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2026-10-06

Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro

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Consumer Advocate

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Dear Madams/Sir:

Re: Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro - 2027 Capital Budget Application - Consumer Advocate's Request for Technical Conference - Response

The Board is in receipt of the Consumer Advocate's letter of September 29, 2026 requesting a technical conference on Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro's ("Hydro") 2027 Capital Budget Application ("Application"). The Board has reviewed the request and the reply submission of Hydro filed October 2, 2026 and determined that the request does not meet the requirements for a technical conference.

The Board has previously communicated the criteria for a technical conference stating:

As set out in the Capital Budget Guidelines, a technical conference is to be used in concert with the request for information (RFI) process to gain a full understanding of the scope and nature of the proposed projects. When used in this way a technical conference can be a very effective process to assist in the review of proposed projects as it allows for a direct exchange of information between the utility and the parties and for follow-up questions, if required. A technical conference can be particularly useful in the case of a capital project which involves complex technical issues which require further exploration and in the case of large capital projects where there are multiple issues and significant expenditures.¹

The issues proposed by Consumer Advocate do not meet the requirements for a technical conference for the following reasons:

- Hydro has provided information in RFI responses regarding issues 1 (capital planning, prioritization and deferrals), 4 (assessment and verification of expected capital benefits), and 6 (selection process). The additional information the Consumer Advocate is

¹ Correspondence dated October 9, 2020 regarding Newfoundland Power's 2021 Capital Budget Application; correspondence dated September 26, 2024 regarding Newfoundland Power's 2025 Capital Budget Application; and correspondence dated August 10, 2026 regarding Newfoundland Power's 2027 Capital Budget Application.

requesting is not related to the scope and nature of the proposed projects. Additional questions can be asked in the upcoming RFI process to seek further clarification as required.

- Issues 2 (cumulative financial consequences and affordability) and 7 (capital budget execution) lack the specificity required for a technical conference as they are broad analysis matters that are not related to a specific project. Questions can be asked in the upcoming RFI process to seek additional information as required.
- Issue 3 (combined financial consequences of continued operation of Holyrood) is outside the scope of the current Application and would be more appropriately addressed in other proceedings including Hydro's Reliability and Resource Adequacy Review.
- Hydro has provided information regarding issue 5 (Stephenville gas turbine) in RFI responses. The Board does not believe there are complex technical issues regarding the alternative proposed by the Consumer Advocate that would require a technical conference for this project. Additional questions can be asked in the upcoming RFI process as required.

The schedule for the Application includes a second round of RFIs where the Consumer Advocate can ask additional questions, if necessary. The Board is satisfied that the second round of RFIs will allow the parties to place sufficient information on the record for this proceeding to gain a full understanding of these issues without the need for a technical conference.

The Board notes that some of the information being requested by the Consumer Advocate relates to capital planning and execution that has been previously put on the record in other proceedings. The Board would encourage Hydro to discuss with the Consumer Advocate the historical background and process, including timing, of its capital planning to assist in a better understanding of the process.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Board's Legal Counsel, Ms. Jacqui Glynn, by email, jglynn@pub.nl.ca or by telephone 709-726-6781.

Sincerely,



Mike McNiven
Board Secretary

MM/cj

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