

Steele, Ruth

From: Janes, Colleen G
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2016 2:30 PM
To: Trimper, Perry
Subject: MeHg Presentation to Premier
Attachments: MeHg Presentation to Premier.PPTX

Deck for our meeting. If you print in 'notes pages' version you will see some of how we will present this. One further document to follow, which is a handout that we will use when we get to the slides on the JRP recommendations and prov and fed responses.

Colleen

-----< HP TRIM Record Information >-----

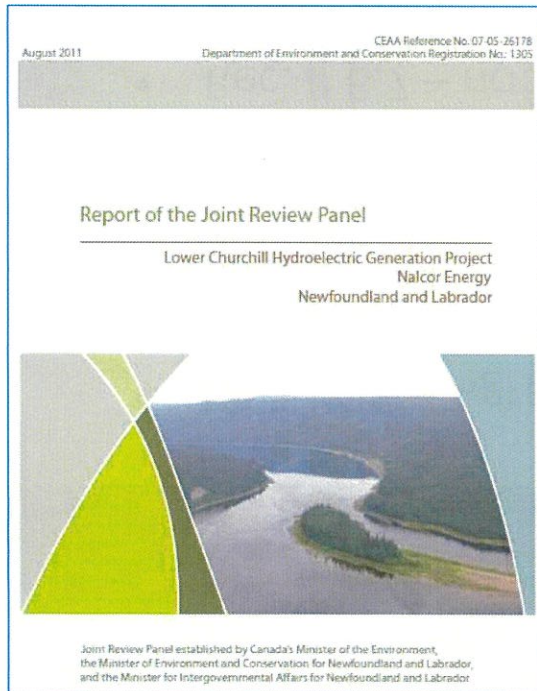
Record Number: BN-2016-173-1
Title : MeHg Presentation to Premier



Methylmercury - Next Steps

**Department of Environment and Climate Change
September 2016**

Environmental Assessment Process Key Methylmercury Panel Recommendations



Final JRP Report released on August 25, 2011 with 83 recommendations, including:

- #4.5 – “Full” clearing scenario to be applied for the Muskrat Falls reservoir.
- #6.5 – Pilot study for Methylmercury (MeHg) mitigation through soil removal
- # 6.7 – Assessment of downstream effects.
- #13.9 – Possible requirement for consumption advisories in Goose Bay or Lake Melville.

Federal Government Response to the JRP on March 15, 2012



- Rec# 4.5 - This recommendation is directed to Nalcor as regulated by the Province. The Government of Canada will work with the appropriate parties, as required.
- Rec# 6.5 - The Government of Canada cannot commit to carrying out the suggested pilot study, and believes that the Panel's recommended pilot project would be more appropriately led by a University-based research group with which Natural Resources Canada could collaborate.
- Rec.# 6.7 - Fisheries and Oceans Canada will require Nalcor to conduct a comprehensive multi-year program to monitor and report on bioaccumulation of methyl mercury in fish (including seals) within the reservoirs and downstream, including the Goose Bay/Lake Melville area.
- Rec# 13.9 - This recommendation is directed to Nalcor as regulated by the Province, with participation from Aboriginal groups, the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Mud Lake Improvement Committee, the Town of North West River and the community of Rigolet. The Government of Canada will work with the appropriate parties, as required.

Federal and Provincial Oversight Examples



Federal	Provincial
<p>Fisheries Authorization to alter fish habitat; DFO key agency on aquatic monitoring plan</p>	<p>Water Resources Act - permit for dam and alteration of flow; involved in aquatic monitoring plan</p>
<p>Navigable Waters Protection Act – authorizes flooding and dictates notice period</p>	<p>SNL – various permits and approvals such as those related to waste disposal, fuel storage, camp operations</p>
<p>Health Canada – provision of advice re Human Health effects</p>	<p>Occupational Health and Safety</p>

Analysis



- Anything less than soil removal is unlikely to satisfy the NG; further and escalating protests and potential court applications are highly probable
- [REDACTED]
- The JRP did not recommend soil clearing, and in fact, its recommendation aligns with what has been raised in recent expert workshops (e.g. potential environmental effects, unproven as a mitigation measure, unknown economic and technical feasibility)

Proposed Next steps



- Minister Trimper to meet with the three leaders in October to convey:
 - Partial clearing of reservoir is confirmed; noting % achieved
 - No soil to be removed but willing to engage in any future soil removal study that aligns with recommendation 6.5 of the JRP;
 - Offer to work with federal government in establishing an Expert Advisory Committee (EAC) with provincial and federal regulators and the three Aboriginal organizations
 - The EAC will have an independent chair and independent scientific experts and will receive and review monitoring results re methylmercury in country foods and advise on appropriate action to protect human health; and would receive information and provide advice regarding any future soil removal study