



September 8, 2016

Ms. G. Cheryl Blundon
Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities
120 Torbay Road, P.O. Box 12040
St. John's, NL A1A 5B2

Ladies & Gentlemen:

**Re: Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro Application – 2017 Capital Budget Application
Requests for Information – CA-NLH-01 to CA-NLH-18**

In relation to the above noted application, please find enclosed the original and twelve (12) copies of the Consumer Advocate's Requests for Information numbered CA-NLH-01 to CA-NLH-18.

A copy of the letter, together with enclosure, has been forwarded directly to the parties listed below.

Yours very truly,

O'DEA, EARLE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

THOMAS JOHNSON, Q.C.
TJ/cel

cc: Newfoundland & Labrador Hydro
P.O. Box 12400
500 Columbus Drive
St. John's, NL A1B 4K7
Attention: Tracey Pennell, Senior Legal Counsel

Newfoundland Power
P.O. Box 8910
55 Kenmount Road
St. John's, NL A1B 3P6
Attention: Gerard Hayes, Senior Legal Counsel



Vale Newfoundland and Labrador Limited
c/o Cox & Palmer
Suite 1000, Scotia Centre
235 Water Street
St. John's, NL A1C 1B6
Attention: Thomas J. O'Reilly, Q.C.

Industrial Customer Group
c/o Stewart McKelvey
Cabot Place, 100 New Gower Street
P.O. Box 5038
St. John's, NL A1C 5V3
Attention: Paul Coxworthy

IN THE MATTER OF the *Public Utilities Act*, (the "Act"); and

IN THE MATTER OF an Application by Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro for an Order approving: (1) its 2017 capital budget pursuant to s. 41 (1) of the Act; (2) its 2017 capital purchases, and construction projects in excess of \$50,000 pursuant to s. 41 (3) (a) of the Act; (3) its leases in excess of \$5,000 pursuant to s. 41 (3) (b) of the Act; and (4) its estimated contributions in aid of construction for 2017 pursuant to s. 41 (5) of the Act.

**CONSUMER ADVOCATE
REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION
CA-NLH-01 to CA-NLH-18**

1 **CA-NLH-01 Re: 2017 Capital Projects Overview**

2 At page 14 Hydro states that it "...tracked the Phase 1 engineering costs specific to each project
3 and these costs form part of the 2017 capital budget submission."

4
5 Is this in accordance with previous Board Orders?
6

7 **CA-NLH-02 Re: Tab E - Projects over \$50,000 and less than \$200,000 – p. E-4 – Install
8 Wind Monitoring Station North Salmon Dam SD-2**

9 Please provide a copy of the recommendation in the Dam Safety Review of the Upper Salmon
10 reservoir system in 2012 for a wind monitor on the North Salmon dam.
11

12 **CA-NLH-03 Re: Volume II, Tab 4 – Condition Assessment and Miscellaneous Upgrades
13 – Holyrood**

14 Please provide an itemized cost for the Level 1 Condition Assessment Review and Update.
15

16 **CA-NLH-04 Re: Volume II, Tab 5 – Overhaul Turbine Valves – Unit 2 – Holyrood**

17 Referring to Table 4, Unit 2 Overhaul Maintenance History (p. 9) please explain why Hydro's costs
18 for both major overhauls as well as valve overhauls have increased as shown.
19
20

1 **CA-NLH-05 Re: Volume II, Tab 11 – Upgrade Underground Plant Drainage System -**
2 **Holyrood**

3 The current system was constructed in 1991 with a typical lifespan for 45 years. Has Hydro
4 determined why the current system failed so quickly?

5
6 **CA-NLH-06 Re: Volume II, Tab 11 – Upgrade Underground Plant Drainage System -**
7 **Holyrood**

8
9 What maintenance has Hydro carried out on the system since construction?

10
11 **CA-NLH-07 Re: Volume II, Tab 11 – Upgrade Underground Plant Drainage System -**
12 **Holyrood**

13
14 What recommendations were provided at the time of construction regarding maintenance?
15 Please provide a copy of same. Did Hydro follow the maintenance recommendations made?

16
17 **CA-NLH-08 Re: Volume II, Tab 12 – Install Asset Health Monitoring System – Upper**
18 **Salmon Generating Plant**

19 How often is data collected presently from the Upper Salmon Generating Plant?

20
21 **CA-NLH-09 Re: Volume II, Tab 12 – Install Asset Health Monitoring System – Upper**
22 **Salmon Generating Plant**

23 Does Hydro have any knowledge of other Utilities installing this type of equipment at its sites?

24
25 **CA-NLH-10 Re: Volume II, Tab 12 – Install Asset Health Monitoring System – Upper**
26 **Salmon Generating Plant**

27 Volume I, Tab C, pg C-32:

28
29 *Future installations at other locations are intended based on these enhancements.*

30
31 What other locations would these installations be applicable to? What are the anticipated costs?

32
33
34

1 **CA-NLH-11 Re: Volume II, Tab 12 – Install Asset Health Monitoring System – Upper**
2 **Salmon Generating Plant**

3
4 *An automated data collection system would have alerted plant engineering to this*
5 *issue by providing trended vibration signals. This event was due to an ongoing*
6 *issue with corrosion fretting on this unit. (p. 6-7)*
7

8 Did the inspections and maintenance reveal the issue of corrosion fretting prior to the forced
9 outage in 2014?
10

11 **CA-NLH-12 Re: Volume II, Tab 12 – Install Asset Health Monitoring System – Upper**
12 **Salmon Generating Plant**

13 Can the “grouped wiring” for the annunciator be rectified to alleviate any concerns about the
14 alarms being relatively vague (p. 6)?
15

16 **CA-NLH-13 Re: Volume III, Tab 18 – Upgrade Office Facilities and Control Buildings**

17 Please itemize the exterior and interior work to be complete for Bishop’s Falls, Port Saunders and
18 Sunnyside and the cost of each proposed item.
19

20 **CA-NLH-14 Re: Volume III, Tab 18 – Upgrade Office Facilities and Control Buildings**

21 What is the anticipated cost of the detailed Engineering Assessments to be completed?
22

23 **CA-NLH-15 Re: Volume III, Tab 21 – Line Depot Condition Assessment and**
24 **Refurbishment Strategy**

25 Referring to Table 4, is the forecast for “Consultant” solely related to providing detailed
26 engineering and condition assessments? If not, please provide a breakdown of the detailed
27 engineering and condition assessment costs.
28

29 **CA-NLH-16 Re: Volume III, Tab 22 – Construct New Facilities – Various Sites**

30 Please list any incidents involving employee trips/slips/falls with the existing location of the stored
31 equipment.
32
33
34

1 **CA-NLH-17 Re: Volume III, Tab 22 – Construct New Facilities – Various Sites**

2 How does Hydro ensure no toxins used to treat wood poles leach into the ground currently without
3 pole storage ramps?

4

5 **CA-NLH-18 Re: Volume III, Tab 22 – Construct New Facilities – Various Sites**

6 How does Hydro currently meet the required environmental standards for wood poles?

7

Dated at St. John's in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, this 8th day of September,
2016.



Thomas Johnson, Q.C.
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