Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (File # NR-223-2019)

On October 23, 2019, the Department of Natural Resources received your request for access to the following records/information:

Any ministerial information notes regarding the Atlantic Regional Clean Power Planning Committee or Clean Power Roadmap from Jan. 1, 2019 to present. Not looking for brief mentions - only notes where work of the committee was the subject of the note, or subject of its own subhead in a larger note.

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 responsive records are attached.

We are providing access to the most information possible but have made redactions in accordance with Sections 29(1)(a), 34(1)(a)(i) and 35(1)(d)(g) of ATIPPA, 2015 as follows:

29. (1)(a) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information that would reveal advice, proposals, recommendations, analyses or policy options developed by or for a public body or minister;

34. (1)(a)(i) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose information to an applicant if the disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the conduct by the government of the province of relations between the government and the following or their agencies: the government of Canada or a province;

35. (1)(d) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information which could reasonably be expected to disclose information, the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to result in the premature disclosure of a proposal or
project or in significant loss or gain to a third party.

35. (1)(g) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information which could reasonably be expected to disclose information, the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to prejudice the financial or economic interest of the government of the province or a public body.

Please note that pages 7 and 16 (Annex A of the note) of the responsive record package has been redacted in full under all the aforementioned redaction codes.

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,

Rod Hynes

Rod Hynes
ATIPP Coordinator
Information Note
Department of Natural Resources

Title: Clean Energy Priorities in Atlantic Canada

Issue: To provide background information on Atlantic clean energy priorities and cooperation for the Council of Atlantic Premiers (CAP) meeting on January 23, 2019.

Background and Current Status:
- Atlantic Canada leads Canada in carbon emission reductions due to significant investments, including PEI and NS wind energy; NS and NL investments in the Maritime Link and the Labrador-Island Link; NB’s investment in smart grid technology; NL’s investment in renewable hydroelectric generation; and, the region’s investments in energy efficiency.

- This progress has occurred despite unique challenges in Atlantic Canada:
  - Atlantic Canada has a population of approximately 2.4 million, spread across six functional “energy islands” that must be connected by costly transmission lines (e.g. Labrador, the island of Newfoundland, Cape Breton, PEI, etc.);
  - Most of Atlantic Canada has no access to natural gas; and,
  - Atlantic Canada’s population is the most rural in Canada (NL also has over 20 off-grid diesel-reliant systems). The population is also the oldest in Canada and has some of the poorest quality housing.

- Given the region’s shared challenges and priorities, the region has cooperated through forums such as the Regional Electricity Cooperation and Strategic Infrastructure Initiative (RECSI) and the Atlantic Clean Energy Partnership (ACEP).

RECSI
- The objective of the federally-funded, two-year RECSI, completed in summer 2018, was a federal Natural Resources Canada initiative to work with Atlantic provincial governments and utilities to identify the most promising electricity infrastructure projects (generation and transmission) to reduce regional carbon emissions. The Atlantic RECSI Summary for Policy Makers was publicly released in August 2018.

- NRCan has committed to work with Atlantic provinces to investigate a short- and medium-term incremental renewable resource development plan as a result of RECSI.

ACEP
- The ACEP, announced by Atlantic Premiers in April 2017, was created to identify opportunities to improve and strengthen the region’s energy sector and drive economic activity including by focusing on electrification of space heating and transportation supplied by clean and renewable energy on smart, integrated and resilient networks and grids.

First Ministers' Clean Electric Future
- In December 2018, First Ministers agreed to collaborate on ways to improve clean growth, beginning with a discussion on development of a framework for a clean electric future, including hydroelectricity, aimed at using clean, reliable and affordable electricity and to promote access to domestic and international markets. First Ministers further agreed that interested jurisdictions could explore opportunities for utility corridors in Canada.
Information Note
Department of Natural Resources

Title: Atlantic Clean Energy Priorities

Issue: To provide background information on Atlantic clean energy priorities for the Atlantic Growth Strategy meeting on March 1, 2019.

Background and Current Status:
- Atlantic Canada leads Canada in carbon emission reductions due to significant investments made by the provinces, including NS and NL investments in the Maritime Link and the Labrador-Island Link; NB’s investment in smart grid technology; NL’s investment in renewable hydroelectric generation; and the region’s investments in energy efficiency.

- This progress has occurred despite unique challenges in Atlantic Canada:
  - Atlantic Canada has a geographically dispersed population of approximately 2.4 million spread across six functional energy islands” that must be connected by costly transmission lines;
  - Most of Atlantic Canada has no access to natural gas; and,
  - Atlantic Canada’s population is the most rural in Canada (NL also has over 20 off-grid diesel-reliant systems).

- Given the region’s shared challenges and priorities, the region has cooperated through forums such as the Regional Electricity Cooperation and Strategic Infrastructure Initiative (RECSI) and the Atlantic Clean Energy Partnership (ACEP).

RECSI
- The objective of the federally-funded, two-year RECSI, completed in summer 2018, was for Atlantic provincial governments and utilities to identify the most promising electricity infrastructure projects to reduce regional carbon emissions. The Atlantic RECSI Summary for Policy Makers was publicly released in August 2018.

- NRCan has committed to work with Atlantic provinces to investigate a short- and medium-term incremental renewable resource development plan as a result of RECSI.

ACEP
- The ACEP, announced by Atlantic Premiers in April 2017, was created to identify opportunities to improve and strengthen the region’s energy sector and drive economic activity including focusing on electrification of space heating and transportation supplied by clean and renewable energy on smart, integrated and resilient networks and grids.

First Ministers’ Clean Electric Future
- In December 2018, First Ministers agreed to collaborate on ways to improve clean growth, beginning with a discussion on development of a framework for a clean electric future, including hydroelectricity, aimed at using clean, reliable and affordable electricity and to promote access to domestic and international markets. First Ministers further agreed that interested jurisdictions could explore opportunities for utility corridors in Canada.
Council of Atlantic Premiers' meeting

- The 33rd meeting of the Council of Atlantic Premiers (CAP) was held in Charlottetown, PEI on January 23, 2019. The meeting communiqué noted that Premiers recognized there are significant economic development and GHG reduction opportunities provided by the Atlantic region's clean energy assets and resources and it was agreed that Premiers should engage the federal government to seek partnership in a regional transmission system, clean energy infrastructure, smart systems and electrification.
Information Note
Department of Natural Resources

Title: Regional Electricity Collaboration

Issue: Developing a strategic roadmap to plan and deliver electricity for the Atlantic Region, focusing on the potential of east-west and north-south supply opportunities.

Background and Current Status:

- Given Atlantic Canada’s shared energy challenges and priorities, the region has cooperated through forums such as the Regional Electricity Cooperation and Strategic Infrastructure Initiative (RECSI) and the Atlantic Clean Energy Partnership (ACEP).

- The objective of the federally-funded, two-year RECSI, completed in summer 2018, was for Atlantic governments and utilities to identify the most promising electricity infrastructure projects to reduce regional carbon emissions. The Atlantic RECSI Summary for Policy Makers was publicly released in August 2018.

- The ACEP, announced by Atlantic Premiers in April 2017, was created to identify opportunities to improve and strengthen the region’s energy sector and drive economic activity including focusing on electrification of space heating and transportation supplied by clean and renewable energy on smart, integrated and resilient networks and grids.

Analysis:

- As an initiative of the Council of Atlantic Premiers (CAP) that met January 23, 2019, Premiers agreed to engage the federal government to seek partnership in a regional transmission system, clean energy infrastructure, smart systems and electrification. Atlantic Premiers also discussed the importance of energy/utility corridors and recognized that existing stranded energy resources could be brought to national and international markets by connecting them to the national grid.
The Roadmap will outline a collective vision for how jurisdictions will collaborate over the coming decades to build a clean power superhighway across Atlantic Canada (see Appendix A). The federal government has committed up to $2 million over two years to support the development of the Roadmap, including studies and analysis.

**Action Being Taken:**

- A Deputy Minister’s call will be scheduled for mid-April to approve the Terms of Reference.
- Regular teleconference calls of the Committee will continue.

**Prepared by/Reviewed by:** R. Bates / Approval: PENDING

March 21, 2019
Meeting Note
Department of Natural Resources
Meeting with Honourable Derek Mombourquette, Minister of Energy and Mines,
Government of Nova Scotia
Meeting Place: TBD
Time and Date: 4:30-5:00pm, July 17, 2019

Attendees:
Derek Mombourquette, Minister of Energy and Mines, Government of Nova Scotia
Siobhan Coady, Minister of Natural Resources, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Purpose of Meeting:
• To provide information for a bilateral meeting between Minister Coady and Minister Mombourquette at the EMMC, 2019

Background:
• On March 1, 2019 Atlantic Premiers and Federal Ministers agreed to work together to develop a Clean Power Roadmap for Atlantic Canada. The roadmap will build upon existing collaboration through the recently completed Regional Electricity Cooperation and Strategic Infrastructure (RECSI) Initiative.

• The main objective of RECSI was to gain regional consensus on the most promising electricity infrastructure projects that could support transition to lower greenhouse-gas emissions and the replacement of coal-fired generating capacity in Atlantic Canada.

• The Clean Power Roadmap will build on this existing work to outline a vision for how the Federal Government, the Atlantic Provinces and electric utilities can build a clean power network across the region producing more clean power while improving transmission networks, better integrating regional markets and regulatory regimes, and strengthening reliability.

• Emera Inc. is a geographically diverse energy and services company headquartered in Halifax, Nova Scotia with investments in Canada, the USA and in four Caribbean countries. Emera has $32 billion in assets and 2018 revenues of more than $6.5 billion. Investments include electricity generation, transmission and distribution; gas transmission and distribution; and utility energy services.

• ENL is also a wholly-owned subsidiary of Emera Inc. and was established in 2010 as the business entity responsible for the company’s strategic investments in NL, notably the Muskrat Falls and Maritime Link projects.

Potential Agenda item 1 (Atlantic Regional Clean Power)
• NRCan with NS is co-leading a committee of senior officials from the Atlantic governments and utilities (the Atlantic Regional Clean Power Partnership Committee) to outline a collective vision for a clean power network across the region to reduce NS and NB fossil fuel power generation. This includes new generation, transmission, regional system planning and regulation, and electrification.
Potential Speaking Point:
- NL is pleased to work with NS, NB, and NRCan, as well as QC, to find power supply solutions and that can benefit all provinces in the region.
In addition to new supply and transmission, NL would be pleased to work with NS to better understand options for greater regional collaboration and planning.

Potential Agenda item 2 (Muskat Falls Project)
- Ministers will discuss status of the Muskat Falls Project.

Analysis:
- The Lower Churchill Management Corporation report released on June 21, 2019 indicated as of the end of April:
  - Overall construction of the MFP reached 98% completion;
  - The Muskat Falls generation project reached 95% completion;
  - Both the Labrador-Island Transmission Link and the transmission line connecting Churchill Falls to Muskat Falls remained at over 99% complete.
- Construction of Labrador Transmission Assets (LTA) is complete. Activities on the LTA continued during the month including punch list items in both the Churchill Falls and Muskat Falls switchyards.
- Construction of the Labrador-Island Transmission Link (LIL) from Muskat 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 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 April include $4.814 billion for generation, $856 million for the Labrador Transmission Assets and $3.516 billion for the Labrador – Island Transmission Link.
- On April 22, the project celebrated a milestone of 15 million person hours without a lost-time incident at the MF site. There were no lost-time injuries during April (16 on the project to date) and no medical aid incidents (114 on the project to date).

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 Muskat Falls Project Oversight Committee released its quarterly project update report on June 27, 2019. That 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 Muskat Falls generation is scheduled to be online by late 2019. Commissioning of MF generation, LTA and LIL is scheduled for September 2020.

Potential Speaking Points
- Newfoundland and Labrador recognizes and has experienced the value of partnering with Nova Scotia to advance energy priorities.
• The completion of the Muskrat Falls Project will enable Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro to displace approximately one million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions annually from its 490 MW oil-fired thermal generating station in Holyrood.

• Newfoundland and Labrador can collaborate with NS to develop options from NL’s suite of undeveloped renewable sources to assist NS in achieving its priorities. Development options include new Island hydro capacity with new wind; small hydro energy and capacity; Churchill Falls expansion upgrades, and Gull Island.

• Transmission routes from Labrador can include new routes through the Island or via QC.

• We must continue to work together on our common interests. This includes petitioning the federal government for support of export energy products and access to inter-provincial transmission.

Potential Agenda item 3 (Mines Sector)

• In 2018, the preliminary estimate of mineral production in Nova Scotia was $372 million. By comparison, Newfoundland and Labrador’s value of mineral shipments for 2018 is estimated at $2.8 billion.

• The mining industry in Nova Scotia is regulated by the Geoscience and Mines Branch of the Department of Energy and Mines. The Branch consists of two divisions: Geological Services and Mineral Management Division.

• The Geological Services division is responsible for conducting and analyzing geological and geochemical mapping and related studies. This is similar to the Newfoundland and Labrador Geological Survey.

• The Mineral Management Division regulates mineral rights, exploration and mine development. This is similar to the Newfoundland and Labrador Mineral Development and Mineral Lands divisions.

• As part of Budget 2019-20, Nova Scotia increased the Mineral Resources Development Fund by $800,000 to a total of $1.5 million. Last year, the province supported 28 projects including mineral exploration programs, professional development, innovation, university research and training opportunities for young people.

• New Mineral Resources Act regulations were introduced on November 14, 2018 for Nova Scotia’s mining industry. The new rules are expected to save companies money, reduce red tape, encourage mineral exploration and provide a clear regulatory path that allows development and protection to coexist.

• Anaconda Mining Inc. is developing the Goldboro Gold Project in Nova Scotia, a high-grade resource and the subject of an on-going feasibility study. The Project was originally envisioned with its ore being transported to Pine Cove near Baie Verte for processing. The ongoing feasibility study is expected to now be based on a full-scale milling facility at Goldboro.

• The Nova Scotia mining industry produces peat, quartz, sand and gravel, stone, cement, clay products, coal and gypsum.
  o Aggregates are the leading mineral produced in Nova Scotia – approximately 9 million tonnes per year for domestic consumption and 4 million tonnes per year for export.
- Nova Scotia is home to the world’s largest open pit gypsum mine at East Milford and also produces gypsum from Little Narrows, Cape Breton Island.
- Salt is currently produced from an underground mine in Pugwash and a solution mining operation at Nappan. Production averages one million tonnes of rock salt per year.
- Coal production has recently occurred at several surface reclamation projects. This accounts for more than 500,000 tonnes of current coal production in the province.

Analysis
- As part of Mining the Future 2030, the province will be implementing clear and efficient regulatory processes by modernizing the Mineral Act (1976) and Mining Act (1999). NL is committed to continue working with industry stakeholders and other governmental departments to grow the mining sector in a manner that is responsible, sustainable, competitive and inclusive.

- NL supports private sector investments and job growth in rural areas. Anaconda will outline its plan for processing of the gold from its Goldboro Mine in Nova Scotia with its upcoming feasibility study.

Potential Speaking Point:
- NL may look to Nova Scotia for advice when regulatory updates are underway as part of its jurisdictional review to assess competitiveness of the province’s mining industry through its action plan on Mining the Future 2030.

Ministerial Approval: 
July 9, 2019
New England Governors/Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP) Briefing Book
Background Note – Atlantic Canadian Energy Collaboration
Department of Natural Resources

Issue: To provide an overview of Atlantic Canadian energy collaboration to support a private discussion among Premiers during the NEG/ECP conference in Saint John, NB.

Background and Current Status:
- In recent years, PTs in Atlantic Canada have collaborated on clean energy priorities, such as through the Regional Electricity Cooperation and Strategic Infrastructure Initiative (RECSI) and the Atlantic Clean Energy Partnership (ACEP).
  - The federally-funded, two-year RECSI, completed in summer 2018, was a federal initiative to work with Atlantic provinces and utilities to identify the most promising electricity infrastructure projects (generation and transmission) to reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions.
  - The ACEP, announced by Atlantic Premiers in April 2017, was created to identify opportunities to improve and strengthen the region’s energy sector and drive economic activity including focusing on electrification of space heating and transportation supplied by clean and renewable energy on smart, integrated and resilient networks and grids.
- At the March 2019 Atlantic Growth Strategy meeting, Atlantic Provinces agreed to build on RECSI and ACEP by collaborating with utilities and the Federal Government to develop a Clean Power Roadmap for Atlantic Canada. This work, to be co-chaired by NRCAN and NS, will outline a collective vision for how the Federal Government, the Atlantic Provinces and electric utilities will collaborate to build a clean power network across the region to produce and use more clean energy in the region while improving transmission networks, better integrating regional markets and regulatory regimes, and strengthening reliability.
Analysis

- Energy collaboration in the Atlantic region aligns with NL’s clean energy priorities to electrify the economy, find new domestic customers and to maximize exports. These initiatives help mitigate the impact of the Muskrat Falls Project and were raised as possible options in the PUB interim report on mitigating the MFP in February 2019 as well as in Government’s April 2019 “Protecting You from the Cost Impacts of Muskrat Falls” plan.

- In December 2018, Canada announced regulations to phase-out traditional coal-fired electricity by 2030. Though coal accounted for 8.6 per cent of Canada’s electricity generation in 2017, the share of provincial electricity supply from coal was 47.9 per cent in NS, and 15.8 per cent in NB. In addition to coal, existing generation in NB and NS have varying end of useful life dates, thus requiring NB and NS to consider their long term new supply options such as new nuclear at Point Lepreau (NB), Gull Island (Labrador), Churchill Falls upgrades, various smaller scale projects throughout the region, and QC.

- This initiative and the planned phase-out of coal-fired generation in NB and NS may provide an opportunity for the Province, contingent on additional transmission capacity, to maximize exports from current sources and to develop other generation projects (e.g., Gull Island – 2,250MW capacity and 11.9TWh energy; or Churchill Falls Upgrades and Expansion – 1,500MW and 1TWh energy).

Potential Speaking Points (Note: These will be included in a separate tab for the Premier to use in a private meeting with just Premiers.)

- NL has vast renewable energy resources including wind, tidal, and hydro, such as the Gull Island project, which alone has the potential for 2,250 MW. NL’s developed and undeveloped renewable resources can assist other provinces to meet their energy needs and greenhouse gas reduction targets.
• NL is pleased to work with QC along with NS, NB, PEI and NRCan to find power supply solutions that can benefit all provinces in the region.

• The development of a Clean Power Roadmap for Atlantic Canada provides a good opportunity for us to leverage the federal government’s policy priorities, and its support for a clean electric future, in the development of regional efforts to enhance system reliability, electrify the economy and to continue leading in national greenhouse gas reductions.

Prepared/Reviewed by: R. Hodder/K. Bradbury

Approval:

August 28, 2019