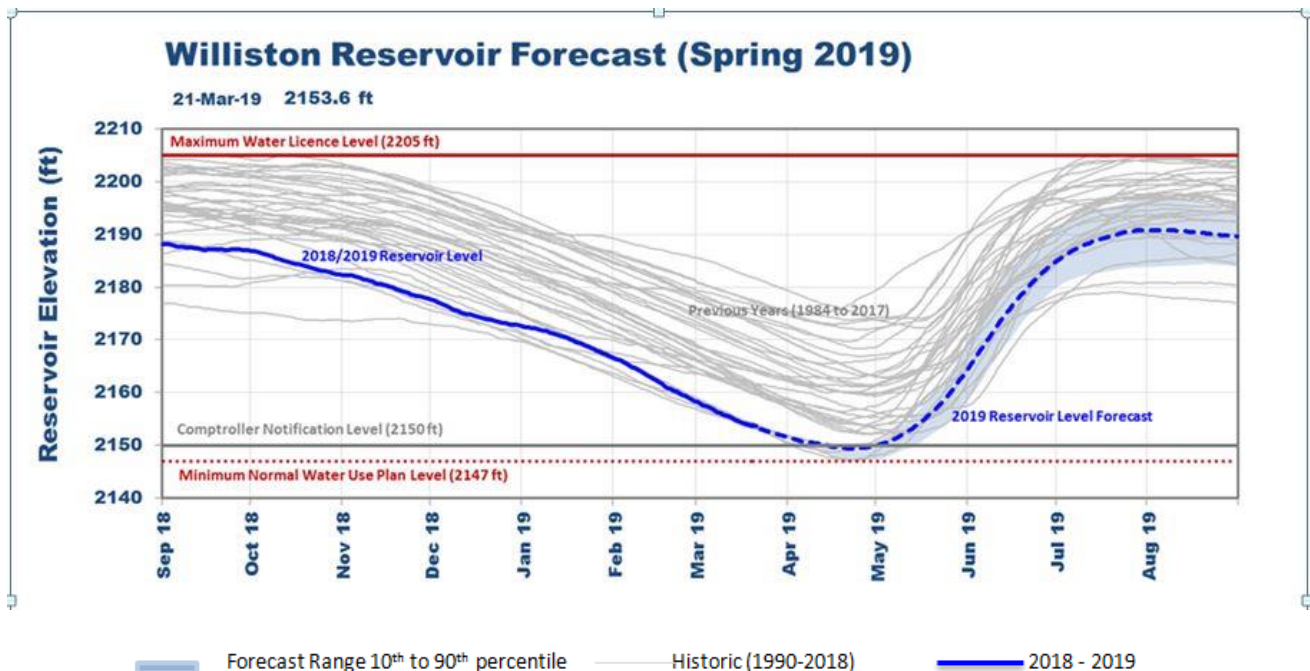


BC HYDRO UPDATE: WILLISTON RESERVOIR OPERATIONS SPRING 2019 (March 21, 2019)

- 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 winter.
- Current inflows for the month of March to date are the lowest on record and are forecast to remain low. Many of our reservoirs are well below average, or near historic lows, for this time of year.
- The likelihood of drafting Williston Reservoir below elevation 2150 feet continues to increase compared to the forecast of March 11. As of March 21 the reservoir elevation was 2153.3 ft.
- As we are within about a month of the lowest reservoir levels, the likelihood of drafting below 2150 feet can swing quickly with small changes in provincial system load and reservoir inflows. Warmer than average temperatures in recent days may have helped reduce the possibility from last week, but temperatures are expected to return to around normal next week. Much uncertainty remains for load and inflow forecasts across the next six weeks. As a result, we estimate the likelihood of drafting below 2150 feet to be in the range of 40 to 70 per cent around the second to third week of April 2019.
- BC Hydro will continue to provide weekly updates for the Williston Reservoir elevation forecast. While accurate weather forecasting is always challenging, near term trends of 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 the Peace as well as a number of our coastal reservoirs are expected to be operating near minimum normal levels to support our provincial energy needs.



Updated: March 20, 2019 based on the March 2019 Water Supply Forecast and current operations.