

# Office of the Consumer Advocate

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Board of Commissions of Public Utilities  
120 Torbay Road, P.O. Box 2140  
St. John's, NL A1A 5B2

**Attention: G. Cheryl Blundon, Director of**  
**Corporate Services / Board Secretary**

Dear Ms. Blundon:

**Re: Newfoundland Power Inc. – Application for Electric Vehicle Load Management Pilot Project – Drive Electric NL Request for Intervenor Status**

While the Consumer Advocate encourages Drive Electric NL to provide input to the Board in relation to the above-referenced application by way letters of comment, the Consumer Advocate objects to full intervenor status being granted to Drive Electric NL for the following reasons.

Firstly, the Consumer Advocate has been appointed pursuant to section 117 of the Public Utilities Act, RSNL 1990, c. P-47 (the “Act”) by the Lieutenant Governor in Council to represent the interests of all domestic and general service electricity customers in relation to matters before the Board, and in fact, the Consumer Advocate has been actively involved in the aforementioned application for this purpose.

There are many identifiable subsets of ratepayers in the Province, for example, those ratepayers who rely on heat pumps and/or mini-splits for space heating. Each subset of these ratepayers has an interest in the outcome of Newfoundland Power’s current application. However, the fact remains that each of these subsets are already represented by the Consumer Advocate by virtue of his appointment under the Act, and they do not have individual standing before the Board.

As the Board is required to balance the interests of the various parties on any application, granting full intervenor status to disparate subsets of electric ratepayers will unnecessarily complicate the work of the Board. The Consumer Advocate submits that the purpose of section 117 of the Act is to prevent this fragmentation of ratepayers’ representation.

Granting intervenor status to Drive Electric NL would be redundant and, the Consumer Advocate submits, contrary to the spirit and intent of section 117 of the Act.

Secondly, the above-referenced application cannot be viewed in isolation from other, over-arching, complex, legal, financial, and regulatory issues currently before the Board relating to, *inter alia*, resource and reliability planning, demand management, load forecasting, and of course, customer rates. The Consumer Advocate has and is directly involved in these issues before the Board and has hired experts for the purpose of assessing Newfoundland Power's current application in the context and scope of all these aforementioned issues, in the best interests of ratepayers. The Consumer Advocate submits that Drive Electric NL would likely not have a full view or interest in the scope of all of the issues affecting all of the ratepayers.

For the foregoing reasons, therefore, we would respectfully request that Drive Electric NL's application to become a full intervenor in the aforesaid application be denied.

Yours truly



**Stephen Fitzgerald, KC**  
**Counsel for the Consumer Advocate**

/jm

cc **Newfoundland & Labrador Hydro**  
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