



Niagara Falls to be dewatered under proposed plan



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Photo by Steve Schuster

Niagara Falls will be temporarily drying up under a proposed plan by New York officials, according to a [report obtained by Action 2 News. \(https://mgtvwbay.files.wordpress.com/2016/01/americanfallsbridgedraftdesignreport.pdf\)](https://mgtvwbay.files.wordpress.com/2016/01/americanfallsbridgedraftdesignreport.pdf)

In an effort to rehabilitate several bridges that are more than 100 years old, New York officials are ordering the redirection of the Niagara River, which ultimately supplies the flow of water to Niagara

Falls.

The duration of the dewatering could last as long as nine months, according to the proposal which is currently open for public input.

A public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday at 5 p.m. at the Niagara Falls Convention Center on the New York side of the falls, reports WIVB.

The falls are split between Ontario, Canada and New York state.

The last time the falls were dewatered was in 1969 when the Army Corps of Engineers took a look at the stability of the American Falls. This could have been the cause of declining tourism revenue.

"The dry American Falls may have played a role in the decline in the number of visitors," the report states.

Officials say that redirecting water is necessary in order to repair the aging infrastructure and that in the long-term, the project could actually serve as a boon to the tourism industry.

"Some long-term positive impacts to existing businesses adjacent to the project area may occur due to improvements to pedestrian movements, and to the enhancement of the crossing corridor," the report states.

The bridges will be designed for pedestrians and trolleys, and to allow park and emergency vehicles when necessary.

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