

1 **Summary of Initial Review by Stephen L. Barreca**

2 **Newfoundland & Labrador Hydro**

3 **2004 Capital Budget Documents**

4 (Revised June 23, 2003)

6

7 BCRI Inc. was retained by counsel for the Island Industrial Customers to review and

8 comment on the proposed 2004 Capital Budget documents of Newfoundland & Labrador

9 Hydro (Hydro), specifically in regards to Information Systems and Telecommunications

10 projects. The objective of the review is to determine if the budget documentation contains

11 sufficient information for a regulatory body or intervener to determine the economic

12 prudence of the budget proposal, and to a lesser extent, comment on the economic

13 justification of the major budget projects.

14

15 To date, BCRI has reviewed the 2004 budget submission Section A and Section B

16 (starting on page B59) and related attachments. Additionally, BCRI has reviewed

17 Hydro's IT Technical Architecture Strategy report, dated Dec 17, 2001. Due to the very

18 tight time constraints imposed by the 2004 budget approval process, our review is more

19 qualitative and quantitative. There is insufficient time to undertake an in-depth analysis

20 of various budget projects.

21

22 We recognize the difficult challenge the Board must overcome. On the one hand, it would

23 serve no one to micro-manage Hydro, and on the other hand, the Board must meet its

1 legislative responsibility to review and approve Hydro's capital program and provide
2 regulatory oversight. In this review, I strived to avoid second-guessing Hydro's decisions
3 and limit my comments to issues relating to the Board's responsibility for informed
4 judgment.

6 **Summary of Findings**

7 Capital expenditures for Information Systems and Telecommunications (IS&T) projects
8 are a major portion of Hydro's 2004 capital budget. There are 12 separate projects that
9 make up \$14M (or 40%) of the \$34M total capital program. Some of the 12 projects
10 consist of several smaller related (and in some cases unrelated) capital initiatives.

11
12 In summary, I found that the project documentation (including the technical reports) does
13 not provide sufficient detail to support independent evaluation. The projects are broadly
14 described and principally justified via subjective argument. There is little or no objective
15 economic analysis. For the few projects where economic analysis is given, the analysis is
16 often suspect or lacking proper consideration of viable alternatives. For example, none of
17 the projects included the *status quo* alternative in its economic analysis – it is common
18 practice to include an analysis of the cost of maintaining the *status quo* as the base-line
19 alternative for all discretionary projects.

1 **Project Classification & Justification**

2 Hydro's budget projects lack structure and discipline. Initiatives that have significant
3 differences in terms of business need, safety, reliability and/or security are group together
4 as a single project. For instance, the project to replace the Operational Data & Voice
5 networks (pg. B79) combines SCADA needs with voice and other network
6 communications needs. While the proposed solution may or may not be the most prudent
7 (there is no economic consideration of viable alternatives), this lack of structure impairs
8 the ability of independent review, and makes it virtually impossible to evaluate the
9 prudence of the expenditures. Combining critical SCADA functionality with non-critical
10 voice and network needs, without detailed description and analysis, allows safety
11 concerns to carry potentially unnecessary expenditures.

12

13 In other instances, routine-type ongoing projects are lumped with unrelated non-routine
14 capital purchases, again allowing prudent projects to carry potentially non-prudent ones.
15 Consider the Application Enhancements project (pg. B60). This project includes three
16 initiatives: 1) an ongoing routine-type initiative – “the unforeseen modification,
17 enhancements & additions to software to address the required changes to business
18 processes”; 2) a somewhat new initiative – “the continuing design, build and
19 implementation to Hydro's Internet/Intranet”; and 3) a non-routine new purchase – “an
20 Enterprise Project Management Software Application”. Initiative 2 includes both ongoing
21 routine work as well as non-routine expenditures. Maintaining Hydro's internet/intranet
22 is an ongoing effort, however, implementing enhancements is not. For this project, it
23 seems that initiative-1 is carrying the others. Initiative-1 is a typical routine capital

1 expenditure which should be funded each year; whereas initiatives 2 & 3 should be
2 funded only after economic justification is provided. In this case, we do not know how
3 much of the proposed \$463,200 is for which initiative.

4
5 Lumping nonessential spending together with spending needed to support critical
6 business functions involving safety, reliability and/or security creates two problems. The
7 most serious problem with this tactic is not one of economic prudence. The problem is
8 that security and reliability issues are not presented in a cohesive manner conducive of
9 proper consideration and regulatory oversight. For example, there is no single project in
10 the entire budget in respect of which one can conclude that Hydro's 2004 budget
11 adequately satisfies crucial safety and security needs.

12
13 A second problem with this tactic is that it circumvents identification and consideration
14 of alternatives. Critical security and reliability concerns must be separately identified,
15 quantified, and evaluated. Without such analysis it is impossible to ensure that safety and
16 security concerns are met, and impossible to evaluate the economic prudence of the
17 expenditures.

18
19 Everyone favors higher reliability and safety. We might all agree that it is prudent for
20 Hydro to spend \$1M if it increased reliability 10%. What if it cost \$50M for a 10%
21 improvement? In that case, if the current reliability were below accepted industry
22 standards or causing undue safety concerns, we would likely approve the project. On the

1 other hand, if the reliability of the system were currently higher than industry standards,
2 we would likely reject the project as excessive and unnecessary.

3
4 Because non-essential expenditures are combined with initiatives involving safety,
5 reliability and security concerns, the responsibility for safety and security shifts from
6 Hydro to the Board. With insufficient documentation regarding the implied risk,
7 inappropriate pressure is put on the Board to approve the budget as is; otherwise the
8 Board could be blamed if any problems were to surface.

9
10 More formal classification of budget projects would resolve these problems and enhance
11 the budget approval process. While classifications should be kept to a minimum, they
12 should be sufficient to support the review and approval process. A cursory survey of the
13 capital review policies of other regulatory bodies in Canada¹ shows that most utilize
14 some form of project classification. The most notable, to date, is that of Manitoba. The
15 Manitoba PUB has used the following project classifications:

- 16
- 17 • **Essential** – projects or acquisitions are those required to meet Government
18 regulations, environmental minimum safety standards, or which are essential to
19 maintain operations.
 - 20
 - 21 • **Necessary** – projects or acquisitions are those required to maintain facilities and
22 operations in adequate operating condition to meet anticipated activity levels.

¹ Our findings are attached to this report for the Board's consideration.

1 Necessary projects would include expenditures for new growth and the normal
2 replacement of equipment that has reached the end of its useful life.

3

- 4 • **Justifiable** – projects or acquisitions are those that improve productivity with a
5 new facility or the upgrade of an existing facility.

6

7 Manitoba's classifications are reasonable and consistent with those utilized in the
8 telecommunications industry. Imposing these or similar budget classifications would
9 improve the Board's ability to make informed judgments and mitigate the undue pressure
10 for blanket approval discussed above.

11

12 Further improvement in the budget approval process can be achieved by establishing
13 guidelines regarding the economic justification of budget projects.

14

15 The standard practice for economic justification is a cost benefit analysis of the viable
16 alternatives. This is typically accomplished using a discounted cash flow model (DCF),
17 whereby future revenues and expenditures are discounted to current dollars. For budget
18 purposes, it is common practice to exclude revenues that are common to all alternatives
19 from the DCF analysis.

20

21 An alternative to a DCF analysis is simply a detailed qualitative analysis of
22 customer/business value. This analysis may be limited to just a detailed narrative, or
23 supplemented with historical trends of pertinent factors. For example, the capital budgets

1 for emergency restoration or other unforeseen events can be fully documented and the
2 budgeted expenditures justified based on past actual expenditures trended forward.

3
4 The type of analysis necessary to support budgetary oversight is dependent on the nature
5 and scope of the project, so it is useful to address this issue along the lines of the
6 classifications presented above.

8 Essential Projects

9 These types of projects are must do projects. Failure to complete such projects would
10 result in unacceptable safety concerns, non-compliance with regulatory or legal
11 requirements, or pose unacceptable risk to operations or loss of service quality. Where
12 the company has latitude regarding how these projects are accomplished, a DCF analysis
13 of the viable alternatives should be used. Where the dollar values are small or a DCF
14 model is not practical, qualitative analysis may be acceptable.

16 Necessary Projects

17 By their very nature, necessary projects are often ongoing. Ongoing normal growth and
18 replacement are likely the bulk of necessary projects, and neither requires DCF analysis
19 for budget approval purposes. An analysis of historical expenditures and retirements
20 along with analysis of company demand forecasts should suffice. Additionally,
21 depreciation studies, which most utilities do on an ongoing basis, can provide reasonable
22 estimates of equipment life cycles and near-term replacement forecasts. This would
23 exclude expenditures for major additions or replacements to the system, e.g. a new power

1 plant, or new transmission route. Such projects should include an economic analysis of
2 viable alternatives.

4 Justifiable Projects

5 These are projects that, while not necessary or essential to the business, add value to the
6 business. Value can be added by improving productivity of workers, decreasing operating
7 cost, increasing revenues, or increasing the quality of service. By their very nature, these
8 warrant a cost benefit analysis; and because these are discretionary expenditures, a DCF
9 analysis should be used. Qualitative justification should be allowed for only small
10 projects or where a DCF analysis is impractical.

12 **Private Ownership of Telecommunications Facilities**

13 Another area of concern is Hydro's strong desire for private ownership of all
14 telecommunications facilities. While private ownership is not part of Hydro's vision or
15 mission statements, the budget documents are replete with statements that clearly
16 establish private ownership as a primary and long-term corporate objective.

18 Private ownership of communication facilities can be a viable means to an end; but it is
19 not, and should not be, the objective. Like all discretionary expenditures, owning versus
20 leasing should be based on objective analysis of the cost versus the benefits of each
21 project.

1 Hydro's justification for private ownership is highly subjective. Additionally, as with
2 most projects, communication needs that are critical to the operation and safety of the
3 power system are lumped together with other non-critical communications needs. As
4 submitted, it is not possible to separate the critical communications expenditures from
5 discretionary expenditures within each project.

6
7 Hydro's justification for private ownership is based, in large measure, on their critique of
8 common carrier networks. Hydro presents a litany of criticisms, most of which are
9 unfounded and based on uninformed judgment. Consider the two, of many, criticisms
10 addressed below.

- 11
- 12 • Hydro claims that common carrier networks do not meet their high
13 reliability standards. Unfortunately, the reliability statistics cited appear to
14 be that of a typical public voice network, which is far below that of a
15 carrier's data network and special service circuits. Additionally,
16 examination of the reliability data provided for those communications
17 facilities currently owned by Hydro do not appear to meet the level of
18 reliability they claim to need.

- 19
- 20 • Hydro assumes that common carriers treat all customers and circuits the
21 same; therefore they conclude that during a communication outage, the
22 carrier would not give priority to restoring Hydro's critical circuits. This is

1 simply false. Carriers can give priority to critical circuits. In fact, carriers
2 can monitor mission critical circuits.

3
4 Hydro's superficial criticism of carrier networks suggests that their private ownership
5 objective has not been fully and objectively evaluated. This casts unnecessary doubt on
6 many of Hydro's IS&T projects.

7
8 Another justification for private ownership that is cited on several occasions is the
9 generation of non-traditional revenues through the sale of excess communications
10 capacity. Because of the limited information provided, it is not possible to determine the
11 extent to which these potential sales have influenced Hydro's communications initiatives.
12 This too, casts unnecessary doubt on Hydro's IS&T projects. Consider the Power Line
13 Carrier replacement project (pg. B74):

14
15 Much of the PLC equipment was, or soon will be, replaced with new high-speed, IP-
16 capable microwave systems (e.g. SONET OC-3 155Mb/s). While PLC is still a viable
17 and cost effective technology, replacing the older obsolete PLC equipment with new
18 high-tech PLC equipment was not a consideration for much of the network. An economic
19 analysis of this alternative was not performed. To what extent was the decision to replace
20 a significant portion of the PLC system with high-speed IP microwave systems
21 influenced by the fact that the new microwave systems will have marketable excess
22 bandwidth?

23

1 Over the last five to seven years, many power companies have expanded into the
2 telecommunications business. With shrinking rate-bases due to over-depreciation and
3 available capital, many power companies actively sought out ways to generate non-
4 traditional revenues. Expanding into telecommunications seemed ideal. Typically the
5 power company began by replacing their internal networks with new facilities that were
6 more marketable (and sized to handle more than their internal needs). With their
7 newfound excess capacity, they entered into the telecommunications business. Some of
8 these initiatives have proven to be marginally successful, many are losers, and the really
9 unlucky ones have been successfully sued by ratepayers for misusing their monopoly
10 powers.

Review of Specific Budget Projects

The results of my review of several of Hydro's major projects are briefly summarized below. These projects are provided because they illustrate some of the concerns discussed above.

VHF Mobile Radio System

This project proposes to totally replace Hydro's existing mobile radio system. The existing system consists of a central switch and 29 repeater sites. The new system would replace the switch and the 29 repeater sites in 2004. Additionally, it is desirable to expand coverage of the system to several new areas. Consistent with the primary directive to own all facilities, the project moves all repeater sites not in Hydro-owned facilities to either existing or newly constructed facilities.

Hydro believes this project to be necessary because much of the equipment has exceeded its expected useful life and some of the equipment is manufacturer discontinued. In addition to age, several other justifications were given, these include: call privacy, private ownership, growth, mobile-data communications, switch redundancy, traffic congestion, high incidences of outages, and additional opportunity for generating non-traditional revenues from sales of communications services. As with all major projects, Hydro cites reliability, safety and security.

1 In addition to my review of the objective analysis, I found Hydro's subjective arguments
2 for this project to be weak and in some cases inaccurate and misleading. Based on my
3 own experiences studying the life of communications equipment, age alone is not a valid
4 justification for replacements. A large percentage of communication equipment lives far
5 beyond its useful life expectancy. The life expectancy is merely an average. Also, based
6 on the findings of Hydro's consultant, it is not imperative that this system be replaced in
7 2004. Consider the following observations taken from the consultants report:

- 8
- 9 • NHL doesn't require voice privacy
- 10 • The existing system, for the most part, has operated successfully.
- 11 • Unanticipated growth can be handled with additional repeaters on the existing
- 12 network.
- 13 • The existing system is a trunking system; and has the necessary features to
- 14 perform telephone interface functions.
- 15 • The existing system is data capable.
- 16 • Mobile data's major application is email; requiring 2kbs.
- 17 • Traffic congestion problems have been fixed, and are no longer an issue.
- 18

19 Despite the above observations of their consultant, Hydro's proposal calls for the flash-
20 cut replacement of the existing system. The alternatives considered include:

- 21
- 22 1. Replacing the entire system now (2004)

- 1 2. Replacing the switch now (2004), then replacing this new switch and all other
- 2 equipment three years later, and
- 3 3. Replacing the switch now, then replacing this new switch and all other equipment
- 4 6 years later.

5

6 The present value of the three alternatives is summarized below:

- 7
- 8 1. \$10.8M
 - 9 2. \$12.0M
 - 10 3. \$12.2M

11

12 Alternatives 2 and 3 are not rational. It is not necessary to replace the switch twice within

13 a few short years. The cost to replace just the switch is \$1.4M (2004) and is common to

14 all of the alternatives considered. Additionally, the replacement of the remaining

15 equipment and expanding area coverage is common to all alternatives as well. The only

16 significant difference is the timing of the replacements.

17

18 It doesn't take a new detailed economic study to realize, that if the switch were replaced

19 just once, alternative 2 would be the most attractive. Alternative 3 would be very close in

20 terms of present worth, but it may delay needed replacements for too long. There are two

21 obvious and viable alternatives that should be considered. These are described below.

22

1 A fourth alternative, one that seeks the lowest cost, should be considered. This
2 alternative should 1) replace the current switch in 2004, and, given the above findings of
3 the consultant, 2) replace the remaining repeaters and expand the coverage area over the
4 following 3 to 5 years. Additionally, this alternative should not move the existing
5 repeater sites.

6
7 Finally, a fifth alternative should be considered. This alternative should be identical to
8 alternative 4, except that the repeater sites should be moved to company owned facilities.

9 A comparison of alternatives 4 and 5 would give valuable insight into the cost/benefit of
10 private ownership in this instance. At present, we have no way to discern how much of
11 the \$10M is needed to move the repeater sites to company owned facilities.

12
13 Obviously, adding these two alternatives significantly improves the objectivity of this
14 budget project. Additionally, it would yield a dollar cost of private ownership of the
15 repeater sites that can be weighed against the perceived risks of leaving the sites as is.
16 These two alternatives do not, however, answer the questions as to whether this project
17 needs to be started now. A *status quo* alternative that quantifies the risks would be helpful
18 in this regard.

19 20 **End User & Server Evergreen Program**

21
22 This project provides for the replacement of user workstations, servers, operating
23 systems, and PC applications. Replacements are based on a 3 to 5 year life cycle

1 consistent with the typical equipment life cycles. This project is estimated to cost \$2.8M.

2 The description provided for this project appears consistent with the long-term strategy
3 detailed in Hydro's IT Technical Architecture Strategy report.

4
5 The long-term plan outlined in the IT Strategy report calls for the implementation of a
6 truly state-of-the-art IT infrastructure. The plan is atypical of large utilities, and more
7 typical of smaller high-tech companies that have intensive processing, reliability,
8 networking, and rapid retrieval storage requirements. Because Hydro is a relatively small
9 company, the step up from modern to state-of-the-art is not overly expensive.

10 Additionally, the IT Strategy report lays out a "long-term" vision and not a firm
11 implementation schedule.

12
13 What does concern me, however, is the very high capital expenditure. The project
14 proposes to spend \$2.8M in 2004. Considering that Hydro identifies 11 office locations
15 totaling roughly 450 office employees, the 2004 capital expenditures come to over \$6,200
16 per office employee. You could give each office employee a state-of-the-art laptop
17 computer with all the software for \$1.35M, add 45 servers divided up between just 11
18 locations for \$0.45M and still have \$1M left over to spend. If we were to give 30% of the
19 employees a thin-client device instead of a laptop, as suggested, we would have an
20 additional \$0.3M (\$1.3M total) left over to spend.

21
22 The project does not provide any details regarding what the money is being spent on. It
23 doesn't include any economic analysis (DCF) justifying the expenditure; and no

1 alternatives are considered. Hydro doesn't provide any historical basis for similar
2 expenditures, nor does it quantify any cost savings. In summary, Hydro is asking the
3 Boards to approve \$2.8M on good faith.

4 5 **Power Line Carrier (PLC)**

6
7 This project provides for the upgrading of Hydro's remaining PLC. A significant portion
8 of Hydro's PLC system was upgraded in 2003 and a significant portion is or will be
9 replaced with microwave equipment as part of Hydro's high-speed digital microwave
10 system. The cost of this project is \$0.4M for 2004, not including the cost associated with
11 the microwave systems discussed below.

12
13 No economic analysis is provided for upgrading the PLC systems. Given that most of the
14 PLC has already been replaced or displaced, and given the age of the equipment and the
15 critical nature of the circuits, replacement of the PLC appears to be warranted. My
16 concerns regarding PLC are not the upgrading of this equipment, but rather the timing
17 and the shift to microwave in lieu of PLC, neither of which is objectively quantified.

18
19 The evolution of PLC technology has mirrored that of carrier technology first deployed in
20 telecommunications networks in the 1940s. Use of analog carrier in power systems began
21 in the 1950's and has proven very effective for teleprotection and control of power
22 systems. Even today, new generations of analog PLC systems are being introduced.

1 However, analog PLC's days are numbered. Digital PLC systems are commercially
2 available, and significant research is devoted to improving this technology.

3
4 The shift from analog to digital represents a shift from a mature technology, where
5 technological advancements are slow and costly to achieve, to a new technology where
6 technological advancements are fast and accelerating. Early implementations of
7 Broadband PLC will likely be on the market in 5 to 7 years.

8
9 Given the high potential of digital PLC technology, Hydro's shift to microware may
10 prove to be premature.

11 12 **West-East Interconnection Microwave System**

13
14 This project is described in the Telecommunications Plan but was apparently approved in
15 the 2003 Hydro Capital Budget. It is, however, useful to review some aspects of this
16 project which illustrate points being made in respect to current projects.

17
18 This project completes Hydro's cross-island telecommunications network by connecting
19 the West Coast Radio system commissioned in 1999 with the East Coast Radio system
20 commissioned in 2001. The project establishes a high-capacity (SONET OC-3, 155Mbps)
21 radio channel between Energy Control Centre, St. John's and the Bay d'Espoir Hydro
22 Plant. The estimated capital cost is \$7,106,500.

1 As with most projects, justification includes Hydro's long-term objective to reduce
2 reliance of leased facilities and cites various deficiencies in telecom carrier networks,
3 especially Aliant Communications, in addition to reliability, safety and security concerns.
4 Additionally, Hydro cites generating non-traditional revenues from sales of
5 communications services as justification for this project.

6
7 The project considered 4 alternatives, with Microwave being the lease expensive.

8
9 Alternative Considered by Hydro:

- 10
- 11 1. Aerial Fiber (ADSS)
 - 12 2. Optical Ground Wire Fiber (OPGW)
 - 13 3. Microwave
 - 14 4. Dark Fiber Leasing

15
16 My review and analysis concludes that of the four alternatives considered, Microwave is
17 the least expensive. This conclusion is consistent with Hydro's conclusion; however,
18 other potentially more cost effective alternatives were not pursued.

19
20 In its consideration of leasing Dark Fiber, Hydro elects to lease the needed fibers on a
21 monthly basis for \$390,000 per month. This is perhaps the most expensive way one could
22 secure dark fibers.

1 For several years now, the preferred method of securing dark fiber is through an
2 Indefeasible Right to Use (IRU) purchase contract. IRUs are structured such that the
3 purchaser effectively owns the fiber strands and is given full access to the access points
4 (i.e. Remote Terminal sites). The purchaser has complete control of the fiber, thus
5 satisfying Hydro's desire to control its communication facilities. IRU prices per fiber per
6 kilometer averaged \$2,494/km² in the US in 2000, and prices have dropped considerably
7 in the last two years.

8
9 Assuming comparable prices are available in Newfoundland, an IRU for four dark fibers
10 would cost roughly \$2.49M. Adding the same cost of electronics, \$0.8M, yields a net of
11 \$3.3M. This alternative provides for private ownership and control, is significantly less
12 expensive, and provides for unlimited bandwidth.

13
14 In addition to my review of the objective analysis, I found Hydro's subjective arguments
15 for this project to be weak and in some cases inaccurate and misleading.

17 **Conclusion**

18 The Hydro 2004 Budget Proposal does not provide sufficient documentation to support
19 independent verification or evaluation. The projects are principally justified via
20 subjective arguments. In those cases where economic analysis is given, often the analysis
21 is suspect and lacking proper consideration of viable alternatives. Contrary to standard

² Prices shown are in Canadian dollars. Fiber IRU sale prices typically average less than 180% of the total cost to install the cable on a per strand basis. Thus, it is more economical to purchase IRUs if one only needs a few strands of fiber.


1 practice, the economic analysis, when provided, did not include the *status quo* alternative.

2 Additionally, in some cases obvious viable alternatives were overlooked.

3
4 The budget lacks sufficient structure, discipline and economic analysis to make informed
5 judgments regarding its prudence. Private ownership and the desire to expand into the
6 telecommunications business may have unduly influenced the nature and scope of
7 Hydro's capital program.

8
9 The structure of the current budget, its lack of detailed economic analysis of viable
10 alternatives and its over-reliance on security, safety and reliability as justification for
11 approval unduly shifts responsibility in these crucial areas from Hydro to the Board.

12
13 Simply stated, budget approval comes down to weighing the cost of the expenditure
14 versus the benefit to be gained. The proposed 2004 Capital Budget does not provide the
15 foundation to weigh the costs and benefits thereby impairing the approval and oversight
16 responsibility of the Board. To improve the budget process, the Board may wish to
17 consider adopting project classifications similar to those discussed in this review, and
18 possibly impose guidelines governing the nature and scope of project justification.

19  Respectfully Submitted

20 Stephen L. Barreca

21 BCRI Inc.

Curriculum Vita, June 2003

Stephen L. Barreca

Stephen L. Barreca is founder and president of BCRI Inc. Mr. Barreca founded BCRI in 1998.

Mr. Barreca has extensive experience in the areas of depreciation and valuation theory and practice. He has conducted or managed valuation and economic life studies of various type of personal property with an aggregate value in excess of \$350 Billion dollars. Mr. Barreca's clients include some of the largest corporations in the world as well as state governments and local taxing authorities in both the US and Canada.

Mr. Barreca has been accepted as a legal expert in the areas of personal property valuation, economic life studies, assessment of functional obsolescence, depreciation theory and practice, depreciation table development, technology forecasting, and telecommunications network capital budgeting and engineering/construction practice. He has successfully testified in utility rate cases involving many billions of dollars of revenue, and numerous property tax administration hearings and civil litigation.

Before forming BCRI Inc., Mr. Barreca was Vice President – Communication Technology Strategies for Technology Futures Inc. (TFI) responsible for overseeing and/or conducting TFI's telecommunication research studies. These studies included long-rang strategic planning and assessments of technological change, functional obsolescence of machinery and equipment, economic life studies, as well as depreciation and valuation assessments. Mr. Barreca's duties also included teaching training seminars and providing executive briefings to clients. Prior to joining TFI, Mr. Barreca spent 20 years at BellSouth in various engineering, strategic planning, and regulatory capacities. Mr. Barreca's extensive experience and expertise includes:

- Conducting or managing asset obsolescence & valuation studies involving over half a Trillion dollars in capitalized assets, including Telecommunication Network equipment, Computers and other high-tech equipment, Office Furniture & Equipment, Retail Fixtures & Equipment, Point of Sale equipment, and others.
- Assessing Functional & Technological Obsolescence of various types of property.
- Group depreciation and accounting practice, including the development of vintage retirement unit costs.
- Mass Appraisal techniques for personal property.
- Determining the economic and useful life expectancies of various types of equipment.
- Development of Depreciation and Percent Good Tables.
- Assessing the impact of traditional depreciation forces (i.e., wear and tear, deterioration, chance loss, etc.)
- Development and/or selection of mortality survivor curves (e.g., Iowa and Gompertz-Makeham).
- Forecasting the evolution of emerging technologies, and qualifying the implications of technological change on Marketing & Strategic planning, Capital Budgeting and other business functions.
- Residual Value and Salvage Studies.
- Telecommunications Outside Plant Engineering

Mr. Barreca has presented at numerous industry forums including the International Association of Appraising Officers (IAAO), the annual Wichita Tax Conference, the USTA (United States Telephone Association) Network Planning Conference, the USTA Capital Recovery Conference, the IBC (International Business Communication) Asia Workshop, the International Engineering Consortium's World Forum, the Society of Depreciation Professionals, the American Society of Appraisers, and others. Mr. Barreca has taught training seminars on depreciation, valuation and function obsolescence at industry association conferences, professional society conferences, and public training courses. Additionally, his studies have been published in numerous trade magazines and professional journals. Mr. Barreca has presented to the FCC, State Public Service Commissions, and before the Florida Senate Subcommittee on Telecommunications Reform.

Mr. Barreca is Secretary and past President of the Alabama Chapter of the American Society of Appraisers (ASA), past President of the Society of Depreciation Professionals (SDP) and a member of several industry associations including the International Association of Appraising Officers, the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, the ASA (Candidate Member), and the Society of Depreciation Professionals. Mr. Barreca is a registered Professional Engineer (PE) and a Certified Depreciation Professional (CDP) from the Society of Depreciation Professionals. He received his BSEE degree from the University of New Orleans.

Training

By Stephen L. Barreca

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Outside Plant Planning, LP520-30522 | Sep 1977 |
| Outside Plant Planning, LP520-30523 | Sep 1977 |
| Bachelor of Science Degree, Electrical Engineering, University of New Orleans | Jun 1978 |
| FYDP Outside Plant Engineering | Mar 1979 |
| Engineering Economics, Outside Plant Engineering | Jun 1979 |
| Building Industry Consulting | Mar 1980 |
| Modular First Aid | Aug 1981 |
| Advance Driver Performance | Dec 1982 |
| Capital Recovery/Depreciation – Depreciation Accounting and Data | Oct 1983 |
| Digital Equipment Corporation All-in-one Electronic Messaging | Mar 1986 |
| Digital Equipment Corporation All-in-one Desk Management | Mar 1986 |
| WPS Plus / All-in-one | Mar 1986 |
| BellSouth Services Billing Management Responsibility | Aug 1987 |
| Managing Personal Growth | Mar 1988 |
| Affirmative Action The Next Phase | Apr 1988 |
| Excellence In Leadership | Jul 1988 |
| Time Management | Oct 1989 |
| FOCUS Database Design | Oct 1990 |
| FOCUS Application Integration Techniques | Oct 1990 |
| Technology Forecasting For the Telecommunications Industry | Aug 1990 |
| The Quality Advantage | Nov 1990 |
| Fiber To The Home, Technology Overview, ND900B | Jan 1991 |
| Fiber To The Home, Overview, CN178F | Jan 1991 |
| Synchronous Optical Network (SONET) Overview | Apr 1991 |
| Developing Peak Performance | Jul 1991 |
| Miscellaneous Vendor Courses | Aug 1992 |
| Understanding Emerging Technologies | Aug 1992 |
| Personal Financial Education | Sep 1992 |
| Intellectual Property Management | Nov 1992 |
| Strategic Performance (Manager of Managers) | Jan 1993 |
| Performance Management: Making the Connections | Aug 1993 |
| Defensive Driving – Smart Moves (IVI) | Jan 1994 |
| International Communications Forecasting Conference, various workshops | Jun 1994 |
| Capital Recovery/Depreciation Curriculum Development Workshop | July 1994 |
| Common Channel Signaling / Signaling System – 7 | Sep 1994 |
| Ethics Awareness Workshop | Sep 1994 |
| Understanding Local Area Network (LAN) Internetworking | Sep 1994 |
| SMDS: A Brief Overview | Sep 1994 |
| Engineering Refresher for PE-Electrical – Georgia Tech. | Feb 1995 |
| Environmental Compliance – Video Class | Feb 1996 |
| Hazard Communication General Awareness Training | May 1996 |
| Economic Life Analysis | Oct 1996 |
| Depreciation Accrual Calculations | Oct 1996 |
| Forecasting in Depreciation (Physical Mortality, Functional Obsolescence, Combining forces of mortality) | Oct 1996 |
| Simulated Plant Analysis | Oct 1996 |
| Salvage and Salvage Trending | Oct 1996 |
| Depreciation Accounting | Oct 1996 |
| IEEE Various workshops through the year | 1996 |
| International Communications Forecasting Conference, various workshops | Jul 1997 |
| Society of Depreciation Professionals Annual Conference | Sep 1997 |
| Economic Life Analysis | Sep 1997 |
| xDSL Technology Workshop | Sep 1997 |
| Depreciation Accrual Calculations | Sep 1997 |
| Forecasting in Depreciation (Physical Mortality, Functional Obsolescence, Combining forces of mortality) | Sep 1997 |
| Depreciation Accounting | Sep 1997 |
| Simulated Plant Analysis | Sep 1997 |

Training

By Stephen L. Barreca

| | |
|---|----------|
| Salvage and Salvage Trending..... | Sep 1997 |
| IEEE Various workshops through the year..... | 1997 |
| Forecasting, Planning and Managing Technology Change..... | Feb 1998 |
| Forecasting, Planning and Managing Technology Change..... | Apr 1999 |
| International Communications Forecasting Conference, various workshops | Jun 1998 |
| Building Industry Consulting Service International (BSCSI), attend various workshops | Jun 1998 |
| Society of Depreciation Professionals Annual Conference | Oct 1998 |
| Economic Life Analysis | Oct 1998 |
| Depreciation Accrual Calculations..... | Oct 1998 |
| Simulated Plant Analysis..... | Oct 1998 |
| Salvage and Salvage Trending..... | Oct 1998 |
| Depreciation Accounting..... | Oct 1998 |
| IAAO, Various workshops..... | Sep 1998 |
| IEEE Various workshops through the year..... | 1998 |
| Florida Chapter of the IAAO, various conference workshops | Jan 1999 |
| Digital Switching Technology: Technology Forecasts, Depreciation, Obsolescence, client workshop | Mar 1999 |
| International Communications Forecasting Conference, various workshops | Jun 1999 |
| Wichita Annual Tax Conference | Aug 1999 |
| Society of Depreciation Professionals Annual Conference | Oct 1999 |
| Economic Life Analysis | Oct 1999 |
| Depreciation Accrual Calculations..... | Oct 1999 |
| Simulated Plant Analysis..... | Oct 1999 |
| Salvage and Salvage Trending..... | Oct 1999 |
| Depreciation Accounting..... | Oct 1999 |
| IEEE Various workshops through the year..... | 1999 |
| Society of Depreciation Professionals Annual Conference | Oct 2000 |
| Uniform Standard of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP), course & examination | Jun 2001 |
| International Association of Assessing Officers, various workshops | Jan 2001 |
| American Society of Appraisers Annual Conference..... | Jul 2001 |
| Society of Depreciation Professionals Annual Conference | Sep 2001 |
| Society of Depreciation Professionals – Depreciation Training..... | Sep 2001 |
| International Association of Assessing Officers Conference..... | Oct 2001 |
| Florida Department of Revenue Training Conference | Dec 2001 |
| IEEE Various workshops through the year..... | 2001 |
| Society of Depreciation Professionals Annual Conference | Sep 2002 |
| Society of Depreciation Professionals Depreciation Training..... | Sep 2002 |
| International Association of Assessing Officers Public Utility Conference | Mar 2002 |
| Wichita Tax Conference..... | Aug 2002 |
| Wichita Tax Conference – Valuation Principles Courses..... | Aug 2002 |
| Society of Depreciation Professionals Annual Conference | Sep 2002 |
| IEEE Various workshops through the year..... | 2002 |
| Florida Chapter of the IAAO – Tangible Personal Property Valuation Workshop..... | Jan 2003 |
| International Association of Assessing Officers, Public Utilities Workshop..... | Mar 2003 |
| International Association of Assessing Officers, Personal Property Seminar | May 2003 |

Course Instructor or Conference Presenter

Stephen L. Barreca

| | |
|---|----------|
| Forecasting in Depreciation (Physical Mortality, Functional Obsolescence, Combining forces of mortality) | Oct 1996 |
| Instructor, Technology Forecasting For the Telecom Industry (Obsolescence & Life Analysis) | Apr 1997 |
| Instructor, Technology Forecasting For the Telecom Industry (Obsolescence & Life Analysis) | Jul 1997 |
| International Engineering Consortium - Economic Life Analysis..... | Sep 1997 |
| International Engineering Consortium - xDSL Technology Workshop | Sep 1997 |
| Forecasting in Depreciation (Physical Mortality, Functional Obsolescence, Combining forces of mortality) | Sep 1997 |
| Instructor, Technology Forecasting For the Telecom Industry (Obsolescence & Life Analysis) | Oct 1997 |
| Instructor, Technology Forecasting For the Telecom Industry (Obsolescence & Life Analysis) | Jan 1998 |
| Instructor, Technology Forecasting For the Telecom Industry (Obsolescence & Life Analysis) | Apr 1998 |
| Instructor & course developer, Quantitative Technology Forecasting (Obsolescence & Life Analysis) | Apr 1998 |
| Instructor, Technology Forecasting For the Telecom Industry (Obsolescence & Life Analysis) | Jun 1998 |
| BICSI Workshop on Technology Change and Obsolescence of Telecom Cable Technology | Jun 1998 |
| Property Valuation for Physical Depreciation, Functional & Economic Obsolescence, Client workshop | Jul 1998 |
| Forecasting in Depreciation (Physical Mortality, Obsolescence, Combining forces of mortality) | Oct 1998 |
| Instructor, Technology Forecasting For the Telecom Industry (Obsolescence & Life Analysis) | Nov 1998 |
| Instructor, Quantitative Technology Forecasting (Obsolescence & Life Analysis), client workshop | Dec 1998 |
| Instructor, Technology Forecasting For the Telecommunication Industry (Obsolescence & Life Analysis) | Jun 1999 |
| Florida Chapter IAAO, Instructor: Physical Depreciation, Functional & Economic Obsolescence | Jan 1999 |
| Florida Chapter IAAO, Instructor: Developing Percent-Good/Depreciation Tables..... | Jan 1999 |
| Instructor, Technology/Market Forecasting For the Telecom Industry (Obsolescence & Life Analysis) | Feb 1999 |
| Digital Switching Technology: Technology Forecasts, Depreciation, Obsolescence, client workshop | Mar 1999 |
| Instructor, Quantitative Technology Forecasting (Obsolescence & Life Analysis) | Apr 1999 |
| Technology & Market Assessments, Client workshop | Apr 1999 |
| Instr. Assessing Functional Obsolescence in a Rapidly Changing Marketplace, A Cost Based Approach | Aug 1999 |
| Instructor, Technological / Functional Obsolescence | Oct 1999 |
| Forecasting in Depreciation (Physical Mortality, Obsolescence, Combining forces of mortality) | Oct 1999 |
| Instructor, Technological / Functional Obsolescence | Oct 2000 |
| International Association of Assessing Officers, Instructor Development of Economic lives and Life Cycles of Technologies | Jan 2001 |
| Florida Department of Revenue Instructor, Quantifying Technology Obsolescence & Economic Lives of Personal Property | Jul 2001 |
| Society of Depreciation Professionals Instructor: Technology Forecasting & Assessing its impact on the value of personal property..... | Sep 2001 |
| International Association of Assessing Officers Instructor: Quantifying the Financial Implications of Technological Change..... | Oct 2001 |
| Florida Department of Revenue Training Conference, Instructor: Fundamentals of Developing Depreciation Tables | Dec 2001 |
| Society of Depreciation Professionals – Instructor Technology Forecasting | Sep 2002 |
| International Association of Assessing Officers Presentation Determining The Value of Rapidly Changing Technology..... | Mar 2002 |
| Wichita Tax Conference – Presentation Determining Property Lives From Tax-Roll Data | Aug 2002 |
| Society of Depreciation Professionals Instructor: Technology Forecasting | Sep 2002 |
| Florida Chapter of the IAAO – Tangible Personal Property Valuation Workshop, Presenter: “Telecom Technologies - What’s Really Happening”..... | Jan 2003 |
| International Association of Assessing Officers, Public Utilities Workshop, Presenter: Using the Cost Approach To Value Utility Properties | Mar 2003 |
| International Association of Assessing Officers, Personal Property Seminar, Presenter: An Objective Approach To Quantifying The Depreciation of Telecommunication Equipment..... | May 2003 |

Testimony of Stephen L. Barreca

| | |
|---|------|
| Valuation Adjustment Board on behalf of Lee County | 2002 |
| Expert Witness Property Valuation for Okeechobee Co Florida – FP&L | 2002 |
| Expert Witness Property Valuation for Broward Co Florida PA – PrimeCo | 2002 |
| Expert Witness Property Valuation for Citrus Co Florida PA - Time Warner | 2002 |
| Valuation Adjustment Board on behalf of Lee County – Bank of America | 2001 |
| Valuation Adjustment Board on behalf of BellSouth in Broward County, Florida. | 2001 |
| Valuation Adjustment Board on behalf of Lee County – Bahamas Breeze Rest. | 2001 |
| Valuation Adjustment Board on behalf of Lee County – WFTX TV-4 | 2001 |
| Valuation Adjustment Board on behalf of Lee County – Various retail stores | 2001 |
| Valuation Adjustment Board on behalf of BellSouth in Dade County, Florida. | 2000 |
| Expert Witness, Property Valuation for Alachua County, Florida. – WalMart | 2000 |
| Valuation Adjustment Board on behalf of BellSouth in St. Lucie County, Florida. | 1999 |
| Valuation Adjustment Board, Duval County, Florida for Bellsouth | 1999 |
| Expert Witness, Property Valuation for Hernando County, Florida. - WalMart | 1999 |
| Expert Witness, Property Valuation for Hillsborough County, Florida. - WalMart | 1999 |
| Expert Witness, Property Valuation for Pasco County, Florida. - WalMart | 1999 |
| Drafted Pre-filed Testimony FCC TELRIC for U.S. West Arizona | 1998 |
| Submitted Affidavit & Drafted Pre-filed Testimony FCC TELRIC for Bell Atlantic VA | 1997 |
| Drafted Pre-filed Testimony FCC TELRIC for U.S. West, Wash | 1997 |
| Drafted Pre-filed Testimony FCC TELRIC for U.S. West, WY | 1997 |
| Drafted Pre-filed Testimony FCC TELRIC for NYNEX Vermont | 1997 |
| Drafted Pre-filed Testimony FCC TELRIC for Bell Atlantic MD | 1997 |

Testimony of Stephen L. Barreca

| | |
|---|------|
| Drafted Pre-filed Testimony FCC TELRIC for U.S. West Iowa | 1997 |
| Drafted Pre-filed Testimony & Affidavit FCC TELRIC for GTE Oregon | 1997 |
| Drafted Pre-filed Testimony FCC TELRIC for NYNEX Maine | 1997 |
| Testified before the Louisiana Public Service Commission, docket no. U-17949, sub-docket E, as an expert witness on Technology Forecasting techniques, the evolution of network technologies, economic life expectancies, and BellSouth's long range Network modernization plans. | 1996 |
| Testified before the Florida Senate Sub-Committee On Telecommunications Reform. | 1995 |
| Testified before the South Carolina Public Service Commission, docket # 92-227-C, as an expert witness on Technology Forecasting techniques, the evolution of network technologies, economic life expectancies, and BellSouth's long range Network modernization plans. | 1993 |
| Testified before the Florida Public Service Commission, docket # 920385-TL, as an expert witness on Technology Forecasting techniques, the evolution of network technologies, economic life expectancies, and BellSouth's long range Network modernization plans. | 1992 |