

September 23, 2013

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## Via Electronic Mail and Courier

Newfoundland and Labrador Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities 120 Torbay Road P.O. Box 21040 St. John's. NL A1A 5B2

Attention: Ms. G. Cheryl Blundon, Director of Corporate Services

and Board Secretary

Dear Ms. Blundon:

Re: Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro's 2013 General Rate Application

Please find enclosed the original and twelve (12) copies of the Requests for Information IC-NLH-1 to IC-NLH-96 of the Island Industrial Customers in the above Application.

We trust you will find the enclosed to be in order.

Yours truly,

Stewart McKelvey

Paul L. Coxworthy

PLC/kmcd

Enclosure

c. Geoffrey P. Young, Senior Legal Counsel, Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro Thomas J. Johnson, Consumer Advocate

Gerard Hayes, Newfoundland Power

Dean A. Porter, Poole Althouse

Thomas O'Reilly, Q.C., Vale Newfoundland and Labrador Limited

Edward M. Hearn QC, Miller & Hearn

Nancy Kleer, Olthuis, Kleer, Townshend LLP

Yvonne Jones, MP, Labrador

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CHARLOTTETOWN FR

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

IN THE MATTER OF a General Rate Application (the Application) by Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro for approvals of, under Section 70 of the Act, changes in the rates to be charged for the supply of power and energy to Newfoundland Power, Rural Customers and Industrial Customers; and under Section 71 of the Act, changes in the Rules and Regulations applicable to the supply of electricity to Rural Customers.

## ISLAND INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMERS REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION IC-NLH-1 TO IC-NLH-96

Issued: September 23, 2013

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

IN THE MATTER OF a General Rate Application (the Application) by Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro for approvals of, under Section 70 of the Act, changes in the rates to be charged for the supply of power and energy to Newfoundland Power, Rural Customers and Industrial Customers; and under Section 71 of the Act, changes in the Rules and Regulations applicable to the supply of electricity to Rural Customers.

## REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION OF THE ISLAND INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMERS

2	IC-NLH-1	<b>Reference: Page 1.19 Lines 15-17.</b> Please provide a copy of the ROE direction referenced at page 1.19 lines 15-17.
4 5 6	IC-NLH-2	Provide a copy of the final COS for the 2006 GRA, reflecting the approved revenue requirement. Please also provide COS studies from intervening years, if available – both actual and forecast.
7 8	IC-NLH-3	<b>Reference:</b> Page 1.22. Please provide a copy of the Deloitte review regarding cost recovery referenced at page 1.22.
9 10	IC-NLH-4	<b>Reference:</b> Page 1.22. Indicate any correspondence or approvals provided by the Board in respect of the Deloitte review on cost recovery.
11 12 13	IC-NLH-5	<b>Reference:</b> Page 2.18. Please provide details on the vacancy rate assumed in the current GRA, including what the rate is equivalent to in terms of Salaries and Benefits, and in terms of FTE positions unfilled.
14 15	IC-NLH-6	Please include the actual vacancy rate for each year since the previous GRA, calculated on the same basis as in IC-NLH-5.
16 17	IC-NLH-7	<b>Reference: Section 2.2.3.</b> Please indicate if the costs deferred for CDM activities include any capital assets.
18 19	IC-NLH-8	<b>Reference: Section 2.2.3.</b> Please provide an annual accounting for all expenditures and amortization of CDM expenses to date.
20 21 22	IC-NLH-9	<b>Reference: Section 2.2.3.</b> Please provide a detailed description of the 7 year amortization of CDM expenses – is it discrete for each year's spending, or a rolling 7 years (1/7 of total balance each year)?

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1 2 3 4	IC-NLH-10	<b>Reference:</b> Section 2.2.3. Are all CDM expenditures amortized over 7 years, or only program expenditures? (e.g., is general CDM administration amortized over 7 years, even where such expense is not linked to a specific program initiative?)
5 6 7	IC-NLH-11	Regarding IFRS and capital expenditures – please provide a list of all changes implemented as a result of P.U.2-2012 and indicate the status of implementation of these changes.
8 9 10 11	IC-NLH-12	Reference: Section 2.5.1 Island Interconnected Load Forecast. Regarding sales to NP, please provide the actual, weather adjusted, and forecast levels of (i) capacity (native peak), (ii) capacity (COS, net of generation credit), (iii) energy (GW.h) for each year since 2005.
12 13 14 15	IC-NLH-13	<b>Reference:</b> Page 2.15. Please provide the accounting policy for critical spares. In particular, are these items capitalized, held in inventory, depreciated, included in asset accounts for the purpose of depreciation studies, etc?
16 17 18 19 20 21	IC-NLH-14	Reference: Page 2.24. Please provide a list of all Operating Expense Costs that arise due to amortization of O&M activities over future periods (such as for the System Equipment Maintenance (SEM) amortization of expenses, including the Asbestos Removal program) along with the amortization schedule. Please provide a list of all such amortized projects proposed for the 2013 test year.
22 23 24	IC-NLH-15	<b>Reference:</b> Page 2.25 line 6. Please provide the total CDM costs forecast for 2013 for all categories of O&M costs, and where in the O&M schedules these costs reside.
25 26	IC-NLH-16	<b>Reference:</b> Page 2.21 footnote. Please provide Hydro's latest Generation Planning report, as referenced in the footnote on page 2.41.
27 28 29	IC-NLH-17	<b>Reference:</b> Page 2.46 and Exhibit 13 page 1. Please reconcile the 2013 power purchase estimates of \$51.8 million (page 2.46) with the estimate \$52.4 million (column 3 row 6 of Exhibit 13).
30 31	IC-NLH-18	<b>Reference:</b> Page 2.46. Please provide the 10 year regression analysis referenced at page 2.46.
32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40	IC-NLH-19	Reference: Exhibit 5. Please provide a description of the procurement process Hydro followed to select Hatch to provide the latest generation of models for "determining the average hydroelectric capabilities of its system" (page 2.50). Please indicate the date of any RFP, the number of bidders and the expected value of the contract awarded for supply, implementation, maintenance and consulting services related to the DSS. If Hatch was not the lowest cost bidder, please indicate the approximate pricing spread between Hatch and the lowest cost bidder and indicate the rationale for not selecting the DSS based on best value practices.

1 2 3 4	IC-NLH-20	<b>Reference:</b> Exhibit 5. Please provide a summary of all annual amounts paid to Hatch for hydrological modeling services, including software purchases and implementation, and consulting service, since the 2006 GRA.
5 6 7 8 9 10 11	IC-NLH-21	Reference: Section 2.2.2: Exploits Generation and page 2.52. Please explain, based on section 2.2.2, the precise ownership and allocation of the power assets and output from each of Star Lake, Exploits River Hydro Partnership, Grand Falls, Buchans, and Bishop's Falls stations in the GRA, and the situation in the previous GRA. Please also provide the rationale for the statement that Hydro "does not own" Exploits assets at page 2.52.
12 13 14	IC-NLH-22	<b>Reference:</b> Pages 2.3-2.4. Please explain how the long-term average hydraulic generation record was adjusted for the hydro spillage noted at pages 2.3-2.4.
15 16	IC-NLH-23	<b>Reference:</b> Page 2.3–2.4. Re: IC-NLH-22, please also note how the RSP was adjusted, if at all, for this same factor.
17 18 19 20 21 22	IC-NLH-24	Reference: Section 2 - Schedule I: Operating Expenses by Functional Area. Please provide a version of the table that shows year-over-year percentage changes. Focusing on year over year changes, please provide a detailed narrative description of the changes for all categories experiencing more than a 5% change from 2012 actuals to 2013 forecast.
23 24 25	IC-NLH-25	<b>Reference:</b> Page 2.26 What are the "external fees" related to GRA costs? Please provide a schedule of GRA costs from 2006 to 2013, by year, indicating the type of cost incurred.
26 27 28 29 30 31	IC-NLH-26	Reference: Section 2: Regulated Activities – Section II: Actual and Forecast Electricity Requirements. Since 2007 test year, Regulated Activities Schedule 2 indicated Hydro expects that the NP peak load has grown by 5% while the energy has grown by 13%, which changes the NP load factor from 50.1% to 54.1%. Please provide all reasons for such a significant forecast growth in load factor?
32 33 34 35 36	IC-NLH-27	Reference: Section 2: Regulated Activities – Section II: Actual and Forecast Electricity Requirements. To what extent are CDM, demand response programs, or other demand initiatives expected to be driving an increase in the NP load factor? Are these programs an initiative of Hydro or of NP?
37	IC-NLH-28	Please update IC-NLH-41 from the 2006 GRA.
38	IC-NLH-29	Please update IC-NLH-30 from the 2006 GRA.
39	IC-NLH-30	Please update IC-NLH-153 from the 2006 GRA.
40	IC-NLH-31	Please update PUB-NLH-3 from the 2006 GRA.

1 2 3	IC-NLH-32	<b>Reference: Section 2.2.2 Exploits Generation.</b> Please explain the full rationale for owning the Grand Falls, Buchans and Star Lake plants in Nalcor rather than as assets in Hydro rate base.
4 5 6 7 8	IC-NLH-33	Reference: Section 2: Regulated Activities – Section VI: Energy Purchases BY Supplier – Note 4. Please provide all evidence in support of the \$0.04 cents/kW.h purchase price for generation from Grand Falls, Buchans and Star Lake, how this price was set, and how it compares to the costs of owning and operating these plants.
9 10 11	IC-NLH-34	<b>Reference: Section 3: Finance, Schedule II and III.</b> Please explain the 2013 operating cost difference between Schedule 2 (111,046) and Schedule 3 (113,820).
12 13 14 15	IC-NLH-35	Reference: Section 3.2.3.1 Debt Guarantee Fee Initiative. Please provide a summary of the debt guarantee fees (rate and total dollar value) that have been charged to Hydro since the 2006 GRA, by year, and forecast for 2013.
16 17 18	IC-NLH-36	Reference: Section 3.2.3.1 Debt Guarantee Fee Initiative. Please provide a copy of any documentation from Government explaining the rationale from the Government for the change in the debt guarantee fee.
19 20	IC-NLH-37	Reference: Section 3.2.3.1 Debt Guarantee Fee Initiative. Please provide a copy of the 2010 debt guarantee fee analysis.
21 22	IC-NLH-38	<b>Reference: Page 3.26.</b> Please provide a description of Hydro's requirement to maintain sinking funds.
23 24 25 26	IC-NLH-39	Reference: Section 3: Finance, Schedule I: Balance Sheet. Please provide Hydro's sinking fund investment policy, and indicate the performance of the sinking funds in net financial performance since the 2006 GRA.
27 28 29 30	IC-NLH-40	Has Hydro investigated the options of borrowing (on its own with the debt guarantee, or through a pass through of government borrowing) without a sinking fund requirement? If so, please provide the options investigated and the cost and benefit implications of such an approach.
31 32 33	IC-NLH-41	Has Hydro done any comparison to similarly situated Crown utilities in respect of sinking funds. For example, is Hydro aware that BC Hydro no longer has a requirement to maintain sinking funds?
34 35 36 37	IC-NLH-42	Reference: Page 3.7 footnote 5 and page 3.9. If the updated policy for dividends was adopted in 2009, please indicate the dividends paid in each of 2009-2013 (forecast). With reference to Table 3.2, please provide the calculation of the level of dividends.
38 39 40	IC-NLH-43	Reference: Exhibit 13. For the Island Interconnected System, please provide a summary of any changes to the classification, assignments or allocations used in the 2013 cost-of-service study (relative to the COSS

1 2		from the 2006 GRA). Please describe the reason for the change as well as the impact on each customer class.
3 4 5 6	IC-NLH-44	Reference: Page 3.26. Please provide details on the \$7.9 million in "interest earned on the sinking funds compared to the 2006 GRA". Indicate the interest forecast to be earned in the 2006 GRA, and in each case indicate the content of the sinking funds and the earnings rate.
7 8 9	IC-NLH-45	<b>Reference:</b> Page 3.28. Will Hydro use IFRS for the financial statements for the period ending December 31, 2013? If the answer is it remains unknown, when will the final decision be made?
10 11 12	IC-NLH-46	<b>Reference: Section 3: Finance, Schedule I page 2.</b> Please indicate the location of the "RSP Surplus" and the assumptions as to the date of payment of the NP portion of the RSP surplus.
13 14 15	IC-NLH-47	<b>Reference:</b> Exhibit 13. Please indicate the assumed 2013 interest cost for the RSP included in the COS, and where this interest cost is shown, and where it is allocated.
16 17 18	IC-NLH-48	Reference: Section 4.7.2: Proposed Deferral and Recovery Mechanisms. Why is CDM not recovered as a normal component of the utility revenue requirement?
19 20 21 22 23 24	IC-NLH-49	Reference: Section 4.7.2: Proposed Deferral and Recovery Mechanisms. Please indicate if Hydro reviewed how CDM (or equivalent) costs are recovered by other peer utilities including, for example, Manitoba Hydro and BC Hydro. If so, please confirm that these other utilities include their CDM (or DSM) costs in their respective revenue requirements.
25 26 27 28 29	IC-NLH-50	Reference: Rate Schedules Page 20 and 21 of 47; Conservatio and Demand Management Recovery. Please provide all rationales for allocating the CDM expenses to customers on an energy usage basis, rather than as an allocation to the customer class who benefitted from the CDM.
30 31 32	IC-NLH-51	<b>Reference: Page 2.43.</b> With regard to the NP Generation Credit, as referenced at page 2.43, please update IC-37, IC-38 and IC-43 from the 2006 GRA.
33 34 35 36	IC-NLH-52	Reference: Section 4.7.2: Proposed Deferral and Recovery Mechanisms. Please confirm Hydro is not seeking approval of any power purchase cost variance deferral for the Island Interconnected System. Please provide the rationale (i.e., if not, why not?).
37 38 39 40	IC-NLH-53	Reference: Section 3.8.4: Deferred Charges. Please confirm the amortization of GRA costs are included in the revenue requirement, on the basis of Hydro's current request (i.e., to amortize these costs over a 3 year period, starting in 2013).

1 2 3 4 5	IC-NLH-54	Reference: Section 3: Finance, Schedule I page 2. Please indicate the sources of cash that will be used to finance the refund of the NP RSP surplus, and the impact this will have on Hydro's overall net borrowing levels, debt guarantee fee to be paid, and cost of service once the payment is made.
6 7	IC-NLH-55	Reference: Pages 3.27 to 3.28. Is the current GRA prepared on the same basis of accounting as set out in P.U. 13 (2012)?
8 9 10 11 12 13	IC-NLH-56	Reference: Exhibit 4 page 1. Please provide all analysis in support of the claim of equivalency between the "credit" provided NP in respect of its generation and the credit provided to CBPP. Please ensure the response includes a full COS analysis showing no credit to NP for its generation. Please also quantify all benefits to CBPP from the Generation Credit agreement.
14 15 16 17	IC-NLH-57	<b>Reference:</b> Exhibit 13. Please provide an estimate of the total value of savings generated on Hydro's system as a result of NP's generation credit (as compared to a situation with NP's generation receiving no NP COS generation credit).
18 19 20	IC-NLH-58	<b>Reference:</b> Exhibit 4 page 3 lines 4-8. Please provide all calculations in support of the CBPP Generation Credit COS benefit and the allocation to specific customer classes.
21 22 23 24	IC-NLH-59	Reference: Exhibit 4 page 12 – section 3.3.3. Please confirm the \$0.248 million lower revenues (based on implementation of the CBPP revised contract) is solely based on the loss of Hydro's ability to collect the 10% "administration fee".
25 26 27	IC-NLH-60	Reference: Exhibit 4 page 12 – section 3.3.3. Please confirm that the non-firm "administration fee" is solely implemented as a cost recovery charge (and not an added form of new net revenue to Hydro).
28 29 30	IC-NLH-61	Reference: Exhibit 4 page 12- section 3.3.3. Please indicate the 2013 test year forecast non-firm sales and the total "administration fees" forecast to be collected.
31 32 33	IC-NLH-62	Reference: Section 3: Finance, Table 3.1, page 3.5 and Table 3.2 on Page 3.9. From Table 3.1 and 3.2, why does guaranteed debt outstanding and total regulated debt drop significantly 2007 and 2013?
34 35 36	IC-NLH-63	AROs - provide status of implementing the ARO reporting pursuant to P.U. 29 (2012). Provide the calculation of all AROs and the proposed regulatory treatment of the ARO amounts.
37 38 39 40	IC-NLH-64	Fuel savings from capital projects – since 2006 list all projects with an estimated fuel savings from the capital budget process, and provide all implementation and verification details available to confirm these savings were in fact achieved.

1 2 3 4	IC-NLH-65	<b>Reference: Section 2.2.2.</b> Please provide the value of all compensation or other costs incurred/paid by the Government or NALCOR in acquiring, transferring and integrating the various Exploits assets into the Hydro system.
5 6 7	IC-NLH-66	<b>Reference: Section 2.2.2.</b> Please provide all annual generation output values for each of Star Lake, Exploits River Hydro Partnership, Grand Falls, Buchans, and Bishop's Falls stations the since the date of transfer
8 9	IC-NLH-67	Reference: Page 2.4. Please provide a copy of the direction regarding 4 cent power at described at page 2.4. What happens after June 30, 2014?
10 11 12	IC-NLH-68	Reference: Exhibit 5. Please provide the key studies in support of the revised long-term average hydro values on the Island Interconnected System
13 14 15 16	IC-NLH-69	<b>Reference:</b> Exhibit 5. Please indicate the date of all adjustments to the RSP "long term average hydro generation" values to reflect the revised fleet of generating units, and indicate how these have affected the RSP since they were implemented.
17 18 19	IC-NLH-70	Please indicate, as part of the CDM program if any consideration was given to reinstating capacity shedding options for large customers, such as the previous Interruptible B. If not, why not?
20 21 22	IC-NLH-71	<b>Reference:</b> Page 2.5 Table 2.2. Please provide an explanation of all 2012 industrial CDM, indicating the rationale for the large increase for 2012, as per Table 2.2 page 2.5.
23 24 25 26 27 28	IC-NLH-72	Reference: Exhibit 9. With respect to NP's curtailable load program, please file all details on the program including the rate schedule, the compensation paid to customers, the justification that NP or Hydro can use to initiate an interruption, and the number of interruptions, by month (showing the number of interruptions, the capacity and energy interrupted, and the number of customers affected) since the 2008.
29 30	IC-NLH-73	Reference: Exhibit 9 page 9. Please provide Hydro's estimate of the marginal cost of capacity.
31		
32	IC-NLH-74	Reference: Exhibit 9 page 10. Please provide Hydro's July 2010 Generation Planning Issues Report as referenced at page 10 of Exhibit 9.
	IC-NLH-74 IC-NLH-75	

1 2 3	IC-NLH-77	Reference: Exhibit 9 page 15. Re: Exhibit 9 page 15. Please provide all information used to come to conclusions in respect of "the possible demand/energy relationship of the next least-cost supply resource."
4 5 6 7 8	IC-NLH-78	<b>Reference:</b> Exhibit 9. Please confirm that the problems associated with NP's inappropriate use of curtailable load (i.e., to reduce their peak demand billing, but applied in the absence of any real system emergency or need for the capacity) will be exacerbated by the increase in NP demand charge to the \$9.12/kW level from the current \$4/kW level.
9 10 11 12 13	IC-NLH-79	<b>Reference:</b> Exhibit 9. Please provide the NP rate design in the event the demand charge was maintained at the \$4/kW level, no generation credit was provided for curtailable load, the first block rate was retained at the \$0.02786 level as proposed, and the Second block rate was set to collect the residual revenue requirement.
14 15 16 17 18	IC-NLH-80	Reference: Exhibit 9 page 17. Please provide the economic tests applied in determining whether to proceed with an industrial CDM opportunity. In particular, does Hydro apply the Total or Marginal Resource Cost test, the Rate Impact Measure test, or other economic tests?
19 20 21	IC-NLH-81	<b>Reference:</b> Exhibit 9 section 4.1.1. Following the first set of two bullets there appears to be an incomplete sentence. Please advise on any necessary edits to this section.
22 23 24 25	IC-NLH-82	Reference: Exhibit 9 page 19. Please indicate if Hydro and NP share the costs of the CDM program in respect of each other's customers, or does Hydro's component of costs (revenue requirement and deferral) only affect the Hydro directly served customers (e.g., Rural and IC).
26 27 28	IC-NLH-83	Reference: Exhibit 9 page 19. Please confirm that none of Hydro's current or planned CDM programs provide capacity-related load reductions, or any energy savings at the time of system peak.
29 30 31 32 33	IC-NLH-84	Reference: Exhibit 9 page 21. Please indicate whether an option of deferring all CDM program costs incurred in each given year were amortized over a stated period (e.g., 5 or 7 years) and this amortization were included in Hydro's rate base and revenue requirement would give rise to the rate and stability issues noted at exhibit 9 page 21.
34	IC-NLH-85	Please update IC-5-NLH from the 2006 GRA.
35	IC-NLH-86	Please update IC-29-NLH from the 2006 GRA.
36 37 38	IC-NLH-87	<b>Reference:</b> Page 4.6 Table 4.2. With respect to specifically assigned charges, please provide an update to IC-33, IC-34 and IC-35 from the 2006 GRA.
39 40	IC-NLH-88	Reference: Page 4.6 Table 4.2. With respect to specifically assigned charges, please provide a complete listing of all asset/asset grouping

1 2 3		included in the category of specifically assigned assets for each of the IC and for NP, and indicate the rationale, role and justification for the assets being included as a specifically assigned asset.
4	IC-NLH-89	Please update IC-NLH-36 from the 2006 GRA.
5	IC-NLH-90	Please update NP-NLH-27 from the 2006 GRA.
6	IC-NLH-91	Please update IC-NLH-49 from the 2006 GRA.
7 8 9 10 11 12 13	IC-NLH-92	Reference: Exhibit 9 page 10. Why has Lummus considered that NP's demand rate should be raised to be "cost-based" on average costs, when Hydro's previous rate consultant (NERA) concluded in their report (as part of the 2006 GRA – July 2006) that under Hydro's then demand cost structure (which had lower demand rates) it was likely that "NP may well be over-investing in demand-reducing measures" leading to reduced billings to NP with no corresponding reduction in Hydro's system costs.
14 15 16 17 18	IC-NLH-93	<b>Reference:</b> Page 2.46. Re: Holyrood efficiency per page 2.46. Provide data in graphical and tabular form showing actual operating efficiencies of each unit at Holyrood for the last 5 years, as well as all activities undertaken in the last 5 years to improve the efficiency of generation at Holyrood.
19	IC-NLH-94	Please update CA-135 from the 2006 GRA.
20 21 22 23	IC-NLH-95	Reference: Charts 3.3 to 3.5. Please provide a definition of FTE as used and indicate how the values were calculated, particularly with respect to the number of positions, vacancies, long term leave, and unbudgeted positions filled during the fiscal year.
24 25 26	IC-NLH-96	<b>Reference:</b> Pages 2.18. Please provide the FTE per department and functional area and total for each actual year 2007 – 2012 and 2007 forecast and 2013 forecast years.

<u>DATED</u> at St. John's, in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, this \_\_\_\_\_\_ day of September, 2013.

POOLE ALTHOUSE

Per:

Dean A. Porter

STEWART MCKELVEY

Per:

Paul L. Coxworthy

TO: The Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities

Suite E210, Prince Charles Building

120 Torbay Road P.O. Box 21040

St. John's, NL A1A 5B2 Attention: Board Secretary

TO: Newfoundland & Labrador Hydro

P.O. Box 12400 500 Columbus Drive St. John's, NL A1B 4K7

Attention: Geoffrey P. Young,

Senior Legal Counsel

TO: Thomas Johnson, Consumer Advocate

O'Dea, Earle Law Offices 323 Duckworth Street St. John's, NL A1C 5X4

TO: Newfoundland Power Inc.

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

Senior Legal Counsel

TO: Cox & Palmer

Scotia Centre, Suite 1000

235 Water Street

St. John's, NL A1C 1B6

Attention: Mr. Thomas J. O'Reilly Q.C.