

Date : 8/29/2011 4:20:59 PM

From : "Maclean, Heather"

To : "Skinner, Shawn" , "Bown, Charles W." , "Scott, Paul G." , "'DawnDalley@nalcorenergy.com'"

<'DawnDalley@nalcorenergy.com'>, "Humphries, Denise"

Subject : Fw: from the NG - comments on panel report

Fyi

Sent Via BlackBerry

----- Original Message -----

From: Power, Glenda

To: 'DawnDalley@nalcorenergy.com' <DawnDalley@nalcorenergy.com>

Cc: Maclean, Heather

Sent: Mon Aug 29 16:07:57 2011

Subject: Fw: from the NG - comments on panel report

Glenda Power

Director of Communications

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Sent Via BlackBerry

----- Original Message -----

From: Oliver, Val

To: Tompkins, John; Bowles, Ron; Hickey, John; Pottle, Patty; Dutton, Sean; Stokes, Donna; Oxford, Krista L.; Gover, Aubrey

Cc: Maclean, Heather; Power, Glenda

Sent: Mon Aug 29 16:02:51 2011

Subject: from the NG - comments on panel report

NEWS RELEASE

August 29, 2011

For Immediate Release

Nunatsiavut Government pleased with panel  
recommendations on proposed Lower Churchill project

The report of the independent panel that conducted the environmental assessment of the proposed Lower Churchill hydro development provides a solid and unbiased starting point that recognizes potential significant adverse effects on Labrador Inuit, says Nunatsiavut's Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Glen Sheppard.

"As a result of this report, we are looking forward to no longer being excluded from the table and being an integral part of the Lower Churchill discussions with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and Nalcor," says Minister Sheppard.

The Nunatsiavut Government spent considerable time participating in the environmental assessment process in order to assert its views that the project would have potential negative impacts on Labrador Inuit and their environment, culture and way of life – especially Inuit living in the Upper Lake Melville area and Rigolet, Minister Sheppard noted.

"We made some 30 separate submissions to the panel, many of which involved collaboration with scientific and Inuit experts. The proponent, Nalcor, did not consider that Inuit would be affected by its project. We are pleased to see that the panel found many of our concerns to be valid and agreed with many of our recommendations."

For example, the panel concluded that Nalcor did not carry out a full assessment of the fate of mercury in the downstream environment, including potential pathways that could lead to mercury bioaccumulation in seal and fish and the potential for cumulative effects of the project along with effects of other sources of mercury.

"This statement from the panel differs significantly from Nalcor's assertions throughout the environmental assessment process that they were certain that there would be no measurable downstream effects from the project," the Minister said.

The panel also recognized the dietary and cultural importance of fishing and seal hunting in Goose Bay and Lake Melville, including the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area, concluding that there would be significant adverse effects on the pursuit of traditional activities by Labrador Inuit, including the harvesting of country foods, should consumption advisories be required.

The Nunatsiavut Government is also pleased to see several other recommendations, including those surrounding low-income housing, aquatic monitoring, George River caribou, land and resource use, training, infrastructure, communication, environmental management and human health, the Minister said.

"It is quite clear that this proposed project poses significant risks on Labrador Inuit, on traditional harvesting and fishing," said the Minister. "Unless these deficiencies can be addressed, the project should not go ahead."

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