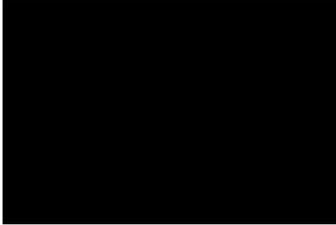


October 21, 2019



Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (File # NR-205-2019)

On October 8, 2019, the Department of Natural Resources received your request for access to the following records/information:

RE: NR-167-2019 please provide a copy of the following note: Muskrat Falls project update for May 2019

I am pleased to inform you that a decision has been made by the Department of Natural Resources, confirmed by the Deputy Minister, to provide access to the requested records. The record is attached.

As set out in section 42 of the Act you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the department's decision to provide access to the requested information. A request to the Commissioner must be made in writing within 15 business days of the date of this letter or within a longer period that may be allowed by the Commissioner. Your request should identify your concerns with the department's response and why you are requesting a review.

The request for review may be addressed to the Information and Privacy Commissioner is as follows:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
2 Canada Drive
P.O. Box 13004, Stn. A
St. John's, NL. A1B 3V8
Telephone: (709) 729-6309
Toll-Free: 1-877-729-6309
Facsimile: (709) 729-6500

Pursuant to section 52 of the Act, you may also appeal directly to the Supreme Court

Trial Division within 15 business days after receiving the department's decision.

Please be advised that responsive records will be published following a 72 hour period after the response is sent electronically to you or five business days in the case where records are mailed to you. It is the goal to have the responsive records posted to the Completed Access to Information Requests website within one business day following the applicable period of time. Please note that requests for personal information will not be posted online.

For further details about how an access to information request is processed, please refer to the Access to Information Policy and Procedures Manual at <http://www.atipp.gov.nl.ca/info/index.html>.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 709-729-0463 or rhynes@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rod Hynes".

Rod Hynes
ATIPP Coordinator

New England Governors/Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/CP) Briefing Book
Background Note – Muskrat Falls Project Update
Department of Natural Resources

Title: Muskrat Falls Project Update for May 2019

Issue: To provide an update on the Muskrat Falls Project (MFP) for the NEG/ECP Conference in Saint John, NB Sept 8-10, 2019.

Background and Status:

- The Nalcor subsidiary responsible for managing the construction of the MFP (the Lower Churchill Management Corporation or LCMC) produces a monthly report providing construction updates as well as reports on safety/environment and employment, benefits and community engagement. The May 2019 report was released on July 23, 2019. As of the end of May:
 - Overall construction of the MFP is 98% complete;
 - The Muskrat Falls generation project is 95% complete;
 - Both the Labrador-Island Transmission Link and the transmission line connecting Churchill Falls to Muskrat Falls remained at over 99% complete.

Construction Update

- Activities undertaken in May 2019 include the continuation of the civil works on the intake and powerhouse by Pennecon Heavy Civil Ltd.
- All the concrete required for the Powerhouse has now been poured.
- Construction of Labrador Transmission Assets (LTA) is complete. Activities on the LTA continued during the month including work on punch list items in both the Churchill Falls and Muskrat Falls switchyards.
- Construction of the Labrador-Island Transmission Link (LIL) from Muskrat Falls (MF) to Soldiers Pond is complete. Activities for the LIL during the month included continuation of HVdc Protection and Controls System software development and static and dynamic commissioning activities.
- The current capital cost estimate remains at \$10.1 billion with a total cost including financing of \$12.7 billion. Project investments up to the end of May include \$4,851 million for generation, \$863 million for the Labrador Transmission Assets and \$3,525 million for the Labrador – Island Transmission Link.
- Newfoundland and Labrador businesses secured \$34 million of the total \$86 million project expenditures in May 2019. From January 2013 to the end of the reporting period in May 2019, over \$3.0 billion has been spent directly with Newfoundland and Labrador-based companies.

Safety and Environment

- There were no lost-time injuries during May (16 on the project to date) and no medical aid incidents (114 on the project to date).
- Nalcor continues to report a high standard of environmental responsibility.

Employment, Benefits and Community Engagement

- In May, over 290,000 hours were worked by 1,996 individuals on the projects including over 240,000 hours of work in Labrador.
- During the month of May, 1,836 residents of this Province were employed on the projects representing 93 per cent of the total persons employed.
- In May, there were 1,611 people working in Labrador – 495 were Labrador residents (approximately 30 per cent). Of these, 173 self-identified as a member of a Labrador Aboriginal group (approximately 35 per cent).
- In May 2019, there were 308 women working on all project components (approximately 13 per cent of the total workforce). Of these, 290 were residents of this Province.
- In the first quarter of 2019, there were 40 students working on the project and 232 apprentices including 30 females.
- The Lower Churchill Project (LCP) established multiple venues for members of the public to ask questions, seek employment information, and get details about the Muskrat Falls development. These venues include websites to apply for jobs and get information on project construction activities, toll-free numbers, email and a project office in Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

Analysis:

- Liberty Consulting Group highlighted software problems with the Labrador Island Link in its Transition to Operations Sixth Quarterly Monitoring Report released on May 22, 2019. The report expressed low confidence that GE would deliver Protection and Control bipole software required by August 31, 2019. Substantial risk was noted that commissioning would slip and possibly affect winter reliability.
- The Muskrat Falls Project Oversight Committee released its quarterly project update report on June 27, 2019. The report noted that on June 25, 2019, the Oversight Committee was advised that further delays in the delivery of the Protection and Control bipole software are anticipated.
- First power from Muskrat Falls' generation is scheduled to be online by late 2019. Commissioning of Muskrat Falls' generation, LTA and LIL is scheduled for September, 2020.
- Impoundment of the Muskrat Falls reservoir commenced on August 7, 2019 and is expected to be complete by the end of September, 2019, when complete water levels will reach 39 m. During this period of impoundment and once the reservoir reaches its full supply level, Nalcor will continue to provide weekly updates on progress as well as on dam safety monitoring. Currently Nalcor is reporting all readings from monitoring equipment are as expected.

Prepared/Approved by: Y. Khan/R. Bates/K. Bradbury/C. Snook
Ministerial Approval:

August 22, 2019