



Public Utilities Board

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

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2024-10-10

Ms. Shirley Walsh
Senior Legal Counsel, Regulatory
Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro
P.O. Box 12400
Hydro Place, Columbus Drive
St. John's, NL A1B 4K7

Dear Ms. Walsh:

**Re: Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro - 2025 Capital Budget Application
To NLH - Requests for Information**

Enclosed are Requests for Information PUB-NLH-064 to PUB-NLH-069 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 by telephone 709-726-6781.

Sincerely,

Jo-Anne Galarneau
Board Secretary

JG/cj
Enclosure

ecc **Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro**
NLH Regulatory, E-mail: NLHRegulatory@nlh.nl.ca
Consumer Advocate
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1 **IN THE MATTER OF the Electrical Power**
2 **Control Act, 1994**, SNL 1994, Chapter E-5.1
3 (the “**EPCA**”) and the **Public Utilities Act**, RSNL
4 1990, Chapter P-47 (the “**Act**”), as amended,
5 and regulations thereunder; and
6
7 **IN THE MATTER OF** an Application by
8 Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro for an
9 Order approving:
10 i) its capital budget for 2025, pursuant to
11 section 41(1) of the **Act**;
12 ii) its proposed capital purchases and construction
13 projects for 2025 in excess of \$750,000, pursuant
14 to section 41(3)(a) of the **Act**;
15 iii) contributions by certain Customers for contributions
16 towards the cost of improvements to certain property,
17 pursuant to section 41(5) of the **Act**, and
18 iii) for an Order pursuant to section 78 of the **Act**,
19 fixing and determining its average rate base for
20 2023.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD
REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION**

PUB-NLH-064 to PUB-NLH-069

Issued: October 10, 2024

- 1 **PUB-NLH-064** Further to the response to NP-NLH-018, what is the cost of providing the
2 portable generation required in the re-sagging alternative?
3
- 4 **PUB-NLH-065** Further to the response to PUB-NLH-026, Hydro states that the original
5 program budget was completed using a preliminary desktop review of the
6 route. However, in Hydro's 2022 Capital Budget Application under *Wood Pole*
7 *Line Management Program (2022)* it is stated on page 9, "Required
8 refurbishment identified in 2021 inspections will be scheduled for 2023. This
9 is to introduce a one-year gap between inspections and the refurbishment that
10 is identified from them. This "gap year" will allow for better planning and more
11 accurate cost estimating going forward."
12
- 13 a) Did Hydro implement any changes to the planning and cost estimating for
14 this program as a result of the "gap year"?
15 b) Will Hydro continue to use a preliminary desktop review of the route to
16 develop program budget?
17 c) Given the variance in the 2023 program expenditure, has Hydro
18 considered introducing another "gap year" to review planning and cost
19 estimating again? If not, why not and please explain any other initiatives
20 that will be introduced to improve budget estimates.
21
- 22 **PUB-NLH-066** Further to the response to PUB-NLH-027, what lessons were learned in the
23 execution of this project with respect to budgeting?
24
- 25 **PUB-NLH-067** Further to the response to PUB-NLH-055, Hydro states that it intends to retest
26 the unit and review the data with the support of a consultant in September
27 2024. Did Hydro complete the retest in September? If yes, please provide the
28 results of the unit retest. If not why not?
29
- 30 **PUB-NLH-068** Further to the response to PUB-NLH-059:
31 a) Is Hydro using an OPGW solution to provide primary connectivity for
32 critical remote monitoring, control, and tele-protection systems elsewhere
33 on the Island Interconnected AC System?
34 b) Has moving to OPGW on transmission structures for both power supply
35 and critical remote monitoring, control, and tele-protection systems
36 changed the risk profile for the Island Interconnected AC System? If yes,
37 how does Hydro plan to address this issue?
38 c) In Hydro's 2025 Capital Budget Application under *Replace Interconnect*
39 *Microwave Radios (2025)* it is stated on page 1 that Hydro "operates and
40 maintains a private telecommunications transport system which provides
41 critical connectivity to terminal stations and generating stations." The
42 proposed project represents a shift from that standalone system. Why has
43 Hydro changed its approach to its telecommunications transport system?

- 1 **PUB-NLH-069** Project 1 Rewind Stator (2025–2026) – Hinds Lake. In response to PUB-NLH-
2 056, Hydro indicated it was Hydro’s decision to propose a rewind.
3 a) Please describe the role of third-party consultants in previously approved
4 stator rewinds for generation facilities. Has Hydro previously completed
5 stator rewinds based on the recommendation of a third-party consultant
6 or were previous decisions to complete stator rewinds made by Hydro
7 staff?
8 b) Please provide a risk assessment of delaying this project one year.

DATED at St. John’s, Newfoundland this 10th day of October, 2024.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

Per



Jo-Anne Galarneau
Executive Director and Board Secretary