

Professional Engineers and Geoscientists Newfoundland and Labrador responds to Lower Churchill Announcement

November 29, 2010

Professional Engineers and Geoscientists Newfoundland and Labrador (PEGNL) congratulates the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador and Nalcor Energy in partnering with the Province of Nova Scotia and Emera Inc. for the development of the Muskrat Falls generating facility and the associated transmission facilities that will transmit electrical energy from Labrador to the island, on to Nova Scotia and beyond.

PEGNL will work with these organizations to ensure that the engineering and geoscience professionals working on this project are appropriately registered to practice in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

“Newfoundland and Labrador has a tradition of successfully developing and operating challenging hydroelectric generating and high voltage transmission projects for more than 100 years,” says Geoff Emberley, P.Eng., PEGNL’s CEO & Registrar. “The Lower Churchill project will continue the tradition, and the success of the project, as with past projects, will require the application of substantial engineering and geoscience skills.

Critical to the success of the project is the acquisition and use of very skilled professionals to plan, design, construct, operate and maintain these facilities. Many of these professionals are resident within our province, and others will be utilized to build the required teams.”

PEGNL recognizes that the project has the potential to bring significant benefits to the province:

- It furthers a source of electricity that is not dependent on the stability of international energy markets, both in terms of price and security of supply;
- The reduced emissions from avoiding oil fired generation have significant environmental benefits;
- There are potential benefits in this project that may help further develop the province’s vast ‘energy warehouse’ potential, as was noted in the province’s energy strategy;
- This project, and other future energy developments, can bring significant benefits to the province, as well as to the country and the world, in providing economic and clean electrical energy.

“PEGNL encourages the proponents of the project to bring the necessary agreements and approvals into place so that it may proceed expeditiously,” Emberley continues. “No doubt it has taken great effort and skill to get the project to the current levels of agreement and approval. The proponents should now give equal effort and skill to bring the project to fruition.”

Professional Engineers and Geoscientists Newfoundland and Labrador (PEGNL) is a self-regulating professional organization which exists to ensure the competent and ethical practice of engineering and geoscience in Newfoundland and Labrador, and to ensure public confidence in the professions. PEGNL receives its authority from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador through the *Engineers and Geoscientists Act, 2008*.

For further information, please call Geoff Emberley, P.Eng., CEO & Registrar, at 753-7714.