



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
120 Torbay Road, P.O. Box 21040, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada, A1A 5B2

2021-07-13

Dominic Foley
Corporate Counsel
Newfoundland Power Inc.
55 Kenmount Road, P.O. Box 8910
St. John's, NL A1B 3P6
E-mail: dfoley@newfoundlandpower.com

Dear Mr. Foley:

Re: Newfoundland Power Inc. – 2022 Capital Budget Application – Requests for Information

Enclosed are Requests for Information PUB-NP-001 to PUB-NP-015 regarding the above-noted application.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Board's Legal Counsel, Ms. Jacqui Glynn, by email, jglynn@pub.nl.ca or telephone (709) 726-6781.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Blundon
Board Secretary

CB/cj

ecc **Newfoundland Power Inc.**
Liam O'Brien, E-mail: lobrien@curtisdawe.com
NP Regulatory, E-mail: regulatory@newfoundlandpower.com
Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro
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1 **IN THE MATTER OF** the *Public*
2 *Utilities Act*, (the “Act”); and

3
4

5 **IN THE MATTER OF** an application by
6 Newfoundland Power Inc. for an order pursuant
7 to sections 41 and 78 of the *Act*:

- 8 (a) approving a 2022 Capital Budget of
9 \$109,651,000;
- 10 (b) approving certain capital expenditures related
11 to multi-year projects commencing in 2022; and
- 12 (c) fixing and determining a 2020 rate base of
\$1,181,897,000.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD
REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION**

PUB-NP-001 to PUB-NP-015

Issued: July 13, 2021

1 **General**

2

3 **PUB-NP-001** In its response to PUB-NP-009 in the 2021 Capital Budget Application,
4 Newfoundland Power indicated that it commenced an evaluation of one of its
5 hydro production facilities to determine whether it should be retired in the
6 near-medium term. Please provide an update on this evaluation.

7

8 **PUB-NP-002** If it is determined that it may not be economically justifiable to invest in the
9 life extension of a hydro production facility, provide an explanation of the
10 process to decommission the hydro plant and an outline of the costs that would
11 be incurred upon decommissioning and abandonment.

12

13 **PUB-NP-003** In response to PUB-NP-010 in the 2021 Capital Budget Application,
14 Newfoundland Power stated:

15

16 *“Newfoundland Power does not anticipate that the role of its*
17 *hydro plants will change materially following the completion of*
18 *the Muskrat Falls Project. The hydro plants will continue to*
19 *provide low cost energy to customers and provide a modest but*
20 *meaningful contribution to capacity support on the Island*
21 *Interconnected System. Newfoundland Power will continue to*
22 *coordinate the operation of its hydro plants with Hydro following*
23 *the completion of the Muskrat Falls Project.”*

24

25 Please confirm if Newfoundland Power’s position remains that the role of its
26 hydro plants will not change following completion of the Muskrat Falls project
27 and provide any update required.

28

29 **PUB-NP-004** The budget for a number of proposed projects is stated to be “based on an
30 assessment of historical expenditures and inventory requirements.” Please
31 provide a list of the factors that are examined and the process used in the
32 assessment of historical expenditures.

33

34 **PUB-NP-005** Newfoundland Power’s distribution projects are grouped into several
35 individual projects, including Reconstruction (Pooled), Rebuild Distribution
36 Lines, Relocate/Replace Distribution Lines for Third parties (Pooled) etc.
37 Please explain how Newfoundland Power determined the appropriate
38 breakdown of the distribution projects into these groupings/categories.

39

40 **Capital Plan**

41

42 **PUB-NP-006** On page 4, Newfoundland Power provides an explanation of how deferral of
43 projects is considered in its planning process. Has this process changed or been
44 modified given the current pressures on customer rates?

1 **Schedule B: PCB Bushing Phase-Out (Pooled), page 15 of 99**

2
3 **PUB-NP-007** Is Newfoundland Power on track for completion of the phase out of
4 polychlorinated biphenyls by 2025 as required by the Government of Canada?
5
6

7 **Schedule B: Services – Pooled, page 29 of 99**

8
9 **PUB-NP-008** (a) Are service wires part of Newfoundland Power’s preventative
10 maintenance program?
11 (b) What is the threshold for determining repair or replacement of service
12 wires?
13
14

15 **Schedule B: Reconstruction (Pooled), page 38 of 99**

16
17 **PUB-NP-009** Please provide details on the expenditures under this project for 2019
18 (\$5,579,000) and 2020 (\$6,275,000).
19
20

21 **Schedule B: Meters (Pooled), page 26 of 99**

22
23 **Page 26 states:**

24 *“Since 2016, Newfoundland Power has used AMR metering*
25 *technology as per report 4.4 2016 Metering Strategy included in the*
26 *2016 Capital Budget Application. All new and replacement meters in*
27 *2022 will also be AMR technology to integrate with current*
28 *technology.”*
29

30 **PUB-NP-010** Please outline Newfoundland Power’s strategy with respect to upgrading to
31 advanced metering infrastructure (“AMI”) technology as well as any
32 discussions concerning collaboration with Hydro in future deployments.
33
34

35 **Schedule B: Additions to Real Property (Pooled), page 63 of 99**

36
37 **Footnote 19 states:**

38 *“Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations will be installed at various*
39 *Company properties to support the use of EVs for Company*
40 *functions such as meter reading and other field services.”*
41

42 **PUB-NP-011** Will these charging stations be available to the public and
43 Newfoundland Power employees for use with respect to their own
44 personal vehicles? If so, how does Newfoundland Power plan to ensure
45 that ratepayers are not subsidizing the cost of providing such access to
46 the charging stations?

1 **Schedule B: Replace Vehicles and Aerial Devices 2022-2023, page 70 of 99**

2
3 **PUB-NP-012** What portion, if any, of the 2022-2023 proposed vehicle replacements are being
4 replaced with electric vehicles?
5

6 **PUB-NP-013** Please describe Newfoundland Power’s plan related to the purchase of electric
7 vehicles as part of its company fleet.
8
9

10 **Tab 1.2 Sandy Brook Plant Penstock Replacement, page A-13**

11
12 **PUB-NP-014** Please provide a working copy of the excel document (including active
13 formulas and cell links) for the *Levelized Present Worth Analysis of the*
14 *Cost of Future Plant Production*.
15
16

17 **Tab 2.1: 2022 Substation Refurbishment and Modernization**

18
19 **Page 3 states:**
20 *“...Prior to 2022, the Company addressed ground grid upgrades*
21 *primarily at substations included in the refurbishment and*
22 *modernization projects. In order to address deficiencies identified in*
23 *an assessment carried out in 2020, additional ground grid projects*
24 *will be undertaken in 2022 and subsequent years.”*
25

26 **PUB-NP-015** Please provide the assessment carried out in 2020.

DATED at St. John’s, Newfoundland this 13th day of July, 2021.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

Per 
Cheryl Blundon
Board Secretary