

1 Q. **Upgrade Public Safety Around Dams - Hinds Lake and Paradise River**

2 Please explain why a public information program, aimed at those groups who might come into  
3 proximity to such facilities, would not provide a sufficient assurance of public safety.

4

5

6 A. The Canadian Dam Association's ("CDA") Dam Safety Guidelines are accepted as best industry  
7 practice relating to dam integrity and safety in Canada. Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro  
8 ("Hydro") has adopted the CDA Guidelines as best practice for dam safety. As a result of  
9 increased public interaction and incidents around dams across Canada and internationally, the  
10 CDA recognized a need for guidelines pertaining to Public Safety Around Dams ("PSAD"). In  
11 2011, the CDA released the Public Safety Around Dams Guideline as a component of the CDA  
12 Dam Safety Guidelines which have been incorporated into Hydro's dam safety program.

13 In accordance with the guidelines, a dam owner identifies the hazards as well as the public  
14 activities in dangerous zones around hydroelectric facilities and is encouraged to lower the risk  
15 due to each activity in these zones. Public education is considered an important part of the PSAD  
16 program; however, utility owners in Canada have noted that public education alone has had  
17 little success with reducing the number of public interactions in dangerous zones and therefore  
18 is not as effective in reducing the risk as physical barriers. Hydro's experience since the PSAD  
19 program commenced is that the public have generally ignored public safety signage and  
20 continue to access dangerous zones. Given this limited success with public education, physical  
21 boundaries are considered the best means to deter the public from entering the dangerous  
22 zones, ultimately reducing the risk.