

Registration Pursuant to Section 49 of *The Environmental Protection Act* 

For the Proposed Construction of a Storage Facility for Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) materials in Wabush, Labrador

# **PROPONENT:**

(i) Name of Corporate Body:

Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro (Hydro)

(ii) Address:

P. O. Box 12400 Hydro Place, 2 Captain Whelan Drive, St. John's, NL. A1B 4K7

(iii) Chief Executive Officer:

Name: William E. Wells

Official Title: President & Chief Executive Officer

Telephone No: (709) 737-1291

(iv) Principal Contact Person(s) for Purposes of Environmental Assessment:

Name: Trent L. Carter

Official Title: Ecologist, Environmental Services and Properties Dept.

Telephone No: (709) 737-1955

Alternate

Name: Frank L. Ricketts

Official Title: Manager, Environmental Services

Telephone No: (709) 737-1708

#### **THE UNDERTAKING:**

(i) Name of the Undertaking:

Construction of a storage facility for Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) materials in Wabush, Labrador.

(ii) Nature of the Undertaking:

Installation of a pre-engineered, pre-assembled building for the storage of PCB contaminated electrical equipment, transformer oil, and associated waste materials.

(iii) Purpose/Rationale/Need for the Undertaking:

The facility will accommodate PCB contaminated electrical equipment and transformer oil that has been removed from service in Hydro's Transmission and Rural Operations (Labrador West) operating area.

# **DESCRIPTION OF THE UNDERTAKING:**

# (i) Geographic Location:

# (a) Proposed Location:

The proposed PCB storage facility will be located in the existing storage yard at the Hydro's Wabush Line Depot/Office, located in the community of Wabush, Labrador. The property is presently owned and operated by Hydro. A 1:50,000 scale location drawing is provided in Appendix A.

# (ii) <u>Physical Features:</u>

## (a) Storage Facility:

The storage facility will be a new pre-engineered, pre-assembled metal building measuring approximately 3.66 metres long, 3.05 metres wide, and 2.75 metres high. The building will be supported on a concrete foundation and have a secondary-containment system incorporated into its design.

A design drawing for the proposed storage facility is provided in Appendix B and a site drawing identifying the proposed storage facility location is provided in Appendix C.

#### (b) Site Access:

No new access routes will be required. The existing storage yard access route off First Avenue will be utilized. Access to the storage facility will be restricted via a lockable door and a chain link fence, complete with lockable gate.

# (iii) <u>Construction:</u>

#### (a) Construction Schedule:

The installation and commissioning of the facility will occur in September 2005. Installation is anticipated to take approximately one week to complete. The facility will start receiving materials as soon as the installation is complete.

# (b) Potential Sources of Pollutants:

The potential sources of pollutants during the construction period would be noise pollution, air pollution, and hydrocarbon leakage from construction equipment.

Noise and air pollution are not considered to have a potential for significant impact, as normal construction type equipment will be utilized.

All equipment will be inspected routinely to ensure that no hydrocarbon leaks occur. Any spill incidents or leaks will be addressed in accordance with the site's Environmental Emergency Response Plan (EERP).

## (c) Potential Resource Conflicts:

No resource conflicts are anticipated.

# (iv) Operation:

It is anticipated that the storage facility will be required for a period of 25 years or until all PCB containing electrical equipment in the Labrador West area has been removed from service. PCB contaminated electrical equipment, transformer oil, and associated waste materials will be stored at the facility until they can be transported to an approved PCB destruction and decontamination facility.

# (a) Inspection and Maintenance Activities:

The site will be inspected by trained Hydro personnel at a minimum to the requirements of the *Storage of PCB Wastes Regulations* under the Newfoundland and Labrador *Environmental Protect Act*, and the *Storage of PCB Material Regulations* under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*. All PCB containing equipment and containers will be inspected, along with the facilities secondary-containment system, fire extinguishers and security fencing.

Any damaged or leaking equipment and/or containers will be replaced immediately. All site maintenance will be conducted as required.

#### (b) Potential Sources of Pollutants:

The potential sources of pollutants from the facility would be the release of PCB contaminated transformer oil in the event of a spill or leak at the storage facility, and the release of oily soot in the event of a fire at the storage facility.

The facility will have a secondary-containment system incorporated into its design to contain any spills or leaks. The storage facility will also be inspected monthly to ensure that no leaks have occurred. Any spill incidents or leaks will be addressed in accordance with the site's Environmental Emergency Response Plan (EERP).

The risk of a fire at the storage facility is extremely low as there will be no potential ignition sources associated with the storage facility and no electrical service will be provided. The storage facility will be equipped with portable fire extinguishers. A fire control and emergency procedures plan will also be developed in coordination with the local fire department.

#### (c) Potential Resource Conflicts:

No resource conflicts are anticipated.

#### (v) Occupations:

The occupations required to construct this undertaking are:

- (a) Manager, electrical power system;
- (b) Storekeeper;
- (c) Technologist, engineering design;
- (d) Inspector, hazardous waste, environmental health;
- (e) Electrician, electric power system;
- (f) Lineman/woman, electrical power system;
- (g) Lineman/woman, trainee, electric power system;
- (h) Maintenance welder;
- (i) Maintenance mechanic, utilities;
- (j) Maintenance utility worker; and
- (k) Laborer, electric power system.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE UNDERTAKING:**

The following is a list of permits, approvals and authorizations that may be necessary for the proposed project:

- (a) Release of the Undertaking under the Environmental Assessment Provisions of the Environmental Protection Act, Department of Environment and Conservation;
- (b) Building Permit, Town of Wabush;
- (c) Certificate of Approval for a Waste Management System under the Approvals Provisions of the Environmental Protection Act, Department of Government Services.

## **SCHEDULE:**

Construction could commence immediately after the arrival of the pre-engineered, pre-assembled storage facility and the acquisition of appropriate permits and approvals. It is anticipated that the installation of the facility will commence in September 2005.

#### **FUNDING:**

11)111 30,3005

The project will be funded under Hydro's Capital Budget as approved by The Public Utilities Board.

Willam E. Wells

President and

Chief Executive Officer