

December 11, 2019



Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (File # NR-235-2019)

On November 13, 2019, the Department of Natural Resources received your request for access to the following records/information:

From NR-231-2019 the Information Note "Renewable Energy in Diesel Communities"

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) 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;

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.

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
ATIPP Coordinator

**Information Note
Department of Natural Resources**

Title: Renewable Energy in Diesel Communities

Issue: To provide an update on the evaluation of proposals received under the expressions of interest (EOI) for renewable energy solutions in the province’s regulated isolated diesel systems.

Background and Current Status:

- On April 15, 2019, the Department of Natural Resources (NR), in partnership with Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro (NLH) released a request for EOIs for renewable energy solutions in the province’s regulated isolated diesel-powered electricity systems.
- The EOI was to solicit input from the marketplace for potential renewable energy solutions (i.e. wind, small scale hydro, biomass, solar, etc.) in 14 of the province’s regulated isolated diesel-powered electricity systems.
- On July 8, 2019, the EOI closed. In total, 22 proponents submitted proposals. Before reviewing the proposal, NLH and NR prepared a scoring matrix as a tool for preliminary screening of proposals based on guiding principles identified in the request for EOIs.

[Redacted]

S.29.1.a
S.35.1.d
S.35.1.g

Analysis:

- Since receiving the proposals, NLH and NR have had multiple discussions and meetings to discuss the submissions and evaluate them [Redacted]. A summary document outlining NLH’s and NR’s review and analysis of each proposal is currently being finalized for ministerial review.

S.29.1.a
S.35.1.d
S.35.1.g

- [Redacted] This is an important consideration given the Province’s April 2019, “Protecting you from the Cost Impacts of Muskrat Falls” plan, which aims to reduce the subsidy by \$7.4 million in 2021.

S.29.1.a
S.35.1.d
S.35.1.g

- NLH’s and NR’s evaluation have identified a number of proposals that [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

S.29.1.a
S.35.1.d
S.35.1.g

- NLH determined it required a document outlining the minimum standard interconnection requirements for renewable energy systems connecting to NLH's isolated diesel systems. As such, NLH requested and reviewed proposals on these interconnection guidelines from four engineer consulting companies with whom it has a master standing agreement for technical engineering services.
- These guidelines will assist NLH and NR in making more meaningful comparisons between the proposals. Further, these guidelines will be shared with proponents as they will:
 - ensure the reliability of these systems meets NLH's requirements;
 - outline the roles and responsibilities of the parties involved; and,
 - ensure parties understand what will be required of any proposed systems intending to interface with NLH's systems.
- NLH is in the process of awarding the development of a standard interconnection document and expects that the selected consultant can begin within the next two weeks and will require 2-3 months to deliver the finalized interconnection document.
- NLH is also working on standardizing its power purchase agreement (PPA) approach, as currently the PPAs in place for various generating projects across the province have different payment structures (i.e. share the savings, fuel offset, fixed price with escalation).
- A standardized PPA approach would make it easier for proponents to evaluate the financials of their proposed projects, and make it easier for NLH to evaluate projects on a fair basis of comparison. As such, NLH is examining the structure of PPAs in other jurisdictions to determine best practices. This will assist NLH in developing a standard approach for future renewable energy PPAs in the isolated diesel systems.

Prepared/Reviewed by: C. Boland (with input from L. MacDonald, NR and Renee Smith, NLH)/ C. Snook

Approved by:



October 4, 2019

Annex A: List of EOI Proposals

Company
Ameresco Canada Inc.
ABB Grid Edge Solutions
Ascent Systems Technology
ATCO
Big Moon Corporation
BMT Canada Ltd.
Brookfield BRP Canada Corp.
CIMA CANADA INC.
Evergreen Energy Corp.
Force Energy Systems Inc.
Frontier Power Systems Inc.
Growler Energy
IFE Project Management Inc.
Northern Energy Capital Inc.
NRStor Incorporated
Nunacor Development Corp.
Roswall Development Inc.
Stantec
Switch Power Corporation
Tugliq Énergie
Wind Project Inc.
Switch Power Corporation