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2025-08-13

Newfoundland Power Inc.

Dominic Foley

E-mail: dfoley@newfoundlandpower.com

Dear Sir:

**Re: Newfoundland Power Inc. - Newfoundland Power Inc. - 2025 Capital Budget
Application – Request for Information**

Enclosed are Requests for Information PUB-NP-001 to PUB-NP-013 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,

Jo-Anne Galarneau

Executive Director and Board Secretary

JAG/mpl

Enclosure

ecc **Newfoundland Power Inc.**
NP Regulatory, E-mail: regulatory@newfoundlandpower.com
Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro
Shirley Walsh, E-mail: shirleywalsh@nlh.nl.ca
NLH Regulatory, E-mail: nlhregulatory@nlh.nl.ca

Consumer Advocate
Dennis Browne, KC, E-mail: dbrowne@bfma-law.com
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Bernice Bailey, E-mail: bbailey@bfma-law.com

1 **IN THE MATTER OF** the **Public**
2 **Utilities Act** (the “**Act**”); and
3
4 **IN THE MATTER OF** an application by
5 Newfoundland Power Inc. for an
6 Order pursuant to sections 41 and 78
7 of the Act: approving its 2026 Capital
8 Budget; and fixing and determining
9 its 2024 rate base.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD
REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION**

PUB-NP-001 to PUB-NP-013

Issued: August 13, 2025

General

PUB-NP-001 In response to PUB-NP-019 filed during the 2025 Capital Budget Application, Newfoundland Power provided its strategy for climate change adaptation. Are there any projects or programs within the 2026 Capital Budget Application that are proposed as a result of this strategy?

Schedule B 2026 Capital Projects and Programs Over \$750,000

PUB-NP-002 Pages 2-5, LED Street Lighting Replacement Project. Newfoundland Power states that street light fixtures will be replaced on an ongoing basis throughout the year in response to street light trouble calls.

- a) Please confirm that 2026 is the final year of the LED Street Lighting Replacement project; and
- b) Please describe how Newfoundland Power is managing this project to ensure that all HPS light fixtures will be replaced with LED fixtures and the project will be concluded.

PUB-NP-003 Pages 6-7, Feeder Additions for Load Growth Project. On page 7, Newfoundland Power indicates that a net-present value analysis was conducted considering Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro's additional costs. The results of this analysis are provided in Table 3 on Page 8 of 1.1 Feeder Additions for Load Growth. Please provide the net-present value analysis for the two alternatives for this project, including any associated calculations.

PUB-NP-004 Pages 11-12, Extensions Program. Table 1 sets out Newfoundland Power's cost per customer for the program for 2021-2026. Please reconcile the 2026 forecasted cost per customer of \$5,845 noted in Table 1 and the \$5,862 figure provided on page 12.

PUB-NP-005 Pages 18-22, Rebuild Distribution Lines Program. In response to PUB-NP-006 filed during the 2015 Capital Budget Application, Newfoundland Power notes that the SAIFI, SAIDI, CHIKM and CIKM indices are used to identify feeders requiring reliability assessment. Please explain how these indices, the associated reliability assessments, and the list of worst performing feeders are considered by Newfoundland Power when identifying the feeders that require inspection and annual preventative maintenance as part of a Capital Budget Application.

PUB-NP-006 Pages 51-54, King's Bridge Substation Power Transformer Project. The scope of work for this project appears similar to that proposed for the Molloy's Lane

Substation Power Transformer Project on Page 59. Please explain why the King's Bridge Substation Power Transformer Project is expected to take three years to complete, while the Molloy's Lane Substation Power Transformer Project is expected to take two years.

PUB-NP-007

Pages 63-67, Substation Spare Power Transformer Inventory Project.

- a) On page 65, Newfoundland Power notes that utilities currently manage power transformers through a combination of portable substations and spare transformers. Has Newfoundland Power considered the use of portable batteries or power-grade batteries as an alternative to portable substations and transformers in its management of the electrical grid? If not, why not? ; and
- b) Appendix B of 2.2 - Substation Power Transformer Strategy indicates that several of the power transformer failures that occurred in the last decade were classified as imminent failures. Please provide an overview of Newfoundland Power's criteria and methodology for determining whether a power transformer is classified as an imminent failure.

PUB-NP-008

Pages 87-89, Customer Correspondence Modernization Project.

- a) The expenditure amounts by category provided for 2026 and 2027 in Table 1 on page 87 do not sum to the Total amounts by category provided. Please provide the correct breakdown;
- b) Appendix A of 4.1 - Customer Correspondence Modernization sets out a Net Present Value analysis for the project. Column E of the analysis identifies non-labour costs for 2028-2033 that are expected to be saved. Please provide examples of these non-labour costs; and
- c) Is the current customer correspondence system supported by a third-party vendor or is it supported internally? Please confirm if there is any concern of the current system becoming obsolete.

PUB-NP-009

Pages 90-92, Geographic Information System Upgrade Project. A major upgrade on Newfoundland Power's Outage Management System is set to be performed in 2026 and a full replacement of its Asset Management Software is scheduled to occur in 2027. In addition, other management systems have been integrated with the current Geographic Information System (GIS) in recent years.

- a) Has Newfoundland Power assessed the compatibility of all its information systems with the new GIS, if approved? If so, please provide details with respect to these assessments including any potential concerns or limitations;

- b) Will any of Newfoundland Power's other information systems require future upgrades in order to be compatible with the new GIS? If so, please list which systems would require future upgrades; and
- c) Given there are several concurrent information systems projects ongoing during the same timeframe, does Newfoundland Power have any concerns with respect to the completion of the necessary upgrades and integrations prior to February 28, 2028 when vendor support will no longer be available?

PUB-NP-010 Pages 99-102, Shared Server Infrastructure Project. On page 100 Newfoundland Power proposes a budget of \$730,000 for Server Infrastructure Upgrades, reflecting a 53% increase over the budgeted amount for this project component in the 2025 Capital Budget Application. Please provide additional details with respect to the specific server infrastructure work that will be completed in 2026 and the rationale for the increase in the budgeted amount compared to last year.

PUB-NP-011 Pages 103-104, Cybersecurity Upgrades Project. On page 103, Newfoundland Power states that the Cybersecurity Upgrades Project focuses on strengthening the cybersecurity infrastructure. Is there any overlap in the work that will be conducted under this project and the Shared Server Infrastructure Project set out on pages 99-102, which also includes work to meet cybersecurity requirements? Please explain.

2026-2030 Capital Plan

PUB-NP-012 Please explain how reported actual expenditures set out in Newfoundland Power's capital plan can change from one Capital Budget Application to another. For example, the 2023 actual expenditure for substations in Table 3 on page 17 of the 2026 Capital Budget Application is \$21,230,000, whereas the amount noted in Table 3 on page 18 of the 2025 Capital Budget Application is \$20,955,000.

PUB-NP-013 On page 19 Newfoundland Power states that increased generation expenditures also reflect a forecast requirement to undertake refurbishment projects at 11 hydro plants over the next five years. Has Newfoundland Power developed an integrated resource plan in conjunction with Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro regarding the necessity and requirements of these hydro plant refurbishments? If not, does Newfoundland Power intend to work with

- 1 Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro in the development of such a resource
- 2 plan? If not, why not?

DATED at St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador this 13th day of August 2025.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

Per



Jo-Anne Galarneau
Executive Director and Board Secretary