Q. From discussions with Nalcor on the Muskrat Falls pumpwell system, it was suggested that it will be required only for the next ten years. Why would that be the limit since the system will be in operation for 30 or more years? When the MF project is commissioned, what is the expected life of the current system? Is there a backup supply system in place to provide power in case of a future catastrophic failure of the pumpwell system?

A. The current pumpwell system was installed in 1981 as an interim measure to prevent continued regression of the slopes of the spur due to landslide activity. In 2007, a field program was carried out to assess the condition of the system with the objective of recommending measures to extend the life of the existing system and ensure its continued operation until complete reconstruction of the area as part of the development of Muskrat Falls. At that time it was planned to construct Gull Island prior to Muskrat Falls, hence it was envisioned that measures needed to be taken to extend the life of the existing system approximately 10 years. However, with the decision to develop Muskrat Falls first, the stabilization of the spur will take place earlier and will include installation of new wells, downstream erosion protection and fill, local top cutting of the spur, removal of high, steep slopes, and upstream erosion protection and stabilization berms for wave protection. In essence, recommendations from the 2007 field program and subsequent report (MF1260) were intended to ensure continued reliability and functionality of the existing system until these long-term measures could be implemented.

As noted, it is currently planned to integrate the existing pumpwell system into the final pumpwell system. Cleaning and inspection of the wells in 2009 indicated that the majority of the wells were in good condition, with very little corrosion or fouling

of the wells. With some upgrading and routine preventative maintenance it is anticipated that the current well system will be suitable for this integration.

The pumpwell system is currently powered via TL240, the transmission line from Churchill Falls to Happy Valley Goose Bay. There is currently no independent back-up power system on site. However, if necessary, power can be supplied by portable generators. The final design of the pumpwell system will include a back up power supply.