



News Release

Communications New Brunswick

Energy

Experts to advise government on structure of electricity market (08/08/15)

NB 1175

Aug. 15, 2008

FREDERICTON (CNB) - Two experts will advise government on options regarding the New Brunswick electricity market, Energy Minister Jack Keir announced today.

"It is important for us to review the system and look at alternatives to strengthen and improve it," said Energy Minister Jack Keir. "As promised in our *Charter for Change*, we will ensure that our electricity market serves the public good."

William Marshall, outgoing president of the New Brunswick System Operator, and William Thompson, a former deputy minister of energy and deputy minister to the premier, will prepare a report regarding the structure of the New Brunswick electricity market and its impact on the structure and governance of the NB Power group of companies.

"In its June 2008 report, the Energy and Utilities Board raised concerns about the current structure of the NB Power group of companies," Keir said. "These experts will take those concerns into consideration as part of their review."

The guiding principles of the report will be:

- providing electricity in a safe, reliable manner at the most reasonable cost possible, while ensuring that the environment is properly protected;
- minimizing long-term financial risks for ratepayers and taxpayers;
- ensuring a regulatory structure that promotes the development and operation of energy facilities that provide a reliable supply, financial returns, employment, and positive community impact; and
- maximizing the economic development and positioning of the New Brunswick Energy Hub within the context of the Canada-U.S. northeast region.

"The advice of these individuals who have a detailed knowledge of New Brunswick's electricity market will be very helpful," Keir said. A strong energy sector is a key priority for government as we work towards our goal of self-sufficiency."

08/08/15

EDITOR'S NOTE: Biographies of Marshall and Thompson follow. MEDIA CONTACT: Jordan O'Brien, Communications New Brunswick, 506-457-4999 or Jordan.O'Brien@gnb.ca.

Biographies

William K. Marshall was president and CEO of the New Brunswick System Operator (NBSO) from October 2004 to June 2008. NBSO is responsible for overseeing and ensuring the reliability of the electrical power system, and facilitating the development and operation of a competitive electricity market in New Brunswick.

Prior to his appointment as president, Marshall was director of corporate strategic planning for NB Power. In addition to seven years of teaching at the secondary and post-secondary levels, he has 27 years of experience as a professional engineer in the electric utility industry. His responsibilities included power supply planning and operations, power system analysis, integrated resource planning, private power contracts, rate design, interconnections development, environmental emissions strategies, utility restructuring, market systems design, and natural gas opportunities.

Marshall is currently a member of the Institute of Electronic and Electrical Engineers, the International Council on Large Electric Systems, and the ISO-RTO Council, and is a past member of New Brunswick's energy policy and market design committees. While with NBSO he participated in various regional policy and industry groups, such as North American Electric Reliability Corp., Northeast Power Coordinating Council, Atlantic Electricity Working Group, and the Council of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers. He has also appeared as a witness before hearings of various administrative boards and government committees, and has written and presented many technical papers, courses and seminars.

William M. Thompson graduated from the University of New Brunswick with a degree in law. He also holds a degree in commerce from St. Mary's University.

Following university, Thompson worked from 1979-81 as executive assistant to Gerald Merrithew, who was minister of commerce and development for the Province of New Brunswick. He was also executive assistant to Merrithew when the latter was minister of state for forestry for the federal government from 1984-87.

Thompson was an industrial commissioner with the Fundy Region Economic Development Commission. He was general manager of the New Brunswick Salmon Growers' Association from 1991-99, and is a past president of the Canadian Aquaculture Industry Association.

In 1999, Thompson was co-chairman of the transition team following the election of Bernard Lord's government, and was appointed deputy minister to the premier's office. He later served as deputy minister of investment and exports, and deputy minister of tourism and parks. From 2003-06 he served as the first deputy minister of the new stand-alone department of energy. He also chaired the deputy minister's ad hoc committee on NB Power restructuring, commercialization and related matters.

08/08/15

Communications New Brunswick
[E-mail](#) | [Contacts](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [Privacy Statement](#)

Powering the future

Perhaps for the first time, New Brunswick Power has captured the public's imagination. In the aftermath of the failed New Brunswick Power (NB Power) sale to Hydro Quebec, and in light of the policy options paper for NB Power created by Bill Marshall and Bill Thompson, many are wondering what the future holds for this key Crown utility.

This symposium will discuss the pros and cons of the current policy options, and seek to understand the sources of past policy failures in the hopes of not repeating them.

NOTE: CHANGE OF LOCATION

NEW LOCATION: MacLaggan Auditorium, Room 105 of the Nursing Building.

The Experts

William Marshall (Past President of NBSO, NB system operator)

William Thompson (Former Deputy Minister of Energy)

Gordon Weil (President, Standard Energy Company, consultants)

Stewart McPherson (Former President of NB Power)

Gaetan Thomas (Current President and CEO of NB Power)

The Questioners

Robert Jones (CBC reporter)

David Thorne (Energy Consultant)

Peter Hyslop (Former Public Intervener in the Energy and Utilities Board) David Coon (Conservation Council)

Raphael Shay (Alliance for Community Energy)

Tom Mann (Coalition of New Brunswickers: Public Power for the Public Good)

The Schedule

Thursday, June 10, 2010.

1:00 The Expert Panel

2:45 Refreshments

3:00 The Questioners Confront the Experts

4:30 Questions from the Audience

5:00 Closing Remarks

Sponsors

Sponsored by the Vaughan Chair in Regional Economics and the Policy Studies Centre, Department of Economics, UNB Fredericton.

Admission is free.

Fredericton Campus: +1 506 453-4666 **Saint John Campus:** +1 506 648-5500 New Brunswick, Canada