

## The Maritime Link is now live, connecting NL and NS electrically for the first time.

Emera Newfoundland and Labrador's Maritime Link Project has officially entered into service, providing the first permanent electrical connection between the island of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. This is a historic milestone for the transformative interconnection to improve the way energy is transmitted in Atlantic Canada.

Commissioning Teams from Emera NL and ABB worked together with Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro and Nova Scotia Power to achieve the first successful trial of the Maritime Link on December 8, 2017. On this day, High Voltage direct current (HVdc) electricity was first exchanged between the Island of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia at 11:03 a.m.

This is a historic accomplishment and the culmination of almost seven years of work from a dedicated team of employees, workers, and contractors that have spent countless hours bringing the project to life.

"Our team has been working closely with the system operators in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as contractors ABB and Nexans for several years to integrate this new interconnection," said Rick Janega, CEO of Emera Newfoundland and Labrador.

Commissioning continued during December and the Maritime Link was placed in service for customers on January 15, 2018. This integration of the link would not be possible without the collaboration of system operators in all Atlantic Canadian provinces.



*Emera NL and ABB team members at the Woodbine Converter site following the first energy exchange across the Cabot Strait.*

## This issue

Maritime Link Live

Rehabilitation Efforts

Community Liason  
Committees Recognized

Marine Work Overview

A Commitment to Diversity

...and much more!

## A message from Emera Newfoundland and Labrador President & CEO, Rick Janega



*Rick Janega, Emera NL President & CEO*

Thank you. We did it, and we did not do it alone. With the Maritime Link now constructed and operational, we've made history together.

I have so much gratitude to express to every individual who has played a role throughout the entire process that made the Maritime Link a reality—

from consultation to construction, and so much more. The unwavering dedication, hard work and skill that helped this Project come together between Granite Canal, NL and Big Lorraine, NS is nothing short of exceptional.

Communities, contractors, Aboriginal groups, unions, organizations serving diverse communities, and so many other partners in Nova Scotia and on the island of Newfoundland made up the collective unit that made this Project a success. And at the core of this work, I thank our own Project team who worked so closely with our contractors to build this legacy Project.

The island of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia are now connected electrically for the first time and are linked by what are currently North America's

longest submarine electricity cables. We now look ahead to a brighter future in terms of energy sustainability for Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador.

In fact, with the Maritime Link available, it will deliver clean hydroelectricity to help Nova Scotia achieve 40% renewable generation by the year 2020. The Maritime Link now connects Newfoundland and Labrador to the North American electricity system, giving the province the ability to export energy from the Island for the first time.

While we take pride in this legacy and what it holds for our future, we cannot forget the tragic passing of one of our colleagues during construction of the Maritime Link. In January, 2017, Philip Parsons lost his life in a workplace accident while he was working to complete the grounding line at Indian Head, NL. Safety has always been the first priority for us at Emera Newfoundland and Labrador, and I ask you to keep safety top of mind in memory of Phil. We learned and are stronger because of Phil, so never give up the pursuit of an injury free life.

So, please stay safe. I thank each and every individual who has helped make this Project a reality, it's been quite the journey.

Thank you.

**Rick Janega, Emera NL President & CEO**

## Questions or feedback? We're still available!

Members of the public may continue to reach the Emera NL team at:

1-855-722-3373

info\_MaritimeLink@emera.com



Skagerrak

Cable installation began in April, with Nexans at the helm of the cable laying vessel, the Skagerrak, to anchor the first cable at Cape Ray, NL. Cable installation concluded at Point Aconi, NS when the second cable made landfall on June 15.



Polar King

Nexans' Polar King continued with marine survey work, guiding a remote operated vehicle to complete trenching activity to secure the cables in place along the 170 kilometre route.



Rockpiper

Rockpiper performed the final rock berming measures to protect the cables, completing marine work a week ahead of the anticipated schedule.

## Final rehabilitation efforts to be completed in 2018

Emera NL has been working with contractors to commence rehabilitation activities as various components of the Maritime Link Project are completed. This means that land will be returned to a more natural condition following construction.

These activities take place as soon as possible after construction work is complete. Much rehabilitation work has been completed already across the Project, yet additional work remains during spring-summer, 2018 following the spring thaw (particularly along the HVdc route in western NL).

So, what does rehabilitation involve?

- Rehabilitation is done as part of Emera NL's commitment to the environment made through the Maritime Link Environmental Assessment. In fact, each contractor on the Maritime Link Project is required to provide an activity-specific Environmental Protection Plan (EPP), which includes specific detail on rehabilitation of the worksites. Emera NL contractors will be guided by best management practices and permit conditions which provide the details for rehabilitation.
- Removing temporary bridges, culverts, and access points to tower locations. Removal of construction materials and debris from sites and laydown areas when no longer required.

- Returning construction areas to their original land-use capability. Where ground has been disturbed, the original shape will be restored (where possible) and disturbed or rutted surfaces will be smoothed upon completion of construction activities.



*An example of rehabilitation where a temporary bridge had been in place for HVac line access across the Victoria River in NL. The bridge was removed during Fall 2017 and rehabilitation of the riverbank area followed.*

## Community Liaison Committees recognized



Prior to construction being completed on the Maritime Link, Emera NL recognized community volunteers from Cape Breton, NS and Cape Ray, NL for participating in Community Liaison Committees (CLCs) for the Maritime Link Project.

Emera NL started planning for the construction of the Maritime Link years before boots hit the ground.

With a strong sense of commitment to communities where we live and work, stakeholder engagement was an important priority. Information sessions were held in Project communities, a stakeholder newsletter was developed, and in 2013, CLCs were formed.

CLCs were formed to help Emera NL better understand community interests during construction of the Maritime Link. Members of the committees were identified through recommendations made by local residents, organizations, and engagement activities, and were intended to represent diverse perspectives and backgrounds.

The CLCs were part of the two-way information sharing effort that allowed Emera NL to connect with local communities.



*CLC members in Cape Breton (top) and Cape Ray (bottom) were thanked for their service and received site tours during the final meetings this fall.*

## Marine work overview: successfully completed during summer 2017

The final stage of installing North America's longest submarine electricity cables was achieved on August 23, 2017 with the completion of rock protection on specific areas along the cable. Nexans' vessel Rockpiper was used for the controlled placement of rock to build protective berms over the submarine cables.

This concluded five months of offshore activities related to placement and protection of two submarine electrical cables. The cables are the underwater link for the Maritime Link, spanning 170 kilometres across the Cabot Strait between Cape Ray, NL and Point Aconi, NS. Marine work wrapped up with an exceptional safety and performance record.

Under the direction of Emera NL's marine team, the vessel and crew completed these final protective measures for the cables based on extensive marine surveying that determined areas where extra cable protection was needed. The Rockpiper carried the rock used for berming (sourced from Atlantic Minerals Quarry in western NL), as well as the necessary equipment to maneuver the material into precise locations.

**To learn more about the vessels involved with the submarine cable installation, see left side of previous page.**

## All five transmission routes complete and connected

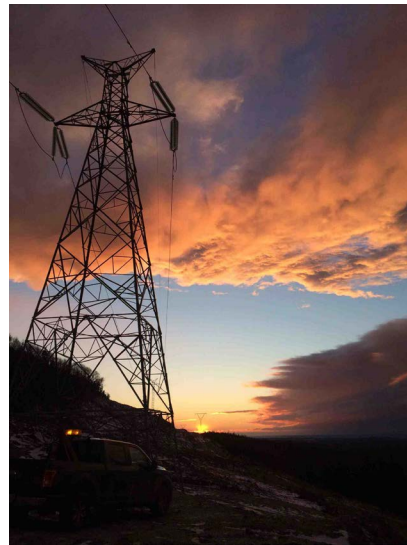
Six hundred forty-six steel transmission towers, 1,966 wooden poles and H-frame structures, and more than 400 kilometers of conductor strung overhead. That, in a nutshell, is the infrastructure needed to complete the overhead transmission lines for the Maritime Link Project.

In early December, the last of five transmission lines for the Project was completed by contractor EUS-Rokstad Joint Venture (ERJV); the High Voltage direct current (HVdc) line in NL.

Access creation, tree clearing, tower assembly and erection, and conductor stringing were some of the many steps carefully executed along the way during Maritime Link transmission construction.

ERJV completed the HVdc transmission line construction in Nova Scotia earlier this year. This line, and the transmission line recently completed in NL now bookend the submarine cables across the Cabot Strait.

Additionally, PowerTel completed the high voltage alternating current (HVac) transmission line in NL during October 2017, and had earlier finished grounding lines in both provinces between 2016 and 2017. In total, this makes up five transmission routes for the Maritime Link.



*NL's HVdc transmission line was the final of five transmission lines for the Project under construction. It is now complete.*

## SAFETY MESSAGE

### Consider all lines and infrastructure to be energized

Now that the Maritime Link has come to life, Emera NL advises members of the public that Project components should now be considered energized with high voltage electricity.

All transmission infrastructure should only be accessed by Emera NL authorized persons or contractors.

Members of the public and contractors should approach the Maritime Link infrastructure with caution as you would with any existing substation or power lines in your community.

Emera NL is committed to the health and safety of its workers and the public. For more information call 1-855-722-3373 or visit [www.EmeraNL.com](http://www.EmeraNL.com).



*Emera NL and ABB teams commemorate energization of the Maritime Link Project; a momentous occasion achieved thanks to the dedication of highly-skilled individuals from NL, NS and around the globe. ABB is headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland with many team members based in Sweden.*

## A commitment to diversity, realized

The success of the Maritime Link can be attributed to the people who helped build it. Emera NL believes that diversity has made our company and the Maritime Link Project team stronger; this belief has endured from the early days of the Project through to final completion.

Throughout construction of the Maritime Link, Emera NL worked closely with its contractors to ensure women, Aboriginal Peoples, individuals with disabilities, and visible minorities had equal opportunity for roles in which they have been traditionally under-represented in the construction industry.

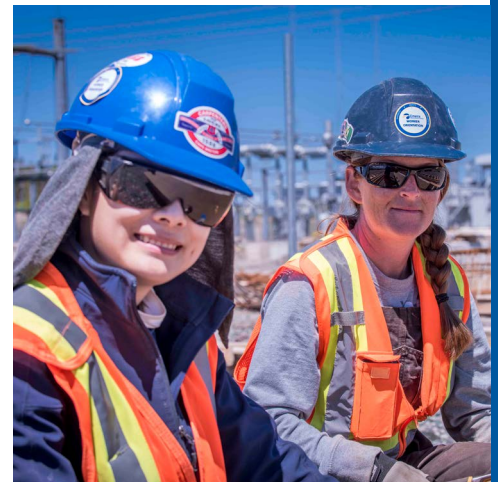
The Project's Diversity Plan identified the significant role contractors would play in promoting workplace diversity. Since 2011, Emera NL has worked closely with contractors to ensure a clear understanding of diversity and inclusion goals, optimizing ways to work together and achieve success.

Each contractor working on the Project followed the terms outlined in both the Diversity Plan and Benefits Agreement, and they were also required to submit their own diversity plan for their work component.

Over the past four years, here are a few examples of initiatives that encouraged diversity on the Project:

- Signing socio-economic agreements with the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq and Qalipu Mi'kmaq on the island of Newfoundland
- Hosting information sessions with Project contractors to connect with suppliers and businesses owned by members of under-represented groups
- Hosting workplace readiness and employability sessions for women in trades and Mi'kmaq participants
- Participating in aboriginal business forums in both provinces
- Conducting site tours at Woodbine, NS and Bottom Brook, NL for women in trades programs
- Hosting a thank-you event for Project contractors in recognition for their demonstrated commitment to diversity
- Sponsoring a five-part WinSETT leadership workshops in Nova Scotia

- Sponsoring and participating in numerous community initiatives and events with our diversity partners
- Conducting workplace climate surveys to assess the current work climate and gauge attitudes about safety, respect, and diversity on the Project
- Providing engineering student scholarships to recognize academic excellence and/or financial need for under-represented groups



## Ongoing environmental monitoring

The construction phase of the Maritime Link is now successfully completed. Ongoing environmental effects monitoring will continue after the Maritime Link is in service. These programs are being conducted on land (for example, the caribou monitoring program covered in an earlier edition), as well as at sea.

In fact, marine monitoring began in 2014, with the collection of baseline data on the patterns of snow crab and lobster behaviour in the Cabot Strait. This ongoing data collection will continue, and information collected during operation of the Maritime Link will be compared to baseline results. We expect that this will confirm that the energized submarine cables are not causing harm to snow crab and lobster and the local fisheries they support.

In Nova Scotia, placement of rock reefs near Big Lorraine was part of the construction of the grounding site located there. Made from an assembly of rocks and varying in size, these reefs will increase the diversity of habitats in the cove and helps support the growth of aquatic life in the area. These new reefs were constructed as part of the marine environment

work requirements for the Maritime Link Project and their location was determined in consultation with local harvesters.

As part of the Environmental Assessment process for the Project, the Maritime Link team considered how marine habitat could be affected by construction and committed to minimizing these impacts. In this case, the placement of rock reefs provided the perfect means of enhancing the productivity of the local habitat.

In November 2017, Emera NL commenced a multi-year monitoring program to document the colonization of the new reefs and the enhancement of the local marine habitat. This survey of the reefs and berm is being conducted by a Mi'kmaq organization with marine expertise, and shows that colonization of the reefs is underway.

As with all work on the Maritime Link Project, the monitoring programs reflect Emera NL's commitment to the Terms and Conditions of Environmental Assessment release and protecting the environment.

### Contact us

1-855-722-3373  
info\_MaritimeLink@emera.com  
www.EmeraNL.com

### Office locations

Newfoundland and Labrador  
St. John's: 9 Austin Street

Nova Scotia  
Halifax: 1223 Lower Water Street