



Commission of Inquiry Respecting the Muskrat Falls Project

STANDING APPLICATION FOR PHILIP HELWIG FOR THE MUSKRAT FALLS INQUIRY

DECISION

APRIL 16, 2018

LEBLANC, J.:

INTRODUCTION

[1] Philip Helwig, P.Eng. and Hydro-Engineer, as described by him in his application, has provided a copy of an article that he had prepared regarding his reaction to comments made by Danny Williams to the St. John's Board of Trade regarding the cost overruns for the Muskrat Falls Project. It is on the basis of that article as well as his expertise and special knowledge that he now seeks standing at the Commission of Inquiry Respecting the Muskrat Falls Project.

[2] The article, amongst other things, speaks to Mr. Helwig's belief, based upon his past experience, that the Muskrat Falls option was not fairly compared to the other option being considered at the time, that being the Isolated Island Option, due to bias in favour of the Muskrat Falls Project by Nalcor. He also takes the position that not all mega-projects conclude with large cost overruns and suggests that Nalcor did not have the required experience in project management to manage this Project.

[3] Mr. Helwig has also provided information in his application for standing regarding his engineering experience and his specialty in hydro-technological work.

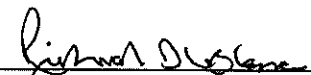
[4] I have carefully considered Mr. Helwig's submissions and have no reason to question his past experience or his stated expertise. However, I am not satisfied that Mr. Helwig has established that his interests would be adversely affected by the findings of the Commission if he were not granted standing, that his involvement in the hearings would further the conduct of the hearings and furthermore, that it would make the hearings more open or fair if he participated. These are the criteria I must consider in any standing application. While he will be impacted by electricity rate increases and any fiscal difficulties the Province will encounter as a result of the Muskrat Falls Project, there are other groups granted, or to be granted, standing who will represent his and other consumers' interests at the hearings.

[5] I will therefore have to deny Mr. Helwig's request for standing. In doing so, I can assure Mr. Helwig that the matters he raises in his application will be within the contemplation of the Commission as we proceed.

[6] Notwithstanding that he will not have standing, I would welcome his providing Commission co-counsel with any information he has that might further the work of the Inquiry. I would also suggest to Mr. Helwig that he might wish to align and involve himself with other groups or persons granted standing whose interests are similar to his.

[7] No application for funding has been made by Mr. Helwig so I need not deal with this.

[8] I wish to thank Mr. Helwig for his application and his obvious interest.



JUSTICE RICHARD D. LEBLANC
COMMISSIONER