1996 Canadian Bond Rating Service (CBRS) Report

Newfoundland Light & Power Co. Ltd.

October 7, 1996

(For subsequent rating information, please refer to the CBRS Quarterly Update report.)

Volume II - Utilities - Gas & Electrical

Filing Instructions: Replaces Credit Analysis dated October 18, 1995

RATING OPINION

CBRS has reaffirmed the ratings on Newfoundland Light and Power's (Newfoundland Power) First Mortgage Bonds and Preferred Shares at A and P-2(High), respectively. The rating outlook remains Stable. Newfoundland Power's good quality ratings reflect its relatively low competitive risk, fair regulatory environment and stable financial position. These factors mitigated the risk associated with the Company's relatively small size (in relation to other "A rated" utilities), high electric rates and weak franchise area. The province of Newfoundland has been amongst the lowest rated provincial credit in Canada (currently rated BBB with a Negative rating outlook) and the economic outlook for the province is for continued low growth. In addition, the Newfoundland economy does not provide the Company with a diversified customer base while the slow economic growth will have a direct impact on the Company's rate base and revenue growth. Because of the higher risk primarily associated with the provincial economic base, we expect Newfoundland Power to maintain a strong level of financial ratios which should measure at the upper range of our financial benchmarks to retain its current ratings.

The Company has been experiencing slow sales growth in recent years due to continued weakness in the provincial economy, strong competition from oil and propane gas and due to improved energy efficiencies. Nevertheless, Newfoundland Power has been able to maintain a stable financial position as a result of downsizing in recent years and due to management's strict control over operating expenses and capital expenditures. Competitive pressures combined with electricity rates which are already amongst the highest in the country, have forced Newfoundland Power to contain its consumer rates. As a result, notwithstanding minor annual adjustments for the Rate Stabilization Plan, basic electricity rates have not increased since 1992 and the company's ROE has remained stable at 12% which is in line with industry standards. The Company is currently seeking a 2.92% rate increase, effective November 1, 1996.

Overall, the Company's debt and interest coverage ratios continue to measure within the parameters of the current rating category, while the near term operating and financial outlook remains Stable. Looking forward, low sales growth and relatively flat earnings are expected to persist, while low capital expenditures and minimum refinancing requirements combined with good cash flow should allow the Company to maintain a sound balance sheet and satisfactory level of coverage ratios. In 1995, the Company's debt: equity and interest coverage ratios were 50:50% and 2.7X, respectively.

FINANCING ACTIVITY

In April 1996, the Company issued \$40 million of 9% First Mortgage Sinking Fund Bonds, Series AH (rated 'A' by CBRS), of which proceeds were used to reduce short-term bank

	2.95
First Mortgage Bonds	A
Preferred Shares	
Rating Outlook:	

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(\$000's)	<u> 1996</u>	<u> 1995</u>	%Chg.
Revenues	194,464	193,033	+0.74%
Net Earnings	22,227	21,664	+2.60%
Long Term Debt	240,923	207,741	+15.97%
Debt/Equity	48:34%	45:63%	+5.93%
Cash Flow (as reported)	31,586	19,964	+58.21%
EBITDA Interest Coverage	5.30	5.38	-1.59%

CORPORATE PROBLE

Newfoundland Power, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Fortis Inc., is the principal distributor of electricity in the Province of Newfoundland, providing service to more than 207,000 customers, or approximately 85% of the Newfoundland population. The Company customer base consisting primarily of residential customers and small commercial establishments. The balance of the population live in more remote areas served by Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro ("Hydro"), a Crown Corporation which also serves several of the larger industrial operations in the Province.

Newfoundland Power owns and operates 32 small generating plants, with a total installed capacity of about 148,400 kilowatts. The Company also owns some 2,000 km of transmission lines and 7,500 km of distribution lines. The Company generates about 10% of the energy sold to its customers, and purchases the balance from Hydro. Newfoundland Power, is subject to regulation by the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities of Newfoundland (PUB).

indebtedness of the Company. No further debt financing is projected for the balance of 1996 and 1997. The Company has \$330 million in operating and short-term money market lines of credit available. The Company relies on this extensive facility for short-term liquidity. On July 12, 1996 a special dividend of \$15.5 million was paid to its parent, Fortis Inc., a measure taken to stabilize the level of equity invested in Newfoundland Power in response to the reduced level of capital expenditures. The Company also paid a special dividend of \$12.3 million to Fortis in 1994.

Capital expenditures are planned to be below \$30 million 1996 (\$30.8 million in 1995) and will be met primarily by internally generated funds. Capital expenditures have declined significantly since 1990 (\$68 million) due primarily to low load growth. Capital spending will primarily be used to expand and upgrade the power distribution system. Based on current sales projections, the Company plans to build a 5 MW hydro plant in 1997, at a cost of approximately \$10-15 million.

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COMPETITION

The space and water heating markets continue to face increased competition from other energy sources, with the oil companies, in particular, undertaking an aggressive advertising campaign aimed at encouraging people to convert away from electricity. Currently, both low oil prices combined with traditionally high electricity rates in Newfoundland, have compelled Newfoundland Power to control costs and deliver reliable service while holding the line on consumer rates. Basic electricity rates have not increased since 1992, except for minor annual adjustments on July 1st of each year reflecting the operation of the Rate Stabilization Plan. The Company has, however, filed for a 2.92% rate increase effective November 1, 1996. Electric rates in Newfoundland are amongst the highest in Canada, and therefore, the Company's principal objective is to minimize future power rate increases. In 1995, the average cost of electricity to customers was 7.7 cents per kWh. Of this, 55% was attributable to the expense of purchased power from Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro ("Hydro") and 15% was attributable to finance charges. The remaining 30% was related to the cost of operations within Newfoundland Power. Although the commodity cost of oil is currently cheaper than electricity for space and water heating, electricity still remains the preferred choice for most applications, due to the cheaper capital cost of an electric heating system. Newfoundland Power continues to capture over 70% of the new housing market, and currently services over 50% of the total heating market in the province.

In the near term, the Company is projecting slow growth in electric sales due to the weak economy and increased competition in the heating market. Consumer and business confidence remains weak in Newfoundland due to continued adverse economic conditions including high unemployment, fishery closures and continued economic uncertainty. Alternatively, the Hibernia oil development will continue to generate economic benefits and recent mineral discoveries of significant sizes at Voisey's Bay, Labrador may prove economically substantial over the long term.

First Mortgage Bonds	
1981-present	A
1972-80	B ++
Preferred Shares	
Sept/90 -present	P-2(High)
1983-90	

POWER SUPPLY

The Company purchases most of its electric power supply from Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro and Deer Lake Power Company Limited. The principal terms governing Hydro's supply of power to the Company are regulated by the Public Utilities Commission of Newfoundland (PUB). A contract with no specific term between Deer Lake Power and the Company governing Deer Lake Power's supply of power to the Company is terminable upon three years' notice or by order of the PUB. In 1995, Newfoundland Power purchased approximately 90% of its requirements from Hydro and obtained the remainder from its own generating facilities. Normal growth in electric demand over the next five years can be satisfied by the development of small hydro stations and extensions to existing thermal stations.

REGULATORY MATTERS

The Company is regulated under the provisions of The Public Utilities Act (Newfoundland) in respect of rates, capital expenditures, issuance of securities, terms of service and related matters. The Company has filed an application to the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities of Newfoundland for an average rate increase of 2.92% effective November 1, 1996. This increase would permit the Company to earn a return on average common equity of 12% in 1996 and 1997. A decision is pending. In its last decision (December 1991) the PUB authorized a range of rate of return on common equity between 13.0% to 13.5%, with a corresponding range of rate of return of 10.96% to 11.19% on average rate base.

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		and the second		PRE	PERRIE	DESEL	RESTAGE	(Car.50 %)	All Barrier	29	77 W W
<u>ser</u>		DESCRIPTI	ON	DIVIDEND	FREQ	CUR	R ISSUED	SHARES	O/S O/S	SS (000)	TRADING	RATING
Α	CUN	A. RED. VOT.	1st PREF.	5.50%	Q	CDN	1956	179,23	25	1,792	MTL	P-2(High)
В	CUN	A. RED. VOT.	1st PREF.	5.25%	Q	CDN	1956	337,98		3,380	MTL	P-2(High)
D	CUN	A. RED. VOT.	1st PREF.	7.25%	Q	CDN	1973	229,70		2,298	CDN	P-2(High)
G	CUN	A. RED. VOT.	1st PREF.	7.60%	Q	CDN	1979	241,9	50	2,420	TO/MTL/V	P-2(High)
		Ka, Sarah a		* EON	(eerlo	Ray (D)	BIT (As ang	epe Jugos	ar in the	14. E		
SER	TYPE	CUSIP	<u>CPN</u>	MATURITY	<u>curr</u>	<u>FREQ</u>	DAY CNT	ISSUED	O/S(MM)	OPTIO	<u>NS LEAD</u>	RATING
w	FMB	6513508X1	11.500	15-Nov-99	C\$	S	ACT/ACT	1979	4.7	CALL/S	F ML	A
AB	FMB	6513508U7	11.500	01-Dcc-2005	C\$	S	ACT/ACT	1985	14.25	PP/CALL	/SF ML	Α
AC	FMB	651350BC3	11.875	16-Dec-2007	C \$	S	ACT/ACT	1987	36.7	CALL/S	F WG	A
AD	FMB	651350BD1	10.550	01-Aug-2014	C\$	S	ACT/ACT	1989	36.15	CALL/S	F WG	A
AE	FMB	651350BE9	10.900	02-May-2016	CS	S	ACT/ACT	1991	38.4	CALL/S	F WG	A
AG	FMB	651350BG4	9.000	01-Oct-2020	C\$	S	ACT/ACT	1992	39.6	CALL/S	F WG	A
AF	FMB	651350BF6	10.125	15-Jun-2022	C\$	S	ACT/ACT	1992	38.8	CALL/S	F WG	A
AH	FMB	651350BH2	8.900	07-May-2026	C \$	S	ACT/ACT	1996	40	CALL/S	F WG	A
Prote	Protective Covenants - First Mortgage Bonds											

- Negative Pledge
- New Issue Test:

Earnings Test - No Additional Bonds shall be issued unless the Net Earnings of the Company for the Earnings Period selected by the Directors shall have been at least 2.0 times the maximum annual interest charges on all Bonds to be outstanding after the proposed issue of Additional Bonds.

Additional Property Test - Additional Bonds shall not be issued in an aggregate principal amount which shall exceed 60% of the Fair Value of Additional Property.

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NE	STEEL WALL	anibar(e	::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::	MARKE (0.0)	MASTERNA.	•		*
	IDATED STA						rend:	2
	the Period Endir	ng December 31	(\$ 000s)				nd Annua	
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	<u>1YB</u>	<u>3YR</u>	<u>5YR</u>
REVENUE	200 000	044.000						_
Sales Other Income	32 8,695 1,576	344,293 	329,024	334,224	335,334	0.3%	-0.9%	1.9%
Other income	330,271	346,066	6,259 335,283	<u>5,535</u> 339,759	5,280 340,614	-4.6% 0.3%	43.9% -0.5%	24.5%
EXPENSES	000,271	0-10,000	000,200	339,739	340,014	0.376	-0.576	2.1%
Operating Expenses	240,190	251,384	236,305	239,707	245,946	2.6%	-0.7%	2.3%
Depreciation & Amortization	24,555	25,878	26,921	28,141	28,896	2.7%	3.7%	3.7%
Interest - Long Term Debt	20,276	21,319	23,563	23,473	22,559	-3.9%	1.9%	4.6%
- Other	2,785	2,082	6 45	891	1,860	108.8%	-3.7%	-14.5%
Allowance for Funds	0	0 .	o	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Expenses (Net)	(118)	18	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
	287,688	300,681	287,434	292,212	299,261	2.4%	-0.2%	2.3%
PRE-TAX INCOME	42,583	45,385	47,849	47,547	41,353	-13.0%	2 10	0.2%
Income Taxes	14,784	15,723	18.667	19,745	13,120	-73.0%	-3.1% -5.9%	-2.3%
Minority Interest	. 0	0	0,007	19,743	13,120	-33.0 % N/A	-5.9% N/A	-2.376 N/A
Unusual Items	ŏ	Ö	. 0	. 0	ŏ	N/A	N/A N/A	N/A
Equity in Earnings		<u>o</u>	<u>ŏ</u>	ŏ		N/A	N/A	N/A
NET EARNINGS (LOSS)	27,799	29,662	29,182	27,802	28,233	1.6%	-1.6%	1.5%
(20,200	//5/3	7.070	1.070
COM		ber 31 (\$ 000s)	SHEET					
	AS 1991	SETS 1 992	1993	1994	1995	1YR	3YR	<u>5YR</u>
CURRENT ASSETS								
Cash & Short Term Investments	465	7,610	9,543	2,080	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Accounts Receivable	37,070	33,291	31,914	36,303	38,052	4.8%	4.6%	1.9%
Inventories Other	6,013	4,897	4,192	4,416	4,236	-4.1%	-4.7%	-9.6%
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	6,030 49,578	12,132 57,930	8,478	7,569	6,921	-8.6%	-17.1%	8.9%
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	49,376	57,930	54,127	50,368	49,209	-2.3%	-5.3%	1.3%
Fixed Assets (Net)	464,900	477,711	483,220	489,400	489,418	0.0%	0.8%	1.7%
Investments	0	0	. 0	0	0 [N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Assets	7,597	11,393	11,817	13,204	29,923	126.6%	38.0%	42.3%
TOTAL ASSETS	522,075	547,034	<u>549,164</u>	552,972	<u>568,550</u>	2.8%	1.3%	2.6%
	LITIES AND SH	AREHOLDERS	EQUITY	,				
CURRENT LIABILITIES								
Short Term Debt Accounts Payable	60,374	11,275	12,288	24,351	46,020	89.0%	59.8%	-1.2%
1	40,375	47,597	44,918	48,955	45,465	-7.1%	-1.5%	2.2%
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	8,563 109,312	8,452 67,324	13,098 70,304	10,714 84,020	<u>8,397</u> 99,882	-21.6%	-0.2%	1.1%
	103,012	07,024	70,304	04,020	99,002	18.9%	14.1%	0.4%
Long Term Debt	157,312	218,906	216,631	207,706	201,323	-3.1%	-2.8%	5.0%
Deferred Income Taxes	9,335	8,360	7,097	5,689	3,053	-46.3%	-28.5%	-18.4%
Minority Interest	0	0	0	0	Ō	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Liabilities	17,145	17,244	18,173	19,557	19,623	0.3%	4.4%	2.6%
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY								
Share Capital - Preferred	29,889	22,296	10,905	10,902	9,890	.0.29	-23.7%	_on 4ov
- Common	65,414	67,172	69,007	70,321	9,890 70,321	-9.3% 0.0%	-23.7% 1.5%	-20.4% 1.8%
Retained Earnings	133,668	145,732	157,047	154,777	164,458	6.3%	1.5% 4.1%	5.9%
	228,971	235,200	236,959	236,000	244,669	3.7%	1.3%	2.3%
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	522,075	547,034	549,164	552,972	568,550	2.8%	1.3%	2.6%
	-							
	ED SOURCES the Period Ending			•				
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1YR	3YR	<u>5YR</u>
Cash Flow From Operations	53,023	54,740	57,079	54,752	55,111	0.7%	0.2%	2.5%
Proceeds from L.T. Debt	39,461	78,973	1,013	Ö	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Proceeds from Equity Issues	387	1,758	1,835	1,314	ō	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sales of Invesments/Assets	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Capital Expenditure (Net)	42,479	40,327	34,072	36,048	30,759	-14.7%	-8.6%	-14.5%
Investments/Acquisitions	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Repayment of Debt	5,468	56,50 5	2,281	1,875	13,558	623.1%	-3 7.9%	-2.1%
Conversion/Redemption of Pfd. Shares	1,049	7,593	11,391	3	925	30733.3%	-50.4%	-11.0%
Dividends Paid	17,669	17,598	17,867	30,072	18,552	-38.3%	1.8%	2.4%
Net Change in Working Capital	<u>(8,142</u>)	50,340	<u>(6,783</u>) _	(17,475)	(17,021)	2.6%	N/A	5.5%
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NEWFOUN	DLAND 126	HING PONY	er collam	ree				
		ATION (\$ 000,0						
Short Term Debt	1991 % 60.4- 13%	1992 % 11.3- 2%	1993 % 12.3- 3%	1994 % 24.4- 5%	1995 % 46.0- 9%			
Long Term Debt	157.3- 34%	218.9- 46%	216.6- 46%	207.7- 44%	201.3- 41%			
Deferred Taxes	9.3- 2%	8.4- 2%	7.1- 2%	5.7- 1%	3.1- 1%			
Minority Interest	0.0- 0%	0.0- 0%	0.0- 0%	0.0- 0%	0.0- 0%			
Equity - Preferred	29.9- 7%	22.3- 5%	10.9- 2%	10.9- 2%	9.9- 2%			
- Common	<u>199.1- 44%</u>	<u>212.9- 45%</u>	<u>226.1- 48%</u>	<u>225.1- 48%</u>	<u>234.8- 47%</u>			
TOTAL	456.0-100%	473.7-100%	473.0-100%	473.7-100%	495.1-100%			
GOVERN 6 D. D. LEWIS C.	FINAN	CIAL RATIOS						
COVERAGE RATIOS	0.0	0.0		- 4				
Net Tangible Assets Total Debt:Equity	2.2x 49:51%	2.0x	2.1x	2.1x	2.1x			
Interest Coverage	49.51% 2.8x	49:51% 2.9x	49:51% 2.9x	50:50%	50:50%			
Cash Flow % Total Debt	24.4%	23.8%	2.9x 24.9%	2.9x 23.6%	2.7x 22.3%			
Preferred Dividend Coverage	12.0x	15.4x	19.7x	39.0x	47.5x			
Pft. & Common Dividend Coverage	1.6x	1.7x	1.6x	0.9x	1.5x			
All Fixed Charges	2.4x	2.6x	2.7x	2.8x	2.6x			
LIQUIDITY RATIOS								
STD % Total Debt	27.7%	4.9%	5.4%	10.5%	18.6%			
Current Liabilities % Revenue	33.1%	19.5%	21.0%	24.7%	29.3%			
Available Cash Flow % Construction	67.9%	-66.8%	75.0%	63.3%	71.8%			
PROFITABILITY RATIOS		•		e.				
Net Margin	8.5%	8.6%	8.9%	8.3%	8.4%			
Asset Turnover	0.63x	0.63x	0.60x	0.60x	0.59x			
E.B.I.T. % of Total Assets	12.0%	12.2%	13.0%	12.8%	11.2%			
Return on Avg. Common Equity	13.2%	13.5%	12.6%	12.0%	12.0%			
	OTHE	OCACOTROS						
	1991	R STATISTICS 1992	1993	1994	1995			
REGULATORY DATA	•							
Average rate base (\$ millions) Return on avg. rate base OPERATING STATISTICS Sources of energy (in millions of kW/h)	435.0	450.4	459.6	465.3	N/A			
Return on avg. rate base	11.41%	11.43%	11.37%	10.97%	N/A			
OPERATING STATISTICS	~	*						
B PORTORS OF CHEEK (III WINDOWS OF KAAR)								
Purchased	4,008	4,066	4,093	4,178	4,186			
Generated Total	4,425	417	420	420	423			
Total	4,425	4,483	4,513	4,598	4,609			
Sales (in millions of kWh)								
Domestic	692	644	623	634	630			
Domestic all-electric	1,770	1,865	1,918	1,960	1,970			
General service all-electric	763	780	807	858	879			
General service and street lighting Total	971 4,196	<u>955</u> 4,244	938 4,286	919 4,371	903			
					4,382			
Customers (year-end)	195,730	199,292	202,246	205,716	207,780			
Annual degree days - % normal	107	108	107	101	101			
Customers (year-end) Annual degree days - % normal Number of employees	957	950	815	807	800			
NEWFOUNDLAND LIGHT & P			For more inform					
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