



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

120 Torbay Road, P.O. Box 21040, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada, A1A 5B2

2022-09-08

**Newfoundland Power Inc.**

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Dear Madams/Sir:

**Re: Newfoundland Power Inc. - 2023 Capital Budget Application - Consumer Advocate's Request for Technical Conference to be Open to Public and Media and Recorded**

On September 6, 2022 the Consumer Advocate filed correspondence requesting that the technical conference scheduled for September 9, 2022 be open to the public and the media and that it be recorded in its entirety.

The provisional Capital Budget Guidelines issued by the Board in January 2022 to be used for the 2023 Capital Budget application state as follows:

**g. Technical Conference**

A technical conference may be held where the Board determines that it would assist in providing a full understanding of the scope and nature of a specific capital budget expenditure or a significant issue associated with the capital budget application. The scope of the technical conference will be defined by the Board and will normally be limited to specific matters. The utility will ensure the attendance of appropriate individuals, including experts, who can speak to the issues to be addressed. The commissioners of the Board will not normally attend the technical conference **and it will not be open to the public and will not be recorded or transcribed.** At the discretion of

the Board, it may be determined that commissioners will attend the technical conference and, where this is the case, it will be recorded and transcribed but will not be open to the public.

The Board has previously stated:

Technical conferences have, in the opinion of the Board, contributed to the efficiency and effectiveness of capital budget proceedings. They have been of assistance to the parties during the discovery phase of a capital budget proceeding to gain a more complete understanding of the scope and nature of a project which often is very technical in nature. The less adversarial format of the technical conference is intended to facilitate the exchange of information and can help clarify and narrow the issues for the parties and Board staff. Any relevant information arising during a technical conference can subsequently be placed on the record of the proceeding through requests for information.<sup>1</sup>

The technical conference is an opportunity for parties to obtain further information on specific identified issues. The technical conference process encourages a free flow of information and dialogue. Any information obtained at the technical conference can subsequently be placed on the record through the request for information process. In accordance with the established Guidelines, the technical conference scheduled for September 9, 2022 will not be recorded and will be limited to the parties and Board staff.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Board's Legal Counsel, Jacqui Glynn, by email, [jglynn@pub.nl.ca](mailto:jglynn@pub.nl.ca) or telephone (709) 726-6781.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Blundon

Board Secretary

CB/cj

ecc **Newfoundland Power Inc.**  
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<sup>1</sup> Newfoundland Power 2021 Capital Budget Application, correspondence to the parties dated November 4, 2020.