



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**  
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2015-07-31

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Dear Sirs/Madams:

**Re: March 4, 2015 Power Outage Review - Engagement of The Liberty Consulting Group**

The Board has completed its review of the March 4, 2015 power outage on the Island Interconnected system after receiving the final field investigation reports from Hydro on July 20, 2015. Hydro attributes the outage to low voltages on the system as a result of unanticipated generation issues as morning demand increased. Unit 1 at Holyrood was delayed in returning to service following planned emergency maintenance outage and the new Holyrood Combustion Turbine did not start when called upon. Approximately 83,000 customers were affected by the power outages with 50,000 customers restored within one hour and the remaining customers restored within three to five hours.

This is to advise that the Board has engaged The Liberty Consulting Group to undertake a review of Hydro's explanations and responses to the March 4, 2015 outage on the Island Interconnected system information as contained in the outage advisories, follow-up reports and Hydro's responses to information requests issued by the Board during its review. The

scope of work includes a review of Hydro's role and effectiveness in preparing for, recognizing and responding to the unplanned outage, and will cover the following aspects:

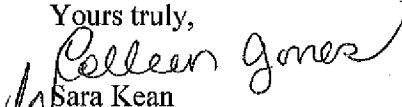
- Preparation and management of the Holyrood Unit 1 outage;
- Plans for contingencies during unavailability of Unit 1;
- The reliance of the availability of the combustion turbines, including Hardwoods and Stephenville;
- Communications between the utilities and with customers;
- Recognition and response of system operators;
- Hydro's system planning models that were part of the planning process for the Holyrood Unit 1 planned emergency maintenance outage;
- The adequacy of current system design and configuration given the apparent lack of voltage stability;
- Implementation of emergency plans as appropriate; and
- Effectiveness of restoration process.

In addition, as the cause of this outage and Hydro's response was raised by several presenters and participants at the Board's March 30, 2015 hearing on Phase One of the ongoing investigation into supply adequacy and reliability issues on the Island Interconnected system, the Board has also asked Liberty to comment specifically on linkages, if any, to the underlying causes and contributing factors of the January 2014 outage events. Liberty has started its work with a final report expected in early October, 2015.

All information and reports related to the Board's review of this matter to date will be made available on the Board's website.

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

Yours truly,

  
Sara Kean  
Assistant Board Secretary

/cpj  
ecc.

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