



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

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E-mail: dfoley@newfoundlandpower.com

2023-03-15

Dominic Foley
Legal Counsel
Newfoundland Power Inc.
55 Kenmount Road, P.O. Box 8910
St. John's, NL A1B 3P6

Dear Mr. Foley:

Re: Newfoundland Power Inc. - 2023 Capital Budget Supplemental Application - Approval for the Purchase and Installation of a Replacement Power Transformer for Memorial Substation - RFIs - PUB-NP-001 to PUB-NP-006

Enclosed are Requests for Information PUB-NP-001 to PUB-NP-006 regarding the above-noted application.

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

Sincerely,

Cheryl Blundon
Board Secretary

CB/cj

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, Q.C., 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 the approval
6 of supplemental capital expenditures to
7 proceed with the purchase and installation
8 of a replacement power transformer for
9 Memorial Substation, pursuant to section
10 41(3) of the **Act**.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD
REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION**

PUB-NP-001 to PUB-NP-006

Issued: March 15, 2023

- 1 **PUB-NP-001** Schedule B, page 6, states that “Typically, when failures occur at substations, the
2 first step considered is to transfer load to an adjacent substation with available
3 capacity and sufficient distribution tie points. In the case of MUN Substation, the
4 load cannot be transferred to another substation due to the absence of
5 sufficient customer-owned distribution tie points.”
6
- 7 (a) Would the Long Pond Substation have the capacity to handle the entire
8 MUN substation load, in addition to its normal load, if there were sufficient
9 tie points? Please provide detail showing the capacity deficit or surplus.
10
- 11 (b) What is the estimated cost to install sufficient tie points so as to enable the
12 Long Pond Substation to act as backup to MUN-T1?
13
- 14 (c) Has Newfoundland Power had, or plan to have, discussions with MUN to
15 investigate mechanisms to increase Newfoundland Power’s flexibility in
16 serving MUN such as increasing the number of tie points or switchgear
17 facilities? If yes, please elaborate. If not, please explain the rationale for
18 not doing so.
19
- 20 **PUB-NP-002** Schedule B, page 2, states that “MUN-T1 last underwent full maintenance in
21 June 2018 and MUN-T2 in July 2020.”
22
- 23 (a) Please provide details on the standard industry practice for full
24 maintenance schedules on power transformers.
25
- 26 (b) Please provide the full maintenance schedule for Newfoundland Power’s
27 power transformers.
28
- 29 (c) When is MUN-T1 scheduled for its next full maintenance?
30
- 31 (d) Does the full maintenance schedule accelerate or change as the age of the
32 power transformer increases?
33
- 34 (e) Please detail the monitoring that Newfoundland Power plans with respect
35 to MUN-T1 during the 2023-2024 period prior to the replacement of MUN-
36 T2 (e.g., increased frequency of oil samples, etc.).
37
- 38 **PUB-NP-003** Has Newfoundland Power engaged in any discussions with MUN as to how loads
39 could be reduced through conservation and demand management efforts? If so,
40 please detail any results arising from the discussions. If not, please detail the
41 rationale for not doing so.
42
- 43 **PUB-NP-004** Has Newfoundland Power evaluated any non-wires alternatives options, such as
44 wind or solar and battery combinations, as an alternative or supplement to

1 transformer replacement? If so, please detail the conclusion(s) and provide any
2 analyses. If not, please provide the rationale for not doing so.

3
4 **PUB-NP-005** Schedule B, page 6, states that “Under normal operating conditions, the load on
5 LPD Substation consists of the new Core Science Facility, as well as the Health
6 Sciences Centre and surrounding buildings such as the Janeway Children’s
7 Hospital. The load of LPD Substation could normally be transferred to MUN
8 Substation. However, with MUN-T2 out of service, the capacity of MUN
9 Substation has been reduced and it is no longer possible to transfer the load
10 from LPD Substation to MUN Substation in the event of a failure at LPD
11 Substation. This leaves critical loads associated with the University without their
12 typical source of redundant supply.” What measures has Newfoundland Power
13 undertaken, or plan to undertake, to mitigate this risk?
14

15 **PUB-NP-006** Newfoundland Power’s 2023 capital budget application, Tab 2023 Capital Budget
16 Overview, Appendix B, page 3, lists various projects that were deferred from
17 2023 to subsequent years and includes Memorial Substation Refurbishment and
18 Modernization. Newfoundland Power states that “Memorial Substation located
19 at Memorial University in St. John’s requires refurbishment and modernization
20 to replace deteriorated equipment. The project was originally planned for 2023.
21 The project has been deferred to allow further engineering assessment of the
22 components in the substation and to coordinate with work planned by Memorial
23 University on the equipment it owns in the substation. The project is now
24 planned for 2024.”
25

- 26 (a) Was MUN-T2 being considered for replacement as part of the above?
27
28 (b) What impact, if any, did the deferral of this project have upon the timing
29 of the discovery of the issue with MUN-T2?

DATED at St. John’s, Newfoundland this 15th day of March 2023.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

Per



Cheryl Blundon
Board Secretary