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Page 1

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Product Summary:

NL HYDRO APPLIES FOR TRANSMISSION RIGHTS: Another step today in the process to develop the Lower Churchill.

Friday, January 20, 2006 06:08PM Item # 04

NTV - Evening News

Standing Order: YES

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NTV - Evening News

FRED HUTTON:Now another big story making headlines, another step today in the process to develop the Lower Churchill. Premier Danny Williams showed obvious excitement today, as he announced that Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro has been directed to apply for transmission rights with Quebec Hydro. Here's NTV's Carolyn Stokes with that story.

CAROLYN STOKES:Premier Danny Williams announced today that Newfoundland and Labrador hydro has applied for transmission service across Quebec. The deal would give the future Lower Churchill development access to Hydro Quebec's facilities, in order to sell electricity to Ontario, the Maritimes and the United States.

PREMIER DANNY WILLIAMS:It's been an issue in the minds of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians for years, as to, especially with the Upper Churchill, our inability to be able to wheel power through Quebec. That ability is now there because of the open access arrangement. For example, if Quebec goes into the States, then they have an open access arrangement with the transmitters in the States, but we use your transmission lines and you can use ours much it's a reciprocal type of arrangement. That's exactly what

we're saying to Quebec. We want to be able to have the right to wheel through, and we certainly don't feel you can deny us that, because you have a reciprocal right with other people that you deal with on the other side.

CAROLYN STOKES: While the project is still in the feasibility stage, Premier Williams calls the service agreement a strategic opportunity that has never been done before in this province.

PREMIER DANNY WILLIAMS: Even bypass Quebec and of right and sell directly to Ontario, for example, by way of example. What we would do then with Quebec is pay Quebec a tariff for using their facilities, in their present capacity, or in an upgraded capacity.

CAROLYN STOKES: If upgrades are needed, it would be funded by a \$17 million deposit Newfoundland Hydro submitted with their application. There's still no news on whether the provincial government will develop the Lower Churchill alone, or accept an outside bid. But Premier Williams is enthusiastic about the growing possibilities.

PREMIER DANNY WILLIAMS: I feel really good about this. When I said today, that we're excited about this process, you know, granted, I suppose there may be, we're not talking about 100% on everything we're doing, but we're 99.9, as far as I'm concerned. I have great confidence in the Minister, in Hydro, and the approach we're taking to this, and to the point that I feel that we're going to make the right decision the end of the day. And I also feel that Newfoundland and Labrador is now in a very, very strong position. We're in a strong position, in a lot of ways, since the last time. And of course, the market is also right, so couldn't be better.

CAROLYN STOKES: So the application is in, and Premier Williams seems confident a decision will be in their favour. While no specific date has been set for an answer, they do expect Hydro Quebec to respond in a few month's time. Carolyn Stokes, NTV News.