Wire stringing underway for Muskrat Falls Project transmission line

March 11, 2015, St. John's, NL – The Muskrat Falls Project achieved another milestone as stringing power line wire (conductor) has begun for the transmission line being built between Muskrat Falls and Churchill Falls in Labrador.

Work on the new transmission line between Muskrat Falls and Churchill Falls started in May 2014. In October, the first transmission tower was safely erected. The contractor for this work, Valard Construction LP, has now advanced to the next major phase of construction activity on the line, stringing conductor between the towers.

"Work continues to progress as planned on this component of the project," said Gilbert Bennett, Vice President, Lower Churchill Project, Nalcor Energy. "Valard's success to date is a result of their continued focus on safety and health, and ensuring this commitment is embedded in every aspect of job planning and work execution."

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

Valard is also managing construction of the 1,100 km Labrador-Island Transmission Link from Muskrat Falls to Soldiers Pond, which has been underway since summer 2014. In Labrador, tower foundations are being installed, and clearing and access road construction for the transmission line right-of-way is underway on the Northern Peninsula and the west-central region of the island.

Quick Facts:

- The Labrador Transmission project includes approximately 250 km of two parallel 315 kilovolt (kV) ac transmission lines from Muskrat Falls to Churchill Falls.
- 1,260 transmission towers are required for the two transmission lines.
- The total mass of the conductor (wire) required for the HVac transmission line is about 5,000 metric tonnes.
- The diameter of the conductor is just over 28 mm – about the size of a toonie.
- About 3,000 km of conductor will be used for the HVac transmission line – about the driving distance between St. John's and Toronto.

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Pictured below: Stringing of the first wire (conductor) by Valard Construction on the Labrador transmission line between Muskrat Falls and Churchill Falls. About 3,000 km of wire will be installed on this transmission line.