

## News Release

### **Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Newfoundland and Labrador (PEGNL) presents a brief on the Energy Plan Discussion Paper tonight**

**For immediate release**

**February 9, 2006**

**St. John's, Nfld.:** Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Newfoundland and Labrador (PEGNL) will present its views on the provincial government's Energy Plan tonight in Grand Falls.

PEGNL believes it is very important to contribute to the discussion on the development of the proposed provincial Energy Plan in the areas of engineering and geoscience. It supports the objectives outlined in the Discussion Paper, particularly Objective 4 which states: "To develop a provincial energy industry that is globally competitive and of world-class quality, so that we become significant exporters of both energy products and professional services."

Steve McLean, P.Eng., PEGNL's Executive Director, says: "In developing this comprehensive Energy Plan Discussion Paper, we believe that the provincial government of Newfoundland and Labrador is providing a "foundation for the prudent development and management of the province's energy sector," and we wholeheartedly support the endeavour. It is apparent that a lot of thought has gone into this Paper, with a lot of issues addressed and questions raised.

"We believe that the engagement of engineers and geoscientists of Newfoundland & Labrador in all energy-related projects will significantly contribute to the continued growth of Newfoundland and Labrador society and also ensure the growth of the engineering and geoscience professions. Such a contribution will help the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador successfully realize the vision outlined in the Energy Plan Discussion Paper.

"Our engineers and geoscientists have developed considerable expertise in the oil and gas and electrical energy sectors. They look forward to contributing to the discussion on energy issues and also to expanding work in the energy field."

Some of the points raised in PEGNL's brief are:

- The three most important issues for PEGNL are: growth, or sustainability, of the professions; the environment; and local benefits.
- To the greatest extent possible, PEGNL would like to see the capacity of the engineering and geoscience professions growing in all disciplinary areas to undertake

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new research, design and development. Technology transfer is the vehicle through which sustainability is assured.

- The protection of the environment is of paramount importance to engineers and geoscientists and the principles of sustainable development should be applied to the greatest extent possible.
- PEGNL encourages the provincial government to continue to make every effort to maximize benefits in Newfoundland and Labrador. The employment of resident engineers and geoscientists will contribute to the continuing growth of expertise in our professions. Similarly, it will stimulate the development of other engineering- and geoscience-related businesses and occupations.
- The provincial oil and gas industry has become a viable and productive industry. Hibernia, Terra Nova and White Rose have been important for developing expertise in engineering and geoscience and this expertise has been recognized worldwide.
- Husky Energy has set a benchmark for local benefits, including engineering, which must be maintained. Future developments should operate in the same manner, with the Engineering and Project Management personnel located here. The provincial government should move ahead as soon as possible on these developments, but not at the expense of reduced local benefits.
- PEGNL tracked MUN engineering graduates from 1974 to 1999. Forty nine percent of these graduates have left the province. PEGNL would like to see young engineers given challenging and rewarding opportunities here, rather than exporting them. No province keeps all of its graduates, but relative to the time and money invested in their education, the loss of these graduates is a provincial resource ‘giveaway’ that is not being addressed.
- PEGNL supports the development of the Lower Churchill at the earliest opportunity, including managing it from within the province and, in particular, ensuring that both public and private sectors participate.

A copy of the written brief is available at [www.pegnl.ca](http://www.pegnl.ca).

Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of 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*. PEGNL is a constituent member of the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers which represents approximately 160,000 engineers across Canada.

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For further information, please call Steve McLean, P.Eng. at 753-7714.