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NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

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COURIER

2011 09 22

The Honourable Shawn Skinner
Minister
Department of Natural Resources
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
7th Floor, Natural Resources Building
50 Elizabeth Avenue, St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6

Dear Minister:

The Board takes this occasion to update Government in relation to the ongoing review concerning the Muskrat Falls Project being carried out by the Board in accordance with OC 2011-162. It is now clear that the Board cannot meet the December 30, 2011 date for the completion of its report as required by the Terms of Reference. When the Terms of Reference was issued it was evident that completing a full review by the end of the year was an ambitious timeframe which would require significant organization and dedicated resources. While the Board has from the beginning worked toward this date and was initially well positioned to do so, it is now clear that it is not possible to complete the review by year end.

The Board is not formally requesting an extension at this time because we cannot provide a realistic alternate date until we have a better idea as to when Nalcor will answer the outstanding information requests and file the Submission contemplated in the Terms of Reference further outlining the projects. The Board and its experts, Manitoba Hydro International Ltd., have now done everything possible in the absence of further information from Nalcor. Once this information is received the Board will formally request that Government extend the time for the filing of the Board's report, likely to sometime in the spring.

Sincerely,

Andy Wells
Chairperson & Chief Executive Officer