

January 13, 2021

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

Attention: Ms. Cheryl Blundon
Director of Corporate Services & Board Secretary

Dear Ms. Blundon:

Re: Newfoundland Power Inc. - 2021 Capital Budget Application - Customer Service System Replacement Project - Consumer Advocate Request for Board to Reconsider – Hydro's Comments

In response to the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities ("Board") correspondence of January 12, 2021, in which the Board requested comments regarding the Consumer Advocate's submission of January 11, 2021, Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro ("Hydro") comments as follows.

Under Section 16 of the *Public Utilities Act* ("Act"), the Board has general supervision of public utilities and "... may make all necessary examinations ..." and "... obtain from a public utility all information necessary ..." to enable the Board to fulfil its duties. The process of applying to the Board, and for the Board to request further information and submissions from interested persons, are embedded in the *Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities Regulations, 1996*.

With respect, Hydro does not agree with the Consumer Advocate's assertion of procedural unfairness regarding the Board's approach. The addition of a further round of Requests for Information ("RFI"), to address additional questions identified by one or more parties and the Board, is consistent with the Board's authority. Although Hydro does not have any RFIs to submit at this stage, it has no objection to this step in the process.

Should you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR HYDRO



Shirley A. Walsh
Senior Legal Counsel, Regulatory
SAW/sk

ecc: **Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities**
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