



## **First transmission tower erected for Muskrat Falls Project**

*October 14, 2014, St. John's, NL* – The Muskrat Falls Project achieved another milestone this past weekend with the erection of the first transmission tower on the transmission line being built between Muskrat Falls and Churchill Falls in Labrador.

“Work continues to progress on all components of the Muskrat Falls Project. Our contractor for the construction of the transmission line between Muskrat Falls and Churchill Falls, Valard Construction, started work on this line in May 2014, and on Sunday, October 12 safely erected the first of the 1,260 transmission towers,” said Gilbert Bennett, Vice President, Lower Churchill Project, Nalcor Energy. “Valard’s safe completion of this significant milestone is a result of their continued focus on ensuring health and safety is embedded upfront in their job planning.”

To connect the Muskrat Falls and Churchill Falls generating stations, two parallel High Voltage alternating current (HVac) transmission lines, each around 250 km in length, will be built in Labrador.

“The transmission tower erected this weekend was a self-supported tower and is approximately 30 metres high and was erected by a 10-person crew,” said Adam Budzinski, President of Valard Construction. “We are pleased with the project’s progress.”

The crews were assisted by two large cranes.

“Another important accomplishment is the number of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians working on this component of the Muskrat Falls Project, some of which have been trained in Labrador through the Labrador Aboriginal Training Partnership (LATP),” added Bennett. “There are around 240 Newfoundlanders and Labradorians working for Valard Construction on the transmission line between Muskrat Falls and Churchill Falls and of these about 20 people have completed training programs through LATP at the College of the North Atlantic.”

Construction started on the HVac transmission line in Labrador in May and is forecasted to be completed by the end of 2016.

### **Quick Facts:**

- There will be 1,260 transmission towers installed on the transmission line between Muskrat Falls and Churchill Falls.
- The total weight of all materials for the HVac transmission line is about 23,500 metric tonnes and all of this material has been shipped to the Labrador marshalling site outside Happy Valley-Goose Bay.
- Two types of towers will be installed on the HVac transmission line:

1. Tangent towers are used for straight sections where there are no turns in the line. They typically stand on one leg and is supported by guy wires. It takes an average of one day to assemble this tower with an eight-person crew.
  2. Self-supported towers are used on line angle turns and typically have four legs with no guy supports. It takes an average of three days to assemble this tower with an eight-person crew.
- HVac – ac power is the flow of electric charge that periodically reverses direction and is normal household power.

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Erection of the first transmission tower by Valard Construction on the Labrador transmission line between Muskrat Falls and Churchill Falls. 1,260 towers will be installed on this transmission line.



