



Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro  
Hydro Place, 500 Columbus Drive  
P.O. Box 12400, St. John's, NL  
Canada A1B 4K7  
t. 709.737.1400 | f. 709.737.1800  
nlhydro.com

May 15, 2025

**Newfoundland Power Inc.**

Dominic J. Foley  
55 Kenmount Road  
PO Box 8910  
St. John's, NL A1B 3P6

**Consumer Advocate**

Dennis M. Browne, KC  
Browne Fitzgerald Morgan & Avis  
Terrace on the Square, Level 2  
PO Box 23135  
St. John's, NL A1B 4J9

**Island Industrial Customer Group**

Paul L. Coxworthy  
Stewart McKelvey  
Suite 1100, Cabot Place  
100 New Gower Street  
PO Box 5038  
St. John's, NL A1C 5V3

**Labrador Interconnected Group**

Senwung Luk  
250 University Avenue, 8th Floor  
Toronto, ON M5H 3E5

**Re: Bay d'Espoir Hydroelectric Generating Facility Penstock 1 – Project Update – Redacted**

In compliance with the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities ("Board") Order No. P.U. 26(2024), please find enclosed Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro's ("Hydro") monthly report on the execution of the Bay d'Espoir Penstock 1 Life Extension Project for the period ended March 31, 2025. This report includes updates on the following:

- Project Scope;
- Project Risks and Mitigations;
- Project Schedule;
- Project Budget; and
- Project Expenditures.

This report, in particular Appendix B, contains commercially sensitive information. A version in which this information has been redacted is enclosed. The Board has been provided with a complete copy as well as a copy of the redacted version. Hydro requests that the Board use the redacted version for posting to its website.

Should you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

**NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR HYDRO**

Shirley A. Walsh  
Senior Legal Counsel, Regulatory  
SAW/kd

Encl.

ecc:

**Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities**

Jo-Anne Galarneau  
Jacqui H. Glynn  
Board General

**Labrador Interconnected Group**

Nicholas E. Kennedy, Olthuis Kleer Townshend LLP

**Newfoundland Power Inc.**

Douglas W. Wright  
Regulatory Email

**Island Industrial Customer Group**

Denis J. Fleming, Cox & Palmer  
Glen G. Seaborn, Poole Althouse

**Consumer Advocate**

Stephen F. Fitzgerald, KC, Browne Fitzgerald Morgan & Avis  
Sarah G. Fitzgerald, Browne Fitzgerald Morgan & Avis  
Bernice Bailey, Browne Fitzgerald Morgan & Avis

# Bay d'Espoir Penstock 1 Life Extension Project Update

Period Ended March 31, 2025

May 15, 2025

A report to the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities



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## **1.0 Progress to Date**

As part of ongoing project execution activities, the following update outlines the current status of key project plans, engineering deliverables, and penstock fabrication progress.

Development, submission, and review of key project plans and procedures are actively underway to meet deliverable requirements. Since the February report,<sup>1</sup> the following plans have been reviewed and accepted by Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro ("Hydro"):

- The Project Health and Safety Plan;
- Environmental Protection Plan;
- Emergency Response Plan;
- Clearing Plan;
- Sediment and Erosion Control Plan;
- Site Mobilization Plan; and
- Logistics and Transportation Plan.

Additionally, Hydro has completed its review and acceptance of a number of Inspection and Test Plans including:

- Penstock Site Installation and Welding;
- Excavation; and
- Backfill and Piping.

The Project Execution Plan has been returned to the contractor with comments for resubmission.<sup>2</sup> Plan submission and review timelines are being actively managed and are tracking in accordance with agreed timelines as per the contract agreement.

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<sup>1</sup> "Bay d'Espoir Penstock 1 Life Extension Project Update - Period Ended February 28, 2025," Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, April 15, 2025.

<sup>2</sup> The Project Execution Plan is a living document that is updated as required. The plan was returned with minor comments to reflect current conditions.

## 1.1 Fabrication

The contractor continues to advance the fabrication of the penstock sections (commonly referred to as “cans”) as shown in Figure 1, Figure 2, and Figure 3, and remains on schedule for the first barge load delivery to the site.



**Figure 1: Laydown Area Storage (Complete and Awaiting Loadout) – Cans 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 and 12**



**Figure 2: Fabrication (Elbow) – Can 2**



**Figure 3: Fabrication – Can 13**

- 1 Engineering work and the development of shop drawings for various can segments are ongoing, with
- 2 submissions under review for approval. A summary of progress to date is provided in Table 1.

**Table 1: Cans Progress to Date<sup>3</sup>**

ME MAR, 25		Fabrication		Coatings	
Barge	Can #	In-Progress	Complete	In-Progress	Complete
1	2 (Elbow)	X			
	3		X		X
	4		X		X
	5		X		X
	6		X		X
	7		X		X
	8		X		X
	9 (Elbow)		X		
2	10		X		X
	11				
	12		X		X
	13		X		
	14				
	15 (Elbow)				
	16	X			
	17	X			
	18	X			

<sup>3</sup> Can 1 is no longer required due to a change in the splice location. However, because fabrication shop drawings had already been initiated prior to this change, the numbering sequence of the cans was not updated. As a result, Can 1 will be skipped in the final numbering.



## **1.2 Mobilization**

Site mobilization commenced on March 27, 2025. Work has started on clearing and grubbing activities for the main office area, penstock marshalling yard, as well as right of way widening as shown in Figure 4 and Figure 5.



**Figure 4: Clearing – Main Office Area**



**Figure 5: Clearing – Marshalling Yard**



## 2.0 Project Risks and Mitigations

### 2.1 Key Risks and Mitigations

A summary of key risks identified during the planning and execution of the project, as well as associated mitigations and status, are provided in Table 2.

**Table 2: Key Risks<sup>4,5</sup>**

<b>Risk Title/Description</b>	<b>Mitigations</b>	<b>Status</b>
Ability of penstock near toe of dam that was unable to be replaced to meet project performance expectations, including service life and removal of operational restrictions.	Hydro is working with the EPCM <sup>6</sup> Consultant to assess alternative refurbishment options to achieve performance outcomes without replacing this section.	Open – discussions are ongoing with the EPCM Consultant regarding mitigations and options, as further outlined in Section 2.2.
Delay in penstock transportation.	Schedule developed to include float for weather events, barge offloading structure constructed early, conducted route survey to identify any restrictions/issues with ground transportation.	Open – requirements included in the contract, bathymetry survey conducted for barge offloading structure and data provided to barge supplier. Hydro will continue to monitor as work progresses.
Damage to penstock during transportation.	Contractor to obtain the required information for load and barging tie-down and engage a third-party engineering firm to perform required calculations for proper loading and fastening of material on the barge. Procure and roll additional steel plate material.	Open – requirements included in the contract, marine engineering calculations completed and provided to barge supplier. Hydro will continue to monitor as work progresses.
Quantity/scope of weld repairs in the refurbishment section is higher than estimated.	Begin cleaning and inspection of the refurbished section as early as possible. If required, increase resources for repairs, adjust shift durations and/or add a second shift.	Open – requirements reflected in Contractors' schedule. Hydro will continue to monitor as work progresses.

<sup>4</sup> This table is intended to highlight only key risks that may impact project success. Hydro uses a more comprehensive project risk register to facilitate risk management. Hydro regularly updates the risk register, and should a risk escalate in ranking, or a new high risk be identified, it will be added to this table in future updates.

<sup>5</sup> Risks which have been shown as closed in a previous report have been removed.

<sup>6</sup> Engineering, Procurement and Construction Management ("EPCM").

<b>Risk Title/Description</b>	<b>Mitigations</b>	<b>Status</b>
Penstock coating quality and/or application efficiency.	Quality concerns are to be mitigated by the Contractor implementing a quality assurance/quality control program, development of an Inspection Test Plan, and using National Association of Corrosion Engineers-qualified inspectors to perform testing on the surface preparation/blasting and coating application, as well as including on-site manufacturer support of the coating product. Contractors with previous experience in applying the specified coating are to be selected. Robotic blasting and coating application methods are to be used to mitigate quality concerns and provide more certainty on application rates. Backup equipment to be on site in case of breakdown.	Open – requirements included in the contract and reflected in the Contractors’ schedule. Hydro will continue to monitor as work progresses.

## **2.2 Geotechnical Assessment and Execution Planning**

As indicated in the January and February reports, the adjustment to relocate the splice location will result in a short section of the existing penstock, approximately 17 meters, remaining in place. Hydro, in collaboration with the EPCM consultants, continues to assess refurbishment options for this section to ensure it meets project performance criteria, including expected service life and the removal of any existing operational restrictions. Options that continue to be under consideration include enhanced inspection and repair, installation of a structural or semi-structural liner, section replacement at a later date, as well as various other liner options.

Hydro has received early indication of potential construction savings from the construction contractor; however, this change is under review. The impact on project cost and schedule remains under evaluation with the Engineering Consultant and will depend on the selected refurbishment strategy, Hydro anticipates providing a more fulsome update for the April monthly report, once a preferred refurbishment approach is selected and cost and schedule impacts are confirmed.

### **3.0 Project Schedule**

The Contractor's Milestone Schedule is included in Appendix A. Based on current progress, the Contractor remains on schedule to meet the project's approved milestones and overall timeline for project completion in the fourth quarter of 2025.

### **4.0 Project Budget**

The Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities approved a revised project budget of \$65,876,021. Hydro is progressing the work in alignment with the approved budget, with no deviations noted for the reporting period. The project remains on track to meet approved cost and schedule targets, and Hydro continues to actively manage risks to maintain compliance with all regulatory requirements.

### **5.0 Project Expenditures**

As of March 31, 2025, the project expenditure forecast remains consistent with the approved project budget. Appendix B provides further detailed cost information, including an overview of costs incurred to March 31, 2025. Please note that Appendix B has been redacted as it contains commercially sensitive information.

### **6.0 Conclusion**

As of the end of the reporting period, the Penstock 1 Life Extension Project remains on track to meet approved cost and schedule targets, and Hydro continues to actively manage risks to maintain compliance with all regulatory requirements.

# Appendix A

## Project Schedule Milestone Table





# Appendix B

## Detailed Cost Information





Redacted

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