

For Immediate Release

PUB dismisses request for an oral hearing in Newfoundland Power's 2024 Capital Budget Application

Today the Board dismissed the Consumer Advocate's request for an oral hearing in Newfoundland Power's 2024 Capital Budget Application.

After careful consideration of the Consumer Advocate's request the Board found that the written hearing process in this proceeding has allowed for a full and effective and open and transparent review. The process has been ongoing since June 2023 and has included public notice, a presentation to the parties by Newfoundland Power, a technical conference and two rounds of requests for information which resulted in responses to well over 700 questions. The Board stated:

"The Board is of the view that the public written hearing process is the preferred approach for annual capital budget applications as it provides for a full and fair review, bearing in mind the costs and time required to hold an oral hearing."

The Court of Appeal has found that the Board's process is an open and transparent process, appropriate for the capital budget decision.

The Board considered the issues raised by the Consumer Advocate and found that there was no basis upon which to determine that an oral hearing is necessary or would be of assistance to the Board in addressing the issues to be determined. The Board explained that:

- the issues raised by the Consumer Advocate related to the assignment of the Memorial University substation work costs, Newfoundland Power's asset management review and changes to the Board's Capital Budget Guidelines should be addressed in other Board processes, such as Newfoundland Power's upcoming general rate application
- the other issues raised by the Consumer Advocate can be addressed based on the written record of the proceeding

The Board stated it does not agree that now is an opportune time for an oral hearing as it would serve to delay the conclusion of this proceeding without being beneficial with respect to the issues to be decided.

Full details of the Letter can be found the Board's website.

- 30 -

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