



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

NOTICE OF HEARING AND INVITATION FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR HYDRO 2003 GENERAL RATE APPLICATION

The public hearing of Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro's ("Hydro's") 2003 General Rate Application (the "Application") received by the Board on May 21, 2003 will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, October 6, 2003 in the Board's hearing room, Prince Charles Building, 120 Torbay Road, St. John's. The Notice of Application and Pre-hearing Conference, which included the request for intervenor submissions, was published in newspapers in the Province beginning June 4, 2003.

On August 12, 2003 Hydro filed an amended application to reflect:

- 1) certain directions by Government pursuant to section 5.1 of the Electrical Power Control Act, 1994;**
- 2) a reduction in the requested return on equity for rate setting purposes to 9.75%; and**
- 3) Board Order No. P.U. 23(2003), approving revised rates for Newfoundland Power's customers, which flow through to Hydro's Rural Customers.**

Any or all consumers of electricity in the Province may be affected by the Board's decision on the Application. The revised Application proposes a 13.7% increase in the base rates currently paid by Newfoundland Power and an increase in the base rates for Industrial Customers of 13.5%. The specific impact of Hydro's proposals on electricity rates paid by residential and general service customers of Hydro and Newfoundland Power will vary depending on electricity consumption but the proposed average rate increase is approximately 7.4% effective January 1, 2004.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

At the Pre-hearing Conference on July 18, 2003 the Board established the list of intervenors for the proceeding. The registered intervenors in this hearing are: the Consumer Advocate, Mr. Dennis Browne, Q.C.; Newfoundland Power Inc.; Hydro's Industrial Customers, namely, Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Company Limited; North Atlantic Refining Limited; Abitibi Consolidated Company of Canada, Stephenville and Grand Falls Divisions and Voisey's Bay Nickel Company Limited; and the Towns of Labrador City and Wabush.

Interested persons or organizations other than registered intervenors can participate in the hearing in one of the following two ways:

1) **Oral Presentation** - Any person or organization may request the opportunity to make an Oral Presentation during the time scheduled for public participation. Persons or organizations interested in making an Oral Presentation must write to the Board outlining their interest in the proceeding, along with their address and telephone number. The Board will consider travelling to other locations in the province where public interest is demonstrated and interested persons or organizations have confirmed participation. The Board will finalize and provide notice of the dates and locations for public participation, based on the submissions and interest it receives. **The deadline for submitting requests to make oral presentations to the Board is 3:00 p.m. Thursday, October 9, 2003.**

2) **Letter of Comment** - Any interested person or organization may file a Letter of Comment for the consideration of the Board. All Letters of Comment must clearly state the person's interest in the proceeding, and the person's views regarding the proceeding, together with any relevant information that may be useful in explaining or supporting those views. **The Board will accept all Letters of Comment received before the closing day of the hearing.**

HOW TO SEE THE APPLICATION AND HEARING DOCUMENTATION

Copies of the Application and information filed to date, as well as the Board's legislation and regulations are available for public viewing at the offices of the Board between the hours of 8:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. or upon request from the Board Secretary at (709) 726-8600 or on the Board's website at www.pub.nf.ca. A copy of the Application can also be viewed at any of Hydro's regional offices in the Province.

HOW TO CONTACT THE BOARD

All correspondence and requests for further information should be addressed to the Board Secretary at the address set out below. The Board encourages the electronic filing of documents and the Board's Information Technology Officer, is available to support this type of filing at 709-726-1158, toll free 1-866-782-0006, or by e-mail at ito@pub.nf.ca

Office: Suite E210, Prince Charles Building, 120 Torbay Road, St. John's
Mail: P.O. Box 21040, St. John's, NL, A1A 5B2
Telephone: 709-726-8600 or 1-866-782-0006 (toll free)
Facsimile: 709-726-9604
E-mail: ito@pub.nf.ca

Dated at St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, this 17th day of September, 2003.

Cheryl Blundon
Board Secretary

INSERTIONS:

The Telegram – 1 insertion – September 20, 003

The Western Star – 1 insertion – September 20 2003

Robinson Blackmore – 1 insertion in the following papers commencing September 20, 2003

The Shoreline

The Express-St. John's

The Compass-Carbonear

The Packet-Clareville

The Southern Gazette-Marystown

The Beacon-Gander

The Pilot-Lewisporte

The Advertiser-GrandFalls-Windsor

The Nor-Wester-Springdale

The Coaster-Harbour Breton

The Humber Log-Corner Brook

The Georgian-Stephenville

The Gulf News-Port aux Basques

The Charter-Placentia

The Aurora – Labrador City-Wabush

The Labradorian – Happy Valley-Goose Bay

The Northern Pen – St. Anthony