

**IN THE MATTER OF** the *Electrical Power Control Act*, SNL 1994, Chapter E-5.1 (the “*EPCA*”) and the matter of the *Public Utilities Act* RSNL 1990, Chapter P-47 (the “*Act*”);

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER OF** capital expenditures and rate base of Newfoundland Power Inc. (“Newfoundland Power”);

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER OF** an application by Newfoundland Power for an Order of the Board approving:

- (a) its 2010 Capital Budget of \$64,679,000; and
- (b) fixing and determining its average rate base for 2007 in the amount of \$820,876,000

pursuant to Sections 41 and 78 of the *Act*.

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**PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD  
REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION**

**PUB-NP-1 to PUB-NP-25**

**Issued: July 22, 2009**

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**Facility Rehabilitation (Pooled), p. 2 of 96, \$1,340,000**

**PUB-NP-1**

What were the dates of the most recent inspections of the dams at Heart's Content, Pierre's Brook, West Brook, Lawn, Seal Cove, Port Union and Rocky Pond?

**PUB-NP-2**

In each of the projects outlined above, who undertook the inspections?

**PUB-NP-3**

What are the ages of the dams outlined above?

**PUB-NP-4**

What are the dates of the most recent major rehabilitation projects undertaken on each of those dams?

**PUB-NP-5**

What is the normal level of production of each of the hydro plants included in this project?

**Lookout Brook Hydro Plant Refurbishment (Clustered), p. 4 of 96, \$2,155,000**

**PUB-NP -6**

In the report provided in Tab 1.2 Lookout Brook Hydro Plant Refurbishment, page 7, NP mentions "arc flash zone of influence". If NP has investigated the extent of arc flash exposure in its facilities please provide the report that has been prepared. If not, please provide reasons why this investigation has not been undertaken.

**Petty Harbour Surge Tank and Unit No. 1 Main Valve (Pooled), p. 6 of 96, \$632,000**

**PUB-NP -7**

Please provide a detailed calculation for the levelized Revenue Requirement as found in the report found at Tab 1.3 Petty Harbour Hydro Plant Refurbishment, Attachment C, page 1.

**Raise Sandy Lake Spillway, p. 8 of 96, \$612,000**

**PUB-NP-8**

Please provide a copy of the 2001 review completed by Hatch (formerly SGE Acres) of NP's larger hydroelectric developments to identify potential opportunities for increasing generation.

**PUB-NP-9**

Please provide a copy of the 2008 study undertaken by NP into alternative ways to improve the efficiency and energy production of existing hydro plants.

**Seal Cove Hydro Plant Runner Replacement (Other), p. 10 of 96, \$540,000**

**PUB-NP -10**

In the report under Tab 1.5 Seal Cove Hydro Plant G1 Runner Replacement, Appendix A, page A-2, NP mentions "a water power rental rate of \$0.80 per MWh". Please provide a history of this charge, how it applies to NP's hydro facilities, and the relevant legislation relating to the charge.

**Facility Rehabilitation Thermal (Pooled), p. 13 of 96, \$150,000**

**PUB-NP-11**

Why does NP anticipate that the projected expenditures for 2012-2014 will grow to \$1,902,000?

**Additions Due To Load Growth (Pooled), p. 20 of 96, \$3,650,000**

**PUB-NP -12**

What methodology or standard (i.e. nameplate or other deterministic or probabilistic method) does NP use to deal with the overloading of transformers?

**Transmission Line Rebuild (Pooled), p. 27 of 96, \$5,915,000**

**PUB-NP -13**

What methods (i.e. industry standards, observation of failed plant, on site testing, or other probabilistic techniques) has NP used to determine the transmission line design criteria as it relates to ice loading?

**Rebuild Distribution Lines (Pooled), p. 47 of 96, \$3,632,000**

**PUB-NP -14**

Please provide a listing of the 43 feeders that are included in this project.

**Relocate/Replace Distribution Lines for Third Parties (Pooled), p. 50 of 96, \$685,000**

**PUB-NP-15**

How were the costs relating to the Eastlink cross island project dealt with from a regulatory perspective?

**Distribution Reliability Initiative (Other), p. 52 of 96, \$447,000**

**PUB-NP-16**

According to the report found at Tab 2010 Capital Plan, page 16 “Newfoundland Power considers current levels of service reliability to be satisfactory. This reflects the current condition of Newfoundland Power’s distribution assets. As a result, capital expenditures in the *Distribution Reliability Initiative* project will be reduced compared to previous years.” Please provide a report on the Distribution Reliability Initiative that compares the performance of the feeders that have been upgraded under this program, showing both before and after levels of performance, including the costs that have been incurred for each feeder upgraded.

**Purchase Vehicles and Aerial Devices (Pooled), p. 72 of 96, \$2,352,000**

**PUB-NP-17**

In evaluating whether equipment has reached the “end of its useful life” does NP use, or would NP consider it useful to use, a template listing the factors that are to be considered in making this determination?

**Application Enhancements (Pooled), p. 80 of 96, \$937,000**

**PUB-NP-18**

Please provide, if available, a copy of any report resulting from a formal process review that acts as a driver for the enhancements itemized under Tab 6.1 Applications Enhancements.

**PUB-NP-19**

In the report at Tab 6.1 2010 Application Enhancements, p. 4, NP mentions miscommunication with customers. How many customer complaints have been received in 2008 and to June 30, 2009 regarding misinterpretation of financing terms or the finance plan balance?

**PUB-NP-20**

In the report at Tab 6.1 2010 Application Enhancements, p. 8, NP mentions the website takeCHARGE and the joint energy conservation initiative. Who is responsible for the website maintenance and the associated costs?

**Personal Computer Infrastructure (Pooled), p. 84 of 96, \$430,000**

**PUB-NP-21**

In the 2009 Capital Budget Application the forecast number of computers for 2009 was 615 plus 25 laptops to be used in the Vehicle Mobile Computing Infrastructure, for a total of 640. Why has this number grown to 660 for 2009 in the current application?

**Vehicle Mobile Computing Infrastructure (Pooled), p. 91 of 96, \$272,000**

**PUB-NP-22**

Does the budget of \$272,000 include the cost of the 35 ruggedized computers that will be purchased?

**PUB-NP-23**

Are the 35 ruggedized computers mentioned in this project the same computers mentioned in the footnote of page 84 of 96?

**PUB-NP-24**

Please provide, if there is one available, a report outlining the plan, the time line, the anticipated benefits and the anticipated cost to equip NP vehicles with mobile computing infrastructure.

**PUB-NP-25**

Please provide, if there is one available, an evaluation of the benefits associated with the 2009 expenditures relating to the equipping of NP vehicles with mobile computing infrastructure.

**DATED** at St. John's, Newfoundland this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July 2009.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

*Original signed by*

Per Barbara Thistle  
Assistant Board Secretary