

**NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

AN ORDER OF THE BOARD

NO. P.U. 21(2023)

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**,
4 RSNL 1990, Chapter P-47 (the “**Act**”), as
5 amended, and regulations thereunder; and
6

7 **IN THE MATTER OF** an application by
8 Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro for
9 approval of a capital expenditure for the
10 construction and installation of ultra-fast
11 electric vehicle chargers, pursuant to
12 section 41 of the **Act**.
13
14

15 **WHEREAS** Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro (“Hydro”) is a corporation continued and existing
16 under the **Hydro Corporation Act, 2007**, is a public utility within the meaning of the **Act**, and is
17 also subject to the provisions of the **EPCA**; and
18

19 **WHEREAS** pursuant to section 41 of the **Act** and **Public Utilities Regulations**, NLR 40/23, a public
20 utility shall not proceed with the construction, purchase or lease of improvements or additions
21 to its property where the cost of construction or purchase is in excess of \$750,000 without prior
22 approval of the Board; and
23

24 **WHEREAS** in Order No. P.U. 2(2023), the Board approved Hydro’s 2023 Capital Budget in the
25 amount of \$90,828,700; and
26

27 **WHEREAS** the Board approved supplementary 2023 capital expenditures in:

- 28 (i) Order No. P.U. 6(2023) in the amount of \$2,105,000 for the section replacement and
29 weld refurbishment of Penstock 1 at the Bay d’Espoir Hydroelectric Generating
30 Station; and
31 (ii) Order No. P.U. 12(2023) in the amount of \$3,596,500 for the replacement of the last
32 stage blades on Units 1 and 2 at the Holyrood Thermal Generating Station including
33 the purchase of a second set of last stage blades and an in-situ inspection of the Unit
34 2 turbine last stage blades; and
35

36 **WHEREAS** on June 27, 2023 Hydro filed an application (the “Application”) requesting approval of
37 a supplementary capital expenditure of \$2,059,800 for the construction and installation of seven

1 ultra-fast Direct Current Fast Chargers (“DCFC”) at five of its most utilized electric vehicle charging
2 sites along the Trans-Canada Highway (the “Project”); and

3
4 **WHEREAS** the Application states Hydro anticipates receiving funding from the Government of
5 Newfoundland and Labrador for the Project of up to \$2,000,000, subject to finalization of funding
6 agreements and final project costs; and

7
8 **WHEREAS** the Application states that Hydro will contribute the remaining capital necessary for
9 the Project and that Hydro does not propose to include capital expenditures for the Project in its
10 regulated rate base for recovery from customers at this time; and

11
12 **WHEREAS** the Application states the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador will hold legal
13 title to the chargers, which Hydro will operate and maintain, for three years before they are
14 transferred to Hydro; and

15
16 **WHEREAS** the Application states Hydro operates a network of 23 public DCFCs in the province
17 and that the usage of the 14 DCFCs installed along the Trans-Canada Highway in 2021 has grown
18 rapidly leading to congestion and user wait times during peak travel periods; and

19
20 **WHEREAS** the Application states Hydro intends to increase its specification from 62.5 kW to a
21 minimum of 175 kW which will allow for significantly faster charging with compatible vehicles;
22 and

23
24 **WHEREAS** the Application states the completion of the Project will reduce congestion at charging
25 stations, provide faster charging speeds to compatible electric vehicles, and allow for increased
26 numbers of electric vehicles to be owned and operated within the province which will serve to
27 significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions when compared to internal combustion engines;
28 and

29
30 **WHEREAS** the Application was copied to: Newfoundland Power Inc. (“Newfoundland Power”);
31 the Consumer Advocate, Dennis Browne, K.C. (the “Consumer Advocate”); a group of Island
32 Industrial customers including: Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited, Braya Renewable Fuels
33 (Newfoundland) GP Inc., and Vale Newfoundland and Labrador Limited; the communities of
34 Sheshatshiu, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Wabush, and Labrador City; and Drive Electric NL; and

35
36 **WHEREAS** on July 11, 2023 Newfoundland Power advised that it had no objection to the
37 Application; and

38
39 **WHEREAS** on July 12, 2023 the Consumer Advocate advised he takes no exception to the
40 Application provided funds for the Project are not included in rate base for recovery from
41 customers; and

42
43 **WHEREAS** on July 12, 2023 Drive Electric NL advised it supports the Application and that
44 additional charging infrastructure would encourage electric vehicle adoption and provide
45 ratepayers with a way to reduce their environmental impact; and

1 **WHEREAS** on July 13, 2023 Hydro requested that the Board approve the Application as
2 submitted; and

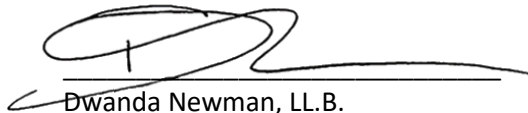
3
4 **WHEREAS** the Board is satisfied that the proposed supplemental capital expenditure for the
5 construction and installation of ultra-fast DCFC electric vehicle chargers should be approved and
6 the costs related to the Project should not be included in Hydro’s regulated rate base or
7 recovered from customers at this time.


8
9

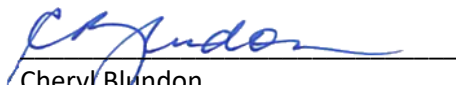
10 **IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

- 11
- 12 1. The proposed capital expenditures in the amount of \$2,059,800 for the construction and
13 installation of seven ultra-fast DCFC electric vehicle chargers are approved.
 - 14 2. The costs related to the proposed electric vehicle chargers should not be included in
15 Hydro’s regulated rate base or recovered from customers at this time.
 - 16 3. Hydro shall pay all expenses of the Board arising from this Application.
- 17
18

DATED at St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador, this 11th day of August 2023.


Dwanda Newman, LL.B.
Vice-Chair


Christopher Pike, LL.B., FCIP
Commissioner


Cheryl Blundon
Board Secretary