



Lorraine Michael, MHA Signal Hill–Quidi Vidi
Leader, New Democratic Party

Andy Wells
Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer, PUB
P.O. Box 21040
St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada
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January 7, 2014

Dear Mr. Wells:

On Thursday, January 2, 2014 NL Hydro announced that rolling blackouts were being used to meet the higher than expected demand for power in the face of low temperatures. This announcement came as a surprise to many people of the province.

As you know, following this action the power system was hit with a series of events that exacerbated the situation - a transformer fire at the Sunnyside substation on the morning of Sunday, Jan. 5 knocked out power to customers right across the Island and a trip in the switchyard at Holyrood on Sunday evening between 9 and 9:30 caused a complete stop to generation of power from Holyrood.

It is very disturbing that comments from both Nalcor Energy officials and the Premier indicate that because of an aging infrastructure the people of the province might have to accept the use of rolling blackouts during peak periods while they await the production of power from Muskrat Falls.

We believe that such an attitude flies in the face of the requirements of the Electrical Power Control Act 1994 Section 3 and Section 7.

What the people of this province went through from January 2-6, 2014 - and what they are continuing to experience – was very serious and every effort to avoid it in the future should be made.

The proposal of dealing with ratepayer's electrical power needs by using rolling blackouts as a matter of course is not acceptable. This type of planned power disruption is not a responsible method of managing the delivery of power to the ratepayers of the province.

NDP Caucus Office

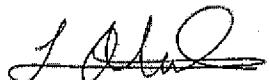
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We are asking that the PUB begin an Inquiry into the current situation as well as the timeline of Nalcor Energy's analysis regarding meeting the power needs of the province during peak periods of the year, and any related actions.

The people of the province deserve to have as full an explanation as possible of what happened during this period. Additionally, the public deserves information on how Nalcor Energy plans to avoid the use of rolling blackouts as a method of dealing with normal situations instead of just as an emergency measure.

Thank you for your consideration to this request, we welcome any further discussion about it and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Lorraine Michael, MHA
Signal Hill-Quidi Vidi
Leader, New Democratic Party

CC: Honourable Kathy Dunderdale
Honourable Derrick Dalley

NDP Caucus Office

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