

September 8, 2022

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

Attention: Ms. Cheryl Blundon  
Director of Corporate Services & Board Secretary

Dear Ms. Blundon:

**Re: *Reliability and Resource Adequacy Study Review – Labrador-Island Link Monthly Update – August 2022***

On November 21, 2019, the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities (“Board”) requested that Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro (“Hydro”) provide further information as a result of the findings in The Liberty Consulting Group’s (“Liberty”) Eighth Quarterly Monitoring Report on the Integration of Power Supply Facilities to the Island Interconnected System. In its response, Hydro committed to providing Liberty and the Board with a monthly status update regarding the schedule for the Labrador-Island Link (“LIL”) software development and testing, updated information in response to the specific requests detailed in the Board’s November 21, 2019 correspondence, and other pertinent information with respect to the Muskrat Falls Project. On January 19, 2021, the Board requested Hydro continue monthly reporting and outlined specific information, at a minimum, to be included.<sup>1</sup> Enclosed please find the update as requested.

## **1.0 LABRADOR-ISLAND LINK**

### **1.1 Commissioning Activities**

#### **1.1.1 Bipole Commissioning**

After completion of Factory Acceptance Testing in August 2022, GE Canada (“GE”) and Hydro reviewed the results and determined the software was acceptable to release to site to commence Dynamic Commissioning. Dynamic Commissioning tests concluded in early September 2022, and were to confirm the performance of the LIL at higher power levels. GE and Hydro are currently reviewing the test results to determine if Dynamic Commissioning was successful and if the LIL is ready to enter the 30-day Trial Operations period; a decision is expected in the coming days. As part of testing, the LIL bipole was loaded to 475 MW. The Newfoundland and Labrador System Operator (“NLSO”) will determine the actual power transfer level daily based on system conditions. Testing the LIL at higher power levels will require cold weather and elevated loads. It is anticipated that the grid conditions required to perform

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<sup>1</sup> Hydro’s report has been adjusted to reflect the Board’s request, with the exception of information related to the LIL monthly energy transfers and Maritime Link availability and exports and imports in the month. Both pieces of information are currently included in Hydro’s monthly energy supply report and are not available in a time frame that corresponds with the timing of this report.

these tests will occur in the fall (October–November time frame). The LIL will be considered commissioned once testing in this range is successful.

### **1.1.2 Soldiers Pond Synchronous Condensers**

Synchronous Condenser (“SC”) Unit 1 commissioning tests are ongoing. GE has moved the Return to Service to October 2022 to accommodate additional testing. SC1 synchronization to the grid is currently scheduled for late September 2022. SC2 and SC3 are online.

## **1.2 Operations**

As previously reported, the LIL returned to bipole operations in July 2022; it operated at various levels, as determined by the NLSO, until August 16, 2022 when GE requested an outage to complete punchlist items prior to commencing Dynamic Commissioning on August 22, 2022.

## **1.3 Outages**

On August 27, 2022, while performing runback tests on the Maritime Link and the LIL, there was an unplanned trip of the Maritime Link’s STATCOM controller, resulting in an outage to Newfoundland Power Inc. customers in the Stephenville area. All customers were restored within nine minutes of the disturbance. Upon review of the incident, it was determined that the cause was procedural in nature and steps were put in place to prevent recurrence.

## **2.0 MUSKRAT FALLS GENERATION**

### **2.1 Operations**

Muskrat Falls Unit 2 is currently offline for planned maintenance. Units 1, 3, and 4 are in operation.

## **3.0 LABRADOR-ISLAND LINK SCHEDULE**

As noted above, the decision to proceed to Trial Operations is pending the review of the Dynamic Commissioning test results. Once a determination is made, GE will enter into the 30-day Trial Operations period; this period will be complete after 30 consecutive days of operation without a trip attributed to the high-voltage, direct current system.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

### **NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR HYDRO**



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