

October 29, 2018



Dear 

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (File # NR-190-2018)

On September 30, 2018, the Department of Natural Resources received your request for access to the following records/information:

For the past twelve months any briefing notes or reports on Gull Island.

On October 17, 2018, you further confirmed you are only looking for Briefing Notes or reports that specifically and substantively addresses Gull Island.

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.

We have provided you with access to as much information as possible but have made redactions under S.29(1)(a) and S.34(1)(a)(i) of ATIPPA, 2015.

Additionally, there is one record (the Atlantic Regional Electricity Cooperation and Strategic Infrastructure's (RECSI) final report from July 2018) which was created for Natural Resources Canada and can be obtained directly from them at the following website: <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/node/21294/>. Therefore in accordance with S.22(1)(a) of ATIPPA, 2015 we are not including this record in our responsive record package.

S.22(1)(a) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose a record or part of a record that is published and is available to the public whether without cost or for purchase;

S.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;

S.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 that government and the following or their agencies: the government of Canada or a province

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 black ink that reads "Rod Hynes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'R' and 'H'.

Rod Hynes
ATIPP Coordinator

Information Note
Department of Natural Resources

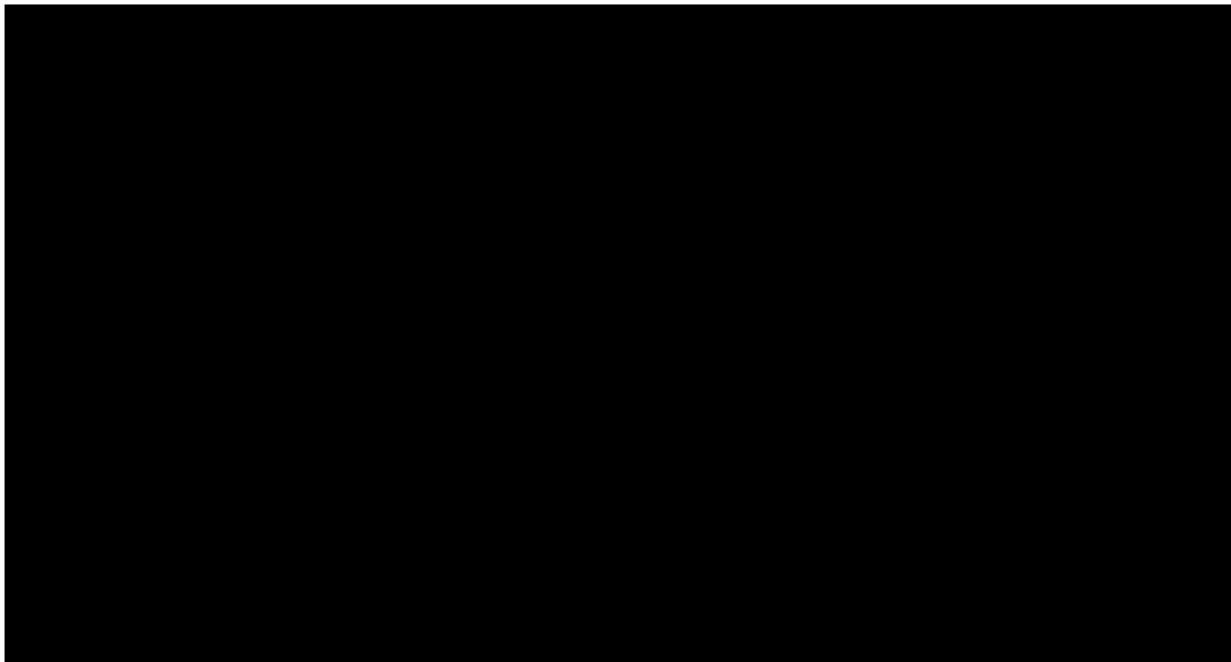
Title: Regional Electricity Cooperation and Strategic Infrastructure Report

Issue: To provide background information on the Atlantic Regional Electricity Cooperation and Strategic Infrastructure's (RECSI) final report.

Background and Current Status:

- The 2016 federal budget allocated \$2.5 million over two years to Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) to facilitate two regional dialogues and studies in Western and Atlantic Canada. The studies used simulation models to assess promising electricity infrastructure projects to help the regions meet their future electricity needs while lowering greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. NRCan is leading the Atlantic RECSI initiative with support from ACOA.
- The Atlantic RECSI study includes steering and technical advisory committees of senior officials from Nova Scotia (NS), New Brunswick (NB), Prince Edward Island (PEI), and Newfoundland and Labrador and utility officials meeting several times annually. The Department of Natural Resources (NR) and NL Hydro participated in the study on behalf of Newfoundland and Labrador. RECSI participants previously agreed that under the guidance of the Technical Advisory Committee, Nova Scotia Power (NSP) would lead the completion of an economic and power-flow modelling study. Hatch was chosen as the consultant for the study.
- On July 17, 2018 Hatch released the final report for the study (the Report) to the Atlantic RECSI steering committee. As noted above, the main objective of the Report was to gain regional consensus on the most promising electricity projects in the region. The Report also provides insight into challenges faced by the region as it moves toward the replacement of coal-fired electricity generation in NB and NS, and as the region deals with an expected load increase due to the electrification of buildings and transportation over 2030-2040.

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S.29(1)(a) S.34(1)(a)(i)

S.29(1)(a)

S.34(1)(a)(i)

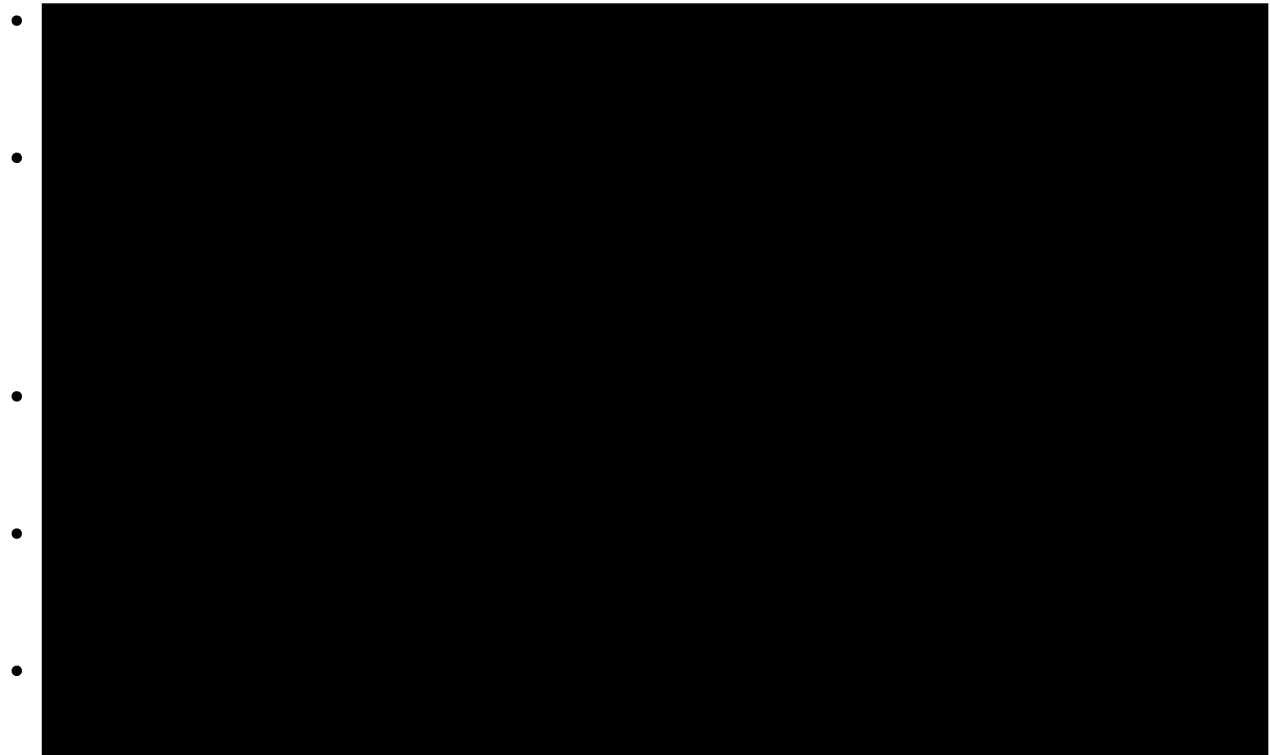


- The Atlantic Region RECSI Summary for Policy Makers was publicly released leading up to the August 2018 Energy and Mines Minister Conference.
- The Summary document notes that federal funding programs such as the Smart Grid and Emerging Renewable Power programs (both closed), may be leveraged to expand renewable energy development in the region. The Province’s infrastructure bilateral agreements and the forthcoming Canada Infrastructure Bank may also provide options for funding clean electricity generation/transmission projects.

Analysis:

S.29(1)(a)

S.34(1)(a)(i)



Action Being Taken:

- NR will continue to participate in RECSI and in working to find ways to export excess energy.

Prepared / Approved by: S. Brewer/ L. MacDonald/ C. Snook / J. Cowan
Ministerial Approval:

October 5, 2018