

Requests for Information

Q. Provide a detailed explanation of the coordination between Newfoundland Power and Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro that occurred relating to the rotating power outages from January 2, 2014 to January 8, 2014, including the amount of notice to Newfoundland Power before outages had to be implemented and the information provided on the capacity that was unavailable and the duration of such unavailability.

A. During the period from January 2-8, 2014 the determination whether rotating power outages were required was made on a daily basis.

Coordination between Newfoundland Power and Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro (“Hydro”) associated with rotating power outages occurred between Newfoundland Power’s System Control Centre (“SCC”) and Hydro’s Energy Control Centre (“ECC”).¹ Generally the possibility of the requirement for rotating power outages was identified hours in advance of actual outages. But the timing and duration of rotating power outages were a matter of considerable uncertainty for Newfoundland Power.²

Once Hydro determined that rotating power outages were required, notice was typically given to Newfoundland Power to begin rotating power outages immediately. Information on the capacity that was unavailable and the duration of such unavailability was not necessary for Newfoundland Power to execute the rotating power outages.³

¹ For more detail on communication and coordination between Hydro’s ECC and Newfoundland Power’s SCC, see the response to Request for Information PUB-NP-002.

² As indicated in the response to Request for Information PUB-NP-002, Newfoundland Power’s SCC does not have information on the Island Interconnected System electrical demand on a real time basis. Similarly, Newfoundland Power’s SCC was required to rely on Hydro’s ECC for information on total Hydro supply online or available to meet forecast demand.

³ Such information would, of course, be useful for purposes of more effective customer communication. In the circumstances, the availability of such information would not likely have enabled Newfoundland Power to provide customers with notice of the precise time and location of rotating power outages due to (i) the approach taken by Newfoundland Power to keep as many customers connected to the electrical system as possible at all times, and (ii) the succession of significant system events which occurred through the period January 2-8, 2014. See the responses to Requests for Information PUB-NP-022 and PUB-NP-036.