

Office of the Consumer Advocate

PO Box 23135
Terrace on the Square
St. John's, NL Canada
A1B 4J9

Tel: 709-724-3800
Fax: 709-754-3800

September 29, 2023

Via Email

The Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities
Prince Charles Building
120 Torbay Road, P.O. Box 21040
St. John's, NL A1A 5B2

Attention: Jo Galarneau
Executive Director and Board Secretary

Dear Ms. Galarneau:

**Re: NLH - Application for Approval of Capital Expenditures for
the Purchase of a Spare Generator Step-up Transformer**

On September 21, 2023 Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro ("Hydro") submitted to the Public Utilities Board (the "Board") an Application for Approval of Capital Expenditures for the Purchase of a Spare Generator Step-up Transformer ("Application"). In its Application Hydro is seeking Board approval of capital expenditures for the purchase of a spare generator step-up transformer that can be utilized at the Holyrood Thermal Generating Station, the Bay d'Espoir Hydroelectric Generating Facility, the Upper Salmon Hydroelectric Generating Station, and the Granite Canal Hydroelectric Generating Station. Hydro indicates that "*Project execution is expected to take four years commencing in 2023 with an estimated project cost of \$7,466,900.*"

The Board directed the parties to file comments on the Application by September 29, 2023. This submission conveys the comments of the Consumer Advocate.

The Consumer Advocate notes that supply chain issues arising from Covid are lingering, resulting in the long lead time necessary to procure a spare step-up transformer. Given the circumstances in which Hydro now finds itself, the Consumer Advocate accepts the need for obtaining the spare transformer.

Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions on this submission.

Yours truly,



Stephen Fitzgerald, KC
Counsel to the Consumer Advocate

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cc **Newfoundland & Labrador Hydro**
Shirley Walsh (ShirleyWalsh@nlh.nl.ca)
NLH Regulatory (NLHRegulatory@nlh.nl.ca)

Newfoundland Power Inc.
Dominic J. Foley (dfoley@newfoundlandpower.com)
NP Regulatory (regulatory@newfoundlandpower.com)

Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities
PUB Official Email (ito@pub.nl.ca)
Jacqui Glynn (jglynn@pub.nl.ca)
Cheryl Blundon (cbludon@pub.nl.ca)
Sarah Kean (skean@pub.nl.ca)

Industrial Customers Group
Paul Coxworthy (pcoxworthy@stewartmckelvey.com)
Dean Porter (dporter@poolealthouse.ca)
Denis Fleming (dfleming@coxandpalmer.com)

Labrador Interconnected Group
Senwung Luk (sluk@oktlaw.com)
Nick Kennedy (nkennedy@oktlaw.com)

Teck Resources Limited
Shawn Kinsella (shawn.kinsella@teck.com)

Linde Canada Inc.
Sheryl Nisenbaum (Sheryl_nisenbaum@praxair.com)
Peter Strong (peter.strong@linde.com)