

News Release

PEGNL responds to recent Lower Churchill announcement

For immediate release

May 23, 2006

St. John's, Nfld.: The Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Newfoundland and Labrador (PEGNL) is pleased that the provincial government has announced a proposed schedule for developing the Lower Churchill, with sanction proposed by 2009 and first power by 2015.

“The proposed time line represents progress,” says Steve McLean, P.Eng., PEGNL’s Executive Director. “We expect that some of our members will be deeply involved with the Lower Churchill development, providing services such as planning, engineering, procurement, construction management, etc. to Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro.”

In a recent brief to the Minister of Natural Resources, on the Energy Plan Discussion Paper, PEGNL supported developing the Lower Churchill at the earliest opportunity.

“We want to ensure that not only is the development managed here, but that both private and public sectors participate,” McLean continues. “We support Hydro’s wish to have strong expertise within their organization, but it is essential to use the private sector in the planning, design and construction to ensure diversity. Although Hydro has experts in both engineering and construction, we need to start developing new people to ensure continuity.”

A fundamental issue for PEGNL is growth, or sustainability, of the professions.

“We want to see the engineering and geoscience professions growing in all disciplinary areas to allow us to undertake new research, design and development. Previous hydroelectric developments engaged provincial engineers and geoscientists who acquired considerable knowledge and skills in this area; expertise that the province now exports.

“PEGNL will continue to monitor major developments, such as Lower Churchill, to ensure that the current engineering and geoscience expertise and capacity are not only utilized, but also enhanced and retained.”

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 through the *Engineers and Geoscientists Act*. PEGNL is a constituent member of the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers and the Canadian Council of Professional Geoscientists representing the professions across Canada. PEG’s Energy Plan brief can be found on the website: www.pegnl.ca.

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