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2026-10-23

Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro

Shirley Walsh

Email: shirleywalsh@nlh.nl.ca

Dear Ms. Walsh:

Re: Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro - 2027 Capital Budget Application - To NLH - Requests for Information

Enclosed are Requests for Information PUB-NLH-069 to PUB-NLH-086 regarding the above-noted application.

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,

Colleen Jones
Assistant Board Secretary

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ecc **Newfoundland Power Inc.**
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1 **IN THE MATTER OF** the **Electrical Power**
2 **Control Act**, 1994, SNL 1994, Chapter E-5.1
3 (the “**EPCA**”) and the **Public Utilities Act**, RSNL
4 1990, Chapter P-47 (the “**Act**”), as amended,
5 and regulations thereunder; and
6

7 **IN THE MATTER OF** an Application by
8 Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro for an
9 Order approving:

- 10 i) its capital budget for 2027, pursuant
11 to section 41(1) of the **Act**;
12 ii) its proposed capital purchases and
13 construction projects for 2027 in
14 excess of \$750,000, pursuant to
15 section 41(3)(a) of the **Act**;
16 iii) contributions by certain Customers
17 for contributions towards the cost of
18 improvements to certain property,
19 pursuant to section 41(5) of the **Act**,
20 and
21 iv) for an Order pursuant to section 78 of
22 the **Act**, fixing and determining its
23 average rate base for 2025.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD
REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION**

PUB-NLH-069 to PUB-NLH-086

Issued: October 23, 2026

- PUB-NLH-069 Reference: 2027 Capital Budget Overview; Response to CA-NLH-013**
- a) Hydro states that Chart 1 demonstrates that the 2019 Capital Expenditures escalated by inflation in relation to actual and forecast expenditures through 2027. Identify the inflation rates used in preparing Chart 1.
- b) Provide details of the cost factors, such as contract/labour pricing and procurement, that have led to the cost increase to install a 65-foot pole (from approximately \$2,000 in 2021 to \$24,000 in 2025).
- PUB-NLH-070 Reference: Replace Light-Duty Vehicles (2027-2028); Responses to CA-NLH-065 and PUB-NLH-033**
- Provide an economic analysis to compare the operating cost savings, such as fuel cost and maintenance over the expected life of internal combustion engine powered light-duty vehicles, with any premium in purchase price for EVs.
- PUB-NLH-071 Reference: Five-year Capital Plan Detailed Breakdown by Major and Minor - Asset Category; Response to CA-NLH-069, Table 1**
- Explain why both capital costs and operating and maintenance costs are increasing for metering. Address whether the proposed capital investments are expected to generate operating savings and, if so, when those savings are expected to be realized.
- PUB-NLH-072 Reference: Wood Pole Line Management (2027); Response to CA-NLH-083, Attachment 1**
- Provide the most recent versions of the graphs for the:
- i) 50-year Iowa;
 - ii) Current; and
 - iii) Extended Life curves for the Avalon, Central and Northern regions, and Province-wide using the inspection data from the Wood Pole Line Management (2027) program.
- PUB-NLH-073 Reference: 2027 Capital Budget Overview: Terminal Station Asset Management Strategy; Response to PUB-NLH-006**
- Table 1 lists radial transmission line breakers without bypass switches. For each of the breakers identified:
- a) Provide the number of customers that could be impacted by a failure of the breaker.
 - b) Provide how long would it take to either manually bypass a breaker or install a replacement breaker in the case of a breaker failure?

PUB-NLH-074 Reference: 2027 Capital Budget Overview: Terminal Station Asset Management Strategy; Response to PUB-NLH-008, Attachment 1, Table 1

- a) Explain the low rates of refurbishment or replacement of eligible assets in each year from 2020 to 2025 and identify the principal constraints on completing the renewal work.
- b) Explain how assets meeting renewal criteria but remaining in service at year-end were treated in the following year. Confirm whether these assets were included in column (i) of the following year and explain any exclusions or reassessments.
- c) Indicate whether the backlog under each program is expected to increase, decrease or remain relatively stable over the 2027–2031 capital planning period, and identify the associated reliability or operational risks and how Hydro plans to manage them.
- d) For instrument transformers and disconnect switches, explain whether the planned renewal pace and budgets under the Replace Instrument Transformers (2027-2028) and Replace Disconnects (2027-2029) programs are sufficient to address the outstanding eligible assets, including carryover work and emerging replacement needs, taking into account recent cost increases and scope changes.

PUB-NLH-075 Reference: Renew Diesel Units (2027); Response to PUB-NLH-015

Confirm that the 2027 budget estimate of \$3,642,000 for the Renew Diesel Units (2027) program includes an estimate for the installation cost for Postville Unit 2096 and Rigolet Unit 2101.

PUB-NLH-076 Reference: Response to PUB-NLH-016

- a) How many customers currently receive electrical service in Paradise River?
- b) Of the customers receiving service in Paradise River, how many of the premises are primary residences and how many of the premises are seasonal residences or cottages?
- c) Clarify the relationship between the Hatch assessment identified as completed in 2013 and the report dated December 18, 2009 provided in Attachment 1. Confirm whether a separate assessment was completed in 2013 and, if so, provide a copy.

PUB-NLH-077 Reference: Renew Diesel Units (2027); Response to PUB-NLH-034

Has Hydro completed the jurisdictional review of other Canadian utilities serving prime power diesel communities?

PUB-NLH-078 Reference: Renew Diesel Units (2027); Response to PUB-NLH-035, Table 1

Why was warranty coverage not available for units SBN-2075 (100 operating hours at time of failure) and SBN-2055 (251 operating hours at time of failure)?

PUB-NLH-079 Reference: Replace Protective Relays (2027-2028); Response to PUB-NLH-038

a) Reconcile the reported replacement of 1,500 electromechanical relays with the installation of 50 microprocessor-based relays, given Hydro's statement that each microprocessor-based relay typically replaces three electromechanical relays.

b) If each microprocessor-based relay typically replaces three electromechanical relays, the remaining 304 electromechanical relays would require approximately 101 microprocessor-based relays. Explain what constraints prevent Hydro from accelerating the program to complete all remaining replacements before 2037.

PUB-NLH-080 Reference: Upgrade Worst-Performing Distribution Feeders (2027-2028); Response to PUB-NLH-052, Table 2

Explain why the reliability metrics for the Central Region are higher than the Northern and Labrador regions for the period from 2021 to 2025.

PUB-NLH-081 Reference: Distribution Equipment SCADA Additions - Phase I (2027-2028); Response to PUB-NLH-064

Identify changes to field work methods, such as remote tagging of field devices through the SCADA system, that will be implemented with the updated SCADA technology and explain how these changes are expected to improve operational efficiency and reliability performance.

PUB-NLH-082 Reference: Migrate Legacy Applications (2027); Response to PUB-NLH-068

Has Hydro completed the assessment of whether existing platforms and capabilities can be leveraged for the 10 software applications proposed for replacement? If yes, provide the results. If no, advise when the assessment will be completed.

PUB-NLH-083 Reference: SWOP Replacements (2027-2028), Response to PUB-NLH-060

Please explain why the application for the SWOP Replacement Project should not be deferred until the project is at the point of awarding an RFP for implementation.

PUB-NLH-084 Reference: SWOP Replacements (2027-2028); Response to PUB-NLH-060

- a) Identify the alternatives considered, specifically whether commercially available mobile applications were considered, for reporting safety observations and incidents in industrial workplace and explain whether they meet Hydro's requirements.
- b) Provide the analysis supporting the proposed SWOP replacement as the least-cost option, including a comparison of acquisition, implementation and ongoing operating costs.

PUB-NLH-085 Reference: SWOP Replacements (2027-2028); Response to PUB-NLH-060

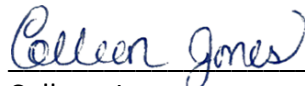
Explain the benefits of integrating the replacement SWOP application with the JD Edwards ERP system, including the information to be exchanged and the processes supported. Provide examples demonstrating why this integration is necessary to meet SWOP reporting requirements, and explain whether those requirements could be met without it.

PUB-NLH-086 Reference: SWOP Replacements (2027-2028); Response to PUB-NLH-060

- a) Are all historical safety observation and incident records retained in the existing SWOP database?
- b) Has Hydro assessed whether archiving closed and/or less serious safety observations could address database capacity constraints while preserving access to historical records? If so, provide the results. If not, explain why.
- c) Could this approach extend the useful life of the existing SWOP application and defer its replacement? Identify any technical or operational limitations that would prevent this.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

Per



Colleen Jones

Assistant Board Secretary