Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (File # NR-176-2018)

On September 28, 2018 the Department of Natural Resources received your request for access to the following records/information:

I am seeking copies of the following notes as outlined below

Electric Vehicle Innovation in NL

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 records are 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,

Rod Hynes  
ATIPP Coordinator
Overview: To provide background information on electric vehicles in NL to support NEG-ECP’s session on *The Role of Policy to Drive EV Innovation*, a panel discussion on how to push the region into the next stage of EV adoption.

Background and Current Status:

- At the 2017 NEG-ECP conference, Premiers and Governors approved *Resolution 41-4 Concerning Transportation*. This Resolution seeks to build on *Resolution 37-3 of achieving a five per cent market penetration rate of alternative fuel vehicles by 2020* and to facilitate the availability of alternative fuel and EV charging stations to support EVs. *Resolution 41-4* also committed to:
  - Acknowledge the importance of cross-border collaboration and coordination in identifying EV travel corridors and in supporting the development of an interoperable EV charging network along those corridors that will enable travel throughout the region.
  - Governors and Premiers collaboratively take the required steps to establish a regional network of electric charging corridors to reach 2020 horizon.

- NEG-ECP data states that the region currently has over 51,600 EVs and over 4,000 charging stations.

- Recent data from NL’s Motor Registration Division (MRD) indicates there are approximately 60 EVs and 364 plug-in hybrids registered in NL. There are approximately 70 level II charging stations in the province (slower charging stations requiring up to several hours to recharge a battery EV or plug-in hybrid EV). There are no known Level III (fast charge, less than 30 minutes) stations in the province.

- The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has taken a number of actions to enhance the up-take of EVs in the province, including:
  - Providing $52,000 to Green Rock E.V.S. (now closed), through the Province’s former Green Fund. Funding was used to supply and install five residential and 14 commercial EV charging stations.
  - Releasing a report on electric vehicle technology, infrastructure requirements and market developments in 2015.
  - In 2017, launching a Vehicle Efficiency and Cost Calculator to inform consumers about the costs and benefits associated with purchasing fuel efficient and alternatively powered vehicles such as EVs.

- In November 2017, the Province formed an Electric Vehicle Working Group (EVWG), consisting of members from NR, MAE, Newfoundland Power, Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, Newfoundland and Labrador Environmental Industry Association, the City of Mount Pearl and the City of St. John’s. The EVWG is researching the following topics: EV policy options, GHG reduction potential, lifecycle cost considerations, charging infrastructure, grid impacts and leveraging federal funding to support EV uptake in the Province. A forthcoming document from the EVWG will contain recommendations on the Province’s long-term policy approach to EVs.

- Provincial officials are also participating in the development of a national Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Strategy and are active on a Canada-wide government-industry-utility working group on EV infrastructure and grid readiness.
In addition to the actions identified above, NR committed in The Way Forward to work with industry and stakeholders to develop a renewable energy plan in 2018-19. The role of EVs in the province will be examined as part of this process.

Analysis:

- A comprehensive, long-term provincial approach will help increase ZEV penetration in the province. This may include, among other items, public awareness initiatives, consumer incentives, infrastructure investments in charging stations and electricity transmission and distribution networks, and addressing regulatory issues related to the sale of electricity by building owners to vehicle owners (i.e., a private sector company cannot sell electricity for profit without being designated as a regulated utility by the Public Utilities Board).

- As the majority of the province’s electricity is generated from renewable resources, increasing the use of EVs provides an opportunity to:
  - Reduce the province’s GHG emissions; and,
  - Increase off-peak electricity usage on the province’s interconnected systems which could help manage the electricity rates associated with Muskrat Falls.

- Increasing off-peak electricity usage can be done if owners of EVs charge their vehicles overnight and when demand on the electricity system is lower. This has many potential benefits, including NLH selling electricity to recharge EVs at domestic retail rates rather than selling to export markets at lower export rates.

- In a NL context, the effects of EVs on the local electricity grid and their impacts on generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure appear to be manageable at lower levels of EV penetration. A more detailed review of electricity distribution infrastructure may be required by the utilities at higher levels of penetration.

- NR continues to seek opportunities to leverage federal funding for EVs and related infrastructure, including Natural Resource Canada’s anticipated second call for proposals for EV charging infrastructure projects in late 2018.

- While NL has limited

Prepared/Approved by: W. Skinner/L. MacDonald/J. Cowan
Ministerial Approval: August 3, 2018