

INFORMATION NOTE

**To:** Board/Management Committee

**Re:** Reference by Government to Review Muskrat Falls  
Staffing requirements

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**Issue:**

On May 16, 2011, the Board was informed that it would be receiving a Reference (the Reference) from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, under section 5 of the *Electrical Power Control Act, 1994*, concerning the Muskrat Falls Project.

**Process:**

- ♦ The Board was given a brief overview of the review and was advised that the report to Government would be required to be submitted before the end of December 2011. Government also advised that Tom Johnson, Consumer Advocate, would be appointed to represent consumer interests in the review.
- ♦ The Board held its first planning meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss the scope of the project, expertise requirements and tentative schedule.
- ♦ Where possible the Board generally follows the *Public Tender Act* with respect to the award of contracts for goods and services. Professional services such as legal, engineering and technical expertise are exempt from the *Public Tender Act*. The Board's current legal counsel and technical advisor are contractors who were selected through a publicly advertised process.
- ♦ The Board asked Legal Counsel to explore the availability of engineers with specific knowledge and expertise of the Muskrat Falls project who could assist the Board in the preliminary planning phase of the review. Mr. Fred Martin, a former VP of Transmission and Rural Operations with Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, was identified as a potential advisor. He is a senior electrical engineer with over 30 years experience in the electrical utility industry and has extensive experience work completed on the Lower Churchill project.
- ♦ On May 20<sup>th</sup> the Board met with Mr. Martin to discuss whether he would be interested and available to assist the Board.
- ♦ Mr. Martin advised the Board that, because of the scope of the review, technical expertise in reviewing generation expansion alternatives projects of this magnitude and the timing of the review that he would have to seek firms on a national and possibly international level to find a firm with the required expertise and capabilities, and without conflict. Mr. Martin was engaged to help identify and engage an external expert engineering firm to assist the Board with the review and also perform research and analysis, and advice to the Board on a variety of technical matters related to the Muskrat Falls Project and the Reference. Mr. Martin would be working closely with legal counsel and the Board's technical advisor and it was agreed by the Board that these persons lead by legal counsel, would comprise the project advisory team for the review.
- ♦ The project advisory team will develop a Request for Proposal to be issued by invitation to a select number of engineering consulting firms to assist the Board in its review.

**Recommendation:**

As this is an information note, no action is required.

  
Cheryl Blundon  
Director of Corporate Services