

EPM performed the closing of the second water intake gate of the Ituango hydroelectric project without setbacks

In a maneuver with a duration of 57.17 minutes, in a controlled manner and without technical problems, EPM performed the closing of the second water intake gate of the Ituango hydroelectric project, the last which remained open for the passage of water through the powerhouse.

As expected, once the gate is closed the gradual decrease of the Cauca River's flow shall then begin, downstream of the project. The indicators are normal in relation to the rock mass stability, and the reservoir's connection with the water outlet system for the powerhouse is not recorded.

To mitigate the potential environmental impact on the Bajo Cauca and La Mojana marshes, EPM will increase the reserves in its Porce II and Porce III reservoirs, in order to be able to discharge water during the days on which the flow of the Cauca River decreases and mitigate the low downstream flows of the Nechí municipality.

From the project's facilities, the Chief Executive Officer of EPM, Jorge Londoño De la Cuesta, invited the nearby communities so that they are aware of the indications of the company's staff and the authorities in each municipality, from Puerto Valdivia

to Nechi, in order to adopt the measures taken for the provision of safe water by tank truck, containers and stationary tanks, as well as the management of solid waste, mobility for the area, health resources and quality monitoring of the water and riverbanks.

With the decrease in flow, the entire operation that was available to rescue the fish fauna and other species inhabiting the river was activated. This activity is developed with a set of crews, which add up to over 700 specially hired and trained people, mostly fishermen from the region, with the coordination of hydro-biological technicians and professionals.

Similarly, in the municipalities; staff providing information to the communities, attention in the company's municipal offices, meetings with the inhabitants, announcements by local broadcasters and delivery of information through Line 018000413825 will be present.

At the moment, the flow are approximately 55 cubic meters per second in Puerto Valdivia, 105 in Caceres and Taraza, 110 in Caucasia and 172 in Nechi. In approximately 3 days, the reservoir is expected to climb to level 401 and the spillway will start functioning again, with which the river's flow will return to normal. For its part, the pumping of the dammed water will be commenced in the powerhouse, and it is estimated that in around two months a first assessment of the state of that structure can be made.

Londoño De la Cuesta again thanked all the people and entities that participated in the preparation and execution of this gate's closing, the National and Departmental Government, nearby municipalities' mayors, the Red Cross and other entities for the



relief and handling of this type of contingencies, the Armed Forces, the Police and contractors' and EPM's staff. Likewise, it was reiterated that this maneuver was undertaken, primarily, in order to protect communities, a fundamental premise of all the steps taken in developing the Ituango hydroelectric project.

The alert levels in the area remain in force: red alert for the Puerto Valdivia municipality and orange alert in all the towns on the banks of the Cauca River, from Puerto Antioquia to the urban hubs of Taraza and Caceres. The yellow alert is for all towns, from Caucasia to the Bolívar Department.