



COR/2018/00986

MAR 28 2018

Mr. Stan Marshall
CEO, Nalcor Energy
PO Box 12800
St. John's NL A1B 0C9

Dear Mr. Marshall:

Re: Independent Experts Advisory Committee

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and three Indigenous groups agreed to form an Independent Experts Advisory Committee (IEAC) on methylmercury (MeHg). The committee is mandated to use the best available science to assess options for mitigation of methylmercury impacts from the Muskrat Falls project. Three recommendations were made by the IEAC on September 22, 2017 which were accepted by Government.

I would like to draw your attention to the third recommendation which stated: *Recommendation #3: The IEAC recommends that Nalcor expedite the finalization of their current methylmercury modelling project, and complete the work no later than 15 Feb 2018.* The completion date of that recommendation was provided by the Nalcor member on the IEAC.

The importance of this modelling is this: the only full model that is currently available to the IEAC is the so-called Calder (Harvard) model. This is a probabilistic model that considers peak MeHg production only. It includes the path for MeHg from the reservoir, downstream into Lake Melville and finally to human exposure. An alternative model developed by Reed Harris for Nalcor is a mechanistic model that considers mean MeHg production but to date is only completed for the reservoir. The IEAC waited for the last possible moment to consider an alternate approach to the Calder model, but was left with no alternative but to evaluate the mitigation options on the basis of Calder's downstream and human exposure alone.

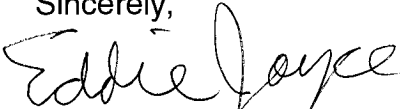
As the responsible provincial Minister, I am willing to pursue an extension of the IEAC's mandate past March 31, 2018 for the purpose of allowing the scientists to fully assess the mitigation options using Nalcor's model and any other material data that Nalcor wishes to supply. However, I understand that Nalcor has indicated that its consultant is likely unable to complete this task. This is disappointing as all indications were that it could be completed to enable consideration by the IEAC within the original timeline for its mandate. While this work may not change the IEAC's recommendations, as we do

not know how such a model would predict MeHg exposures, it would have presented additional information for consideration along with the Calder approach.

I therefore ask that Nalcor immediately investigate whether another party could complete this model on a very high priority basis to uphold the Government's commitment to the recommendation above and to ensure that the IEAC is able to consider this information in the near future.

I would appreciate your commitment to the earliest possible response such that I can reach out to the IEAC regarding the extension. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eddie Joyce". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

EDDIE JOYCE, MHA
District of Humber – Bay of Islands
Minister

cc: Hon. Premier Dwight Ball
Hon. Siobhan Coady, Minister of Natural Resources