



## The Ituango Hydroelectric Project dam began to spill in a safe and controlled manner

- **With the start-up of the spillway, a new milestone was reached in meeting the schedule established in 2021 for the project recovery.**
- **The structure of the dam remains stable, and in optimal conditions to ensure the passage of water through the spillway and the safety of communities downstream.**
- **EPM will close the water flow through the powerhouse once it is certain that the technical conditions of the project allow it.**

The dam of the Ituango hydroelectric project reached 405 meters above sea level (m.a.s.l.) on Sunday, November 4, and began to discharge in a safe and controlled manner through the structure designed for this purpose.

After achieving this important milestone for the refurbishment of the future power generation plant, EPM's CEO, Jorge Londoño De la Cuesta, indicated that "in our company we continue working tirelessly attending to the contingency and recovery of the project, always thinking about the safety of the communities downstream of the dam, by developing works that include: the reinforcement of the press with the flexible screen in benthic cement, clogging of the tunnels and stabilization of the mountain. Additionally, the fact that the reservoir is discharging allows us to analyze other factors to determine when it will be possible to interrupt the flow of water through the powerhouse."

To close the water flow through the powerhouse, one of the conditions is to have the spillway operating, but also to observe how the dam behaves, the spillway itself, and the operation of the gates when closing them at that level



of the dam. Decisions that are made day by day to move forward with the project.

## **This is how the spillway works**

The Ituango Hydroelectric Project spillway operates normally with all the technical and safety conditions for this type of works. The spillway has a length of 405 meters and four radial gates, 15.4 meters wide by 19.5 meters high, through which water passes to reach a quieting well, from where it is incorporated into the normal channel of the Cauca River.

The spillway's four gates are enabled today to operate remotely, and each of its channels are completed. Initially, the spillway's left channel was put into operation, through which 200 m<sup>3</sup> of water per second is evacuated. The spillway is designed to transit the Cauca River, and its upper elevation is at 401 meters above sea level (m.a.s.l.) of the dam and begins to discharge at 405 meters above sea level.

These 200 m<sup>3</sup> will be added today to the 750 m<sup>3</sup> of water flowing through the powerhouse for a total of 950 m<sup>3</sup> of water on average, 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. In this way, the ecological flow, necessary for the habitat in the Cauca River, which is 450 m<sup>3</sup> of water per second, is ensured, and the safety of the communities living downstream of the project is guaranteed.

The Ituango Hydroelectric Project spillway is not free flowing, where the water arrives and simply overflows; on the contrary, EPM has a way of controlling the floodgates, which allows maneuvering and deciding how much water can be dumped. This guarantees the flow of the Cauca River in accordance with environmental regulations (450 m<sup>3</sup>).



Thus EPM advances in the attention of the contingency and in the restoration of the Ituango hydroelectric project, 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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