Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (File # NR-37-2019)

On March 5, 2019, the Department of Natural Resources received your request for access to the following records/information:

Information note from January 2019 re Clean Energy Priorities.

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 redactions in accordance with Sections 29(1)(a), 34(1)(a)(i), 35(1)(f), and 35(1)(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 that government and the following or their agencies: the government of Canada or a province;

35. (1)(f) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information which could reasonably be expected to disclose positions, plans, procedures, criteria or instructions developed for the purpose of contractual or other negotiations by or on behalf of the government of the province or a public body, or considerations which relate to those negotiations;
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 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

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.