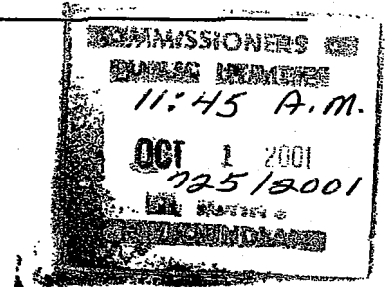


MAKKOVIK TOWN COUNCIL
16 Andersen Street, P.O. BOX 132
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Phone (709) (923-2221 Office)(923-2299 Manager) (Fax 923-2126)

September 27, 2001.

Newfoundland and Labrador
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
Prince Charles Building, 120 Torbay Road
P.O. Box 21040
St. John's, Newfoundland A1A 5B2



RE: Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro's ("Hydro's") General Rate Review Application

Board Secretary, G. Cheryl Blundon,

Please accept this **Letter of Comment** regarding the above application.

I wish to confirm that the residents of the Town of Makkovik on the North Coast of Labrador are very disappointed that a hearing on "Hydro's" general rate review application is not scheduled for this town. The Town of Makkovik, as well as every other north coast town on the Labrador Coast will be adversely affected should "Hydro's" application be approved. Residents here feel that since the application, if approved, will directly affect them and they feel that they should be given the opportunity to address how the situation may affect them in their home town.

To make matters even more disappointing and frustrating is the fact that "Labrador Hearings" are scheduled to be held at Goose Bay and Wabush, two towns that are not due to be adversely affected, if "Hydro's" application is granted. Something should have been done in the very beginning, without any application altogether, to make sure that all towns and all people in all areas that may be adversely affected are given an opportunity, in their own region, to make a presentation so that their points in this most important matter may be considered.

The Town of Makkovik wishes to state clearly and emphatically that they are opposed to any General Rate Review Application that will see the cost of electricity increase in the Town of Makkovik.

Many persons in this town are presently having difficulties just finding enough hours of employment to qualify for E.I. Benefits without another increase in the cost of living thrown at them. I can tell you from close experience that many seniors, who are living hand to mouth, will have great difficulty in dealing with more cost of living increases. These persons who gave their all to see that their children and dependants may have at least a chance in the world are now faced with another cost to their already very limited income if the application by "Hydro" is approved.

We are extremely concerned that "Shareholders" with Hydro and other utilities may not be able to see the extreme, at times even desperate, financial conditions that many residents of the North Coast of Labrador are faced with. We can see and understand persons trying to invest their hard earned money in a place where they may be given a fair return on their investment But Please Not on the Backs of the Poor people of Northern Labrador.

The Town of Makkovik repeats that they wish to inform any and all concerned that they oppose any "Hydro Rate Increase Application". This would cause even more hardship and be unfair to ordinary residents of Makkovik in particular and Labrador North Coast residents in general.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our concerns.

For further information or if there are any questions please contact the undersigned at regular business hours.

Sincerely,



David Dyson
Town Manager
for and on behalf of the Makkovik Town Council

cc.

Wally Andersen, MHA Torngat Mountains District by fax
Dennis Browne, Q.C., Provincial Consumer Advocate by fax
LABRADOR North Coast TOWNS