

SUPPLEMENTAL RFIs

GRK-NLH-53.

Preamble:

An article entitled “Landslides near dam expected: Nalcor” published in *The Telegram* on August 23, 2014, includes the following passage:

This week, Bennett sat down with The Telegram to explain why Nalcor is confident that the North Spur is not a cause for concern.

The plan involves flattening the spur by taking material off the top and adding material at the bottom, so that its steep sides are less likely to calve off into landslides.

Nalcor will also pile rocks at the base of the spur — essentially building a breakwater — both upstream and downstream of the Muskrat Falls dam to prevent waves from eroding it.

On top of that, the construction work at Muskrat Falls involves building a concrete and bromite wall in the ground along the length of the North Spur, which will extend 45 metres below the water level.

That wall will prevent water from slowly migrating through the spur from the reservoir upstream.

In one of the emails to Bennett following the landslide, Nalcor’s lead geotechnical engineer, Regis Bouchard, said that the North Spur is a unique case and there’s nothing exactly comparable to it anywhere in the world.

However, Bouchard pointed out that each of the measures being taken is proven technology which has been used elsewhere.

Bennett said it’s disappointing that people are so focused on the North Spur.

“It’s unfortunate. A small number of very vocal people have fixated on this issue,” he said.

Bennett said the North Spur has been studied since the 1960s, when Muskrat Falls was first identified as a potential hydroelectric resource.

Since 1970, there have been wells in place on the North Spur pumping water out, to keep the clay dry and shore it up.

More recently, the Muskrat Falls engineer assigned to provide independent project oversight looked at the North Spur plans and concluded that they meet currently accepted geotechnical standards, and should stabilize the spur when Muskrat Falls is built. (underlining added)

Please provide a document or documents describing in detail the works to be undertaken to stabilize the North Spur, and in particular describing the “plan” referred to by Mr. Gilbert Bennett in the article cited in the preamble.

GRK-NLH-54.

Please provide a copy of the email cited from Nalcor’s lead geotechnical engineer, Regis Bouchard, to Mr. Bennett, in which he said that the North Spur is a unique case and there’s nothing exactly comparable to it anywhere in the world, and that each of the measures being taken is proven technology which has been used elsewhere.

GRK-NLH-55

Please provide a copy of the document in which “Muskrat Falls engineer assigned to provide independent project oversight looked at the North Spur plans and concluded that they meet currently accepted geotechnical standards, and should stabilize the spur when Muskrat Falls is built.”

GRK-NLH-56

Please confirm that Gilbert Newfoundland and Labrador Contracting is responsible for carrying out the North Spur stabilization plan. If this information is incorrect or incomplete, please indicate what company or companies will be responsible for this work, the scope of work, the value of the contract, and the time frame in which it is to be carried out.

GRK-NLH-57

Has the new North Spur stabilization plan been subjected to independent third party review? If so, please provide details of who carried out the review, when, and the results of their review. If not, are there any plans for such independent review? If not, why not?