

New Brunswick | Newfoundland and Labrador | Nova Scotia | Prince Edward Island

December 18, 2013

VIA COURIER and ELECTRONIC MAIL

Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities 120 Torbay Road P.O. Box 21040 St. John's, NL A1A 5B2

Attention:

Ms. G. Cheryl Blundon

Board Secretary

Dear Ms. Blundon:

RE: General Rate Application of Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro

Enclosed are the original and twelve (12) copies of Vale's further RFIs in respect of the above-noted Application.

We have provided a copy of this correspondence together with enclosures to all concerned parties.

We trust you will find the enclosed satisfactory.

Yours faithfully,

Thomas J. O'Reilly, Q.C.

TJOR/js Encl.

C.C.

Newfoundland & Labrador Hydro

P. O. Box 12400 500 Columbus Drive St. John's, NL A1B 4K7

Attention:

Geoffrey P. Young Senior Legal Counsel

December 18, 2013

Newfoundland Power P. O. Box 8910 55 Kenmount Road St. John's, NL A1B 3P6 Attention: Gerard Hayes, Senior Legal Counsel

Thomas J. Johnson, Consumer Advocate O'Dea, Earle 323 Duckworth Street P. O. Box 5955, Stn. C St. John's, NL A1C 5X4

Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited, North Atlantic Refining Limited and Teck Resources Limited Stewart McKelvey PO Box 5038 11th Floor, Cabot Place 100 New Gower Street St. John's, NL A1C 5V3 Attention: Paul Coxworthy

Miller & Hearn
450 Avalon Drive
P.O. Box 129
Labrador City, NL
Attention:
A2V 2K3
Edward M. Hearn, Q.C.

Olthuis, Leer, Townshend LLP 229 College Street Suite 312 Toronto, ON M5T 1R4 Attention: Stephanie Kearns

House of Commons Confederation Building Room 682 Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6 Attention: Yvonne Jones, MP Labrador IN THE MATTER OF the *Public Utilities Act*, R.S.N. 1990, Chapter P-47 (the "Act"): and

IN THE MATTER OF a General Rate Application (the Application) by Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro for approvals of, under Section 70 of the Act, changes in the rates to be charged for the supply of power and energy to Newfoundland Power, Rural Customers and Industrial Customers; and under Section 71 of the Act, changes in the Rules and Regulations applicable to the supply of electricity to Rural Customers.

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REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION OF VALE NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR LIMITED

V-NLH-70 to V-NLH-84 2 3 Issued December 18, 2013 V-NLH-70 Reference: Section 4: Rates and Regulation, Section 4.6 Rate 4 Stabilization Plan, Pages 4.17 - 4.20 5 6 Hydro has been purchasing power from non-utility generators since at 7 least 1998. With Muskrat Falls power expected to be coming on line in 2017, Holyrood will be shutting down which eliminates the requirement 8 for No. 6 fuel oil. Please provide the rationale for adding five "Energy 9 Supply" components to the RSP for the few remaining years? 10 Reference: RFI V-NLH-011 – Operations – Transmission and Rural 11 V-NLH-71 12 As Hydro is unable to divide Table 2.9: Transmission and Rural Operations Operating Expenses into transmission expense and rural 13 operations expense, please explain how Hydro ensures that these 14 expenses are appropriately assigned to a particular class of customers. 15

1	V-NLH-72	Reference: RFI V-NLH-030 - Cost Control - OMA
2 3 4 5 6		The table indicates that the actual OMA expense in 2007 was \$78.3 million and the actual OMA in 2012 was \$83.6 million, an increase of \$5.3 million over five years. Please explain the forecast increase in OMA expenditure of \$5.8 million between the 2012 actual and the 2013 test year.
7	V-NLH-73	Reference: RFI IC-NLH-093, page 1 of 5, line 11 - Holyrood
8		Please provide the annual Holyrood station service load for each of the years 2008 to 2012.
10 11	V-NLH-74	Reference: RFI PUB-NLH-050 – Holyrood Reference: RFI NP-NLH-15
12 13 14		Using the latest forecast for load and fuel prices, please provide the forecasted Holyrood conversion factor and the resulting changes in Hydro's net income for each of the years 2014, 2015 and 2016.
15	V-NLH-75	Reference: RFI NP-NLH-029, Attachment 1 – Revenue to Cost Ratio
16 17 18		Line 7, column 8 indicates that the forecasted industrial revenue to cost ratio for 2014 will be 1.05. Please provide the forecasted industrial revenue to cost ratios for 2015 and 2016.
19	V-NLH-76	Reference: RFI NP-NLH-091 - Asset Retirement Obligations
20 21		Please provide the total proposed increase in 2013 test year revenue requirement due to asset retirement obligations.
22	V-NLH-77	Reference: RFI NP-NLH-091 - Asset Retirement Obligations
23 24		Please confirm that the asset retirement obligations are only to satisfy legal and regulatory obligations.
25 26 27	V-NLH-78	Reference: RFI NP-NLH-091 – Asset Retirement Obligations Reference: Exhibit 14, Holyrood Thermal Generating Station Decommissioning Study
28 29 30 31 32 33		The introduction of the report on page 1.1 states that the consultant was to identify the station components that would have to be decommissioned in order to comply with environmental regulations and those that would be part of Hydro's long term operational strategy. Please indicate what portion of the estimated \$32.1 million cost is to satisfy regulatory requirements.

1 2 3	V-NLH-79	Reference: RFI NP-NLH-091 – Asset Retirement Obligations Reference: Exhibit 14, Holyrood Thermal Generating Station Decommissioning Study
4 5		Section 4.1.1 (page 4.2) of the report discusses landscaping. Is the landscaping a regulatory requirement?
6 7 8	V-NLH-80	Reference: RFI NP-NLH-091 – Asset Retirement Obligations Reference: Exhibit 14, Holyrood Thermal Generating Station Decommissioning Study
9 10 11 12 13		Section 4.0 (page 4.1) of the report states that the estimate is a class 4 opinion of probable cost with 1% to 15% of the engineering complete. Section 4.2 (page 4.4) further states that the estimate has an accuracy of -10% to +30%. As more accurate estimates become available, how does Hydro propose to deal with the differences?
14	V-NLH-81	Reference: RFI NP-NLH-091 - Asset Retirement Obligations (ARO)
15 16		Will the PCB equipment at Holyrood be included in the Holyrood decommissioning ARO or the PCB ARO?
17 18	V-NLH-82	Reference: RFI NP-NLH-091 – Asset Retirement Obligations (ARO) Reference: Application Section 3.8.5.1, page 3.32, lines 6 – 7
19 20		Please provide the engineering report to support the \$2.7 million ARO for elimination of equipment containing PCBs.
21 22 23 24 25 26	V-NLH-83	Reference: RFI V-NLH-066 to V-NLH-069 The response illustrates that the O&M expenses are classified / allocated based on the original cost of the plant in service. Are the original costs all expressed in constant year dollars? If not, please provide a 2013 test year cost of service with the original costs restated in 2013 dollars.
27 28 29	V-NLH-84	Reference: RFI NP-NLH-132 Please provide the Holyrood capacity factor that was approved in 2007 and the actual Holyrood capacity factors for the years 2007 to 2012.

<u>DATED</u> at St. John's, in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, this of December, 2013.

COX & PALMER

Per:

Thomas J. O'Reilly, Q.C.

TO: The Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities Suite E210, Prince Charles Building 120 Torbay Road P. O. Box 21040 St. John's, NL A1A 5B2 Attention: Board Secretary

TO: Newfoundland & Labrador Hydro P. O. Box 12400 500 Columbus Drive St. John's, NL A1B 4K7 Attention: Geoffrey P. Young

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TO: Newfoundland Power
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55 Kenmount Road
St. John's, NL A1B 3P6
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Senior Legal Counsel

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323 Duckworth Street
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TO: Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited,
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229 College Street

Suite 312

Toronto, ON M5T 1R4

Attention:

Stephanie Kearns

TO: House of Commons

Confederation Building

Room 682

Ottawa, ON K1A OA6

Attention: Yvonne Jones, MP Labrador