

HAND DELIVERED

March 2, 2017

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

Attention: G. Cheryl Blundon  
Director of Corporate Services  
and Board Secretary

Ladies & Gentlemen:

**Re: Net Metering Service Option Application  
Consumer Advocate's Submission**

### **Introductory**

On December 19, 2016, Newfoundland Power filed an application seeking the Board's approval of a net metering service option for its customers (the "Application"). By letter dated February 24, 2017, the date set by the Board for written submissions on the Application, the Consumer Advocate requested a public hearing on the Application and suggested that the hearing jointly consider a similar application filed by Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro ("Hydro"). By letter dated February 27, 2017, the Board requested that the utilities provide a response to the Consumer Advocate's request by today's date. This letter provides Newfoundland Power's response.

### **Consumer Advocate's Submission**

The Consumer Advocate's letter suggests the public interest would be better served if the information provided in the Application and Hydro's application was disseminated by way of a public hearing. It further suggests that a hearing would attract interest among those who anticipate utilizing net metering service and the media.

The Consumer Advocate's letter does not address the merits of the Application. It does not identify any aspect of the proposed net metering service option to which the Consumer Advocate objects, or suggest that adequate information on the matter has not been provided by Newfoundland Power.

### **Newfoundland Power Inc.**

55 Kenmount Road • P.O. Box 8910 • St. John's, NL A1B 3P6  
PHONE (709) 737-5609 • FAX (709) 737-2974 • [ghayes@newfoundlandpower.com](mailto:ghayes@newfoundlandpower.com)

The Consumer Advocate's letter implies there may be an urgency for customers to act, having regard to the 5 MW overall subscription limit for net metering in the province. However, the evidence on the Application is that, given the low take-up rates that occur in Canada, the take-up rate in this province should not approach the 5 MW subscription limit for some time.<sup>1</sup>

### **Newfoundland Power's Response**

It is Newfoundland Power's submission that a public hearing is unnecessary. In Newfoundland Power's submission, the process followed by the Board for review of the Application has provided the public with comprehensive information on the proposed net metering service option and has afforded all interested parties the opportunity to request further information and to submit their comments to the Board.

### **Review of the Application**

On January 10, 2017, the Board issued a public Notice of Application indicating that written comments on the Application should be submitted by February 1, 2017. In a letter to the utilities, the Consumer Advocate and Industrial Customers dated January 25, 2017, the Board requested that parties indicate, by February 3, 2017, whether they intended to participate in the Board's review of the Application and Hydro's application. The Board set that same date as a deadline for Requests for Information ("RFIs"). In its letter, the Board indicated that further process would be determined following the receipt of public comments.

The Board received four letters of comment; all supportive of the Application. The letters of support were submitted by Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador, Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Industry Association, a building contractor qualified to construct net zero housing, and an energy sector trades organization. The Board did not receive any letters opposing the Application or Hydro's application.

On February 8, 2017, following receipt of the public comments, the Board set a schedule for responses by the utilities to RFIs, and for written submissions by parties and reply submissions by the utilities.

The Consumer Advocate participated in the Board's review of the Application and Hydro's application. The Industrial Customers did not participate. The Consumer Advocate issued 16 RFIs and the Board issued 15 RFIs.

Newfoundland Power responded to all RFIs by the response deadline set by the Board. Newfoundland Power's responses included comprehensive information on the customer processes and technical requirements associated with the proposed net metering service. They

---

<sup>1</sup> Response to Request for Information CA-NP-007.

also included information regarding Newfoundland Power's consultations with industry representatives and the provincial government in relation to the implementation of net metering.

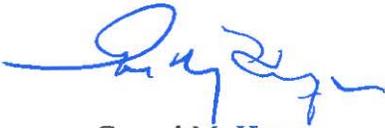
### **Concluding**

The process established for review of the Application followed the Board's long-established practice of reviewing utility applications in appropriate circumstances by means of a written process without public hearing. Such a process, which is widely used by Canadian regulators, promotes regulatory efficiency by reducing the overall cost of regulatory review, while providing the public with proper notice of applications, and giving interested parties a full opportunity to understand and comment on matters under review.

Based on the evidence submitted on the Application, and the public comments received, the parties interested in net metering in the province support the Application. No party has opposed the Application. It is Newfoundland Power's submission that a public hearing in these circumstances would add unnecessary cost to the Board's review of the Application and would unduly delay implementation of net metering service by the utilities. In Newfoundland Power's submission, this would not be in the public interest.

If you have any questions in relation to these submissions, please contact the undersigned.

Yours very truly,



Gerard M. Hayes  
Senior Counsel

c. Tracey Pennell  
Newfoundland & Labrador Hydro

Dennis Browne, QC  
Browne Fitzgerald Morgan & Avis