

Requests for Information

Q. Further to the response to PUB-NP-020, does Newfoundland Power intend to initiate further analysis of the co-ordination with Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro on the rotating power outages that occurred in January 2014 in addition to the preliminary analysis referred to in the response? If yes, when is it anticipated to be completed? If no, why not?

A. Newfoundland Power does not currently intend to initiate further analysis of the coordination with Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro (“Hydro”) on the rotating power outages that occurred in January 2014.

Newfoundland Power’s analysis of this coordination has indicated that two changes were required to improve Newfoundland Power’s planning and execution of rotating power outages. One required change was a clearer delineation of the respective roles of Newfoundland Power and Hydro in the execution of rotating power outages. The second required change is increased Newfoundland Power real-time and forecast data availability concerning the load forecast and generation availability for the Island Interconnected System.

A review of the coordination process for rotating power outages was completed by Newfoundland Power and Hydro on January 3rd, 2014 following the experience of January 2nd, 2014.¹ During January 2nd, 2014, Newfoundland Power’s rotating outages exceeded two hours in 18% of cases.² Following the review and delineation of respective roles, Newfoundland Power’s rotating outages from January 3rd through January 8th, 2014, exceeded two hours in less than 2% of cases.³

Newfoundland Power has commenced communications with Hydro regarding improved availability of real-time data concerning the status of matters on the Island Interconnected System.⁴ Newfoundland Power expects that the ultimate result of the communications will be the necessary improvement in real-time and forecast data availability to enable Newfoundland Power to (i) improve its customer communications related to rotating power outages and (ii) provide more flexibility in scheduling rotating power outages.⁵

¹ This review is described in the response to Request for Information PUB-NP-020.

² See the response to Request for Information PUB-NP-022, page 7, lines 3-18, and footnotes 23-25. Of the 14 rotating power outages which exceeded two hours on January 2nd, 5 were the result of breaker malfunction due to extremely cold weather. The remaining 9 rotating power outages (14 – 5 = 9) which exceeded two hours were the result of system conditions and the manner of which the rotating power outages were executed by Newfoundland Power. If one excludes the effects of breaker malfunction, 11.7% of rotating power outages on January 2nd exceeded two hours (9/77 = 0.117).

³ See the response to Request for Information PUB-NP-022, page 7, footnote 24 (6/370 = 0.016).

⁴ On February 11th, 2014, Newfoundland Power requested real-time access at Newfoundland Power’s System Control Centre to an additional 454 data points on the Island Interconnected System that are monitored by Hydro’s Energy Management System. Further information will, in Newfoundland Power’s view, be required. This includes load forecast and generation availability for the Island Interconnected System.

⁵ Newfoundland Power’s need for more current information concerning demand on the Island Interconnected System and the status of Hydro’s generation to improve customer communications is outlined in the response to Request for Information PUB-NP-036, page 2, line 29 to page 3, line 4.

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1 While Newfoundland Power does not currently intend to initiate further analysis of the
2 *coordination with Hydro* on the rotating power outages that occurred in January 2014, the
3 Company expects to continue to assess the matter of rotating power outages generally.
4 That assessment will include matters considered by the Board in its current inquiry. It
5 will also include information concerning approaches that have been taken by utilities in
6 other jurisdictions that improve notice of, and reduce customer disruption from, rotating
7 power outages.

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9 See the response to Request for Information PUB-NP-050 for information Newfoundland
10 Power currently has relating to approaches taken by utilities in other jurisdictions relating
11 to rotating power outages.