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April 24, 2020

Files: N1L4-0150 and W2014L4-0001

Matthew Miller
Senior Environmental Specialist
Northwest Territories Power Corporation
PO Box 2250
Yellowknife NT X1A 2P7

Sent via email

Dear Matthew Miller,

Re: Information Request – Dam Safety Review 2018

On August 26, 2019, Board staff emailed NTPC staff with follow-up questions regarding NTPC's 2018 Dam Safety Review (DSR) and implementation plan.¹ These submissions are required under Part C, Condition 16 of Water Licence NIL4-0150 and Part D, Condition 6 of Water Licence W2014L4-0001. These Licence Conditions also require NTPC to provide a rationale for any decisions that deviate from the review engineer's DSR recommendations. Board staff asked for more information regarding three of the recommendations that NTPC is not adopting, namely recommendations No. 2 (regarding crest levels), No. 12 (regarding boreholes and cross-sectional drilling, test pits investigations), and No. 13 (regarding installation of weirs). The basis for not adopting these recommendations was not clear to staff. Further, these three recommendations may have a direct or indirect link to findings from the Lessons Learned Report (2013) for the 2006 Snare Forks dam breach.² On December 19, 2019, the Northwest Territories Power Corporation (NTPC) responded to staff's questions.³

Staff have reviewed the DSR, the implementation plan, and NTPC's responses to staff's questions. We note that of the review engineer's 13 recommendations, NTPC has indicated that it will be fully adopting four recommendations.⁴ In staff's view, to address the nine recommendations that NTPC will not be fully adopting, the most efficient and conclusive path forward would be for NTPC to submit a memo from the DSR review engineer confirming that he agrees with NTPC's rationale for not adopting the nine recommendations. The review engineer can take into consideration that the Board reviews the DSR with the CDA dam consequence classifications in mind (and not the NTPC classifications), in accordance with the Water Licence.

¹ See WLWB Online Registry (wlwb.ca) for [N1L4-0150 - NTPC - 2018 Dam Safety Review - Email Correspondence - Dec 19 19](#).

² See WLWB Online Registry for [N1L4-0150 - NTPC - Snare Forks Dam Breach Lessons Learned Report - Mar 21 13](#).

³ See WLWB Online Registry for [N1L4-0150 - NTPC - 2018 Dam Safety Review - Email Correspondence - Dec 19 19](#).

⁴ NTPC agreed to adopt recommendations No. 7, 8, and 9, and noted that nothing is required in order to implement recommendation number 11.

Please let us know if submission of a memo from the review engineer is a feasible option for NTPC, and if so, when NTPC could submit it to the Board.

Finally, staff note that the Board's April 1, 2016 letter to NTPC required that NTPC include an update on the status of all DSR recommendations within its Annual Report (required by N1L-0150 Part B, Item 1(m); W2014L4-0001, Schedule 1, Item 1(i)).⁵ Staff remind NTPC to include an update on the status of all 2011 and 2018 DSR recommendations in the upcoming 2019 Annual Report.

Please feel free to call Patty Ewaschuk at 416-432-6066 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Fequet', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ryan Fequet
Executive Director

Copied: Wek'ezhii West Distribution list

⁵ See WLWB Online Registry (wlwb.ca) for [N1L4-0150 - NTPC - Request to Revise DSR Frequency - Board Directive and Reasons for Decision - Apr 1 16.pdf](#).