

**Submission to the Independent Churchill River
Review Committee's Public Consultation**

February 27, 2026

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Background on Energy NL

Energy NL was founded in 1977 to represent the supply and service sector of the energy industry. Today, Energy NL represents over 500 member organizations worldwide which are involved in, or benefit from, the energy industry of Newfoundland and Labrador. Energy NL members are a diverse representation of businesses involved in a range of activities related to both renewable and non-renewable energy development, construction, and operations. This includes, but is not limited to, areas such as direct offshore and onshore supply, health and safety equipment and training, engineering solutions and fabricators, law firms, and human resource agencies.

Introduction

Energy NL believes local content is key to energy project development in Newfoundland and Labrador and the principles of the Atlantic Accord should be considered for all energy projects, no matter the sector. In fact, Energy NL believes that as a province we must be more strident in our approach to local content - in both ensuring local firms participate from the inception of projects and in the monitoring and enforcement of such provisions. Local content expectations must be clear from the outset of any energy project, prior to any work (i.e. pre-FEED) occurring. Expectations must be known to prospective developers/operators when they look to engage in energy projects in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Upon announcement of the Churchill Falls Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Energy NL voiced its support for the opportunities that new hydroelectric energy projects would bring for its members. Energy NL members have decades of experience in major infrastructure projects and are well positioned to participate in and ensure the success of any major energy project, including the four identified in the MOU.

Commentary

While the content of the MOU is focused on the financial and commercial basis for further negotiation of the Definitive Agreement(s), the outcome of these negotiations will significantly impact Energy NL members. With installation capacities near, or exceeding, that of Muskrat Falls the opportunity the projects detailed in the MOU provide cannot be understated, not only from a development or construction perspective, but also through operations. However, to fully avail of the economic benefits of these projects it is imperative that local benefits are prioritized in all aspects of the project life cycle.

It is understood, as outlined in the MOU, that Hydro-Québec and Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, or affiliates thereof, will divide the responsibility for the design and construction, or execution, of these projects. Regardless of which entity is leading these projects, Energy NL feels a commitment to local benefits must be made for each project individually. The Gull Island Project has a completed Environmental Assessment, in which hiring protocols are already outlined to prioritize qualified workers in the following order: Innu Nation, residents of Labrador, residents of the island of Newfoundland, the rest of Canada. Ensuring this pyramid of benefits is abided by for all parties involved is critically important to Energy NL, as is ensuring that similar prioritization of local content and local benefits are in place for all other projects outlined in the MOU that do not have completed Environmental Assessments.

Conclusion

Energy NL and its members are eager to play a part in any new hydroelectric developments that may come from the MOU. The economic opportunity proposed is significant, and ensuring local benefits are ingrained and there are tools to both monitor and enforce their implementation in any energy project only further ensures that Newfoundlanders and Labradorians are the primary beneficiaries of their resources. Should the Review Panel have any specific questions, or require any additional information, Energy NL would be happy to discuss further.