



Commission of Inquiry Respecting the Muskrat Falls Project

NEWS RELEASE

At the request of the Commissioner, Justice Richard LeBlanc, the deadline for the filing of the Commission's Report has been extended for a period of up to three months to March 31, 2020. The reasons for the request are identified in the attached letter.

- 30 -

Media contact:

Irene Muzychka
Commission Co-Counsel
(709) 729-6064
irenemuzychka@muskratfallsinquiry.ca

Barry Learmonth
Commission Co-Counsel
(709) 729-6030
barrylearmonth@muskratfallsinquiry.ca

2019-12-06



Commission of Inquiry Respecting the Muskrat Falls Project

November 27, 2019

Hon. Siobhan Coady
Minister of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Building
50 Elizabeth Avenue
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6

Dear Minister Coady:

I write at this time on behalf of the Commission of Inquiry Respecting the Muskrat Falls Project to request additional time to complete my Report. It is with great regret that I must make this request at this time but, despite the diligent efforts of myself and Commission staff, it has become apparent to me that the Report cannot be completed by the deadline provided of December 31, 2019.

As you are aware, this Inquiry has had to deal with a very complex project and complex subject matter, numerous witnesses and parties, as well as a review of literally over four thousand exhibits. A very tight schedule was set by me so that hearings would be completed by mid-August 2019 to permit enough time to complete the Report. Despite the effort and commitment of myself and Commission staff, unfortunately, we are not in a position to complete the Report by December 31, 2019.

I can assure you at this stage that the bulk of my Report has been written and I expect to complete it shortly. However, the time given to me does not allow me sufficient opportunity to fully complete my Report as well as to conclude its compilation, editing and printing. As well, we need this time to wind down the Commission's operations. It is apparent to me that I will need up to an additional three months to complete my work and I am therefore asking for an extension to March 31, 2020.

In making this request, I want to assure you that keeping expenditures for this Inquiry as low as possible has been, and will continue to be, a priority for me. I am pleased to report at this time that direct spending by this Commission of Inquiry, including for legal counsel for parties with standing as well as Commission counsel and staff, is well below the amount budgeted by

5th Floor, Beothuck Building, 20 Crosbie Place, St. John's, NL A1B 3Y8

Tel: 709-729-6076
Toll Free: 1-833-235-7702
Fax: 709-729-6070

Email: admin@muskratfallsinquiry.ca
Website: www.muskratfallsinquiry.ca

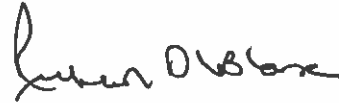
Government. I plan to reduce the Commission staff to five people, not including myself, by December 31, 2019 and therefore see no further significant additional expenditure of public funds being necessary as a result of the delay in the filing of my Report.

As stated above, it is with great regret and significant personal disappointment for me that I must make this request. I and my staff have been totally committed to this Inquiry for the past two years intending to complete the Commission's work on time. However, in order to prepare a full Report worthy of the efforts of everyone that has been involved, I now realize that unfortunately further time is needed.

I would now appreciate your Government's consideration of my request. As stated, I am requesting an extension until March 31, 2020 and certainly expect that the Report will be provided to you by then, if not earlier. Should you wish to discuss this request with me, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard D. LeBlanc". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "L".

Richard D. LeBlanc
Commissioner

RDL/mm



**NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
REGULATION 88/19**

*Commission of Inquiry Respecting the Muskrat Falls Project Order
(Amendment)*
under the
Public Inquiries Act, 2006
(O.C. 2019-289)

(Filed December 6, 2019)

Under the authority of section 3 of the *Public Inquiries Act, 2006*, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council makes the following regulations.

Dated at St. John's, December 6, 2019.

Elizabeth Day
Clerk of the Executive Council

REGULATIONS

Analysis

1. S.9 R&S
Final report

NLR 101/17

1. Section 9 of the *Commission of Inquiry Respecting the Muskrat Falls Project Order* is repealed and the following substituted:

Final report

9. The commission of inquiry shall terminate its work and deliver the final report to the Minister of Natural Resources, who shall be the minister responsible for the commission of inquiry, on or before March 31, 2020.

©Queen's Printer