



Medellín, November 1, 2018

## **All ready for the Ituango hydroelectric project dam to pour at elevation 405**

- **The spillway is an open channel, concrete and hydraulic discharge structure. Expected to start up next week**
- **The water will be discharged in a safe and controlled manner by EPM for the communities located downstream of the dam**
- **The excavation volume for its construction was 12,470,000 m<sup>3</sup>**

The Ituango hydroelectric project spillway, the hydraulic structure designed to allow the free or controlled passage of water, is ready for startup when the reservoir reaches a height of 405 meters above sea level (m.a.s.l.).

After reaching 401 meters above sea level on Thursday, November 1, EPM decided to wait until 405 m.a.s.l. to open the first of the four hydraulic gates of the spillway in order to optimize its use and allow the water to flow safely for the communities located downstream of the dam.

It should be noted that the Ituango Hydroelectric Project's spillway was developed with all the quality standards and following the recommendations of the institutions specialized in building dams.

The spillway of the future power plant is designed to traverse Cauca River overflows. This mega structure has a total length of 405 meters and a width between 70 and 95 meters. To get an idea of its size, the spillway channel corresponds to about four soccer fields the size of Medellín's Atanasio Girardot Stadium, which measures 110 meters long by 73.5 meters wide.

## How does it work?

The spillway has four radial gates to allow the passage of water from the reservoir in a controlled manner to the channel and from there back to the Cauca river bed, in order to ensure the river's ecological flow (habitat conditions), which is 450 m<sup>3</sup> of water per second.

In this first stage of the spillway's use, the left channel will be put into operation, through which 200 m<sup>3</sup> of water per second will be evacuated. These 200 m<sup>3</sup> will be added to the 750 m<sup>3</sup> of water flowing through the powerhouse for a total of 950 m<sup>3</sup> of water, a lower flow than that historically presented by the Cauca River at this time of year, which oscillates between 1,200 and 1,300 m<sup>3</sup> of water per second.

Thus, EPM advances in the attention of the contingency and in the rehabilitation of the hydroelectric project Ituango, the future power plant that will provide 17% of the energy the country needs to continue growing and contribute to the development and quality of life of Colombians.

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### Information for journalists

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