



NUNATSIAVUT
kavamanga Government

Honorable Kathy Dunderdale
Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador
Confederation Building, East Block
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL
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September 16, 2011

Re: Second meeting request - Panel report and recommendations on proposed Lower Churchill Hydroelectric Generation project and Inuit involvement in the way forward

Dear Premier Dunderdale,

This letter follows on our earlier request for a meeting between senior political levels of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador and Nunatsiavut Government and senior executives of Nalcor Energy. We now recognize that the upcoming Provincial election will most likely preclude a meeting prior to October 11, 2011.

As a result, we were hoping to re-schedule the meeting for as soon after the Provincial election as possible and before the end of October. Discussion of the Panel report on the proposed Lower Churchill hydroelectric development, including the downstream effects of the project, should it go ahead, is extremely important to Inuit.

The Panel concluded that Nalcor Energy 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 together with effects of other sources of mercury. The work that the Nunatsiavut Government has done (both Inuit Knowledge and scientific) indicates that there will be significant adverse effects on the downstream environment, including the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area, as a result of dam construction.

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The Panel also recognized the dietary and cultural importance of fishing and seal hunting in the downstream areas of Goose Bay and Lake Melville, including the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area, concluding that there would be significant adverse effects on the pursuit of traditional harvesting activities by Labrador Inuit, including the harvesting of country foods, should consumption advisories be required. We are therefore pleased that the panel recommended a new, comprehensive assessment of downstream effects with independent third-party oversight and review. The Panel also recommended that Nalcor be required to enter into negotiations with parties representing resource users in Goose Bay and Lake Melville (i.e. Inuit) regarding further mitigation, where possible, or compensation measures, including financial redress if necessary, should the study indicate that consumption advisories be required in this area.

It is clear that the Panel has given their report thoughtful consideration and determined that the Project Area, as described by Nalcor Energy is inadequate. There is still a lot of work to be done to mitigate the significant adverse effects of this proposed Project on Inuit. The Panel report provides a solid independent, unbiased starting point that recognizes potential significant adverse effects on Inuit and the importance of including Inuit within this process and we are looking forward to building on this and having our views and concerns on the Project meaningfully considered by Nalcor and the Province.

We will contact you again soon after the Provincial election, should you be re-elected. In the meantime, we are hoping that you consider this an urgent priority for immediately after the election. We wish you well during the campaign period.

Sincerely,



James Lyall
President
Nunatsiavut Government

cc. Glen Sheppard, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Nunatsiavut Government
Ross Wiseman, Minister of Environment and Conservation, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Patty Pottle, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Ed Martin, President and Chief Executive Officer, Nalcor Energy
Gilbert Bennett, Vice President, Lower Churchill, Nalcor Energy
Peter Kent, Minister of Environment, Government of Canada
Keith Ashfield, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Government of Canada
Peter Penashue, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Government of Canada