

**TAB 15**

**Ralph, Peter**

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**From:** Chippett, Jamie  
**Sent:** Monday, February 11, 2019 8:25 PM  
**To:** Shea, Erin  
**Subject:** Re: FOR REVIEW: KM - IEAC

Good job

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 11, 2019, at 8:02 PM, Shea, Erin <[ErinShea@gov.nl.ca](mailto:ErinShea@gov.nl.ca)> wrote:

Please see updated KMs on the IEAC for review. I've also attached the recent article in which Premier provides latest update on the issue and which is reflected in the messaging.

Thanks,  
E.

## KEY MESSAGES

### **Municipal Affairs and Environment Final Recommendations of IEAC February 11, 2019**

#### **Summary:**

The Nunatsiavut Government, Nunatukavut Community Council, public and media have been calling on government to respond to the Independent Experts Advisory Committee's (IEAC) recommendations on methylmercury resulting from the Muskrat Falls project.

#### **Anticipated Questions:**

- Is government stalling on the response to the recommendations?
- Will you direct Nalcor to remove the soil at Muskrat Falls?

#### **Key Messages:**

- We have taken the concerns related to methylmercury associated with Muskrat Falls very seriously and continue to work to ensure the health and safety of residents.
- We have been reviewing the IEAC's final recommendations and anticipate responding to them in the near future.
- As was agreed upon by all parties in October 2016, we have been conducted over 1,000 tests for methylmercury levels in the reservoir, downstream, and in Lake Melville. Data is regularly shared publically and with our partners.
- Since monitoring began in 2016, methylmercury levels have at no time represented a risk to public health. Current levels of methylmercury in Lake Melville are in the order of 0.01 nanograms per litre, which is considered pristine.

- We will continue to work with our Indigenous and municipal partners as we work together to address issues of methylmercury associated with the Muskrat Falls Project.

**Secondary Messages (Soil removal/Wetland Capping):**

- We need to take a scientific, evidence-based approach when we are making a decision about the clearing/ capping recommendation.
- Discussions have been ongoing on whether we should put a capping program in place. Soil removal is extremely expensive, but the most important part is that we manage the health risk, if any. From the samples we've been collecting, there's nothing there to demonstrate those kind of health risks.
- We recognize that the recommendation that suggests targeted soil removal in combination with wetland capping, was not agreed upon by the voting IEAC members.
- The IEAC scientists were unable to agree on whether soil removal would cause less methylmercury to form. Some indicated soil removal could increase methylmercury.

**Drafted by: MAE Communications**

**Approved by: MAE Executive**

**Factsheet:**

- The IEAC submitted final recommendations on methylmercury in April, including:
  - A public information campaign to reiterate that country food and water are safe.
  - An independent, community-based body to oversee the design and implementation of a monitoring program for the Muskrat Falls project and provide information relevant to the protection of human health.
  - Negotiation of an Impact Security Fund between the Province, Nalcor, Indigenous groups and local population
  - Targeted soil removal in combination with wetland capping. This recommendation was not agreed upon by the IEAC members. Three of the voting members (Nunatsiavut Government, NunatuKavut Community Council and Affected Municipalities) voted in favor; the Innu Nation supported covering the wetlands.
  
- The four recommendations were unanimously agreed to by the Indigenous groups and municipalities with the exception that targeted soil removal was not supported by the Innu Nation.
  
- The IEAC was formed following an October 2016 agreement that the Provincial Government, in partnership with the Innu Nation, Nunatsiavut Government, and the NunatuKavut Community Council, would establish an Independent Expert Advisory Committee to determine and recommend options for mitigating human health concerns related to methylmercury. Mitigation measures will be realized through utilizing best available science that incorporates Indigenous Traditional Knowledge.
  
- Current levels of methylmercury in Lake Melville are in the order of 0.01 ng/L which is considered pristine. The future results will inform public health and education about methylmercury in food and water.
  
- The clearing has been estimated to cost between \$409 million and \$742 million, not including contingency funds, contractor risk premiums and costs associated with additional project delays.

<mime-attachment>

<KM - IEAC Final Recommendations Feb 11.docx>