

March 4, 2019

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

**Attention: Ms. Cheryl Blundon**  
**Director Corporate Services & Board Secretary**

Dear Ms. Blundon:

**Re: The Liberty Consulting Group Report: "Analysis of Newfoundland Island  
Interconnected System Power Supply Adequacy for the Winter of 2018–19" Biweekly  
Update Report**

In its correspondence of September 19, 2018, the Newfoundland and Labrador Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities (the "Board") requested that Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro ("Hydro") provide a biweekly report on Hydro's supply adequacy for winter 2018–2019, commencing October 1, 2018.

This biweekly report provides an update on the in-service of the Labrador-Island Link ("LIL") and how it relates to winter 2018–2019 supply adequacy, as well as details on Hydro's production facilities asset management.

#### **The LIL In-Service Update**

This report contains:

- An overview of the critical path tasks required for reliable operation of the LIL for winter 2018–2019;
- An overview of the highest risks being monitored and mitigated for the LIL in-service in winter 2018–2019;
- Hydro's updated modelled assumptions for winter 2018–2019 supply adequacy planning; and
- Hydro's proposed contingency plan to mitigate the consequences of unavailability or unreliability of the LIL for all or part of winter 2018–2019.

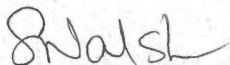
Ms. C. Blundon  
Public Utilities Board

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Should you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

**NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR HYDRO**



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Shirley A. Walsh  
Senior Legal Counsel – Regulatory  
SAW/sk

Encl.

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# Labrador-Island Link In-Service Update

March 4, 2019

*A Report to the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities*





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1 **1. Introduction**

2 Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro (“Hydro”) closely monitors its supply-related assets and  
3 issues to ensure its ability to provide reliable service to customers. The availability of power  
4 over the Labrador-Island Link (“LIL”) for winter 2018–2019 was identified in previous reports to  
5 the Newfoundland and Labrador Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities (the “Board”) by  
6 both Hydro and The Liberty Consulting Group as contributing to supply adequacy in advance of  
7 availability of the Muskrat Falls generation supply to the Island. Hydro is working closely with  
8 Nalcor’s Power Supply leadership (Transition to Operations, Power Supply Transmission  
9 Operations, and the Lower Churchill Project Transmission Project) to monitor and mitigate the  
10 risks associated with the timing of the in-service of the LIL to supply off-Island capacity and  
11 energy to the Island Interconnected System. In each biweekly report, Hydro will also provide an  
12 update on supply adequacy for winter 2018–2019 with the most up-to-date in-service  
13 assumptions of the LIL, as required. The information in this report is current as of March 1,  
14 2019. It is noted that typical commissioning issues will be occurring as commissioning  
15 continues. Updates regarding those issues known to materially affect the assumptions of  
16 capacity and availability for the 2018–2019 winter season will be provided as they become  
17 known. Otherwise, any developments occurring after the preparation of the biweekly report  
18 will be included in the next biweekly report.

19

20 **2. In-Service Activities Update**

21 The following outlines the specific critical path activities required for operation of the LIL for  
22 winter 2018–2019,<sup>1</sup> as well as schedule or constraint information for those tasks. As this report  
23 is updated on a biweekly basis, Hydro will provide information on the key activities and the  
24 associated schedule to inform the Board if any potential supply issues arise from the delivery of  
25 those activities.

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<sup>1</sup> This report discusses operational readiness for winter 2018–2019. The final in-service review of the LIL is undertaken separately with the Board’s consultant, The Liberty Consulting Group, on a quarterly basis with Nalcor Transition to Operations.

1 As reported in the February 4, 2019 report, biweekly leadership level meetings that were  
2 initiated in the fall of 2018 have ceased since all material efforts to place the LIL in service have  
3 been completed. The leadership level meetings that track progress will proceed if there is a  
4 material issue related to availability. The day-to-day operation of the LIL is now being  
5 communicated at the morning system meetings, with any technical items addressed similar to  
6 any other resource asset on the system — the operational teams work with project and  
7 engineering support and communicate results to the appropriate Hydro and Nalcor  
8 representatives.

9

## 10 **Project Delivery**

### 11 **Activity 1: Churchill Falls Breaker Upgrade**

12 ***Status: Completed, no further updates.***

13

### 14 **Activities 2 and 3: 315 kV GIS Voltage Transformer<sup>2</sup> Replacements**

15 ***Status: Completed, no further updates.***

16

## 17 **Transitions to Operations Delivery**

### 18 **Activity 4: Emergency Response Plan (“ERP”)/Emergency Restoration and Recovery (“ERR”):**

19 **Interim ERP/ERR in place as required at all sites/assets**

20 ***Status: Completed, no further updates.***

21

### 22 **Activity 5: Contracts: Support Services in Place and Resources on Board**

23 ***Status: Completed, no further updates.***

24

### 25 **Activity 6: Assets: Operationalize High Frequency Preventive Maintenance Program**

26 ***Status: Completed, no further updates.***

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<sup>2</sup> 315 kV instrument transformers.



1 **Activity 7: Contracts: Operations, Maintenance, and Administrative Services for Monopole**  
2 **Status: Completed, no further updates.**

3

4 **Activity 8: Inventory: Pre-Winter 2018 Readiness**

5 **Status: Identification, inspection and verification of winter readiness spares completed,**  
6 **ongoing procurement. No change from previous update.**

7

- 8 • Completed the winter readiness spares inventory requirement for the overhead  
9 transmission lines and submarine cables.
- 10 • All critical spares for the overhead transmission lines and submarine cables are in place.  
11 Deficiencies have been identified and procurement activities will continue until all items  
12 are received. Spares for HVdc assets will remain in the contractor’s care, custody and  
13 control until they are transferred to the project/operations upon completion of the bi-  
14 pole low power trial operation.

15

16 **Activity 9: Newfoundland and Labrador System Operator (“NLSO”): Operational Acceptance**  
17 **Criteria Received**

18 **Status: On track with remaining item to be delivered at conclusion of Activity 12.**

19

- 20 • Four of the five NLSO requirements have been met. The operational readiness  
21 document has been delivered in draft and will be updated as final along with the release  
22 for service form at the conclusion of the monopole commissioning activities.
- 23 • A description of the five NLSO requirements and status is as follows:
  - 24 ○ Item 1: Ability to monitor the ac equipment associated with the converter stations  
25 (including filter banks) remotely from the Energy Control Centre for system  
26 reliability considerations. **Status: Completed/Accepted.**
  - 27 ○ Item 2: Asset owner contact details (to be responsive 24/7). **Status:**  
28 **Completed/Accepted.**

- 1           ○ Item 3: Redundant communications paths (voice, tele-protection and SCADA<sup>3</sup>)  
2           between the Energy Control Centre and all stations. **Status: Completed/Accepted.**
- 3           ○ Item 4: Provide a technical resource in the NLSO control room to support the Energy  
4           Control Centre during the initial start-up period. **Status: Completed/Accepted.**
- 5           ○ Item 5: Documentation including an Operational Readiness document (outlining  
6           commissioning/testing activities, operating limits/restrictions, and identified  
7           risks/plans for mitigation), and a completed/updated release for service form  
8           outlining remaining deficiencies and expected timelines for completion. **Status: In  
9           Progress.** The operational readiness document has been delivered in draft and will  
10          be updated as final along with the release for service form at the conclusion of the  
11          monopole commissioning activities.

12

13 **Activity 10: People: Implement Interim 24/7 Staffing Model for Muskrat Falls**

14 ***Status: Completed, no further updates.***

15

16 **Power Transfer**

17 **Activity 11: Re-Energize Labrador Island Link**

18 ***Status: Completed as planned on November 1, 2018.***

19

- 20          • The LIL was re-energized on November 1, 2018 at 45 MW using the existing version  
21          (Version 15) of GE software. Another version (Version 16) has been delivered to site and  
22          factory acceptance testing of the next release (Version 17) has been completed in  
23          Stafford. A decision has been made to remain on Version 15 for the remainder of the  
24          winter season. The decision was based on the ongoing satisfactory performance of  
25          Version 15 and the impact during the peak winter demand period of a multi-week  
26          outage to the LIL required to implement a new version, which would have to undergo  
27          additional testing.

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<sup>3</sup> Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (“SCADA”).

1 **Activity 12: Transmission Link Monopole Commissioning**

2 **Status: Initiated November 1, 2018 and ongoing.**

3

- 4 • As noted in the February 18, 2019 report, the cause of a trip on February 5, 2019 was  
5 determined to be an overly sensitive feature of the protection system. An investigation  
6 since the trip has led to a better understanding of the root cause and the potential  
7 impact of this sensitivity. Hydro has confirmed that, while faults are experienced  
8 infrequently, there are certain faults that could trigger a Holyrood unit and the LIL to  
9 trip simultaneously. As a result, the NLSO has restricted the combination of LIL and  
10 Holyrood unit loading to adhere to its "maximum unit loading" limits to prevent  
11 customer impact in the event of a simultaneous trip. Nalcor Power Supply has  
12 confirmed that this issue will require both hardware and software changes. As a result,  
13 the issue will persist for some time, and therefore an investigation into the means of  
14 mitigating the impact in the interim period is ongoing.
- 15 • Punch list items are continually being addressed and closed by the project team. While  
16 punch list resolution shall continue in an effort to improve system reliability, this effort  
17 is not considered critical for power transfer.

18

19 **3. Key Risks**

20 There has been no change in the key risks since the October 1, 2018 report. In addition to the  
21 activities described in Section 2, Hydro notes that the reliability of the current GE software  
22 implementation is being monitored on a daily basis as the LIL is now online 24 hours a day; the  
23 software's performance will inform the reliability assumptions of the LIL. Alternative software  
24 versions have been received from GE and are under consideration for future implementation.

25

26 Dynamic commissioning with power transfer activities recommenced as scheduled on  
27 November 1, 2018 with existing software. A further software version has been completed  
28 including testing at the vendor's facility; however, this new version would not resolve the issue  
29 of the LIL's sensitivity to external ac faults (as described in Activity 12 above). Therefore, an  
30 assessment is being completed as to whether there is merit in installing this new version. As

1 stated above, an investigation is ongoing into means of mitigating the impact of the recently  
2 identified issue with the LIL protection system. The outcome will be reported to the Board upon  
3 completion of the assessment.

4

5 An additional risk being monitored is the Maritime Link frequency response to the LIL initiated  
6 disturbances when the LIL is in service. The frequency controller has remained in operation  
7 using the settings that were investigated in operational studies. These settings help to avoid  
8 underfrequency load shedding and provide support to the Nova Scotia system.

9

10 To avoid frequent operation of the frequency controller, it has been equipped with a deadband  
11 of +/-0.5 Hz. As such, there will be a frequency controller activation if frequency drops below  
12 59.5 Hz or goes above 60.5 Hz. When the LIL is switched on, the instant injection of 45 MW to  
13 the Island triggers overfrequency controller responses. Blocking (i.e., shutting off) the LIL results  
14 in an underfrequency response. To reduce the number of responses, the current operating  
15 philosophy is to disable the frequency converter just prior to the LIL startups (for a period of  
16 approximately five minutes) to minimize the overall number of frequency controller activations.  
17 This is completed to satisfy Nova Scotia Power and New Brunswick Power System Operators  
18 regarding the number of activations. When the Maritime Link frequency response is turned off,  
19 the LIL contribution to the Island’s power supply is similar to a generator, and the reliability of  
20 the LIL will be the major factor in the decision on loading level. The NLSO continues to work  
21 with Nova Scotia Power and New Brunswick Power Service Operators to keep those bodies  
22 informed of testing plans so as to understand and mitigate risk from their perspective.

23

#### 24 **4. Modelled Assumptions**

25 There has been no significant change in the modelled assumptions since Hydro’s “Reliability  
26 and Resource Adequacy Study” filed on November 16, 2018. These results showed increased  
27 Loss of Load Hours (“LOLH”) and Expected Unserved Energy (“EUE”) over values previously  
28 shared as part of Hydro's analysis. The change in the LOLH and EUE is largely due to a change in  
29 the modelling methodology rather than a change in the underlying system conditions. As  
30 discussed in the November 2018 Study, the new model is more conservative and, as a result,

1 the LOLH and EUE numbers produced by the model are higher. Many factors contribute to the  
2 increase in LOLH and EUE between the two models; however, the two factors that have the  
3 largest impact are dynamic loss modelling and the inclusion of load forecast uncertainty:

- 4 1. Dynamic modelling of losses: The previous model used a fixed value for losses. The  
5 current model calculates losses based on system conditions, which has the effect of  
6 increasing losses when there are units out of service on the Avalon, thus increasing  
7 the frequency and severity of outages.
- 8 2. Load forecast uncertainty: The previous model used a fixed load shape with a 60  
9 MW adjustment on peak to represent the P90 condition. In the current model, a  
10 random variation is applied to the load shape in each hour in the model to reflect  
11 the variation in load due to weather. On average, this increases the frequency and  
12 severity of outages.

13  
14 As a result, the model is showing violations in the LOLH criteria for Holyrood forced outage  
15 rates above 15% combined with the LIL capacity of zero. There is expected to be a significant  
16 increase in system reliability once the first Muskrat Falls unit is available in late-2019.

17  
18 It is important to note that, based on the performance of Hydro’s generation assets thus far for  
19 winter 2018–2019, the analysis represents a conservative view of system conditions. The  
20 Derated Adjusted Forced Outage Rate (“DAFOR”) for Holyrood was 8.1% in November 2018,  
21 5.8% in December 2018, and 1.3% in January 2019; all of which were below the 15% DAFOR  
22 considered as the base assumption. While the Holyrood plant DAFOR is not yet available for  
23 February 2019, the availability of all units was high throughout the month.

24  
25 A detailed description of the modelling assumptions and process for the current system model  
26 can be found in Volumes I and II of the “Reliability and Resource Adequacy Study”. All results  
27 reflect the implementation of the contingency plan as described in Section 5.

**Table 1: Supply Adequacy Modelling Results for Updated Assumptions**

<b>Reliability Metric</b>	<b>LOLH</b>	<b>EUE</b>	<b>Normalized EUE</b>
Base Load Forecast, Holyrood DAFOR = 15%	2.21	118	11.0
Base Load Forecast, Holyrood DAFOR = 18%	3.31	184	17.0
Base Load Forecast, Holyrood DAFOR = 20%	4.13	230	21.2

1 **5. Contingency Plan**

2 In light of the current LIL winter 2018–2019 transfer assumptions, Hydro developed and  
 3 implemented a two-phased contingency plan for the 2018–2019 winter season that includes  
 4 incremental internal and external system support. Phase I of Hydro’s contingency plan contains  
 5 items that have been secured and incorporated into Hydro’s base planning assumptions for the  
 6 2018–2019 winter operating season. Details and the status of items in Phase I of Hydro’s  
 7 contingency plan are contained in Table 2.

**Table 2: Phase I of Hydro’s Contingency Plan**

Item	Description	Incremental System Benefit	Parties Involved	Status	Notes
1	Increase of Capacity Assistance from 90 MW to 105 MW <sup>4</sup>	+15 MW	Hydro, Corner Brook Pulp and Paper (“CBPP”)	Ongoing	CBPP has indicated that up to 105 MW is available.  The proposed agreement was approved by the Board on November 22, 2018.
2	Reinstatement of Capacity Assistance Program	+7.6 MW	Hydro, Vale	Ongoing	Vale has indicated they are in agreement with Hydro’s proposed Capacity Assistance Agreements; one for diesel generation (8 MW) and one for load curtailment (6 MW).  The proposed agreement was approved by the Board on November 30, 2018.
3	Reinstatement of Load Curtailment Program	+6 MW	Hydro, Vale	Ongoing	
4	Voltage Reduction	+20 MW	Hydro, Newfoundland Power	Complete	Hydro has confirmed that it is reasonable to assume availability of 20 MW of Peak Voltage Reduction for the coming winter season. Voltage reduction is forecast on a week-ahead basis by the NLSO.
<b>Potential Incremental System Benefit on peak</b>		<b>48.6 MW</b>			

1 Hydro notes that voltage reduction is not what is publically known as "brown-out." Voltage  
2 reduction is a measured and controlled process whereby there is minimal reduction in the  
3 delivery point voltages to customers. This process, utilized by utilities across North America as a  
4 typical system management tool, has been used for peak demand management in almost every  
5 year on the Island system. Customers see no impact to their service during a period of voltage  
6 reduction (typically up to four hours) and equipment is not harmed.

<sup>4</sup> Hydro has now confirmed there is 105 MW available as compared to the 110 MW reported in the previous Biweekly Report. Given the relatively small change in magnitude of the available assistance, Hydro has not run the model for this 5 MW difference. Hydro presented the full analysis of its supply adequacy for winter 2018–2019 in its November 16, 2018 filing to the Board regarding supply adequacy.

1 In addition to the items listed in Phase I of Hydro’s contingency plan, Hydro has also identified  
 2 elements that can provide additional system benefit, but will only be enacted if absolutely  
 3 required. These items form Phase II of Hydro’s contingency plan and are detailed in Table 3.

**Table 3: Phase II of Hydro’s Contingency Plan**

Item	Description	Incremental System Benefit	Parties Involved	Status	Notes
5	Increased output of Holyrood Gas Turbine beyond current base assumption	+10 MW	Hydro	Complete	The ability to increase the capability of the unit is available on a temporary basis subject to atmospheric and system conditions. The Holyrood Gas Turbine has been previously safely demonstrated to operate to 134 MW.
6	Temporary increased output of Holyrood Diesels	+1.5 MW	Hydro, Department of Environment	Complete	Hydro met with the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment and provided an overview of the potential upgrading requirements.
<b>Potential Incremental System Benefit on peak</b>		<b>+11.5 MW</b>			

4 **6. Conclusion**

5 Hydro is actively monitoring the availability of supply as it relates to the LIL and associated  
 6 impact on reliability of the Island Interconnected System for the 2018–2019 winter season.

7 Hydro’s contingency plans described above are in place in the event that the LIL does not meet  
 8 the current assumed capacity and reliability parameters.

9

10 Through its biweekly report, Hydro will keep the Board informed on developments related to  
 11 the operation of the LIL should its performance impose material changes impacting supply  
 12 adequacy for the Island Interconnected System.