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From : "Barron, Tracy B."

To : "Turpin, Carmel"

Cc : "Mullins, Kimberley" , "Kieley, Chris"

Subject : Speaking Notes-Minister Dunderdale

Attachment : SN-EAProcessNewser-Dec.1,2006.doc;

Can you please review these and seek approval?

The numbers I used in in relation to employment and project value on page two were taken directly from the information you sent over that was to go into Minister Hickey's speaking notes. I just want to confirm with you that the numbers are accurate and ok to use, considering they are not my numbers. Thanks.

Speaking Notes

Honourable Kathy Dunderdale, Minister of Natural Resources

EA Process Initiated for Lower Churchill Project

Dec. 1, 2006

? Thank you Premier. It's my pleasure to be linked into this news conference from Labrador this morning.

? My colleague John Hickey, the Minister of Labrador Affairs, wanted to be here this morning to participate in this news conference, but I understand he is in St. John's as we speak meeting with the federal transportation minister on another significant issue for this region the Trans Labrador Highway. He did ask me to bring his regrets as this is a very important announcement for his district and for all of Labrador.

? It is clearly evident that this development will have a tremendous impact in this region. The registration of the Lower Churchill project for environmental assessment is a step forward in the planning process for the development of this resource and it is indeed positive for the people of Labrador.

? From employment and business opportunities, to the development of infrastructure and a source of power the benefits of this project will be significant.

? The proposed Lower Churchill hydroelectric development has the potential to provide meaningful direct and indirect economic and employment benefits to the people of Labrador both in the short and long-terms.

? There will be considerable employment and business opportunities during construction it is after all a project valued at between six to nine billion dollars depending on the development option chosen.

? As an example of the impacts, there will be a peak work force of approximately 2,000 people and an employment requirement for approximately 10,000 person-year equivalents.

? And as our planning unfolds we will continue to inform, engage and consult with you to ensure an appropriate level of benefits for Labrador and its people.

? We welcome the input and the views of all the people of Labrador as we proceed with this development. I want to encourage people and the various business, community and aboriginal groups to participate in the environmental assessment consultations that Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro will be undertaking as part of this process. It is my understanding that this process will begin in early 2007.

? Anyone who wants to be part of this process can participate through the forums, one-on-one stakeholder meetings, public meetings and open houses that will be held. More information on how to participate will be made available as we get closer to the consultation stage.

? As a government, we have clearly stated that our fundamental position in the development of our vast resources is maximum benefit for the people of the province. We have said that from day one and that has not changed.

? It is why we embarked on a comprehensive and consultative process to develop a progressive long-term Energy Plan for the province that will guide our decision making into the future as to how our resources are developed. The Lower Churchill development is a key component of our Energy Plan.

? We are committed to developing an energy policy that is built on securing and developing our energy warehouse and making available sources of energy for use domestically and for export to support our economic development.

? From the beginning of this process, we have stated we would take whatever time necessary to complete this plan right. It is one of the most important policy items we have taken on as a government and we owe it to the people of the province to make sure we have the best possible plan. We expect that the final energy plan will be released by early in 2007.

? As part of this process, I have attended energy plan consultations in Port Hope Simpson and Marystown since I became minister. It was very clear to me in the presentations I received and in more informal discussions and meetings that our fundamental principles that we want achieved in the development of our resources are shared by the people of the province. Maximum benefits. Control over the development of our resources. Our need to build on our capacity and expertise within the province to make the best decisions on our future.

? This is what the Energy Plan is about, and this is what a Newfoundland and Labrador-led project to develop the Lower Churchill hydro resource is about.

? It is exciting for me to be a member of this government at this time and to see this monumental project proceeding through the appropriate stages and channels to project sanction in 2009, and hopefully first power in 2015.

? Although a tremendous amount of work has already been done to bring the Lower Churchill Project to this point, we know we have a significant body of work before us with specific timelines we must meet to get us to project sanction goal in 2009. I am thrilled to say that we are on track and today's registration with the federal and provincial environmental agencies is another step toward that goal.

? Now I believe we are going back to St. John's and to Ed Martin for more detail on the environmental assessment process.

Tracy Barron

Director of Communications



**Speaking Notes****Honourable Kathy Dunderdale, Minister of Natural Resources****EA Process Initiated for Lower Churchill Project****Dec. 1, 2006**

- Thank you Premier. It's my pleasure to be linked into this news conference from Labrador this morning.
- My colleague John Hickey, the Minister of Labrador Affairs, wanted to be here this morning to participate in this news conference, but I understand he is in St. John's as we speak meeting with the federal transportation minister on another significant issue for this region – the Trans Labrador Highway. He did ask me to bring his regrets as this is a very important announcement for his district and for all of Labrador.
- It is clearly evident that this development will have a tremendous impact in this region. The registration of the Lower Churchill project for environmental assessment is a step forward in the planning process for the development of this resource and it is indeed positive for the people of Labrador.
- From employment and business opportunities, to the development of infrastructure and a source of power – the benefits of this project will be significant.
- The proposed Lower Churchill hydroelectric development has the potential to provide meaningful direct and indirect economic and employment benefits to the people of Labrador – both in the short and long-terms.
- There will be considerable employment and business opportunities during construction – it is after all a project valued at between six to nine billion dollars – depending on the development option chosen.

- As an example of the impacts, there will be a peak work force of approximately 2,000 people and an employment requirement for approximately 10,000 person-year equivalents.
- And as our planning unfolds we will continue to inform, engage and consult with you to ensure an appropriate level of benefits for Labrador and its people.
- We welcome the input and the views of all the people of Labrador as we proceed with this development. I want to encourage people and the various business, community and aboriginal groups to participate in the environmental assessment consultations that Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro will be undertaking as part of this process. It is my understanding that this process will begin in early 2007.
- Anyone who wants to be part of this process can participate through the forums, one-on-one stakeholder meetings, public meetings and open houses that will be held. More information on how to participate will be made available as we get closer to the consultation stage.
- As a government, we have clearly stated that our fundamental position in the development of our vast resources is maximum benefit for the people of the province. We have said that from day one and that has not changed.
- It is why we embarked on a comprehensive and consultative process to develop a progressive long-term Energy Plan for the province that will guide our decision making into the future as to how our resources are developed. The Lower Churchill development is a key component of our Energy Plan.

- We are committed to developing an energy policy that is built on securing and developing our energy warehouse and making available sources of energy for use domestically and for export to support our economic development.
- From the beginning of this process, we have stated we would take whatever time necessary to complete this plan right. It is one of the most important policy items we have taken on as a government and we owe it to the people of the province to make sure we have the best possible plan. We expect that the final energy plan will be released by early in 2007.
- As part of this process, I have attended energy plan consultations in Port Hope Simpson and Marystown since I became minister. It was very clear to me in the presentations I received – and in more informal discussions and meetings – that our fundamental principles that we want achieved in the development of our resources are shared by the people of the province. Maximum benefits. Control over the development of our resources. Our need to build on our capacity and expertise within the province to make the best decisions on our future.
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project sanction goal in 2009. I am thrilled to say that we are on track and today's registration with the federal and provincial environmental agencies is another step toward that goal.

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