

1 Q. **Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro – Near-Term Reliability Report, May 15, 2020**

2 ***Demand Forecast***

3 With respect to possible joint discussions, information gathering and sharing, and dialogue with  
4 Newfoundland Power, please:

- 5 a. State and explain Hydro’s views on whether such joint initiatives may have significant  
6 potential for gaining useful understanding about usage and demand impacts of COVID-19  
7 circumstances, restrictions, and guidance.
- 8 b. If they may, describe if, and if so how, such joint efforts might be expected to provide useful  
9 information (and the earliest realistic dates for doing so) for consideration in the Board’s  
10 Reliability and Resources Adequacy Study review.

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- 13 A. a. Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro (“Hydro”) acknowledges that working with  
14 Newfoundland Power would provide additional insight into if and how utility customers  
15 have changed their consumption patterns and usage throughout the time frame that COVID-  
16 19 restrictions have been in place. As there had not been restrictions in place during the  
17 core winter peak period, there remains a more limited understanding of what the COVID-19  
18 peaks demand impacts will be during the upcoming winter peak period, if any, should the  
19 COVID-19 pandemic persist into the next winter. Please refer to Hydro’s response to PUB-  
20 NLH-127, part a., for Hydro’s current observations with respect to COVID-19 impacts.

21 On July 8, 2020, during a meeting between Hydro representatives and Newfoundland Power  
22 to discuss load forecasts, it was agreed to continue an open dialogue while continuing work  
23 on forecast updates to attempt to account for existing and potential COVID-19 measures, if  
24 warranted.

- 25 b. It is Hydro’s view that while working with Newfoundland Power will provide additional  
26 insight into the impact COVID-19 may have on the near-term utility load forecast, the most

1 significant impact on near-term Island Interconnected System load requirements that can be  
2 considered attributable to COVID-19 effects remains the idling of the oil refinery at Come-  
3 by-Chance. Please refer to Hydro’s response to PUB-NLH-127, part a., for additional  
4 information.

5 Implications to the medium- and long-term forecast will be more dependent on the  
6 economic repercussions of the pandemic. Hydro’s medium- to long-term forecast is  
7 impacted by the provincial economic forecast. Therefore, as the economic impacts of  
8 COVID-19 are accounted for in the provincial economic forecast update, the COVID-19  
9 impacts will largely be implicitly accounted for in Hydro’s forecast updates. Hydro’s next  
10 load forecast update for the medium- and long-term is scheduled for completion in the fall  
11 of 2020. Analysis using this forecast will be presented as part of Hydro’s 2020 Update to the  
12 Reliability and Resource Adequacy Study, anticipated to be filed in November 2020.