

- 1 Q. **Reference Application Rev. 1, Volume 2, Refurbish Ebbegunbaeg Control Structure, pages 4**  
2 **and 5**
- 3 a. Does RDE do consulting work only or does it also do construction?
- 4 b. Will RDE be allowed to bid any subsequent aspects of the project if approved by the Board?
- 5 c. Did RDE conclude that the existing system is unsafe for use now, or that it would soon be  
6 unsafe for use? If unsafe for use now, for how long has Hydro been using this unsafe system  
7 given that RDE completed its assessment in 2017 and Hydro deferred the project in 2019?
- 8 d. Please provide copies of all correspondence between Hydro and RDE during the course of  
9 the RDE study.

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12 A.

- 13 a. Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro (“Hydro”) has only engaged RD Énergie (“RDE”) for  
14 engineering consulting work. Confirmation as to RDE’s ability to undertake construction-  
15 related work would need to be provided directly by RDE.
- 16 b. If the project is approved by the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities, RDE would be  
17 allowed to bid on the subsequent aspects of the Ebbegunbaeg Control Structure  
18 refurbishment as there are no known conflict of interest reasons to prevent RDE from  
19 bidding. All Hydro open calls include language to address conflict of interest situations.  
20 Hydro's procurement is conducted in accordance with the *Public Procurement Act*  
21 Framework, including the Public Procurement Policy, the intent of which is to enable public  
22 bodies to achieve best value, transparency, and accountability in procurement.
- 23 c. With respect to the questions within part c, Hydro is assuming the reference to system  
24 relates to the monorail hoist and hoist structure.

25 The 2017 RDE assessment raised concerns with the condition of the system, in particular the  
26 possibility that without future corrective actions there could be “Deformation of the

1 structure that could even go as far as to collapse.” RDE did not make a final  
2 recommendation on the system and recommended that a detailed assessment of the  
3 system be conducted within a year. They did not indicate that the system was unsafe to use.

4 RDE completed its detailed assessment in late 2019, concluding that “Use of the overhead  
5 travelling cranes on the monorail superstructure must be stopped immediately due to risks  
6 for operators and equipment” and “Use of the monorail loop should also be prohibited,  
7 since its capacity is not defined.” At that time, Hydro prohibited use of the system until it  
8 conducted a review of the situation. From that review, and in consultation with RDE, it was  
9 decided that only emergency use of the system would be allowed upon the development  
10 and use of an approved of a case specific working procedure which controlled hazards  
11 associated with the emergency use of the system for that case.

12 It should be noted that Hydro has not used the system since the receipt of the detailed  
13 assessment in 2019.

- 14 **d.** Hydro engaged RDE to assess the condition of the Ebbegunbaeg Control Structure and make  
15 recommendations for refurbishment including capital cost estimates. Hydro further engaged  
16 RDE to complete a detailed assessment of the existing monorail hoist system and provide  
17 refurbishment and replacement options for the stoplog monorail system including revised  
18 cost estimates. Hydro utilized these reports to determine the proposed course of action, as  
19 detailed in its Capital Budget Application. It is Hydro’s position that the requested  
20 information is not necessary for a satisfactory understanding of the matters before the  
21 Board.