March 12, 2019

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (File # NR-16-2019)

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

Any messaging or draft messaging prepared for the Department or Minister since January 1st, 2019. In addition, any benchmarks/status updates/lists outlining levels of completion of "The Way Forward" initiatives.

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.

We are providing access to the most information possible but have made one redaction in accordance with Section 29(1)(a) 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.

Please be advised that you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the processing of your access request, as set out in section 42 of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act). 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.
The address and contact information of 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

You may also appeal directly to the Supreme Court Trial Division within 15 business days after you receive the decision of the public body, pursuant to section 52 of the Act.

Please be advised that this letter will be published following a 72 hour period after it 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 letter posted to the Office of Public Engagement’s website within one business day following the applicable period of time.

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
ISSUE:
The CNLOPB has approved Husky’s plan to recover a weak link and plug the flowline. The Board will also allow Husky to resume production at the Central Drill Centre only.

ANTICIPATED QUESTIONS:
Q. What has government been doing in response to the November oil spill?
Q. Is there a chance that more oil will be spilled during the recovery process?

KEY MESSAGES:

- There are numerous conditions around Husky’s plan to ensure it is carried out safely and in an environmentally responsible manner.
- Recovering the weak link will aid in the ongoing investigation.
- A spill response plan is in place and spill response contractor will be on site during the recovery operation.

SECONDARY MESSAGING:

- The CNLOPB is still investigating the spill in November under its powers as per the Atlantic Accord Implementation Acts. The CNLOPB will publicly release the findings of the investigation.
- We will continue to make necessary improvements in our regulatory framework to ensure the safety of offshore workers and protect the environment.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- In place in our offshore today is a rigorous and exhaustive regulatory process which focuses first, and foremost, on worker safety and protection of the environment.
- Government’s role is to continuously improve these processes to meet the needs of a growing industry.
In 2015, governments made changes to strengthen the regulatory regime for oil spill liability including:

- Reinforcing the "polluter-pays principle"
- Increase "absolute" liability (no fault) limits in the offshore to $1 billion
- Established $1 billion minimum financial resources (capacity) requirements
- Increase "direct access" amount required from authorization holders to $100 m with option for industry to develop a fund of $250 m available to all regulators
- Permit the safe use of spill treating agents
ISSUE:
Husky is delaying the tow-out and installation date of the West White Rose concrete gravity structure from 2021 to 2022.

ANTICIPATED QUESTIONS:
Q. How will the tow-out delay impact the province?

KEY MESSAGES:
• Delays are not uncommon with projects of this nature and magnitude.

• Husky’s scope of work and person hours of work will not change.

• The West White Rose project is still on schedule for first oil in 2022, just later in the year

SECONDARY MESSAGING:
• The company does not anticipate significant changes in employment impacts. There are 750-800 people employed on two shifts in Argenita.

• Accelerating work to make the weather window for 2021 would have resulted in substantial cost escalation for Husk, with no guarantee of success.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
• The flare boom, helideck and the lifeboat stations will still be constructed in the province. However, changing the tow out date may impact the timing of awarding some contracts.

• The installation season for the province’s offshore is from May to September.

• The topsides will be mated with the concrete gravity structure offshore.
KEY MESSAGES

Natural Resources
CNLOPB allows Husky to resume production and recover weak link
January 30, 2019

Summary:
- The CNLOPB has approved Husky's plan to recover a weak link and plug the flowline. The Board will also allow Husky to resume production at the Central Drill Centre only. On November 16, 2018, the SeaRose FPSO experienced a loss of pressure from a subsea flowline to the South White Rose Drill Centre, while preparing to restart production. Husky estimates 250,000 litres of oil was released to the environment.

Anticipated Questions:
- What has government been doing in response to this oil spill?

Key Messages:
- For this government safety of offshore workers and environmental protection is paramount.

- Government has been notified that the CNLOPB has approved Husky's plan to resume production and recover the weak link and plug the flow line where the oil spill occurred.

- There are numerous conditions around Husky's plan to ensure it is carried out safely and in an environmentally responsible manner.

- Recovering the weak link will aid in the ongoing investigation and help all parties learn from this incident.

- A spill response plan is in place and spill response contractor Eastern Canada Response Corporation will be on site during the recovery operation.

Secondary Messages:
- The CNLOPB is still investigating the spill in November under its powers as per the Atlantic Accord Implementation Acts. The CNLOPB will publicly release the findings of the investigation.

- We will continue to make necessary improvements in our regulatory framework to ensure the safety of offshore workers and protect the environment.

- The C-NLOPB is responsible for regulating and overseeing compliance of all activities of operators in the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Area. Worker safety and environmental protection are paramount in all the C-NLOPB's decisions.
Natural Resources
CNLOPB Changes Land Tenure Schedule
February 4, 2019

Summary:
The CNLOPB is amending its Scheduled Land Tenure System in four offshore areas.

Anticipated Questions:
• Why has the CNLOPB changed the timing of the closure of these land parcels offshore?
• Are you cutting back on the amount of land available for bids?

Key Messages:
• The schedule changes will provide greater certainty and predictability for companies wishing to explore for oil and gas as an Environmental Assessment in the Southern Newfoundland Area and the Labrador Strategic Environment Assessment will occur.
• Natural Resources is working with the Federal Government on a Regional Assessment of offshore exploratory drilling in Eastern Newfoundland. This new approach on environmental assessment has the potential to expedite exploration and drilling.
• The scheduled changes are expected to maximize competition and work commitments for offshore acreage.

Secondary Messages:
• The 2019 Call for Bids is located in South Eastern Newfoundland offshore region (Low Activity Region) and it will close in November 2019. This is the first time a call for bids will occur in a Low Activity Region.
• Unawarded parcels, upon closure of Call for Bids in this Low Activity Region will be reposted with next Scheduled Call for Bids for the region.

Prepared by:

Approved by:
KEY MESSAGES

Natural Resources
Husky delays West White Rose tow out
February 8, 2019

Summary:
Husky is delaying the tow-out and installation date of the West White Rose concrete gravity structure from 2021 to 2022.

Anticipated Questions:

• How will the tow-out delay impact the province?

Key Messages:
• The department of Natural Resources has met with Husky. Delays are not uncommon with projects of this nature and magnitude.
• Husky’s scope of work and person hours of work will not change. The company does not anticipate significant changes in employment impacts. There are 750-800 people employed on two shifts in Argenita.
• The flare boom, helideck and the lifeboat stations will still be constructed in the province. However, changing the tow out date may impact the timing of awarding some contracts.
• The West White Rose project is still on schedule for first oil in 2022, just later in the year.

Secondary Messages:
• The installation season for the province’s offshore is from May to September.
• Accelerating work to make the weather window for 2021 would have resulted in substantial cost escalation for Husk, with no guarantee of success.
• The topsides will be mated with the concrete gravity structure offshore.

Prepared by:

Approved by:
QP Issue Note
Department of Natural Resources

ISSUE:
On February 15 the PUB released their interim report. The report states government needs $342 million to $744 million for rate mitigation.

ANTICIPATED QUESTIONS:
Q: How is the province going to find $744 million to manage rates?
Q: Are power rates going up?

KEY MESSAGES:
• The PUB's report outlines options to overcome this challenge
• Taxes will not increase to pay for Muskrat Falls, and ratepayers will not pay for cost overruns.
• We are already taking action to pay for Muskrat Falls. In Budget 2018, the Province allocated $200 million for rate management starting in 2021.

SECONDARY MESSAGING:
• To pay for Muskrat Falls we will grow our revenue, cut costs, and manage the project's financing.
• We will convert government buildings from oil to electricity and encourage people to use electricity. That way, we increase the number of ratepayers so can we spread the cost over more customers, and reduce the impact on any one individual.
• We will be smarter about how we use power and will export more during higher valued times

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
• Financing costs represent more than half of the total price tag for the Muskrat Falls project. We have already negotiated a second Federal Loan Guarantee to manage Muskrat, which shows the level of partnership we have with our Federal Government.
• To control the cost and schedule of Muskrat Falls we have:
  o Controlled the cost and schedule of the project
  o Appointed a new chair and CEO at Nalcor
  o Secured a second loan guarantee from the Federal Government worth $2.9 billion
  o Appointed new members to the oversight committee
  o Launched a public inquiry to find out what went wrong
  o Allocated $200 million in the budget for rate management
  o Tasked with Nalcor addressing rising rates
  o Created a panel within government working on the issue
  o And commissioned the PUB to review rates and create this report.
Key Messages – Rate Mitigation

• The solution to mitigating the costs associated with the Muskrat Falls Project is multifaceted and not simply asking the Federal Government fix all the challenges present by the project.

• In the two years that remain before Muskrat Falls costs come due, we are continuing our work to protect ratepayers and taxpayers from bearing the brunt of the Muskrat Falls Project.

• We have undertaken a multifaceted approach to this challenge. We have secured an enhanced federal loan guarantee; Budget 2017 directed Nalcor to establish a “Rate Management Reserve” and to identify opportunities to lower rates; and, Natural Resources, Finance, and Nalcor also have a working group on rate mitigation.

• In September 2018, our Government also filed a reference question to the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities (PUB) to examine options to mitigate the impact of the Muskrat Falls Project.

• The reference question focuses on rate mitigation options, including both cost savings and revenue opportunities that involve all Nalcor subsidiaries. In addition, it asks the PUB to determine the domestic need for Muskrat Falls power versus the export availability, and asks the PUB to quantify the impact of the rate management options it identifies.

• The PUB engaged two consultants, Liberty and Synapse, to assist with the reference question. The consultants filed interim reports on preliminary findings on January 2, 2019. Both interim reports identify opportunities for cost savings and revenue enhancements, including through export sales, electrification, conservation and demand management, debt financing and more.

• As work continues by the two consultants, the PUB will deliver an interim report by February 15, 2019 and a final report by January 31, 2020.

• As committed, the reports will be made public and the information provided will be used to inform the final approach to mitigating Muskrat Falls.

• While these processes unfold, Government is also examining every option at its disposal to mitigate the impact of the Muskrat Falls Project. This includes initiatives like electrification of buildings and homes, vehicles and other fossil fuel-burning applications as well as looking at new customers and maximizing the value from exporting any surplus power that is made available. Growing the customer base for the province’s electricity generation can reduce the revenue required from existing customers.

• Beyond these ongoing initiatives, Government will also work with the federal government on rate mitigation and demonstrate we are also making concrete positive steps within our own Government and province.
Key Messages:

- NR is working with GNL departments and agencies and the utilities to identify electrification projects to mitigate Muskrat Falls. Electrification of Newfoundland and Labrador’s economy is a key energy policy priority for the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. Electrifying space heating, transportation and other fossil fuel-burning applications is the next step to major reductions in Newfoundland and Labrador carbon emissions, given that 98 percent of the Province’s electricity will come from renewable energy by 2021.

- There are 20 regulated diesel-powered electricity systems in province, serving approx. 3,400 customers with total installed capacity of 37 MW. As mandated by the Premier, DNR is committed to seek opportunities to develop renewable energy in communities isolated from the grid, such as those in Coastal Labrador. Finding reliable, cost-effective, renewable energy solutions in these rural and remote communities is a key priority for Newfoundland and Labrador.

- Peak shaving can help manage system costs, and potentially enhance export opportunities. Critical Peak Pricing (CPP) generally refers to a voluntary rate program where customers are paid to curtail their electricity consumption at the request of the utility during periods when available capacity is limited. Developing CPP which reflects the cost of capacity during critical peak times can send appropriate price signals to customers that will incent them to shift or reduce their load requirements and, in turn, reduce the peak demands.

- Newfoundland and Labrador is ready to partner with the Federal and Provincial governments to provide renewable electricity in support of electrifying the Canadian economy.

- Partnerships such as ACEP and RECSI benefit our region. Newfoundland and Labrador looks forward to continue working together to identify opportunities to improve and strengthen the region’s energy sector and drive economic activity through our common priorities and shared goals.

- The Atlantic region already leads the country in GHG emission reductions and is poised to accelerate reductions with further clean energy projects. Working together as a region further strengthens our individual and shared priorities.

- A funding partnership between the Atlantic Provinces and the Federal government would ensure regional clean energy projects, that are priorities within each jurisdiction, would receive funding more efficiently.
Key Messages – Rate Mitigation

- The solution to paying the cost of the Muskrat Falls Project is multifaceted and not simply asking the Federal Government fix all the challenges present by the project.

- In the two years that remain before Muskrat Falls costs come due, we are continuing our work to protect ratepayers and taxpayers from bearing the brunt of the Muskrat Falls Project.

- We have undertaken a multifaceted approach to this challenge up until now. We have secured an enhanced federal loan guarantee; we have established a multi-departmental working group and a NR/Finance/Nalcor committee on rate management.

- In September 2015, our Government also filed a reference question to the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities (PUB) to examine options to mitigate the impact of the Muskrat Falls Project.

- The reference question focuses on rate mitigation options, including both cost savings and revenue opportunities that involve all Nalcor subsidiaries. In addition, it asks the PUB to determine the domestic need for Muskrat Falls power versus the export availability, and asks the PUB to quantify the impact of the rate management options it identifies.

- We were encouraged to read the interim reports by PUB reference question consultants Synapse and Liberty. They demonstrated insights into our situation and suggested areas for further work that we have been assessing carefully.

- We are pleased to receive the PUB’s interim report due on February 15, 2019 and we look forward to receiving a final report by January 31, 2020.

- As committed, the reports, both interim and final, will be made public. Additionally, we will be drawing on these reports to inform the final approach to managing Muskrat Falls.

- Beyond these processes, Government continues to examine every option at its disposal to mitigate the impact of the Muskrat Falls Project. This includes encouraging revenue growth and finding cost savings.

- In terms of revenue growth, we are focusing on electrifying oil-heated buildings, vehicles and other fossil fuel-burning applications as well as looking at new customers like data centres and export markets that can achieve greater value than limited ourselves to day-ahead spot market sales.

- Growing the customer base for the province’s electricity generation can reduce the revenue required from existing customers.

- In terms of cost savings, we are looking at finding operations and maintenance efficiencies and reducing diesel consumption to reduce the ratepayer-funded rural deficit subsidy for our off-grid diesel-generation electricity systems.
These are just some of the things our Government has been identifying, analyzing and implementing over the past year. Beyond these ongoing initiatives, Government will also work with the federal government on managing Muskrat costs and demonstrate we are also making concrete positive steps within our own Government and Province.

- We are taking action to close the gap on the Muskrat Falls Project. We are doing so in a way that will benefit Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. Not only will we protect ratepayers and taxpayers from the impact of the Muskrat Falls Project, we will also do so in a way that encourages innovation, increases energy security and reliability, and in a way that assists the province transition to a lower carbon economy.

- We are pleased to receive the PUB's interim report and will use the report to further inform our actions and plans. Together, we will address the mistakes of the past and chart a course for sustainable and lasting economic prosperity.
KEY MESSAGES

Natural Resources
Rate Mitigation
February 11, 2019

Summary:
• The PUB is scheduled to deliver an interim report by February 15, 2019 and a final report by January 31, 2020.

Anticipated Questions:
•

Key Messages:
• The interim reports released addresses preliminary findings - options to reduce the impact on rates and the amount of required and surplus energy and capacity from the Muskrat Falls Project. The Board’s final report is to set out its conclusions on these issues and address the rate impacts of the identified options and will be released late this year or early next.

• Government is examining every option at its disposal to mitigate the impact of the Muskrat Falls Project. This includes initiatives like electrification of buildings and homes, vehicles and other fossil fuel-burning applications as well as looking at new customers and maximizing the value from exporting any surplus power that is made available. Growing the customer base for the province's electricity generation can reduce the revenue required from existing customers.

• Beyond these ongoing initiatives, Government will also work with the federal government on rate mitigation and demonstrate we are also making concrete positive steps within our own Government and province.

Secondary Messages:
• The PUB engaged two consultants, Liberty and Synapse, to assist with the reference question. The consultants filed interim reports on preliminary findings on January 2, 2019. Both interim reports identify opportunities for cost savings and revenue enhancements, including through export sales, electrification, conservation and demand management, debt financing and more.
KEY MESSAGES

Natural Resources
PUB Interim Report
Tuesday, February 19, 2019

Summary:
The PUB's interim report states government needs $342 million to $744 million for rate mitigation.

Anticipated Questions:
- How is the province going to find $744 million to manage rates?
- Are power rates going up?

Key Messages:
- While this challenge seems daunting. It is possible to make up the short fall. The PUB's report outlines options to overcome this challenge.
- The report aligns and validates work we are already doing within government.
- Taxes will not increase to pay for Muskrat Falls, and ratepayers will not pay for cost overruns.
- We are already taking action to pay for Muskrat Falls. In Budget 2018, the Province allocated $200 million for rate management starting in 2021.
- To pay for Muskrat Falls we will grow our revenue, cut costs, and manage the project's financing.
- We will converting government buildings from oil to electricity and encourage people to use electricity. That way, we increase the number of ratepayers so can we spread the cost over more customers, and reduce the impact on any one individual.
- We will be smarter about how we use power and will export more during higher valued times.
- Financing costs represent more than half of the total price tag for the Muskrat Falls project. We have already negotiated a second Federal Loan Guarantee to manage Muskrat, which shows the level of partnership we have with our Federal Government.

Secondary Messages:
- We are making concrete and positive steps to manage Muskrat Falls within our own Government and Province.

- To control the cost and schedule of Muskrat Falls we have:
  - Controlled the cost and schedule of the project
  - Appointed a new chair and CEO at Nalcor
  - Secured a second loan guarantee from the Federal Government worth $2.9 billion
  - Appointed new members to the oversight committee
  - Launched a public inquiry to find out what went wrong
  - Allocated $200 million in the budget for rate management
  - Tasked with Nalcor addressing rising rates
  - Created a panel within government working on the issue
  - And commissioned the PUB to review rates and create this report.

Prepared by:

Approved by:
QP Issue Note
Department of Natural Resources

ISSUE: Vale Tailings Dam
On January 25, 2019 there was a breach of Dam 1 of the Feijão Mine in Brumadinho (MG) resulting in loss of life.

ANTICIPATED QUESTIONS:
Q. Will this incident in Brazil affect Vale’s tailings dams in the province?

KEY MESSAGES:
• Vale’s installations are monitored and evaluated continuously to ensure they meet the Canadian Dam Association guidelines to ensure complete safety.
• The safety and well-being of residents is our main priority.
• None of the active tailings dams in the province are in perched locations above populated areas.

SECONDARY MESSAGING:
• Vale’s dams have undergone environmental assessment
• Vale NL’s tailings ponds incorporate natural water bodies, so a substantial portion of the tailings are in the “bowls” of the ponds, well below the dams.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
• Vale NL operates four tailings dams at Long Harbour in Sandy Pond and two at Headwater Pond in Voisey’s Bay.
• Mining operations in Newfoundland and Labrador are regulated under the Mining Act.
• Permits for dam construction are issued by MAE. In addition, dam designs must include long-term closure plans that minimize risks to the physical, geochemical and ecological stability of the tailings facility.
• Over recent years, our government has taken a proactive approach to identifying and managing potential risks to public safety and the environment associated with dams in the province.
KEY MESSAGES

Natural Resources
General Tailings Dam Safety
January 28, 2019

Summary:
On January 25, 2019 there was a breach of Dam 1 of the Feijão Mine in Brumadinho (MG) resulting in loss of life.

Anticipated Questions:
In light of the Vale dam collapse in Brazil, how can Government ensure dam safety in the province?

Key Messages:

• The safety and well-being of residents is our main priority. Over recent years, our government has taken a proactive approach to identifying and managing potential risks to public safety and the environment associated with dams in the province.

• Dams in the province are inspected according to Canadian Dam Association guidelines. As the regulator, the Provincial Government ensures that operators are aware of their responsibilities in following best practices in dam safety.

• Tailings dams are designed, constructed and operated to meet the Canadian Dam Association (CDA) guidelines.

• There are a number of mines in NL that operate tailings impoundment facilities. Most are constructed out of natural water bodies to take advantage of the stability of the existing bedrock bowl. Two of the largest operations, IOC and Tacora, deposit tailings in beach areas that are relatively level with the surrounding landscapes.

• None of the active tailings dams in NL are in perched locations above populated areas.

• In addition, dam designs must include long-term closure plans that minimize risks to the physical, geochemical and ecological stability of the tailings facility and the surrounding environment.

• The Government of NL also has its own provincial dam safety program to oversee the safe management of all dams in the province including dams at Muskrat Falls. This program also applies to all stages of a dam’s life cycle.
Secondary Messages:

• MAE is responsible for oversight of dams in Newfoundland and Labrador. The Water Resources Act prescribes the maintenance and inspection of dams. Permits for dam construction are issued by MAE.

Prepared by: Media Relations Manager, Department of Natural Resources
Approved by:
KEY MESSAGES

Natural Resources
Muskrat Falls Dam Safety
January 28, 2019

Summary:
On January 25, 2019 there was a breach of Dam 1 of the Feijão Mine in Brumadinho (MG) resulting in loss of life.

Anticipated Questions:
In light of the Vale dam collapse in Brazil, how can Government ensure dam safety in the province, particularly at the Muskrat Falls Site?

Key Messages:
• The safety and well-being of residents is our main priority. Over recent years, our government has taken a proactive approach to identifying and managing potential risks to public safety and the environment associated with dams in the province.

• Nalcor has designed and constructed the Muskrat Falls facility to meet Canadian Dam Association safety standards. The structures at MF are subject to regular inspection, have instrumentation to provide advance notice of potential issues and include bi-weekly and monthly inspections.

• There is an established Dam Safety Program for the MFP developed by the SNC Engineering team. This program includes detailed inspections, monitoring and analysis for the entire life of the MF facilities and is focused on structure movement; water pressure; water flow and seepage; slope; foundations and joint movement; temperature; and seismic acceleration.

• The Government of NL also has its own provincial dam safety program to oversee the safe management of all dams in the province including dams at Muskrat Falls and applies to all stages of a dam’s life cycle.

Secondary Messages:
• We have continued to work directly with dam owners and operators across the province to provide guidance and timelines to ensure they are meeting their obligations under the Water Resources Act.
• As the regulator, the Provincial Government ensures that operators are aware of their responsibilities in following best practices in dam safety.

Prepared by: Media Relations Manager, Department of Natural Resources
Approved by: Natural Resources Executive
KEY MESSAGES

Natural Resources
Orphaned and Abandoned Mines
January 29, 2019

Summary:
On January 25, 2019 there was a breach of Dam 1 of the Feijão Mine in Brumadinho (MG) resulting in loss of life.

Anticipated Questions:
• What regulations does Government have in place to manage Orphaned and Abandoned Mines?

Key Messages:
• The Department of Natural Resources is responsible for Orphaned and Abandoned Mines (OAMs) in the province.

• Natural Resources has increased the frequency of monitoring and inspections at the OAMs.

• As recommended by the Canadian Dam Association, NR has the following practices in place to manage OAM dams:
  • Emergency Response and Preparedness Plans
  • Operation and Surveillance Manuals
  • Annual Dam Safety Inspections by qualified consultants following the Canadian Dam Association (CDA) guidelines
  • Regular Dam Safety Reviews as recommended by CDA guidelines
  • Repairs and maintenance are carried out as recommended in the Dam Safety Inspections.

• Over the last four years the province has invested in OAMs to meet Canadian Dam Association guidelines.

• Dams are regulated by the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment under the Water Resources Act.

Prepared by: Media Relations Manager, Department of Natural Resources
Approved by:
KEY MESSAGES

Natural Resources
Vale’s Tailing Dams
January 30, 2019

Summary:
On January 25, 2019 there was a breach of Dam 1 of the Feijão Mine in Brumadinho (MG) resulting in loss of life.

Anticipated Questions:
• Will this incident in Brazil affect Vale’s tailings dams in the province?

Key Messages:
• The safety and well-being of residents is our main priority. Over recent years, our government has taken a proactive approach to identifying and managing potential risks to public safety and the environment associated with dams in the province.

• Vale’s installations are monitored and evaluated continuously to ensure they meet the Canadian Dam Association guidelines to ensure complete safety.

• Vale NL operates four tailings dams at Long Harbour in Sandy Pond and two at Headwater Pond in Voisey’s Bay. In both locations, the tailings ponds incorporate natural water bodies, so a substantial portion of the tailings are in the "bowls" of the ponds, well below the dams.

• Vale’s dams have undergone environmental assessment. The dam owners, in consultation with MAE, are responsible to ensure that dam design, construction and operation is in line with Canadian Dam Safety Guidelines.

• None of the active tailings dams in the province are in perched locations above populated areas.

Secondary Messages:
• Mining operations in Newfoundland and Labrador are regulated under the Mining Act.
• Permits for dam construction are issued by MAE. In addition, dam designs must include long-term closure plans that minimize risks to the physical, geochemical and ecological stability of the tailings facility.

Prepared by: Media Relations Manager, Department of Natural Resources
Approved by: Natural Resources Executive
Key Messages:

• The Atlantic Clean Energy Partnership can play a key role in ensuring that regional priorities and shared provincial priorities receive funding from the federal government.

• This includes an opportunity to pursue the electrification of homes, businesses and vehicles as well as the expansion of the region's clean energy resources as regional priorities, thus strengthening our dialogue with the Federal Government.

• Electrification of the economy and the expansion of clean energy resources, supported by improved transmission networks and smart systems, are key priorities for Newfoundland and Labrador.

• Pursuing these priorities allows the region to enhance system reliability, drive economic activity and to continue leading in national greenhouse gas reductions.

• Through Atlantic collaboration, together we can capitalize on the potential for shared growth and prosperity.
Key Messages:

- The Atlantic Clean Energy Partnership can play a key role in ensuring that regional priorities and shared provincial priorities receive funding from the federal government.

- This includes an opportunity to pursue the electrification of homes, businesses and vehicles as well as the expansion of the region's clean energy resources as regional priorities, thus strengthening our dialogue with the Federal Government.

- Electrification of the economy and the expansion of clean energy resources, supported by improved transmission networks and smart systems, are key priorities for Newfoundland and Labrador — particularly mitigating Muskrat Falls costs by increasing utility sales revenue through exports and electrification.

- Pursuing these priorities allows the region to enhance system reliability, drive economic activity and to continue leading in national greenhouse gas reductions.

- Through Atlantic collaboration, together we can capitalize on the potential for shared growth and prosperity.
KEY MESSAGES

Natural Resources
Alternative Energy for Communities with Diesel Generation
February 6, 2019

Summary:
An update on using alternative energy in isolated communities in Labrador that generate power using diesel.

Anticipated Questions:
• What is the province doing to promote alternative energy in communities that use diesel to generate electricity?

Key Messages:
• Developing clean, renewable energy in isolated communities on the coast of Labrador where diesel generation is used is a priority for the province. The Premier has mandated the Natural Resources Minister seek opportunities for wind and small-scale hydro in communities isolated from the power grid.

• NR and NL Hydro will issue an Expression of Interest seeking renewable energy solutions for 15 communities that use diesel generation.

• There are federal funding opportunities available to reduce diesel reliance in remote communities isolated from primary power grid.

Secondary Messages:
• Using clean, renewable energy, instead of diesel generation, will be affordable and reliable for people in isolated communities.

• Decreases in diesel power generation costs would reduce the rural deficit subsidy from other ratepayers in the province.

Prepared by:

Approved by:
Key Messages - Balancing Biomass and Electrification

Does encouraging forestry products to generate energy contradict the plan to find ways to increase electricity to pay for Muskrat Falls?

- Natural Resources and Transportation and Works are co-leading the action to explore opportunities to convert existing infrastructure from fossil fuel to biofuel systems where economies of scale and fuel security can be achieved.

- Through this process, Natural Resources will ensure any of these efforts are balanced with ongoing rate mitigation efforts, including initiatives like electrification.

- Electrification of Newfoundland and Labrador's economy is a key energy policy priority for the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador given that 98% of the Province's electricity will come from renewable energy by 2021.

- Electrifying space heating, transportation and other fossil fuel-burning applications will help mitigate the impact of Muskrat Falls costs by growing the market for the Province's clean renewable electricity and thus increasing revenue to help pay for the project.

- The Minister of Natural Resources is also mandated to encourage diverse distributed energy generation. This includes alternative energy sources such as biomass.

- Converting buildings using less clean fuel sources to more clean fuel sources like electricity or biomass is a good thing for Newfoundland and Labrador and its transition to a lower carbon economy.

- Ongoing analysis by the Province suggests that there is opportunity to do both.

- As work proceeds, government departments and agencies as well as utilities and stakeholders will work together to identify and assess facilities best suited for fuel switching, whether to electricity or biomass.

- Many factors affect this analysis, including finding economies of scale, the physical location to fuel (e.g. forestry resources), age/condition of existing boilers/furnaces, the physical characteristics of each building, etc. Analysis will also consider potential rate impacts.

- Finally, there are more opportunities to electrify the economy than just substituting electricity for fossil fuel in buildings. The Province is looking to not only to electrify space heating but also things like vehicles, public transit, truck stops, marine ports and airports.

- Natural Resources is also leading the action to explore the potential for greater use of wood for heat in the province's off-grid diesel-reliant communities.

- There are many benefits associated with this initiative, including:
  - Greater use of the province's forestry resources;
  - Clean, sustainable source of fuel for off-grid communities;
  - Reduction in carbon emissions from diesel combustion;
- Support for sustainable business and employment in rural, Indigenous communities;
- Reduction in the amount of Rural Deficit Subsidy funding required from grid-connected ratepayers, thereby helping to mitigate the impact of Muskrat Falls costs on ratepayers.

Prepared by/Approved by: L. MacDonald/C. Snook
January 23, 2019
Summary:
Protestor Mike Cooze tied himself to a fence blocking Eagleridge International workers from entering the Big Triangle Pond access road construction site Friday Morning. Cooze is organizing a protest at the Confederation Building on January 31, 2019 demanding “government stop the Eagleridge Gold mine.

Anticipated Questions:

- What’s the status of development on the site?

Key Messages:

- Mineral exploration within the Avalon Wilderness Reserve is prohibited.

- Site work being undertaken is the construction of a road, which does not include the construction of a mine. This road is outside the Avalon Wilderness Reserve boundary.

- Eagleridge International holds a mineral license in the Big Triangle Pond area. Natural Resources approved early stage mineral exploration in 2014. The exploration work was conditionally approved in accordance with the Mineral Act.

- Under the environmental assessment process, proposed projects are examined to consider the possible significant effects on the natural, social or economic environment, including proximity to protected areas.

- With the decision from the courts, the original release of the project from environmental assessment stands. Numerous conditions were applied to the release of the project to ensure the environment is protected.

- We take the conditions of release of the project seriously and we will be vigilant in ensuring they are upheld.

- Eagleridge International has applied for quarry permits to construct an 11 kilometer road to provide access to the mineral licence area in support of mineral exploration.

- It is the proponent’s responsibility to ensure that after a release from environmental assessment, all terms and conditions have been met and permits are in place. This includes obtaining approval for mineral exploration work.

- The development of a mine would require further environmental assessment.
Prepared by: Heather Gillis, Director of Communications

Approved by:
Key Messages – Expressions of Interest

Primary:
• The Department of Natural Resources in partnership with Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro (NL Hydro) will be issuing an Expression of Interest (EOI) to gain input from industry for potential renewable energy solutions in 15 of the Province's regulated coastal diesel-powered electricity systems.

• An industry-led EOI approach will allow proponents to develop proposals that leverage their respective expertise and creativity to cultivate solutions to address the unique characteristics of one or all of these diesel systems.

• Ensuring isolated northern communities have access to adequate, reliable and affordable energy is multifaceted. Consultation and partnership with local communities, governments and Indigenous organizations will be an important part of the EOI process. Their energy concerns and preferred solutions will be important in identifying the best opportunities for renewable energy solutions.

• The EOI will also reinforce the importance of resource development, economic diversification, improved infrastructure and innovation in building strong economies and sustainability.

• There are federal funding opportunities available to support potential work coming from the EOI, including funds for reducing diesel reliance in rural and remote communities. Government would encourage proponents to seek federal funding to support their project proposals.

• The EOI will help accomplish the Premier's January 2019 mandate to encourage more diverse distributed energy generation by seeking opportunities to develop wind farms and small scale hydro, and prioritizing communities isolated from the primary power grid, such as coastal regions of Labrador.

• The EOI is also consistent with the Government's ongoing efforts to mitigate the impact of the Muskrat Falls Project as any decreases in diesel power generation costs would reduce the amount of rural deficit subsidy funding required from grid-connected ratepayers.

Secondary:
• The majority of the Province's electricity system is interconnected through the Labrador Interconnected System (LIS) or the Island Interconnected System (IIS). However, there are currently 20 regulated electricity-isolated systems along the coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador that are not connected to each other or to the LIS or IIS. These 20 systems serve approximately 3,400 customers and have a total installed capacity of 36 megawatts.

• Natuashish is not part of the regulated diesel systems EOI as NL Hydro does not own the diesel generating station in the community. NL Hydro operates the Natuashish system via contractual arrangements.
The five communities making up the Nunatsiavut Government (NG) region will also not be included in the EOI. The NG is exploring opportunities for renewable energy development on their own through the Nunatsiavut Energy Security Working Group. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is supporting the NG in these efforts.

Through this EOI process, Government is hoping to find reliable, cost-effective, renewable energy solutions in these rural and remote communities which will encourage more diverse distributed energy generation and less reliance on diesel. While diesel fuel is considered to be reliable, the cost of producing off-grid electricity from diesel generators is expensive, burning large amounts of diesel produces substantial greenhouse gas emissions, and fuel must be transported long distances which leads to a greater risk of fuel spills.

Key Messages -- Third Transmission Line (Labrador West)

**Primary:**
- An important priority for the province is to utilize power produced in Labrador to promote the development of industrial activity in the region.

- To address transmission needs for the people of Labrador, the Board of Commissioners for Public Utilities (PUB) in March 2018 directed NL Hydro to undertake an expansion study for the Labrador Interconnected system.

- In October 2018, NL Hydro completed the "Labrador Interconnected System Transmission Expansion Study" and filed it with the PUB. The study outlines a variety of different plans for Labrador West transmission expansion depending on various levels of load growth. These range from upgrades to the Wabush Terminal Station to new transmission infrastructure.

- The study concludes that while upgrades to meet the baseline load forecast do not require additional transmission, upgrades to the Wabush Terminal Station are required including the commissioning of a third synchronous condenser, the installation of additional shunt compensation, and replacement of two transformers. These upgrades will increase system capacity to meet the baseline peak load forecast.

- There is significant potential for additional load in Labrador West and the study presents construction of a new 230 kV Transmission Line from Churchill Falls to the Wabush Terminal Station (WTS) as one alternative to meet additional load.

- The Labrador Interconnected System Transmission Expansion Study was filed in October, 2018 with the PUB and is currently being assessed.

- Government encourages stakeholders to express their views to the PUB to inform the PUB's expert, independent and transparent assessment of the Study.

**Secondary:**
- Sufficient system capacity is required in Labrador to ensure industrial expansion or other economic opportunities are not constrained. The study has provided options for consideration to provide power for these opportunities.
Summary:
An update on the possibility of new transmission in Labrador West for the Combined Councils of Labrador.

Anticipated Questions:
• What is government doing to ensure there is power for industrial development in Labrador West?

Key Messages:
• Labrador West needs sufficient access to power so industrial and economic development are not constrained.
• Depending on the growth in power demand, options could vary from upgrades to the Wabush Terminal Station to new transmission. A third transmission line from Churchill Falls to Labrador West is one meet a forecast demand in power.
• NL Hydro filed a report on expanding power transmission in Labrador West with the Public Utilities Board in October 2018.

Secondary Messages:
• The PUB is assessing The Labrador Interconnected System Transmission Expansion Study which was filed in October, 2018.
• Government encourages stakeholders to express their views on the study to the PUB.

Prepared by: Heather Gillis, Director of Communications

Approved by:
Key Messages – Labrador Transmission Expansion Study

Primary:
- An important priority for the province is to utilize power produced in Labrador to promote the development of industrial activity in the region.

- To address transmission needs for the people of Labrador, the Board of Commissioners for Public Utilities (PUB) in March 2018 directed NL Hydro to undertake an expansion study for the Labrador Interconnected system.

- In October 2018, NL Hydro completed the "Labrador Interconnected System Transmission Expansion Study" and filed it with the PUB. The study outlines a variety of different plans for Labrador West transmission expansion depending on various levels of load growth. These range from upgrades to the Wabush Terminal Station to new transmission infrastructure.

- The study concludes that while upgrades to meet the baseline load forecast in Labrador West do not require additional transmission lines, various other transmission system equipment upgrades are required. These upgrades will increase system capacity to meet the baseline peak load forecast.

- There is significant potential for additional load in Labrador West and the study presents various options to meet various levels of additional load in the event these new loads materialize.

- The Labrador Interconnected System Transmission Expansion Study was filed in October, 2018 with the PUB and is currently being assessed.

- Government encourages stakeholders to express their views to the PUB to inform the PUB's expert, independent and transparent assessment of the Study.

Secondary:
- Sufficient system capacity is required in Labrador to ensure industrial expansion or other economic opportunities are not constrained. The study has provided options for consideration to provide power for these opportunities.

Prepared/Approved by: R. Bates/ C. Snook

February 13, 2019
KEY MESSAGES

Natural Resources
Forestry Sector Work Plan
January 31, 2019

Summary:
The Forestry Sector Work Plan is a roadmap with 32 actions intended to diversify and grow the forest industry, strengthen the economy and create jobs.

Anticipated Questions:

• What is Natural Resources role in the Forestry Sector Plan?

Key Messages:
• Natural Resources is pleased to lead three key items in the plan:
  1. Explore opportunities and pilot projects using biofuel with the Department of Transportation and Works.
  2. Explore the use high-efficiency wood stoves in Newfoundland and Labrador’s diesel-reliant communities.

• Natural Resources will ensure these efforts are balanced with ongoing rate management efforts.
• Converting buildings to cleaner energy, like electricity or biomass, will help the province transition to a lower carbon economy.

Secondary Messages:

• The use of high-efficiency woodstove in diesel-reliant communities would reduce the Rural Deficit Subsidy, helping to mitigate the impact of Muskrat Falls on ratepayers.

• NR is working with the Nunatsiavut Government (NG), which has implemented a pilot program to install over 50 high efficiency wood stoves in the region.

• NR is working to access Federal Government funding programs to reduce diesel generation in indigenous communities. NR is also exploring a feasibility study about using high-efficiency wood stoves in the Province’s remaining diesel-reliant systems.

Prepared by: Heather Gillis, Director of Communications

Approved by:
Key Messages

The Provincial Government and industry came together in May 2018 to start developing a plan to realize the full potential of the forest industry. This partnership has forged the path, by leveraging the emerging bio-economy, to maximize private sector job creation and economic growth as set out in The Way Forward.

In a short span of time—less than a year—our Government was able to announce the Forestry Sector Work Plan. This plan establishes conditions necessary to sustain our forest resources, while diversifying and generating new and expanding business activity, and increasing private sector employment for residents in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The plan includes actions that each of the partners and other industry stakeholders will take to achieve the collective goal of growing the forest industry and stimulating new private sector employment.

There are five categories of actions, including sustainable forest management, research, innovation and diversification, forest business development and risk management, public awareness and Human Resources, Skills and Labour.

In total, the plan details 32 actions items. The Department of Natural Resources (NR) is pleased to lead three of these key items, contributing to the success of the plan. These are:
1. Explore opportunities to pilot the use of biofuel systems. This action item will be co-led with the Department Of Transportation and Works (TW).
2. Explore the potential for greater use of wood for heat in Newfoundland and Labrador's off-grid diesel-reliant communities, including the use of high efficiency wood stoves.

Secondary Messages

Action 1: Explore opportunities to pilot the use of biofuel systems

NR and TW are co-leading the action to explore opportunities to pilot the use of biofuel systems.

Through this process, NR will ensure any of these efforts are balanced with ongoing rate mitigation efforts, including initiatives like electrification.

Converting buildings using less clean fuel sources to more clean fuel sources like electricity or biomass is a good thing for Newfoundland and Labrador and its transition to a lower carbon economy. Preliminary analysis by the Province suggests that may be opportunities to do both.

As work proceeds, government departments, agencies, utilities and stakeholders will work together, to identify and assess facilities best suited for fuel switching, whether to electricity or biomass.

Action 2: Explore the potential for greater use of wood for heat in Newfoundland and Labrador's off-grid diesel-reliant communities

NR is leading the action to explore the potential for greater use of wood for heat in the province's off-grid diesel-reliant communities. The benefits include:
Greater use of the province’s forestry resources;
- Clean, sustainable source of fuel for off-grid communities;
- Reduction in carbon emissions from diesel combustion;
- Support for sustainable business and employment in rural, Indigenous communities;
and,
- Reduction in the amount of Rural Deficit Subsidy funding required from grid-connected ratepayers, thereby helping to mitigate the impact of Muskrat Falls costs on ratepayers.

- NR is currently working with the Nunatsiavut Government (NG) on increasing the use of high-efficiency wood stoves in the region. This helps the NG build on its prior work in this area. The NG has previously surveyed its communities on wood stove usage and implemented a pilot program to install over 50 high efficiency wood stoves in the region.

- NR is also exploring the potential to undertake a feasibility study of high-efficiency wood stoves in the Province’s remaining off-grid diesel-reliant systems. NR is aware of community interest in this area and is keen to support communities and Indigenous organizations in their energy priorities.

- NR is working with stakeholders to access Federal Government funding programs dedicated to reducing diesel generation in indigenous communities.

**Action 3: Explore biofuel technology in the development of the Provincial Renewable Energy Plan**

- As committed to in *The Way Forward*, NR will be working with industry and stakeholders to develop a *Renewable Energy Plan* in 2019. Renewable energy sources, including biofuel, will be examined as part of this process.

Prepared/Approved by: L. Macdonald / C. Snook

Ministerial Approved: Not Approved

January 31, 2019
Summary:
A forensic audit investigating cost and schedule overruns at Muskrat Falls reveals that Nalcor knew early on that its original estimates were in trouble.

Anticipated Question:
• What is government's reaction to Grant Thornton's most recent audit?

Key Messages:
• The Liberal government inherited quite a mess with the Muskrat Falls project, when elected in late 2015.

• Through diligence and hard work this government has cleaned up the Muskrat Falls project and put it on a solid footing.

• Government has done this with a world class CEO, expanded board of directors, expanded oversight, a second federal loan guarantee, and improved project management.
Key Messages – Nalcor Commercially Sensitive Material/Muskrat Falls Inquiry

- In establishing the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador recognized the importance of balancing commercial considerations with public accountability and transparency in carrying out a large-scale publicly-funded project.

- The Province remains committed to the Inquiry process.

- Government accepts the Commissioner’s January 22, 2019 decision and we continue to support the discretion of the Commissioner to determine the public disclosure of material of a commercially sensitive nature. In view of this, the onus is on Nalcor to articulate to the Commissioner how project costs or overall construction would be negatively impacted by the release of certain materials.

- The Muskrat Falls project is proceeding to completion and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador agrees that any public disclosure of information should not add further cost to the project. This is in keeping with the Commissioner’s interpretation of the Terms of Reference.

- Government thanks Nalcor for its cooperation and efforts to work with the Commission to date.
Key Messages — Wood Stoves

Primary

- Expanding wood heat in communities with diesel generation is an exciting policy area for this Government because it can help to improve living conditions in off-grid homes, build meaningful partnerships with Indigenous communities and businesses, help sustain Indigenous economies, reduce diesel generation costs and carbon emissions, and build stronger collaboration with the Federal Government.

- NR is currently working with the Nunatsiavut Government on increasing the use of high-efficiency wood stoves in the region. This helps the Nunatsiavut Government build on its prior work in this area. The Nunatsiavut Government has previously surveyed its communities on wood stove usage and implemented a pilot program to install over 50 high efficiency wood stoves in the region.

- NR is also exploring the potential to undertake a feasibility study of high-efficiency wood stoves in the province’s remaining off-grid diesel-reliant systems. This would involve surveying communities on their existing heating preferences and their interest in using wood for heating via high efficiency wood stoves. NR is aware of community interest in this area and is keen to support communities and Indigenous organizations in their energy priorities.

- NR is also participating with other government departments and the federal government on a supply chain study to explore solid wood fuel for Labrador’s off-grid communities. The study would help de-risk supply in these remote coastal regions.

Secondary

- Available data suggests many residents in the province’s off-grid diesel generation communities use old and inefficient wood stoves. New high-efficiency stoves are significantly more efficient, thus reducing firewood consumption and smoke emissions.

- Available data also shows that wood is a preferred method of heating in these communities because of historical and cultural familiarity; wood does not produce diesel-fuel emissions and noise; is less expensive and more efficient for residents to use than diesel or heating oil.

- Using wood for heat also reduces electricity use for heating, which would decrease diesel power generation costs and thus reduce the amount of Rural Deficit Subsidy funding required from grid-connected ratepayers, thus helping to mitigate the impact of Muskrat Falls costs.

- High efficiency wood heating also supports Minister Coady’s mandate from Premier Ball to seek out opportunities to develop diversified energy in communities isolated from the primary power grid.

- Installing high-efficiency wood stoves and expanding wood heat supply chains could also increase use of the province’s renewable wood resources; reduce carbon emissions from diesel combustion,
support sustainable business and employment in Indigenous Communities for suppliers and installers of the wood stoves, as well as wood harvesters and suppliers.

- This is consistent with the ongoing work between GNL and the NL Labrador Forest Industry Association to jointly develop a Forestry Sector Work Plan with actions to address opportunities and challenges into the forest sector. These actions will be aimed at enabling business growth, stimulating new business activity, and creating and maintaining new and existing private sector jobs for residents throughout the province.

- High efficiency wood heat in our remote diesel systems also aligns Federal policies on reducing carbon emissions and partnering with Indigenous Organizations.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Title, Deliverable and Target Completion Date</th>
<th>Lead Dept.</th>
<th>Milestones (Timelines)</th>
<th>Performance Indicators</th>
<th>Self-Assessment</th>
<th>Authorities Needed to Implement</th>
<th>Need to Engage Public/Stakeholders</th>
<th>Planned Public Announcements</th>
<th>Current Status of Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Double Oil and Gas Production in Newfoundland and Labrador</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>New producing projects; barrels per day produced; employment</td>
<td>Quarterly tracking of actions with oversight via O&amp;G Industry Development Council; Annual reporting against vision targets</td>
<td>On Schedule</td>
<td>Cabinet</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>On-going</td>
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<tr>
<td>Double Oil and Gas Production in Newfoundland and Labrador</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>Establishment of Crown Corporation through legislation (2019)</td>
<td>Legislation and Interim Board appointments</td>
<td>On Schedule</td>
<td>Cabinet</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>On-going</td>
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<tr>
<td>Double Oil and Gas Production in Newfoundland and Labrador</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>Studies complete by March 31, 2019</td>
<td>Ministerial Approval</td>
<td>On-going</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase Activity in the Mining Sector through Targeted Promotion and Core Digitization</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>Submit funding proposal to ADCA and TCI (2018-19 Fiscal Year)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Behind Schedule</td>
<td>Minister</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>On-going</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pilot an Initiative to Recycle/Repurpose Non-Renewable Resources for Quarry (Mine) Applications</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ministerial Approval</td>
<td>On-going</td>
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<tr>
<td>Action Title, Deliverable and Target Completion Date</td>
<td>Internal Description of Progress</td>
<td>&quot;What We’ve Accomplished&quot;</td>
<td>Text for WF Website</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Build a Renewable Future</strong></td>
<td>The Department of Natural Resources (NR) has developed an outline for the process and identified membership for the advisory council. The first meeting is planned for April, followed by public engagement. NR is in the process of gathering and preparing information, including undertaking a jurisdictional analysis prior to engaging industry stakeholders on the development of the Renewable Energy Strategy. It is expected that opportunities for engagement on the strategy will begin in Winter 2019.</td>
<td>Chaired by the Minister of Natural Resources, the Oil and Gas Industry Development Council was appointed on December 21, 2016. Since then, the Council has held regular meetings, provided strategic advice and has been involved in stakeholder consultations to develop a vision, set goals and identify key focus areas, actions and timelines. On February 16, 2018, the Provincial Government launched The Way Forward on Oil and Gas: Advance 2030. The 17 immediate, mid-term and long-term actions outlined in the plan focus on accelerating exploration drilling and fostering a culture of collaboration and entrepreneurship that will increase our global competitiveness, drive innovation and supplier development capabilities, and reduce the time from prospectivity to production. Implementation of the actions is progressing with oversight from the Oil and Gas Development Council. Government has also approved implementation of the Generic Oil Royalty Regime (GORR) and regulations. These regulations were published in the Gazette on November 1, 2017 and apply to future offshore oil developments. The new regime provides fiscal certainty, transparency, predictability and stability to companies looking to invest in offshore exploration and development and provides an appropriate balance of risk between developer and province as resource owner. It also provides future developments with a simplified approach to royalty calculations, a more progressive system that accounts for changes in costs and oil prices, and reduced legal and audit costs. On July 26, 2018, the Provincial Government signed a framework agreement with Equinor for the development of the Bay du Nord project with first oil anticipated in 2025. The project holds reserves of nearly 300 million barrels of oil and opens a new basin offshore NL – the Flemish Pass.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Double Oil and Gas Production In Newfoundland and Labrador</strong></td>
<td>It also represents our first offshore project in deepwater with R&amp;D/E&amp;T expenditure commitments to position the province as a centre of excellence for deepwater oil and gas development. Key economic benefits during construction and operations include: 11,000 person years of employment, $3.9 billion in government revenues (royalties, taxes and 10% equity) and $34 billion in economic activity. Strategic investments in offshore petroleum geoscience continues to attract exploration investment. In November 2018, the CNLOPB received record bids of $1.38 billion and a record single bid of $821 million. In total, more than 650 leads and prospects have been identified and more than 20 basins mapped. There have been eight new entrants in the past three years and outstanding work commitments total $3.9 billion with significant drilling planned over the coming years.</td>
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<td><strong>Double Oil and Gas Production In Newfoundland and Labrador</strong></td>
<td>In 2018-19, our government is transitioning the oil and gas subsidiary of Nalcor Energy to a stand-alone Crown corporation with a mandate to accelerate the growth of the oil and gas industry.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Double Oil and Gas Production In Newfoundland and Labrador</strong></td>
<td>Complete a review of international regulatory standards to identify opportunities for enhancement</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Increase Activity In the Mining Sector through Targeted Promotion and Core Digitization</strong></td>
<td>The Provincial Government continues to work toward increasing the amount of photography of bedrock core that is available. The core storage program is also acquiring photo-manipulation software to enhance the quality and consistency of the photography in terms of its effectiveness as reference information for mineral exploration work; other methods are also being explored to generate photographic data. The Department of Natural Resources has consulted with the members of the Office of Applied Research at College of the North Atlantic, and has provided access to the core storage facilities, as development and testing of digital core photography automation processes for use in mineral exploration continue. College of the North Atlantic, in partnership with Memorial University, have completed an ACOA Atlantic Innovation Fund proposal to develop a Hyperspectral Scanning Unit (HSU) to support mineral exploration, drill core digitization and ore processing optimization. The next step is to develop a plan to allow direct access to the core storage database via the GeoScience Atlas.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pilot an Initiative to Recycle/Repurpose Non-Renewable Resources for Quarry (Mine) Applications</strong></td>
<td>The Department of Natural Resources (NR) worked with a company and the Environmental Assessment Division of the Department of Municipal Affairs and Environment (MAE) on a plan to repurpose kelp derived from St. Bride’s Harbour in a quarry permit authorized by NR. The project was registered for environmental assessment and two NR staff supported the company through participation on an environmental review committee to determine the impact of using kelp for the rehabilitation of quarries. NR will be involved in any monitoring of the quarry rehabilitation as it progresses. NR is currently partnering with the MAE and a local company to develop a project that involves using remediated soils for rehabilitation in a local quarry area and diverting the soil from the local approved landfill. The soil will be used to basfll a portion of a road reservation that connects several individual quarry sites.</td>
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