

Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Labrador, Canada November 16, 2009

Proposed Lower Churchill Hydroelectric Project in Labrador NOT GREEN - NOT CLEAN - NOT CHEAP

Newfoundland and Labrador's (NL) Premier, Danny Williams along with Natural Resources Minister Kathy Dunderdale and Ed Martin, President and CEO of Nalcor Energy will host a luncheon in New York on Monday, November 16th to promote NL's trade and investment opportunities, focusing specifically on the Province's potential "as a long-term producer of competitive and reliable green energy through the Lower Churchill project."

The luncheon will be co-hosted by the Canadian Consulate and will begin at 12:30 p.m. ET at the Hilton New York, 1335 Avenue of the Americas.

Many citizens within Labrador and the Island portion of the Province have grave concerns about this project.

The project, if built, will destroy the seventh largest river in Canada, reducing it to two long reservoirs. It is the longest river in Labrador (530 miles - 853 km), with the largest watershed, draining an area of 36,068 sq. miles (93,415 $^{\rm 2}$ km). It is also the most historic and culturally significant river in Labrador as well as the most ecologically diverse (spanning portions of four eco regions), providing habitat for rich communities of fish and boreal flora and fauna.

Such a mega project would not comply with regulations within the USA's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and could never be built in the US.

2009-11-16 Press Release NY2 strange format It does not meet the criteria to be considered "green energy" by the Low Impact Hydropower Institute (LIHI) in the US nor does it comply with guidelines for certification as "green energy" under Environment Canada's Ecologo program. The impacts of hydropower on ecosystems are complex and according to the World Commission on Dams, most are negative.

The footprint of these mega projects is huge. Reservoirs emit Co2 and methane – greenhouse gases that affect climate change. Rotting vegetation in the reservoirs produce methyl mercury, a lethal toxin that affects fish and bio-accumulates up the food chain. If humans ingest too much of it, it can cause brain damage (see Minamata disease).

Converting a free-flowing river into a series of reservoirs has enormous ecological consequences, extending hundreds of miles downstream.

By the provincial governments (Newfoundland and Labrador) own estimates it will cost 6-9 billion dollars to build the dams and another 3 billion to transmit the power to market. The dollar value of the ecosystem services currently provided by the river and its watershed has not been taken into account. The proponents have yet to identify a market for the power; how it will be transmitted, and maybe more importantly how it will be financed. It should also be noted that this project has not yet been approved by Environmental Assessment Agencies.

This is a project conceived for export only, leaving no power for Labrador, a boom-bust economy and an environmental nightmare for time immemorial.

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## Media contacts:

Roberta Frampton Benefiel Clarice Blake Rudkowski
Grand Riverkeeper Labrador Grand Riverkeeper Labrador
Tel. #: 709-164 Tel. #: 709-165530
e-mail: # HYPERLINK "mailto:refbnfl@ # Prefbnfl@ # HYPERLINK
"http://www.grandriverkeeperlabrador.org" @www.grandriverkeeperlabrador.org
# HYPERLINK "http://www.grandriverkeeperlabrador.org"
@www.grandriverkeeperlabrador.org

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