

Starting this Friday, discharge of water into the Cauca River will be gradually normalized after closing of the second gate of the Ituango Hydroelectric Project.

- **The level of the reservoir has been rising and, as planned, in less than three days, the spillway will start operating gradually.**
- **The community continues to be informed about the situation's progress.**
- **Activities to rescue fish in the river and protect marshes are still in place.**
- **Reservoir and rock massif were recorded normal during monitoring.**

At only 3 meters to reach a height of 401 meters above sea level and start discharging into the Cauca River again, EPM continues to carry out all planned activities to mitigate the effects on the population and environment after closing the second gate of the Ituango Hydroelectric Project.

This was confirmed by the CEO of EPM, Jorge Londoño De la Cuesta, after the observation flight over the Bajo Cauca of Antioquia and subsequent meeting of the

National Unified Command Post (Puesto de Mando Unificado, PMU) in which the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Ricardo José Lozano Picón, the Director of the National Environmental Licensing Authority (Autoridad Nacional de Licencias Ambientales, ANLA), Rodrigo Suárez Castaño, and the Director of the Autonomous Regional Corporation of Central Antioquia (Corantioquia) participated in the same area of the project. During the day, officials also met with representatives of the community and authorities of the township of Caucasia.

The director explained that the reservoir has been rising by more than one meter per day, so it is estimated that by Friday morning the first stage of the discharge into the river will begin and will continue to rise gradually. Toward next Sunday night a discharge of 450 cubic meters per second is expected, which corresponds to the ecological flow established by the authorities and stipulated in the project's license.

In this way, as had been foreseen from the technical point of view, it takes two and a half days to begin discharging and another two days for it to normalize after the gate closing on Tuesday at noon; everything gradually with prior and timely notice to the communities so that they have the necessary precautions in their relationship with the river. However, the beginning of the discharge does not represent any risk to communities.

Salvajina, Porce II and Porce III inputs

These dynamics are affected by the flows which, since last January 25 and until next Sunday, February 10, are being discharged from the Salvajina Plant reservoir. This is due to collaboration from EPSA from the Celsia company and through the interaction between the National Environmental Licensing Authority (ANLA) and the Cauca Valley Autonomous Corporation (Corporación Autónoma del Valle del Cauca, CVC).

Meanwhile, in order to mitigate the environmental impact in the marshes of Bajo Cauca and La Mojana, EPM increased the reserves in its Porce II and Porce III reservoirs in advance to discharge water into the Porce River, which flows into the Nechi River and the latter into the Cauca. Thus, at the Nechi mouth, the Cauca's flow could reach nearly 660 cubic meters per second, which represents a good forecast for protecting the environment in that area, especially concerning the La Mojana marshes.

Today is the second day of joint work among communities, fishermen, and EPM professionals and their contractors, to handle environmental and social impacts that occur during the reduced river flow period. These include rescuing fish, the supply of water to the river settlements, waste disposal, the water quality monitoring, and meetings with the community and municipal authorities to discuss these effects and how to manage them:

Fish fauna: 137,028 fish rescued and released. 34,291 dead fish were found that were properly disposed of by authorized entities.

Drinking water: To date, 269 cubic meters of water have been distributed for a population of 71,466. The Nechi aqueduct works normally. In Caucasia, a motor pump was delivered for catchment of the Man River, with a capacity of 200 liters per second, and the service was reinforced by two floating motor pumps, each with a capacity of 150 liters per second.

Solid Waste Management: in coordination with Emvarias, there is appropriate use and disposal of recoverable material. So far, 652 kilos have been properly disposed of, mostly biomass from the Cauca River. Likewise, inspection of the riverbanks was begun to collect waste and improve the environmental quality of the Cauca River.



Ecosystem: 16 marshes continue to be monitored and 6 were dammed, prioritized to prevent its effect and intervention of Palanca and Río Viejo pipes. Also for note is the management with EPM's Porce II and Porce III power plants in order to contribute to the flow of the Nechí River, that flows into the Cauca.

Economic activities: with a group of 21 professionals from EPM and the National University, the constant monitoring of the economic activities that have traditionally been developed in the river continues.

Risk Management: the 10 PMU installed in the townships continue. In each of them, interdisciplinary company teams were deployed to inform about the development of the maneuver, answer concerns and establish conversations with interest groups. Today, the epidemiological monitoring system professionals from Universidad de Antioquia were briefed to report the monitoring of the population's health conditions.

Socio-political and Human Rights environment: regional and national authorities continue to be notified of the process's progress. Information requested by the Ombudsman and the region's District Attorney on social and environmental matters was provided. A group of the District Attorney's Office is located in Valdivia making a field observation. No findings of human bodies or remains have been reported in the worksite segments of the Cauca River.