

IN THE MATTER OF the
Public Utilities Act, (the “Act”); and

IN THE MATTER OF an Application
by Newfoundland Power for approval of:

(1) under section 41 of the Act, its 2004 capital
purchases, and construction projects in excess of \$50,000,
and

(2) under section 78 of the Act, the fixing and determining
of its rate base for 2002 in the amount of \$573,337,000

**Requests for Information
PUB-136 NP to PUB 194 NP**

September 8, 2003

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Requests for Information

NP 2004 Capital Budget Application

General

- PUB-136 NP Provide a description of what is included under the expense category “Labour-Internal”.
- PUB-137 NP Provide a description of what is included under the expense category “Labour-Contract”.
- PUB-138 NP Provide a description of what is included under the expense category “Materials”.
- PUB-139 NP Ref: Reply to PUB-4 NP. Explain why external professional consulting fees are accounted for under both “Engineering” and “Other”.
- PUB-140 NP Ref: Reply to PUB-4 NP. Explain why internal labour associated with NP engineering staff is not included under “Internal Labour”.
- PUB-141 NP Ref: Reply to PUB-3 NP. Do expenses for “software” itemized under the expense category, “Other” include costs for internal labour?
- PUB-142 NP Ref: Reply to PUB-3 NP. Do expenses for “software” itemized under the expense category, “Other” include costs for third party professional fees?
- PUB-143 NP Ref: Reply to PUB-3 NP. Explain why expenses for the purchase of software are included under “Other” as opposed to “Materials”.
- PUB-144 NP PUB-141 NP Ref: Reply to PUB-1 NP. Resubmit Table 1 showing all internal labour, whether engineering related or not, under “Internal Labour”, and all third party professional fees, consulting or otherwise, shown under a new expense category “Professional Fees”.
- PUB-145 NP Ref: Reply to PUB-7 NP. Does NP utilize any financial indices, such as cash flow from operations, existing depreciation rates, or other measures to determine what is an acceptable level of capital expenditure in a given year?
- PUB-146 NP Ref: Reply to PUB-8 NP. Are the SAIDI and SAIFI targets for 2003 (4.75 and 4.56 respectively) system wide targets?
- PUB-147 NP Ref: Reply to PUB-8 NP. What were the SAIDI and SAIFI targets for 2000, 2001 and 2002.

- PUB-148 NP Ref: Reply to PUB-8 NP. What were the actual SAIDI and SAIFI measures for 2000, 2001 and 2002.
- PUB-149 NP Ref: Reply to PUB-8 NP. If, as stated, NP has not established reliability targets for the 2004 through to 2008 period, how does NP decide where it should focus its efforts to improve reliability.
- PUB-150 NP Ref: Reply to PUB-13 NP. Provide a copy of the June 2001, 2002 and 2003 customer service surveys.
- PUB-151 NP Ref: Reply to PUB-13 NP and PUB-14 NP. Does NP have any further information on the nature or level of improvements in reliability are consider needed by the 13% of General Service customers and 20% of residential customers.
- PUB-152 NP Ref: PUB-20 NP and PUB-30 NP and PUB-34 NP. Provide a definition for “reliable service life” and explain how it differs from “useful life” and “expected life”.
- PUB-153 NP Ref: PUB-32 NP. What other alternatives did NP consider besides the full replacement of “deteriorated radiators”.
- PUB-154 NP Ref: PUB-32 NP and PUB-33 NP. Explain why NP is purchasing the more expensive galvanized radiators that have a life expectancy of 30 to 50 years if the lower cost standard radiators that are to be replaced in 2003 lasted 30 years.
- PUB-155 NP Ref: PUB-36 NP. Explain why NP uses multi-year project schedules to upgrade the same transmission line (eg. Portions of 403L had \$581,000 in capital improvements made during 2001 and is now scheduled for further improvements (\$380,000) in 2004) as opposed to conducting all improvements on one line in the same period.
- PUB-156 NP ref: PUB-37 NP. What is the depreciation rate of the aggregate transmission lines?
- PUB-157 NP Ref: PUB-38 NP. Given that Newfoundland always has had a salt contaminated environment, please explain why this static condition is the cause of the “significant increases” in the quantities of corroded conductors.
- PUB-158 NP Ref: PUB-39 NP. Confirm whether or not the “Historical actual cost per new customer averaged over the past 5 years” has been adjusted to remove the expenses associated with “Special Projects” that were incurred in each year. Show the calculation.

- PUB-159 NP Ref: PUB-40 NP (B-34 Extensions). Provide a breakdown between the project costs for new customers versus upgrades to existing lines to accommodate increased load.
- PUB-160 NP Ref: For the period 1999 to 2004F, show the year over year growth for the project costs for extensions to new customers compared with the growth in the number of new customers.
- PUB-161 NP Ref: PUB-43 NP. Provide the full calculation based on historical expenditure data.
- PUB-162 NP Ref: PUB-44 NP. Does the “Total Customers” in Table 2 include “Gross New Customers” from Table 1.
- PUB-163 NP Ref: PUB-44 NP. Confirm whether or not the “Historical actual cost per new customer averaged over the past 5 years” has been adjusted to remove the expenses associated with “Special Projects” that were incurred in each year. Show the calculation.
- PUB-164 NP Ref: PUB-46 NP. Explain why NP uses the less energy efficient high pressure sodium bulbs for street lighting instead of the more energy efficient and environmentally friendly low pressure sodium bulbs?
- PUB-165 NP Ref: PUB-47 NP. Explain why NP does not offer the more efficient low pressure sodium lighting as an alternative to high pressure sodium lighting.
- PUB-166 NP Ref: PUB-50 NP. Confirm whether or not the “Historical actual cost per new customer averaged over the past 5 years” has been adjusted to remove the expenses associated with “Special Projects” that were incurred in each year. Show the calculation.
- PUB-167 NP Ref: PUB-51 NP (1st Rev) and PUB-52 NP. Explain why the labour and engineering for the installation of transformers is included in the project costs for Extensions.
- PUB-168 NP Ref: PUB-52 NP. Explain what the “Other” costs are for Transformer Expenditures.
- PUB-169 NP Ref: PUB-53 NP and project B-44 (Reconstruction). Provide the full working calculation used to arrive at the “average historical expenditure”.
- PUB-170 NP Ref: PUB-53 NP and project B-44 (Reconstruction). Show for each year during the period 1999 to 2002 the calculated “average historical expenditure”, the Board approved capital expenditure and the actual expenditure.

- PUB-171 NP Ref: PUB-54 NP and PUB-55 NP. In light of NP's reply to PUB-10 NP, justify the increased expenditure for "Rebuild Distribution Lines".
- PUB-172 NP Ref: PUB-58 NP. Given that distribution line WES2 is neither the worst line by SAIDI, SAIFI nor customer minutes of interruption, justify the priority afforded the project.
- PUB-173 NP Ref: PUB-61 NP. Provide the capital expenditure for the refurbishment conducted on the selected distribution lines shown in Table 1.
- PUB-174 NP Ref: PUB-61 NP. Show the total capital expenditure provided in PUB-173 NP by the total number of customers effected.
- PUB-175 NP Ref: Project B-68 (Application Enhancements), and PUB-71 NP. Provide details on the \$245,000 capital expenditure under "Other" for "Software" under "Application Enhancements".
- PUB-176 NP Ref: PUB-71 NP. Provide further details on what "Consulting Fees" are required to carry out "Application Enhancements".
- PUB-177 NP Ref: Project B-68 (Application Enhancements). Explain why, if as stated, this project expense is based on an assessment of historical expenditures, the 2004 proposed, and 2005 estimate, and annual average for 2006 to 2008 are, on average, in excess of 70% more then the previous five year average.
- PUB-178 NP Ref: PUB-78 NP. Is the information on the experience of customer service representatives concerning customer follow-up phone calls anecdotal or has it been documented. If the latter, provide a copy of any report generated by the customer service department to support the statement made.
- PUB-179 NP Ref: PUN-78 NP. How will allowing individuals to assign their own passwords improve access to the Website over what is currently the case.
- PUB-180 NP Ref: PUB-80 NP. What specific operational efficiencies will be generated by each of the proposed "Operations Engineering Enhancements".
- PUB-181 NP Ref: B-70 (Application Environment) Vol. IV, Appendix 2, and PUB-86 NP. What, among the listed projects, is capable of being deferred for one (1) year without incurring vendor support issues or degradation of existing business processes.
- PUB-182 NP Ref: PUB-87 NP and PUB-88 NP. How many employees actively use (defined for the purposes of this reply as using the Application at least once a week) their version of MS Access?

- PUB-183 NP Ref: PUB-90 NP. Is it possible under NP's enterprise agreement with MS, to purchase some, but not all, of the software licenses listed under Table 1.
- PUB-184 NP Ref: PUB-92 NP. Is NP precluded by the terms of its enterprise agreement with MS from purchasing MS software licenses outright.
- PUB-185 NP Ref: PUB-95 NP. What is the version and release date of the database and development software slated for upgrade?
- PUB-186 NP Ref: PUB-96 NP. What version inconsistency currently exists, or will exist, between the "interdependent components".
- PUB-187 NP Ref: PUB-96 NP. How many versions of the database and development software currently in use by NP have been released since the last installed version.
- PUB-188 NP Ref: PUB-96 NP. What is the "expected end-of-life" date for the database software currently used by NP.
- PUB-189 NP Ref: PUB-97 NP. What product is not compatible with the database currently in production.
- PUB-190 NP Ref: PUB-102 NP. Describe what software applications will no longer operate on the quantity of thirty-one 500 MHz Dell laptops slated for retirement.
- PUB-191 NP Ref: PUB-102. What alternatives has NP considered to the continued purchase of full desktops and laptops.
- PUB-192 NP Ref: PUB-114 NP. What would NP consider to be a significant enough "change in [the] scope of the project" to warrant seeking new, specific approval from the Board before proceeding.
- PUB-193 NP Ref: PUB-117 NP. Provide a copy of the entire actual pension report authored by Mercer Human Resource Consulting.
- PUB-194 NP Ref: PUB-135 NP. Is the purchase price of the Fortis poles at book value. If so, is the book value the same book value as detailed in NP's 2001 Pole Purchase Application.

Mark Kennedy
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