

1 **IN THE MATTER OF**  
2 the *Electrical Power Control Act*, RSNL 1994,  
3 Chapter E-5.1 (the “*EPCA*”) and the  
4 *Public Utilities Act*, RSNL 1990,  
5 Chapter P-47 (the “*Act*”), as amended;

6  
7  
8 **AND**  
9

10  
11 **IN THE MATTER OF**  
12 an Application by Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro for an Order:  
13 1) approving its 2010 capital budget, pursuant to s.41(1) of the *Act*;  
14 2) approving its 2010 capital purchases, and construction projects in excess of \$50,000,  
15 pursuant to s.41(3)(a) of the *Act*;  
16 3) approving its leases in excess of \$5,000 pursuant to s. 41(3) of the *Act*;  
17 4) approving its estimated contributions in aid of construction for 2010, pursuant to  
18 s. 41(5) of the *Act*; and  
19 5) fixing and determining its average rate base for 2008, pursuant to s. 78 of the *Act*.

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**PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD  
REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION**

**PUB-NLH-1 to PUB-NLH-23**

**Issued: August 26, 2009**

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1 **2010 Capital Projects, Overview, p. ix**

2

3 **PUB-NLH-1** In Charts 4 and 5 provided to illustrate the 2010 Capital Budget, Transmission  
4 and Operations, the total of the percentages do not total to 100%. Please confirm  
5 that the percentages shown in the pie charts are correct.

6

7 **2010 Capital Plan, p. 11**

8

9 **PUB-NLH-2** In the first paragraph NLH has stated that it "...has initiated a review of the  
10 condition of the older plants to assist in planning the replacement or modification  
11 in a logical sequence. This review will be completed late in 2009...." Please  
12 provide an update on the status of the plan, the expected completion date, and the  
13 date on which it will be available to the Board.

14

15 **B-2, Upgrade Gas Turbine Plant Life Extension, 2010 - \$1,304,500, 2011 - \$1,323,600,**  
16 **Beyond - \$3,366,600**

17

18 **PUB-NLH-3** In Table 3, Alternatives, p. 14, of the report provided in Tab 1, Volume II, NLH  
19 provides the Capital Cost Estimate of each of the alternatives. Please reconcile  
20 these figures with those provided in response to the Request For Information CA-  
21 NLH-4, page 9.1 of the Stantec report, regarding the application from NLH for  
22 approval for the refurbishment of the gas turbine at Stephenville.

23

24 **B-4, Replace and Purchase of Stator Windings, \$4,687,100**

25

26 **PUB-NLH-4** Please provide a general description of the techniques used to determine the  
27 condition of the asphalt windings at the Bay D'Espoir plant.

28

29 **PUB-NLH-5** If NLH has already developed a plan for the replacement of the windings on Units  
30 1, 3 and 4 over the next five years, why has it not applied to the Board for  
31 approval of this project as a Multi-Year Project?

32

33 **PUB-NLH-6** Please provide a definition of the economic life of a major power system asset and  
34 compare it to the definition of the useful life of the asset, including an explanation  
35 of any factors that may cause negative or positive changes to either of those lives.

36

37 **B-20, Upgrade Distribution Systems, \$2,572,000**

38

39 **PUB-NLH-7** Over the years from 2004 to 2008 Actual Expenditures have exceeded the  
40 budgeted amount by as much as 81.5% (in 2004). Has NLH considered other  
41 methodologies for estimating this expenditure?

1 **B-24, Upgrade Line 2 Distribution Feeder, 2010 - \$267,300, 2011 - \$578,200, Beyond -**  
2 **\$2,711,200**

3  
4 **PUB-NLH-8** This project, which entails the design, supply and construction of an 18.5  
5 kilometre three-phase distribution line, is anticipated to span a 4-year period.  
6 What are the reasons for this long construction period?  
7

8 **PUB-NLH-9** Since this project involves the future removal of the existing line, why has NLH  
9 not also applied, at this time, for the approval of the future abandonment of this  
10 plant?  
11

12 **PUB-NLH-10** Since this project is expected to continue, with substantial expenditures, over a  
13 four-year period, why has NLH not chosen, in this application, to treat this project  
14 as a Multi-Year Project?  
15

16 **B-26, Provide Service Extensions, \$2,428,000**

17  
18 **PUB-NLH-11** Please provide the forecast loads, explaining any anticipated growth, for each of  
19 the regions for the period from 2010 to 2015.  
20

21 **PUB-NLH-12** If the load growth is expected to be similar to that of the period from 2004 to  
22 2009, has NLH considered revising its methodology for estimating this  
23 expenditure?  
24

25 **B-46, Upgrade Line 2 Voltage Conversion to 25 kV, 2010 - \$82,000, 2011 - \$512,700**

26  
27 **PUB-NLH-13** Since this project involves the future decommissioning of the existing substation,  
28 why has NLH not also applied, at this time, for the approval of the future  
29 abandonment of this plant?  
30

31 **PUB-NLH-14** Since this project is expected to continue over a two-year period, why has NLH  
32 not chosen, in this application, to treat this project as a Multi-Year Project?  
33

34 **C-78, Upgrade Trailer and Mobile Substations, 2010 - \$30,400, 2011 - \$468,300**

35  
36 **PUB-NLH-15** Please provide a listing of the facilities where this unit can be used for its intended  
37 purpose.  
38

39 **C-141, Replace Radio Link with Fiber, \$488,700**

40  
41 **PUB-NLH-16** Please confirm that the scope of the project is to actually replace the radio link  
42 with upgraded microwave radio and not with fiber.

1 **C-172, Replace Radomes, \$211,700**

2

3 **PUB-NLH-17** On page 180 of the project description it is stated that: “The cost of a microwave  
4 failure today would be far more significant than the incident of 1996 due to the  
5 fact that teleprotection signals, are now transmitted using the microwave  
6 network.” Are primary protection signals or backup signals transmitted using the  
7 microwave network?  
8

9 **PUB-NLH-18** If primary protection signals are transmitted, when did NLH start using the  
10 microwave system for this purpose?  
11

12 **PUB-NLH-19** If primary protection signals are transmitted, please provide a comparison of the  
13 reliability of using the microwave system vs. a power line carrier.  
14

15 **D-47, Install New Voltage Regulators, \$170,000**

16

17 **PUB-NLH-20** What methods does NLH use to determine customer voltages other than direct  
18 complaints from the customer?  
19

20 **D-74, Replace Aviation Fuel Tank and Dispensing Unit, \$87,500**

21

22 **PUB-NLH-21** In paragraph 2, it is indicated that the components are at the end of their useful  
23 lives of 25 years, while the in-service dates of the units, according to the  
24 information provided, are 1990 (19 years) and 1999 (10 years) respectively.  
25 Please explain the discrepancy in the statement.  
26

27 **D-93, Install Remote Ice Growth Detector Beams, \$58,000**

28

29 **PUB-NLH-22** How will the costs of installing remote ice growth detector beams in NLH’s  
30 terminal stations in Labrador be treated in view of the ownership of assets in the  
31 area by CF(L)Co and Twin Falls?  
32

33 **General**

34

35 **PUB-NLH-23** In addition to those mentioned above, there are several other projects in the  
36 proposed 2010 Capital Budget that are indicated to be the first year of a multi-  
37 year program or where future work or installations are planned. Why did NLH  
38 not apply for these projects as multi-year project approvals as allowed by the  
39 Capital Budget Guidelines?  
40

**DATED** at St. John’s, Newfoundland this 26<sup>th</sup> day of August 2008.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Cheryl Blundon  
Board Secretary