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nalcorenergy.com

December 23, 2019

VIA EMAIL

s. 40(1)

Attention:

[REDACTED]

Dear

[REDACTED]

s. 40(1)

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015* (File #: PB/890/2019)

On November 25, 2019, Nalcor Energy received your request for access to the following records/information:

All records from Nalcor to the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador relating to the decision to terminate Astaldi Canada Inc. from the Muskrat Falls Project, including but limited to any emails, letters, presentations, notes or minutes of oversight committee meetings from May to November 2018.

All records from Nalcor to the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador relating to funding for the Muskrat Falls Project in 2018, including financial and operational reports, cost overrun certificates, funding requests, requests for spending approval, authorizations for expenditures ("AFEs"), capital expenditure authorizations, cash calls, draw confirmation certificates, requests for issuance or renewal of government loan guarantees (including but not limited to federal loan guarantees), and documents relating to the Cost Overrun Escrow Account ("COREA") including government documents, documents relating to equity funding, presentations, reports and account records.

Nalcor is refusing access to any records relating to your request. Our refusal is pursuant to sections 30(1)(a), (b) of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015* (ATIPPA) as well as sections 5.4(1)(a), (c)(ii), (d)(ii) of the *Energy Corporation Act* (ECA). All records relating to this request relate to legal matters that are ongoing, and therefore, Nalcor is denying your request for access to information.

It is the goal to publish this letter following a 72 hour period after it is sent electronically to you or five business days in the case where the letter has been mailed to you.

Please be advised that you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the processing of your access request, as set out in section 42 of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act)*. A request to the Commissioner must be made in writing

within 15 business days of the date of this letter or within a longer period that may be allowed by the Commissioner. Your appeal should identify your concerns with the request and why you are submitting the appeal.

The appeal may be addressed to the Information and Privacy Commissioner as follows:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner

2 Canada Drive

P. O. Box 13004, Stn. A

St. John's, NL. A1B 3V8

Telephone: (709) 729-6309

Toll-Free: 1-877-729-6309

Facsimile: (709) 729-6500

You may also appeal directly to the Supreme Court Trial Division within 15 business days after you receive the decision of the public body, pursuant to section 52 of the Act (a copy of this section of the Act has been enclosed for your reference).

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned by telephone at (709) 733-5346 or by e-mail at granthiscock@nalconenergy.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Grant Hiscock".

Grant Hiscock
Access and Privacy Officer

Access or correction complaint

42. (1) A person who makes a request under this Act for access to a record or for correction of personal information may file a complaint with the commissioner respecting a decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request.

(2) A complaint under subsection (1) shall be filed in writing not later than 15 business days

(a) after the applicant is notified of the decision of the head of the public body, or the date of the act or failure to act; or

(b) after the date the head of the public body is considered to have refused the request under subsection 16(2).

(3) A third party informed under section 19 of a decision of the head of a public body to grant access to a record or part of a record in response to a request may file a complaint with the commissioner respecting that decision.

(4) A complaint under subsection (3) shall be filed in writing not later than 15 business days after the third party is informed of the decision of the head of the public body.

(5) The commissioner may allow a longer time period for the filing of a complaint under this section.

(6) A person or third party who has appealed directly to the Trial Division under subsection 52(1) or 53(1) shall not file a complaint with the commissioner.

(7) The commissioner shall refuse to investigate a complaint where an appeal has been commenced in the Trial Division.

(8) A complaint shall not be filed under this section with respect to

(a) a request that is disregarded under section 21;

(b) a decision respecting an extension of time under section 23;

(c) a variation of a procedure under section 24; or

(d) an estimate of costs or a decision not to waive a cost under section 26.

(9) The commissioner shall provide a copy of the complaint to the head of the public body concerned.

Direct appeal to Trial Division by an applicant

52. (1) Where an applicant has made a request to a public body for access to a record or correction of personal information and has not filed a complaint with the commissioner under section 42, the applicant may appeal the decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request directly to the Trial Division.

(2) An appeal shall be commenced under subsection (1) not later than 15 business days

(a) after the applicant is notified of the decision of the head of the public body, or the date of the act or failure to act; or

(b) after the date the head of the public body is considered to have refused the request under subsection 16(2).

(3) Where an applicant has filed a complaint with the commissioner under section 42 and the commissioner has refused to investigate the complaint, the applicant may commence an appeal in the Trial Division of the decision, act or failure to act of the head of the public body that relates to the request for access to a record or for correction of personal information.

(4) An appeal shall be commenced under subsection (3) not later than 15 business days after the applicant is notified of the commissioner's refusal under subsection 45(2).

Relevant Exceptions from the ATIPPA:

Legal advice

30. (1) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information
- (a) that is subject to solicitor and client privilege or litigation privilege of a public body; or
 - (b) that would disclose legal opinions provided to a public body by a law officer of the Crown.
- (2) The head of a public body shall refuse to disclose to an applicant information that is subject to solicitor and client privilege or litigation privilege of a person other than a public body.

Relevant Exceptions from the ECA:

Records of commercially sensitive information

5.4 (1) Notwithstanding section 7 of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015, in addition to the information that shall or may be refused under Part II, Division 2 of that Act, the chief executive officer of the corporation or a subsidiary, or the head of another public body,

- (a) may refuse to disclose to an applicant under that Act commercially sensitive information of the corporation or the subsidiary; and
- (b) shall refuse to disclose to an applicant under that Act commercially sensitive information of a third party

where the chief executive officer of the corporation or the subsidiary to which the requested information relates, taking into account sound and fair business practices, reasonably believes

- (c) that the disclosure of the information may
 - (i) harm the competitive position of,
 - (ii) interfere with the negotiating position of, or
 - (iii) result in financial loss or harm tothe corporation, the subsidiary or the third party; or

- (d) that information similar to the information requested to be disclosed
 - (i) is treated consistently in a confidential manner by the third party, or
 - (ii) is customarily not provided to competitors by the corporation, the subsidiary or the third party.