

New Brunswick | Newfoundland and Labrador | Nova Scotia | Prince Edward Island

August 22, 2013

## VIA COURIER and ELECTRONIC MAIL

Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities 120 Torbay Road P.O. Box 21040 St. John's, NL A1A 5B2

Attention:

Ms. G. Cheryl Blundon

**Board Secretary** 

Dear Ms. Blundon:

RE: Application of Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro for the approval of the Rate

Stabilization

Plan rules and components of the rates to be charged to Industrial Customers (the

"Application")

Our Client: Vale Newfoundland and Labrador Limited ("Vale")

Enclosed are eight (8) copies of Vale's first round of RFI's in respect of the Application.

We have provided a copy of this correspondence together with enclosures to all concerned parties.

We trust you will find the enclosed satisfactory.

Yours faithfully,

Thomas J. O'Reilly, Q.C.

TJOR/je Encls.

cc. Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro Hydro Place, 500 Columbus Drive P.O. Box 12400, St. John's, NL

A1B 4K7 Attention: Geoff Young

Thomas J. O'Reilly, Q.C. | Partner

## August 22, 2013

Roebothan, McKay & Marshall Barristers & Solicitors 34 Harvey Road, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor St. John's, NL. A1C 5W1 Attention: Colin Feltham

Newfoundland Power P.O. Box 8910 St. John's, NL A1B 3P6

Attention: Gerard Hayse

Curtis Dawe Barristers & Solicitors P.O. Box 337 139 Water Street St. John's. NL A1C 5J9

Attention: Liam O'Brien

Thomas Johnson Q.C. Consumer Advocate O'Dea Earle Barristers & Solicitors 323 Duckworth Street P.O. Box 5955 St. John's, NL A1C 5X4

Stewart McKelvey Barristers & Solicitors Cabot Place, 100 New Gower Street St. John's, NL A1C 5V3

Attention: Paul Coxworthy

Stewart McKelvie Barristers & Solicitors Cabot Place, 100 New Gower Street St. John's, NL A1C 5V3

Attention: Gregory Moores

Poole Althouse Barristers & Solicitors 49-51 Park Street P.O. Box 812 Corner Brook, NL A2H 6H7

Attention: Dean Porter

Sheryl Nisenbaum Praxair Canada Inc. 1 City Center Drive Suite 1200 Mississauga, ON L5B 1M2 **IN THE MATTER OF** the *Public Utilities Act*, (the "Act"): and

IN THE MATTER OF an Application by Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro for the approval, pursuant to Sections 70(1) and 76 of the Act, of the Rate Stabilization Plan rules and components of the rates to be charged to Vale Newfoundland & Labrador Limited.

## 1 REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION OF VALE NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR LIMITED

2		V-NLH-1 to V-NLH-5
3		Issued August 19, 2013
4 5 6 7 8	V-NLH-1	Is Hydro aware of any other utilities in North America that utilize a load variation component within their rate stabilization plan or fuel adjustment charge? If so, which ones and what methodology do they use to allocate load variation between customer classes?
9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16	V-NLH-2	Hydro evidence page 13, line 5 – 6 says that Hydro is proposing " to allocate net load variance for both NP and IC customers on customer energy ratios". In response to PUB-NLH-19, page 2 of 2, line 7, Hydro says they propose " to have the load variation changed to one based on cost of service treatment." Please explain why Hydro uses the terms "customer energy ratios" and "cost of service treatment" interchangeably when describing the proposed allocation method for the load variation.
17 18 19 20 21 22	V-NLH-3	Pages 6 and 16 of the Grant Thornton report which is included in the IC RSP application, discuss the 1986 method for allocating the fuel component of the load variation. Page 6, lines 24 – 28 reads:  "According to the March 26, 1986 letter from Hydro, it was noted that the calculation of the plan balances for the retail

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19		and Industrial Customers would be prepared monthly. The letter indicated that Hydro would recalculate the 1986 cost of service by customer, replacing the 1986 costs with the actual costs as they became available, related to any changes which may occur in both firm and secondary loads, hydro production and/or fuel prices."  Page 16, lines 29 – 33 relate the RSP changes that occurred following the 2003 GRA. The report states:  "Load Variation Component  The change in this component of the RSP was to treat the fuel costs component of the load variation in the same manner as the revenue component. The revenue variation component is assigned to the customer class which caused the variation, however previously the fuel cost variation was treated as common costs and shared proportionately among the customer classes regardless of the class that caused the variation. It was allocated using customer energy ratios."  How does the allocation method which Hydro is currently proposing differ from the method that was used prior to 2004?
20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27	V-NLH-4	PUB-NLH-17 lists seven load scenarios and Hydro is to supply the actual quantities in each case. For each of these scenarios/quantities, what would be the change to the revenue requirement (before deficit allocation) for each of the Island Interconnected customer classes assuming that the scenario load data had been used in the 2013 test year cost of service? The change is to be related to the 2013 test year cost of service in the GRA application.
28 29	V-NLH-5	Please compare the results obtained in PUB-NLH-17 to those obtained in Vale-NLH-4.

<u>DATED</u> at St. John's, in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, this 22 day of August, 2013.

COX & PALMER

Thomas J. O'Reilly, Q.C.

TO: The Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities Suite E210, Prince Charles Building 120 Torbay Road P. O. Box 21040 St. John's, NL A1A 5B2 Attention: Board Secretary

TO: Newfoundland & Labrador Hydro P. O. Box 12400 500 Columbus Drive St. John's, NL A1B 4K7 Attention: Geoffrey P. Young Senior Legal Counsel

TO: Newfoundland Power
P. O. Box 8910
55 Kenmount Road
St. John's, NL A1B 3P6
Attention: Gerard Hayes
Senior Legal Counsel

TO: Thomas J. Johnson, Consumer Advocate
O'Dea, Earle
323 Duckworth Street
P. O. Box 5955, Stn. C
St. John's, NL A1C 5X4

TO: Praxair Canada Inc.
1 City Centre Drive, Suite 1200
Mississauga, ON L5B 1M2
Attention: Sheryl Nisenbaum,
Assistant Secretary

TO: Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited,
North Atlantic Refining Limited
and Teck Resources Limited
Stewart McKelvey
PO Box 5038
11th Floor, Cabot Place
100 New Gower Street
St. John's, NL A1C 5V3
Attention: Paul Coxworthy