



September 23, 2013

Ms. G. Cheryl Blundon
Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities
120 Torbay Road, P.O. Box 12040
St. John's, NL A1A 5B2

Dear Ms. Blundon:

Re: Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro's 2013 General Rate Application

Please find enclosed the original and twelve (12) copies of the Consumer Advocate's Requests for Information numbered CA-NLH-01 to CA-NLH-151 in relation to the above noted Application.

A copy of the letter, together with enclosures, has been forwarded directly to the parties listed below.

If you have any questions regarding the filing, please contact the undersigned at your convenience.

Yours very truly,

O'DEA, EARLE



THOMAS JOHNSON

TJ/cel

Encl.

cc: Newfoundland & Labrador Hydro
P.O. Box 12400
500 Columbus Drive
St. John's, NL A1B 4K7
Attention: Geoffrey P. Young, Senior Legal Counsel

Newfoundland Power
P.O. Box 8910
55 Kenmount Road
St. John's, NL A1B 3P6
Attention: Gerard Hayes, Senior Legal Counsel



Vale Newfoundland and Labrador Limited
c/o Cox & Palmer
Suite 1000, Scotia Centre
235 Water Street
St. John's, NL A1C 1B6
Attention: Thomas J. O'Reilly, Q.C.

Corner Brook Pulp & Paper Limited,
North Atlantic Refining Limited
and Teck Resources Limited
Attention: Paul Coxworthy/Dean Porter

Miller & Hearn
PO Box 129
450 Avalon Drive
Labrador City, NL A2V 2K3
Attention: Ed Hearn, Q.C.

Olthuis, Kleer, Townshend LLP
229 College Street
Suite 312
Toronto, ON
M5T 1R4
Attention: Nancy Kleer

House of Commons
Confederation Building, Room 682
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Attention: Yvonne Jones, MP
Labrador

IN THE MATTER OF
the *Public Utilities Act*, R.S.N. 1990,
Chapter P-47 (the "*Act*");

AND

IN THE MATTER OF
A General Rate Application (the "*Application*")
by Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro for
approvals of, under Section 70 of the Act, changes
in the rates to be charged for the supply of power
and energy to Newfoundland Power, Rural Customers
and Industrial Customers; and under Section 71 of the
Act, changes in the Rules and Regulations applicable
to the supply of electricity to Rural Customers.

**CONSUMER ADVOCATE
REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION
CA-NLH-01 to CA-NLH-151**

Issued: September 23, 2013

1 **General**

2

3 CA-NLH-1 Please provide a table summarizing all directives issued by the
4 Board to Hydro relating to the last GRA and indicate if the
5 directive has been addressed, and if so, provide the reference. If a
6 directive has not been addressed, please explain why.

7

8 CA-NLH-2 Please provide the reasons for waiting seven years to file this
9 GRA? Does Hydro believe that filing a GRA at this time is
10 consistent with regulatory efficiency?

11

12 CA-NLH-3 Please provide a list of the incentive mechanisms incorporated in
13 the rate regime proposed in this GRA for Hydro to perform in the
14 best interests of consumers. Identify all risks in the proposed rate
15 regime and indicate if the risk is being taken on by Hydro or
16 consumers.

17

18 **Proposed Order**

19

20 CA-NLH-4 (Proposed Order, page 3, clause 15)
21 Please provide a table showing average rates in cents/kWh for each
22 customer class on the Labrador Interconnected System, and for the
23 Labrador Interconnected System as a whole, in each year from
24 2006 through to the proposed rates for 2014. Please file for the
25 record a copy of Order No. P.U. 33 (2010).

26

27 **Schedule A**

28

29

30 CA-NLH-5 (Schedule A)
31 Please provide a copy of the CBPP Service Agreement with the
32 proposed changes from the currently-approved version highlighted.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31

Rate Schedules

CA-NLH-6 (Rate Schedules)
Please file a table comparing current rates to proposed rates and percentage rate increase/decrease by rate component (i.e., customer, capacity and energy) for each customer class served by Hydro.

CA-NLH-7 (Rate Schedules)
Please file a table comparing average current rates in cents/kWh to average proposed rates and showing the percentage increase proposed for each customer class.

CA-NLH-8 (Rate Schedules, Rules and Regulations, pages 22 to 35 of 47)
Please provide a copy of the Rules and Regulations with changes from the currently-approved version highlighted.

Evidence Introduction

CA-NLH-9 (Evidence Introduction page 1.1, lines 16 to 18)
Please provide the calculation for the cost savings and greenhouse gas reductions resulting from these renewable energy initiatives for 2013, and provide a forecast of these savings/reductions over the next five years.

CA-NLH-10 (Evidence Introduction page 1.15, lines 1 to 3)
Please show how the RSP has reduced short-term volatility in rates. Provide a table showing for NP and each IC for each year the RSP has been in existence the base rate, the RSP rate adjustment, the total rate and the year-over-year change in the total rate. Show

1 average rates in cents/kWh.
2
3 CA-NLH-11 (Evidence Introduction page 1.15, lines 1 to 3)
4 Please provide the same table requested in the previous RFI, but
5 assuming the load variation component of the RSP was allocated
6 on the basis of load ratio share as proposed by Hydro.
7

8 **Regulated Activities Evidence**
9

10 CA-NLH-12 (Regulated Activities Evidence page 2.4, lines 8 to 11)
11 What is the basis for the 4 cents/kWh purchase price and what has
12 Hydro assumed regarding availability of these purchases and price
13 beyond the effective date of June 30, 2014?
14

15 CA-NLH-13 (Regulated Activities Evidence page 2.4, lines 8 to 11)
16 How does the 4 cents/kWh purchase price compare to the cost of
17 power from Hydro's own hydro generation facilities?
18

19 CA-NLH-14 (Regulated Activities Evidence page 2.5, Table 2.2)
20 Are there capacity savings associated with the CDM programs as
21 well? What is the value of the capacity and energy savings in terms
22 of Dollars and greenhouse gas emissions in 2013, and forecast over
23 the next 5 years?
24

25 CA-NLH-15 (Regulated Activities Evidence page 2.11, lines 4 to 10)
26 Is it common in the industry to rank transmission system
27 performance on the basis of one year when a single transmission
28 outage has such a significant impact on results? Would it be more
29 informative to use a 5-year rolling average similar to what Hydro
30 has used for historical comparison purposes? Please provide a
31 comparison of transmission reliability performance in recent years

1 on this basis.

2

3 CA-NLH-16 (Regulated Activities Evidence page 2.12, Chart 2.3)

4 Does Hydro believe the reliability improvements in transmission,

5 distribution and generation are an anomaly, or does Hydro believe

6 them to have a level of permanence?

7

8 CA-NLH-17 (Regulated Activities Evidence page 2.12, Chart 2.3)

9 Does Hydro forecast continued improvement in reliability

10 performance going forward in light of its aging asset base and

11 number of experienced employees reaching retirement age?

12

13 CA-NLH-18 (Regulated Activities Evidence page 2.12, Chart 2.3)

14 Is Hydro pursuing programs to improve reliability going forward,

15 and if so, what is the benefit to cost ratio of each program? Please

16 identify each of Hydro's reliability improvement programs going

17 forward, its costs, and the estimated benefits in terms of improved

18 reliability and the value customers place on reliability.

19

20 CA-NLH-19 (Regulated Activities Evidence page 2.16, lines 4 to 14)

21 Please provide a table showing for each year from 2013 through

22 2020 the number of hours Holyrood is forecast to be producing

23 energy (exclude voltage support requirements) and the total

24 amount of energy forecast to be produced by Holyrood.

25

26 CA-NLH-20 (Regulated Activities Evidence page 2.36, lines 16 to 17)

27 When is Praxair expected to start taking power and how much

28 power is Praxair expected to consume in 2013?

29

30 CA-NLH-21 (Regulated Activities Evidence page 2.41, lines 13 to 15)

31 Does Hydro apply full capacity credit to the wind farms; i.e., is the

1 full rated capacity of the wind farms expected to be available
2 during the system peak period?

3
4 CA-NLH-22 (Regulated Activities Evidence page 2.42, Table 2.17)
5 According to this table, Hydro will fall short of its capacity
6 reliability target in 2015 and its energy reliability target in 2019.
7 Please file a copy of Hydro's least cost integrated resource plan for
8 alleviating these shortfalls, and show Table 2.17 with the plan
9 incorporated.

10
11 CA-NLH-23 (Finance Evidence page 3.2, lines 17 to 24)
12 What is the impact on proposed rates of the Exploits generation
13 initiative, both in total dollars and percentage terms?

14
15 **Finance Evidence**

16
17 CA-NLH-24 (Finance Evidence page 3.3, lines 13 to 22)
18 Please provide a complete list of Government directives (i.e., not
19 only those related to Finance) that are to be taken into account by
20 the Board in this Application. Please include the source and a
21 reference in the Application where appropriate and file a copy of
22 each Government directive that has not been filed with this
23 Application.

24
25 CA-NLH-25 (Finance Evidence page 3.6, lines 22 to 24)
26 Hydro is proposing an increase in its return on equity from 4.47%
27 to 8.8%. Please provide a list of all risks that Hydro proposes to
28 take on in return for this increase in ROE. Provide an additional
29 list of all risks that Hydro is proposing to transfer to customers in
30 this GRA.

31

1 *Rates and Regulation Evidence*

2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31

CA-NLH-26

(Rates and Regulation Evidence page 4.4, Table 4.1)
What would the NP rate be if the capacity charge were left unchanged at \$4/kW/month and the remainder of the revenue requirement were recovered in the tail block energy charge? Assume the first block quantity and charge are as proposed.

CA-NLH-27

(Rates and Regulation Evidence page 4.4, lines 3 to 4)
It is proposed that the NP rate recover 114% of costs derived in the 2013 cost of service study including allocated rural deficit. If approved, what percentage of costs will NP’s domestic customers be paying considering the current revenue to cost ratio established for this class by NP; i.e., 95%?

CA-NLH-28

(Rates and Regulation Evidence page 4.5, lines 4 to 8)
Please point to the area of Exhibit 9 where Lummus recommends that NP’s curtailable load not be treated as a generation credit at this time.

CA-NLH-29

(Rates and Regulation Evidence page 4.6, lines 17 to 18)
Is there a possibility that a wheeling rate may be required in future for another customer?

CA-NLH-30

(Rates and Regulation Evidence page 4.7, lines 5 to 12)
Did Hydro “know” its marginal costs at the 2006 GRA? Does any utility “know” its marginal costs given that they are based on forecasts?

CA-NLH-31

(Rates and Regulation Evidence page 4.7, lines 5 to 12)
Since Hydro does not “know” its marginal costs, on what basis are

1 new CDM programs evaluated and how does Hydro decide if
2 existing CDM programs should be continued?

3
4 CA-NLH-32 (Rates and Regulation Evidence page 4.7, lines 5 to 12)
5 Please explain why Hydro is proposing to continue with the two-
6 block energy rate structure for NP when it believes it is appropriate
7 to abandon the IC two block rate structure agreed to in the IC Rate
8 Review?

9
10 CA-NLH-33 (Rates and Regulation Evidence page 4.7, lines 5 to 12)
11 Please provide updated marginal costs based on the methodology
12 outlined in NERA's May 2006 marginal cost study documented in
13 the report entitled *Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro Marginal*
14 *Costs of Generation and Transmission* and the July 2006 report
15 entitled *Implications of Marginal Cost Results for Class Revenue*
16 *Allocation and Rate Design*. Please identify marginal costs for the
17 two scenarios with and without the Labrador
18 Interconnection/Muskrat Falls project. Please file copies of the
19 NERA reports for the record.

20
21 CA-NLH-34 (Rates and Regulation Evidence page 4.7, lines 5 to 12)
22 Did Hydro and Lummus take into consideration the marginal costs
23 derived in the NERA reports identified in the previous RFI? If so,
24 please explain how, and if not, please explain why not.

25
26 CA-NLH-35 (Rates and Regulation Evidence page 4.7, lines 5 to 12)
27 As a result of the 2006 GRA, three studies were to be undertaken
28 by Hydro and stakeholders relating to the NP rate design, the IC
29 rate design and the RSP design. Please list all recommendations
30 deriving from these studies and identify those that have either been
31 implemented or are proposed for implementation in this GRA.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31

CA-NLH-36 (Rates and Regulation Evidence page 4.7, lines 14 to 24)
Please confirm that the IC rates for which Hydro is requesting approval reflect 100% of the cost of service for the 2013 test year. What is the basis in this Province for setting IC rates at 100% of the cost of service? What is the policy in other regulated jurisdictions in Canada for setting IC rates and what percentage of costs are their IC rates collecting?

CA-NLH-37 (Rates and Regulation Evidence page 4.14, lines 9 to 13)
Please provide an explanation and full accounting of the rural deficit amount, the basis for its assignment to various customers classes and its impact on revenue to cost ratios for each customer class; i.e., the 44% overage in the revenue to cost ratio for the Labrador Interconnected Customers that is stated to be attributable to the portion of the rural deficit allocated to customers on this system.

CA-NLH-38 (Rates and Regulation Evidence page 4.14, lines 9 to 13)
Please file for the record all Government policies or directives requiring Hydro to provide subsidized rates to Rural Customers and recover the costs to fund the subsidy from other customer classes.

CA-NLH-39 (Rates and Regulation Evidence page 4.14, lines 9 to 13)
Please provide a table identifying details in other Canadian jurisdictions that require payment of subsidies by one customer class to another including the amount of the subsidy and the impact in percentage terms on the paying customer class rates. Include NL in the table for comparative purposes.

1 CA-NLH-40 (Rates and Regulation Evidence page 4.17, lines 13 to 17)
2 Is the cost of Holyrood production expected to represent the
3 marginal cost of energy throughout the year in 2013? Is it also
4 expected to represent the marginal cost of energy throughout each
5 year from 2013 through 2020?
6

7 CA-NLH-41 (Rates and Regulation Evidence page 4.17, lines 13 to 17)
8 It is stated that the average embedded cost of Holyrood fuel
9 included in forecast rates for the 2013 test year is 17.77 cents/kWh.
10 What is the marginal cost of energy production from Holyrood in
11 2013, and forecast for each year from 2013 to 2020?
12

13 CA-NLH-42 (Rates and Regulation Evidence, Section 4.6, pages 4.16 to 4.20)
14 Please provide a table showing for each of the last 15 years the
15 RSP calculation based on actual demand, hydro production, energy
16 purchases and fuel data of each term of the RSP as proposed in this
17 Application and explain how consumers would have benefitted,
18 emphasizing in particular how customers benefit from the
19 proposed changes and new components of the RSP.
20

21 CA-NLH-43 (Rates and Regulation Evidence, Section 4.6, pages 4.16 to 4.20)
22 Please file a substitute RSP design that stabilizes the cost of fuel by
23 comparing the test year cost of fuel in cents/kWh to the actual cost
24 of fuel for the year in question, and making an adjustment to rates
25 accordingly to reflect the percentage over- or under-charge.
26 Propose a dead-band beyond which rates would be adjusted to
27 collect the cumulative amount. The purpose of the dead-band
28 would be to reduce rate volatility.
29

30 CA-NLH-44 (Rates and Regulation Evidence page 4.20, lines 10 to 11)
31 Hydro notes that fuel and purchased power costs are “substantially

1 outside its control”. Are these costs substantially outside the
2 control of consumers as well? Which party has the greatest control
3 over these costs – Hydro or consumers?
4

5 CA-NLH-45 (Rates and Regulation Evidence page 4.28, lines 1 to 10)
6 What has been the basis for reporting functional KPIs in the past?
7 Could Hydro not report such functional KPIs on the basis of the
8 most recently completed cost of service study?
9

10 **Exhibit 2 – Annual Report on KPIs**
11

12 CA-NLH-46 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 2 - Annual Report on KPIs, page E3)
13 Are 2012 financial data and 2013 targets now available (Sections
14 3.3 and 4.0)? If so, please file.
15

16 CA-NLH-47 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 2 - Annual Report on KPIs, page E4)
17 What is Hydro’s long-term plan for supporting Avalon
18 transmission and system peak loads?
19

20 CA-NLH-48 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 2 - Annual Report on KPIs, page E12)
21 What are Hydro’s current and long-term plans for dealing with salt
22 contamination?
23

24 CA-NLH-49 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 2 - Annual Report on KPIs, page E18)
25 Has Hydro since determined what caused the mobile generator to
26 trip off-line leading to the 5 hour and 48 minute outage at Black
27 Tickle?
28

29 CA-NLH-50 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 2 - Annual Report on KPIs, page E32
30 and E33)
31 Why has customer satisfaction slipped so dramatically?

1 Dissatisfaction with service reliability is given as a possible
2 explanation, but hasn't reliability improved in recent years?

3
4 CA-NLH-51 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 2 - Annual Report on KPIs, page E32
5 and E33)

6 What are Hydro's plans for improving customer satisfaction going
7 forward and what is the target for customer satisfaction in
8 2013/14?

9
10 CA-NLH-52 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 2 - Annual Report on KPIs, page E36)
11 Have customers indicated a willingness to pay for improved
12 reliability performance? Please file for the record the questions in
13 Hydro's customer survey that are used to determine customer
14 willingness to pay for improved reliability.

15
16 **Exhibit 3 – Provincial Electrical Systems**

17
18 CA-NLH-53 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 3 – Provincial Electrical Systems, page
19 3)

20 It is stated that new facilities necessary to provide construction
21 power for Muskrat Falls are fully contributed and assigned as
22 common due to system capacity benefits. Please provide details of
23 all projects and costs associated with adding Muskrat Falls as a
24 new customer on the Labrador Interconnected System.

25
26 CA-NLH-54 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 3 – Provincial Electrical Systems, page
27 3)

28 Please provide a table showing the revenue requirement and
29 average rate in cents/kWh for the Labrador Interconnected System
30 both with and without Muskrat Falls as a new customer.

31

1 CA-NLH-55 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 3 – Provincial Electrical Systems, page
2 3)
3 Are the consumption characteristics of Muskrat Falls similar to
4 other customers on the Labrador Interconnected System? Did
5 Hydro consider making Muskrat Falls a separate customer class?
6

7 **Exhibit 4 – Corner Brook Pulp & Paper Generation Credit**
8

9 CA-NLH-56 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 4 – Corner Brook Pulp & Paper
10 Generation Credit, page 5)
11 Is it appropriate to base the savings on historical costs? What are
12 the savings forecast over the next ten years based on Hydro’s
13 marginal cost forecast?
14

15 CA-NLH-57 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 4 – Corner Brook Pulp & Paper
16 Generation Credit, pages 12 and 13)
17 What are the projected annual savings going forward to CBPP, the
18 ICs and NP resulting from the change in operation of CBPP
19 generation based on the 2013 cost of service both in total Dollars
20 and average rates in cents/kWh?
21

22 CA-NLH-58 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 4 – Corner Brook Pulp & Paper
23 Generation Credit, page 15/16)
24 Why are estimated savings from the change in CBPP generation
25 not allocated more closely with energy ratios; i.e., the ICs are
26 projected to receive 31% of the savings while NP receives 64%,
27 and Rural Customers receive the remaining 5%?
28

29 CA-NLH-59 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 4 – Corner Brook Pulp & Paper
30 Generation Credit, page 15/16)
31 It is understood that CBPP will receive benefits through reduced

1 bills, reductions in RSP payments through the fuel component and
2 reductions in RSP payments through the load variation component.
3 What are the projected annual savings to CBPP for each of these
4 three components for each of the next five years in total Dollars
5 and average rates owing to the change in operation of its
6 generation?

7
8 CA-NLH-60 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 4 – Corner Brook Pulp & Paper
9 Generation Credit, page 15/16)

10 What would be the savings to CBPP, the ICs, NP and Rural
11 Customers resulting from the change in CBPP generation if the
12 RSP were abandoned?

13
14 **Exhibit 6 – Allowed Range of Return on Rate Base**

15
16 CA-NLH-61 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 6 – Allowed Range of Return on Rate
17 Base, page 16)

18 The reports states “When the earned return on rate base exceeds
19 the allowed return on rate base by more than 25 basis points, where
20 the rate base is equal to the average annual rate base, the excess
21 earnings would be recorded in an excess earnings account as a
22 liability. The balance of the excess earnings account will be
23 disposed of in the manner determined by the PUB. Although not
24 specified in Order No. P.U. 40 (2004), to the extent that the earned
25 return on rate base falls below the bottom end of the allowed
26 range, shortfalls remain to the account of the shareholder.” Please
27 provide a table listing all occasions in the Province (i.e., for both
28 Hydro and NP) in the past 20 years when returns have fallen
29 outside the allowed range and how it has been handled by the
30 Board.

1 **Exhibit 9 – Cost of Service Study/Utility and Industrial Rate Design Report**

2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31

CA-NLH-62 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 9 – Cost of Service Study/Utility and Industrial Rate Design Report)

What did Lummus assume with regard to the RSP design when it compiled its report?

CA-NLH-63 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 9 – Cost of Service Study/Utility and Industrial Rate Design Report)

Was Lummus asked to review the RSP design?

CA-NLH-64 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 9 – Cost of Service Study/Utility and Industrial Rate Design Report)

Would Lummus change its recommendations if the RSP were abandoned?

CA-NLH-65 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 9 – Cost of Service Study/Utility and Industrial Rate Design Report)

Were any of the Parties to the NP Rate, IC Rate and RSP reviews stemming from the last GRA consulted by Lummus before or during preparation of this report? If so, please provide all correspondence between Lummus and the Parties.

CA-NLH-66 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 9 – Cost of Service Study/Utility and Industrial Rate Design Report)

Were marginal cost principles incorporated in the Lummus report? Please provide all instances in the report where marginal cost principles were applied and file a copy of the marginal cost forecast used in the review.

CA-NLH-67 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 9 – Cost of Service Study/Utility and

1 Industrial Rate Design Report, Section 1 – Cost of Service)

2 Please provide a table listing each new component of the
3 transmission system and each new system that has been
4 incorporated in the cost of service study since the last GRA and
5 identify its cost and the customers to whom these costs have been
6 allocated.

7
8 CA-NLH-68 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 9 – Cost of Service Study/Utility and
9 Industrial Rate Design Report, page 6)

10 Please provide a table listing each occasion that NP’s Curtailable
11 Service Customers have been interrupted since 2005. Please show
12 the date, the length of interruption, the amount of load interrupted,
13 the reason for interruption and the system peak load reductions that
14 resulted.

15
16 CA-NLH-69 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 9 – Cost of Service Study/Utility and
17 Industrial Rate Design Report, page 6)

18 Does Hydro believe that interrupting Curtailable Service customers
19 when there is no system need is consistent with its mandate to
20 “provide least cost, reliable and safe electricity to its customers”?
21 Please explain.

22
23 CA-NLH-70 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 9 – Cost of Service Study/Utility and
24 Industrial Rate Design Report, page 7)

25 The Lummus report lists a number of “issues worthy of
26 investigation” and goes on to say “it is recommended that NP, the
27 CA and other interested stakeholders propose options for treatment
28 of NP curtailable load that addresses the concerns discussed
29 above”. In Exhibit 11, Review of Demand Billing to NP, page 26,
30 it is stated “Hydro and NP agree to propose changes to the
31 wholesale demand and energy rate to accommodate a change in the

1 treatment of NP’s curtailable load at Hydro’s next GRA”. The
2 report in Exhibit 11 goes on to say “such a mechanism for the
3 curtailable load has Cost of Service implications and should be
4 tested during a GRA process where all customer groups have an
5 opportunity to offer evidence or argument on the matter”. Please
6 specify what Hydro is proposing in this GRA with regard to the
7 treatment of NP’s curtailable load and file copies of all
8 documentation including correspondence between Hydro and NP
9 related to investigating the issues identified in the Lummus report
10 and as stated in Exhibit 11.

11
12 CA-NLH-71 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 9 – Cost of Service Study/Utility and
13 Industrial Rate Design Report, page 7)
14 The Lummus report states “There is an argument to be made that if
15 customers want to take advantage of opportunities to reduce their
16 own costs through curtailment then there is no “inconvenience” as
17 it is an economic decision”. Please provide a list of references
18 where customers have indicated that there is no inconvenience
19 when their power supply is interrupted. Does Hydro’s customer
20 survey support the notion that customers are not inconvenienced
21 when their supply is interrupted? If so, please provide details.

22
23 CA-NLH-72 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 9 – Cost of Service Study/Utility and
24 Industrial Rate Design Report, page 7)
25 The Lummus report states that Hydro would be the entity that
26 would determine when such curtailable load is called upon for
27 system emergencies. Is Hydro the entity that determines when NP
28 generation is called upon to operate during system emergencies?

29
30 CA-NLH-73 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 9 – Cost of Service Study/Utility and
31 Industrial Rate Design Report, page 9)

1 The Lummus report acknowledges that the Parties agreed that
2 capacity and energy rate components of the NP rate reflect current
3 forecasts of time varying marginal costs of system capacity and
4 energy and that rate designs will take into account trends in
5 marginal costs. Please explain how Lummus incorporated the
6 marginal cost of capacity in its review of the NP rate design.

7
8 CA-NLH-74 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 9 – Cost of Service Study/Utility and
9 Industrial Rate Design Report, page 10)
10 The Lummus report states that an Island Interconnected System
11 capacity deficit will occur in 2015 and that significant transmission
12 line expenditures are planned for 2012 - 2016, which are also
13 capacity-related expenditures. On this basis, the Lummus report
14 concludes that there does not seem to be justification for muting
15 the demand price signal by pricing NP’s demand at less than the
16 cost based rate. What is Hydro’s forecast of the value of capacity
17 under this scenario?

18
19 CA-NLH-75 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 9 – Cost of Service Study/Utility and
20 Industrial Rate Design Report, page 15)
21 The report states “by placing less emphasis on Holyrood fuel, this
22 rate structure is seen to be moving towards closer alignment with
23 the possible demand/energy relationship of the next least-cost
24 supply resource”. Please provide support for this statement; i.e.,
25 what is the next least-cost supply source and what are its costs of
26 capacity and energy?

27
28 CA-NLH-76 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 9 – Cost of Service Study/Utility and
29 Industrial Rate Design Report, page 17)
30 The Lummus report states “This program has effectively addressed
31 concerns over incentives being available to the IC for CDM,

1 thereby mitigating the need for a two block rate structure”. On
2 page 19 of the Lummus report, it is stated “The IC program has
3 resulted in minimal energy savings to date”. Would a two-block
4 rate structure as agreed to by Hydro and the ICs in the Review of
5 the IC Rate Design study with the second block reflecting marginal
6 energy costs be expected to increase incentives for energy savings?
7

8 **Exhibit 11 – Review of Demand Billing to NP**

9
10 CA-NLH-77 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 11 – Review of Demand Billing to NP,
11 page 26)

12 Please file a proposal whereby NP billing demand is adjusted to
13 reflect available Curtailable load on NP’s system. Provide details
14 on how the curtailable load amount is determined, tested, and
15 modified on an ongoing basis and identify cost of service
16 implications, and indicate how the proposal addresses the issues
17 requiring investigation identified in the Lummus report.
18

19 **Exhibit 12 – Review of IC Rate Design**

20
21 CA-NLH-78 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 12 – Review of IC Rate Design, page 1)

22 Please provide an IC rate design that is closely based on the
23 agreement reached between Hydro and the ICs defined on page 1
24 of the report “Review of IC Rate Design”. File a design that
25 improves economic efficiency while maintaining other rate design
26 principles.
27

28 CA-NLH-79 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 12 – Review of IC Rate Design, page 3)

29 The report states “Depending upon the method used to calculate
30 block sizes, the load variation provision of the Rate Stabilization
31 Plan may no longer be required”. Given that Hydro is foregoing

1 implementation of a two-block rate structure, is there no longer a
2 need for the load variation component of the RSP? Would Hydro
3 change its decision to forego a two-block rate structure for IC rates
4 if the load variation component of the RSP were abandoned?
5

6 **Exhibit 14 – Holyrood Decommissioning Study**

7
8 CA-NLH-80 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 14 – Holyrood Decommissioning Study,
9 page 1.2)

10 Please provide details of the year-by-year resource expansion plan
11 consistent with the Holyrood decommissioning schedule assumed
12 by the consultants in this study.
13

14 CA-NLH-81 (GRA, Volume II, Exhibit 14 – Holyrood Decommissioning Study,
15 page 3.1)

16 Why is it preferable to install and operate a 50 MW gas turbine for
17 peak loading rather than continue operating an existing unit at
18 Holyrood?
19

20 **Exhibit 18 – Intercompany Transaction Costing Guidelines**

21
22 CA-NLH-82 (Exhibit 8: Intercompany Transaction Costing Guidelines)

23 In the development of its costing guidelines, how did Hydro view
24 the applicability of the rules and principles that the Board has
25 established for Newfoundland Power’s inter-corporate
26 transactions?
27

28 CA-NLH-83 (Exhibit 8: Intercompany Transaction Costing Guidelines)

29 What is Hydro’s rationale for not charging a markup on the
30 services provided by Hydro’s personel to related or affiliated
31 companies?

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31

CA-NLH-84 From 2010 to 2013 forecast, please provide the proportion of time spent by each member of Hydro’s Executive team on regulated vs. non-regulated activities.

CA-NLH-85 Please provide a breakdown of salaries between regulated and non-regulated activities for Managers and Executives from 2010 to 2013 forecast.

Exhibit 13 – Cost of Service Study

CA-NLH-86 (Exhibit 13 – 2013 Cost of Service Study)
Please compare the 2013 Test Year Cost of Service as shown at Schedule 1.1 to the 2007 Forecast Cost of Service approved by the Board and please explain the basis for any significant differences between 2007 and 2013 expenses for each of Hydro’s electrical systems.

CA-NLH-87 (Exhibit 13 – 2013 Cost of Service Study)
Please explain how (and what) costs are allocated to IOCC on the Labrador Interconnected System.

CA-NLH-88 (Exhibit 13 – 2013 Cost of Service Study)
With reference to the Labrador Interconnected System, please specifically demonstrate how the increase in capital spending over 2007 to 2013 of approximately \$39 million in system upgrades results in the requested rate increase sought in the Application.

CA-NLH-89 (Exhibit 13 – 2013 Cost of Service Study)
Further to the previous question, please explain what portion, if any, of the \$39 million in capital spending over 2007 to 2013 is

1 being allocated to IOCC and the basis for that allocation.
2
3 CA-NLH-90 (Exhibit 13 – 2013 Cost of Service Study)
4 Please provide a detailed explanation setting out Hydro’s basis for
5 the rate increases proposed for its Labrador Isolated System
6 customers by making reference to revenue requirement changes on
7 that system.
8
9 Other
10
11 CA-NLH-91 (Hydro’s cover letter of July 30, 2013)
12 On page 3, the letter refers to the annual Northern Strategic Plan
13 subsidiary. Please provide a copy of the referenced program’s
14 description.
15
16 CA-NLH-92 Please explain how Natuashish’s electrical power assets are owned
17 and operated and how the costs of same are reflected in the Cost of
18 Service.
19
20 CA-NLH-93 Please provide a copy of “System Planning Guideline –
21 Assignment of Plant for Cost of Service” dated October 15, 2012.
22
23 CA-NLH-94 Please provide a copy of Hydro’s most recent customer survey and
24 results of the same.
25
26 CA-NLH-95 Please provide the typical annual consumption of a residential
27 customer:
28 • With no electric heating or hot water;
29 • With electric hot water, but no electric heating;
30 • With electric hot water and electric heating.
31

- 1 CA-NLH-96 Please provide a list of the reports that Hydro files with the Board
2 on a regular basis and please indicate how often and when the
3 same are filed each year, as appropriate.
4
- 5 CA-NLH-97 Please provide the reports of the annual reviews of Hydro carried
6 out by the Board's financial consultants for the past three years.
7
- 8 CA-NLH-98 Please file a copy of the three most recent annual returns of Hydro.
9
- 10 CA-NLH-99 Please provide for each of the years 2007 to 2013(f) the amount of
11 the rural deficit broken down by each of the Rural Deficit Areas.
12
- 13 CA-NLH-100 Please provide an explanation as to the growth of the rural deficit
14 for 2007 levels to present for each of the Rural Deficit Areas.
15
- 16 CA-NLH-101 Please provide, on a fiscal year basis for the years 2007 to 2013,
17 the Performance Indicator Data as outlined below. Please provide
18 responses in both tabular and graphical form:
19 (a) Total Employees
20 (b) Total Payroll
21 (c) Employees Per Million \$ of O&M Expense
22 (d) Employees Per Million \$ of O&M Expense Excluding Fuel
23 Expense
24 (e) Executive Employees
25 (f) Executive Payroll
26 (g) Hourly Employee Payroll as Percentage of Total Payroll
27 (h) Payroll per kWh of Total Sources of Energy
28 (i) Energy Efficiency/Conservation Staff
29 (j) Environmental Staff
30 (k) Marketing Staff.
31

- 1 CA-NLH-102 Please provide a financial forecast including a statement of all
2 assumptions, planning criteria, perceived changes in the revenue
3 requirement and required rate action in the next five years. Include
4 a calculation showing the surplus/deficit in the Rate Stabilization
5 Plan.
6
- 7 CA-NLH-103 Please provide a copy of Hydro's corporate operating budget for
8 each of the years 2007 to 2013.
9
- 10 CA-NLH-104 Please file a labour forecast for 2013 and 2014 showing the
11 detailed information concerning the method used to forecast FTEs
12 and labour expense as well as an explanation of the assumptions
13 used to determine forecast vacancies (in the fashion filed by
14 Newfoundland Power Inc. on September 14, 2012 in its GRA at B.
15 Reports – 2 Labour Forecast 2012-2014).
16
- 17 CA-NLH-105 (Section 2: Regulated Activities, p. 2.18, lines 6-8)
18 Please provide a copy of the analysis of non-union salaries relied
19 upon to adjust non-union salary scales in 2012.
20
- 21 CA-NLH-106 (Section 2: Regulated Activities, p. 2.18, lines 6-8)
22 Please state which positions received the 1.3% to 7.9% upward
23 adjustments in 2012, stating the applicable adjustments for each
24 position affected.
25
- 26 CA-NLH-107 (Section 2: Regulated Activities, p. 2.16, lines 17-18)
27 Please provide the annual number of voluntary resignations by
28 position from 2006 to 2013.
29
- 30 CA-NLH-108 (Finance Schedule III)
31 Please provide a detailed explanation for the increase in

1 professional service costs from 2007 to 2013 forecast (i.e. actual
2 \$3.86 million to \$7.02 million).
3
4 CA-NLH-109 (Finance Schedule III)
5 Please provide a detailed explanation for the increase in equipment
6 rental costs from 2007 to 2013 forecast (i.e. \$1.082 million to
7 \$1,731 million).
8
9 CA-NLH-110 (Finance Schedule III)
10 Please provide a detailed explanation for the increase in
11 miscellaneous expenses from 2007 to 2013 forecast (i.e. \$4.247
12 million to \$6.380 million).
13
14 CA-NLH-111 (Finance Schedule III)
15 Please provide a detailed explanation for the decrease in costs
16 allocated to non-regulated customers from 2007 to 2013 forecast
17 (i.e. \$2.679 million to \$2.108 million).
18
19 CA-NLH-112 (Finance Schedule III)
20 Please provide a detailed breakdown of professional service costs
21 by year for the period 2007 to 2013 forecast (line 11).
22
23 CA-NLH-113 (Finance Schedule III)
24 Please provide a detailed breakdown of miscellaneous costs by
25 year for the period 2007 to 2013 forecast (line 15).
26
27 CA-NLH-114 (Finance Schedule III)
28 Please provide a breakdown of the costs recoveries of (\$9,222
29 million) for 2013 forecast (line 18).
30
31 CA-NLH-115 (Finance Schedule III)

1 Please provide a breakdown of the costs allocated to non-regulated
2 customers in 2013 forecast (line 19).

3
4 **2013 Forward Average Rate Base**

5
6 CA-NLH-116 Please provide continuity schedule for Gross Fixed Assets for the
7 period 2007 to 2013 plus a five year forecast for 2014 to 2018.
8 Include in the schedules annual capital expenditures (actual to
9 2012 /forecasted to 2018), opening and closing work in progress,
10 contributions in aid of construction, asset retirements, accretion of
11 asset retirement obligations, and assets not in use.

12
13 CA-NLH-117 Please provide continuity schedule for accumulated depreciation
14 for the period 2007 to 2013 plus a five year forecast for 2014 to
15 2018. Include in the schedules annual depreciation expenditures
16 (actual to 2012 /forecasted to 2018), contributions in aid of
17 construction, asset retirements, depreciation of asset retirement
18 obligations, and assets not in use.

19
20 CA-NLH-118 Please provide budgeted capital expenditure plans for the 2013
21 plan year.

22
23 CA-NLH-119 Please provide a forecast of expected 2013 capital expenditures
24 using the most recent reported actuals and forecast to the end of the
25 year.

26
27 CA-NLH-120 Page 265 of Exhibit 10 shows “Chart 1: CAPITAL BUDGET
28 VERSUS ACTUAL EXPENDITURES 2003 – 2012”. Please
29 provide an updated chart that would include the 2013 budget and
30 forecasted actual determined in 4 above, plus the forecast amount
31 to 2018 identified in the gross fixed assets continuity schedule.

1
2 CA-NLH-121 Please discuss Hydro's expectation to achieve its forecasted 2013
3 capital expenditure.
4
5 CA-NLH-122 Finance Schedule I page 5 of 11 shows accumulated depreciation
6 of \$707,241 in 2011 and \$88,865 in 2012. Please provide an
7 explanation for the significant change in value.
8
9 CA-NLH-123 Finance Schedule I page 5 of 11 shows contributions in aid of
10 construction of \$98,054 in 2011 and \$14,052 in 2012. Please
11 provide an explanation for the significant change in value.
12
13 CA-NLH-124 Finance Schedule I page 2 of 11 (Balance Sheet) line 31 shows
14 amounts for asset retirement obligations starting in the years 2011.
15 Please provide details for these entries.
16
17 CA-NLH-125 Please provide 2011 and 2012 audited financial statements for
18 Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro.
19
20 CA-NLH-126 Please show the calculation to determine the 2013 cash working
21 capital allowance of \$5,336 as shown on line 16 of the Finance
22 Schedule I page 5 of 11.
23
24 CA-NLH-127 Please show the calculation to determine the 2013 Fuel of \$50,885
25 as shown on line 17 of the Finance Schedule I page 5 of 11.
26
27 CA-NLH-128 Please show the calculation to determine the 2013 materials and
28 supplies of \$24,701 as shown on line 18 of the Finance Schedule I
29 page 5 of 11.
30
31 CA-NLH-129 Please show the calculation to determine the 2013 deferred charges

1 of \$65,451 as shown on line 19 of the Finance Schedule I page 5 of
2 11. Please explain difference from the value reported on Table 9
3 Deferred Charges page 3.30.

4
5 CA-NLH-130 Table 9 Deferred Charges page 3.30 shows deferred charges
6 include CDM cost in the ending amount of \$4.8M. Exhibit 9
7 Tables 5 and 6 show the determination of the opening CDM
8 balance of \$2.4M. Hydro includes \$2.6M in 2013 for CDM costs
9 to be deferred. Table 6 of Exhibit 9 shows that Hydro has not
10 achieved that level of CDM spending in prior years. Please discuss
11 whether or not Hydro will achieve the \$2.6M CDM expense in
12 2013.

13
14 CA-NLH-131 The nature of expenditures included in Table 9 Deferred Charges
15 page 3.30 all include annual expenditures and amortization of
16 balances resulting in variable annual values. As opposed to the
17 other proposed balances that can be reasonably maintained by
18 management control at constant level for inclusion in the
19 calculation of rate base, the proposed deferred charges included are
20 subject to variability. Please discuss the rationale for including this
21 balance in the calculation of rate base.

22
23 **Employee Future Benefit actuarial gains and losses**

24
25 CA-NLH-132 Please provide a copy the last actuarial valuation completed for
26 Hydro.

27
28 CA-NLH-133 Hydro identifies that under the Board approved Order No. P.U.
29 13(2012) that it effectively deferred all actuarial gains and losses.
30 However in this application Hydro is asking to continue
31 recognizing actuarial gains and losses. Please identify the 2012

1 amount that might have been reported had Hydro not deferred the
2 2012 amount.

3
4 CA-NLH-134 Please identify the amount that would have been reported in 2013
5 had the 2012 amount been reported.

6
7 CA-NLH-135 Please confirm whether or not Hydro is complying with IAS 19
8 Employee Benefits.

9
10 **Asset Retirement Obligation**

11
12 CA-NLH-136 Please provide a continuity schedule for Asset Retirement
13 Obligations (Costs) recorded in assets and offsetting liability from
14 2007 to 2013. Please identify between Holyrood ARO and PCB
15 ARO.

16
17 CA-NLH-137 Please provide a depreciation continuity schedule for Asset
18 Retirement Obligations (Costs) recorded in assets and offsetting
19 liability from 2007 to 2013.

20
21 CA-NLH-138 Please identify depreciation policy and periods used for Asset
22 Retirement Obligations (Costs).

23
24 CA-NLH-139 Hydro states “In 2012, Hydro continued to record and report, in the
25 audited financial statements, AROs and corresponding expenses in
26 accordance with Canadian GAAP.”

- 27 a) Please explain this comment.
28 b) Please compare and contrast Asset Retirement Obligations
29 under Canadian GAAP accounting policy to IAS 37.

30
31

1 **Defer and Recover CDM**

2
3 CA-NLH-140 Per Exhibit 9 Table 5 Deferred Charges identifies a closing 2012
4 CDM balance of \$2.4M. Per the Exhibit 9 Table 6 following the
5 actual annual expenditures are dissimilar. Please reconcile the
6 differences.

7
8
9 CA-NLH-141 Rate Schedule page 20 and 21 describe the calculation of the CDM
10 recovery mechanism. Please create a sample calculation of the
11 resulting recovery rates using the \$2,429,811 balance above.

12
13 **2013 CDM Costs Deferral**

14
15 CA-NLH-142 In P.U. 21 (2013) application for the deferred recovery of 2013
16 costs associated with its 2013 energy conservation plan in the
17 amount of \$1.95M was not approved, pending this application.
18 Please identify where in this application Hydro has formally
19 requested its 2013 CDM expenditure budget.

20
21 CA-NLH-143 Per Table 3.9 Deferred Charges Hydro indicates that its 2013 CDM
22 spending will be \$2.6M. Please explain the reason for the
23 difference in this application request of \$2.6M and the original
24 applied amount of \$1.95M in question 1 above.

25
26 CA-NLH-144 Please provide all documentation that would normally be filed with
27 the Newfoundland and Labrador Board of Commissioners of
28 Public Utilities for the deferred recovery of 2013 costs associated
29 with its 2013 energy conservation plan supporting the request for
30 \$2.6M.

1 *Isolated systems diesel and power purchase costs*

2
3 CA-NLH-145 Does Hydro intend to include monthly carry costs to be included in
4 the calculation of deferral accounts?

5
6 CA-NLH-146 Will Hydro be applying to the Board of Commissioners of Public
7 Utilities for approval of the deferral amounts?

8
9 CA-NLH-147 Hydro has discussed how it intends to allocate the deferred cost to
10 the affected rate classes but has not discussed determination of rate
11 design for recovery. Please elaborate on proposed rate design for
12 recovery.

13
14 *Amortize Application cost over three years.*

15
16 CA-NLH-148 Hydro is requesting to defer \$1.0 million in regulatory cost with
17 respect to this application and recover this amount over 3 years.
18 Please provide a breakdown of the estimate amounts to be
19 recovered.

20
21 CA-NLH-149 Please discuss why three years was the period chosen.

22
23 CA-NLH-150 Please confirm that the 2013 amount of \$333 is recorded on
24 Schedule I page 9 of 11 Operating Expense by Cost Type line 28
25 Deferred Regulatory Costs.

26
27 CA-NLH-151 Please discuss Hydro's intended action with respect to reporting
28 periods beyond the third year.

1 Dated at St. John's in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, this 23rd day of
2 September, 2013.

3
4
5 

7 Thomas Johnson
8 Consumer Advocate
9 323 Duckworth Street
10 St. John's, NL A1C 5X4
11 Telephone: (709) 726-3524
12 Facsimile: (709) 726-9600
13 Email: tjohnson@odeaearle.ca

14
15
16
17
18 c:\oe\consumer advocate\13-j-036 rfi (final).rtf