

IN THE MATTER OF the
Public Utilities Act, (the “*Act*”)

AND,

IN THE MATTER OF an Application by
Newfoundland Power Inc. for an Order pursuant to
Sections 41, 78 and 80 of the *Act*:

- (a) approving its 2006 Capital Budget of \$49,258,000; and
- (b) fixing and determining its average rate base for
2004 in the amount of \$715,111,000.

INFORMATION REQUESTS

GENERATION HYDRO

FACILITY REHABILITATION (POOLED), p. 2 of 81, \$996,000

- PUB 1.0** Please provide a breakdown of Table 1, p. 3 of 81, by project identified in **1.1 2006 Hydro Plants Facility Rehabilitation**.
- PUB 2.0** Please provide a breakdown of Table 2, p. 3 of 81, by project identified in **1.1 2006 Hydro Plants Facility Rehabilitation**.

SUBSTATIONS

REBUILD SUBSTATIONS (POOLED), p. 10 of 81, \$710,000

- PUB 3.0** In 2004, according to Appendix A, p. A-1, of Section 2.1 2006 Rebuild Substations, 594,218 customer minutes of outages were caused by gap type lightning arrestors. Please provide a breakdown of the areas that were involved, the number of customers that were affected, and the duration of each outage.
- PUB 4.0** Please provide a breakdown of the 967,414 customer minutes of unscheduled outages experienced to the date of the Application in 2005 and caused by gap type lightning arrestors.
- PUB 5.0** Please provide a history of expenditures for each year from 1990 to 2005F for lightning arrestors, indicating whether these expenditures were related to transmission lines, distribution lines, substations or other.

REPLACEMENT AND STANDBY SUBSTATION EQUIPMENT (POOLED), p. 12 of 81, \$1,918,000

- PUB 6.0** How does the expenditure of \$363,000 explained in section 3.0, Emergency Replacements, of 2.2 2006 Replacement and Standby Substation Equipment differ from the budgeted items explained in the sections previous to 3.0, which deal with the replenishment of pools of equipment for use in emergency and routine situations?

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FEEDER REMOTE CONTROL (POOLED), p. 19 of 81, \$779,000

PUB 7.0 Please provide a general plan, giving an indication of the number of feeders that will continue to use the older system at the end of each phase, for the replacement of the Company's electromechanical feeder relays and oil-filled reclosers to 2010.

PUB 8.0 Why does the Company not consider this a multi-year project?

TRANSMISSION**REBUILD TRANSMISSION LINES (POOLED), p. 22 of 81, \$4,054,000**

PUB 9.0 Please provide a breakdown showing the total amount of each project included in the figure of \$1,561,000, the budgeted amount for proposed transmission line rebuilding work due to deficiencies identified during routine inspections and engineering reviews.

DISTRIBUTION**EXTENSIONS (POOLED), p. 25 of 81, \$6,766,000**

PUB 10.0 Please provide a summary, by year, of the high and low data that has been excluded from the data provided in Table 2, p. 26 of 81, and of the effect that the inclusion of this data would have on the Unit Cost for each year from 2001 to 2006B.

PUB 11.0 Please provide a summary showing the budgeted expense for Extensions from each year from 2001 to 2005F and the actual expenditures, including the most recent forecast for 2005, for the same period. Please include the budgeted number of new customers and the actual number of new customers for each year.

METERS (POOLED), p. 27 of 81, \$1,192,00

PUB 12.0 Please explain the Government Retest Order process, including an explanation of why the number of meters required under these criteria has increased significantly in 2004, 2005F, and 2006F.

REBUILD DISTRIBUTION LINES (POOLED), p. 40 of 81, \$3,190,000

PUB 13.0 Please provide a listing, including the work to be performed, the 2006 budgeted amount, any planned future expenditures for each, and the expenditure history over the most recent five years, of the 47 feeders, the padmount transformers and the underground services indicated on page 40.

DISTRIBUTION RELIABILITY INITIATIVE (POOLED), p. 45 of 81, \$3,114,000

PUB 14.0 Given that the data gathered prior to 2002 for feeder BOT-01 had unusually high customer minutes which have already been partially addressed, what are the SAIFI and SAIDI statistics for the period from 2002 to 2004?

PUB 15.0 What is the total budgeted amount for brush clearing, and why has it been included in the capital expenditure estimates (p. 5, Botwood-01 Feeder Study, June 2005)?

- PUB 16.0** Please give reasons why or why not the upgrade of Feeder BOT-01 should be considered a multi-year project.
- PUB 17.0** What is the total budgeted amount for brush clearing, and why has it been included in the capital expenditure estimates (p. 5, Lewisporte-02 Feeder Study, June 2005)?
- PUB 18.0** Please give reasons why or why not the upgrade of Feeder LEW-02 should be considered a multi-year project.
- PUB 19.0** Given that a 12/6 km. section of feeder GLV-02 was upgraded in 2003 and 2004, excluding this section what are the SAIFI and SAIDI statistics for the period from 2000 to 2004?
- PUB 20.0** What is the total budgeted amount for brush clearing, and why has it been included in the capital expenditure estimates (p. 5, Glovertown-02 Feeder Study, June 2005)?
- PUB 21.0** Please give reasons why or why not the upgrade of Feeder GLV-02 should be considered a multi-year project.

GENERAL PROPERTY

ADDITIONS TO REAL PROPERTY (POOLED), p. 55 of 81, \$132,000

- PUB 22.0** Please identify the specific total budget amount allocated to each project outlined in this project description.

STANDBY DIESEL GENERATORS – DUFFY PLACE & CLARENVILLE (POOLED), p. 57 of 81, \$665,000

- PUB 23.0** Please identify the specific total budgeted amount allocated to each project outlined in this project description.
- PUB 24.0** In previous widespread power outages involving NP buildings, what was the Company's experience with regard to a continuation of service? Please provide relevant excerpts of any relevant reports that were produced as a result of these outages.

DEMAND/LOAD CONTROL – COMPANY BUILDINGS (OTHER), p. 59 of 81, \$143,000

- PUB 25.0** Although the Cost Benefit Analysis provided uses the cost of automated load control and the possible reduction in demand charges from Hydro as a result of a 2.5 MW reduction in peak, it does not include the cost of the utilization of auxiliary back-up generation as a substitute source of electricity (2006 Load Control Initiative, June 2005, p. 1, para. 2). How does this factor into the analysis?

TRANSPORTATION

PURCHASE VEHICLES AND AERIAL DEVICES (POOLED), p. 62 of 81, \$2,755,000

- PUB 26.0** Using the actual expenditure history from Table 3, please provide a comparison of the actual average cost per heavy fleet vehicle, per passenger vehicle, and per off-road vehicle for 2001 to 2004 with the forecast average cost of each type for 2005 and 2006.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS**APPLICATION ENHANCEMENTS (POOLED), p. 69 of 81, \$1,589,000**

- PUB 27.0** Of the 10% of the Company's customers who have two or more bill accounts, what percentage generally receives two consolidated bills each month instead of one as a result of the number of billing days between meter readings?
- PUB 28.0** Over the past 24-month period, how many complaints or enquiries has the Company received from customers who receive two consolidated bills each month concerning the possibility of receiving one?
- PUB 29.0** Of the eleven items listed in this category, five, totaling \$690,000, and a part of another, for an additional \$58,310, are not accompanied by a Cost Benefit Analysis. How does the Company plan to objectively measure the effectiveness of these improvements and their overall benefit to ratepayers?
- PUB 30.0** In the Cost Benefit Analyses presented in support of this expenditure, the projects show labour savings and a positive net present value over the next five years. How many Full Time Equivalent positions are expected to be associated with the labour savings as a result of these improvements over the five-year period?
- PUB 31.0** The budgeted level of spending on this category, at \$1,589,000 is the highest that it has been over the period from 2001 to 2006F. Please provide a breakdown of the expenditures for each year and a comparison of the expenditures.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS**SYSTEM UPGRADES (POOLED), p. 71 of 81, \$1,076,000**

- PUB 32.0** Of the eight items outlined in this category, the purchase of the Microsoft Enterprise Agreement appears to be the only one that will incur a known cost over the upcoming three years. Why has the Company not chosen to set this item out separately and identify it as a multi-year project, given that the understanding of a multi-year project is one that, once commenced, will continue into future fiscal years with associated financial responsibility in those years?
- PUB 33.0** In the description of the purchase of the Microsoft Enterprise Agreement three options are outlined. Please provide the Cost Benefit Analysis that was used to determine that the chosen option is the least expensive.

LEASES**1.5 MW PORTABLE DIESEL GENERATOR, p. 3 of 3, \$12,000/Year**

- PUB 34.0** Please provide a history of the month-to-month lease of the portable unit that is located in Trepassey, including the reason for the lease and the analysis that was used to determine that this was the least cost alternative.
- PUB 35.0** Please provide a history since its procurement of the usage of the 1.5 MW portable unit located in Trepassey, including the locations and the reasons for the usage.

DATED at St. John's, Newfoundland this 22nd day of July 2005.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

Per Original Signed by
Barbara Thistle,
Assistant Board Secretary.

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