

The Board has engaged Liberty Consulting Group to provide expertise to the Board during its investigation and hearing into events and circumstances surrounding and leading up to the supply issues and power outages on the Island Interconnected system in late December 2013 and early January 2014.

The Liberty Consulting Group of Pennsylvania has performed reviews of electric system infrastructure which have involved assessing system restoration following major power outages, reviewing reliability of generation, transmission and distribution systems, management practices, operations, and examining customer service and stakeholder communications directly associated with major outages. Liberty has completed more than four hundred engagements on a wide range of utility management, operational, technical, financial, and regulatory issues.

Liberty's clients include over 40 state public service commissions and regulators in the United States and regulatory bodies in Canada, including Alberta, Ontario and Nova Scotia. Liberty's regulatory work has included highly technical management and operations issues that result from important changes in regulatory policy or major unforeseen events.

Liberty has performed several assessments of utilities following major system outages. In the wake of a fall 2004 outage that affected 100,000 customers and left many without electricity for days, Liberty performed an examination of the Nova Scotia Power system for the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board. Liberty has also performed a wide range of engagements for the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board involving Nova Scotia Power over a period of approximately eight years.

Following a July 2006 windstorm and a November 2006 ice storm in Illinois that affected hundreds of thousands of customers, Liberty performed an assessment of three utilities and reported on whether the utilities had appropriately planned, designed, constructed, inspected, and maintained electric delivery systems, and adequately planned, prepared, and executed storm-service restoration efforts.

Members of the Liberty group have extensive experience in management and operation audits of utilities and more than thirty years practice in the utility industry, focusing on system planning, forecasting, system and plant operations, customer service, and regulatory affairs.