Q. Hydro stated that the CIAC Project is required to meet the growing needs of the area served by the EHW distribution system.

a) Has the load forecast changed or increased from that used to support the WPF Program in the 2025 Capital Budget Application? Provide details of any changes or increases.

b) Provide details on the growing needs of the area served by the EHW Distribution System, including the number of customers served by the EHW Distribution System for each year from 2016 through 2030F and whether new loads, in addition to those of the new customer, are anticipated.

c) Reconcile this statement with the request for a CIAC, where a project is solely to serve the load requirements of the CIAC customer.

A. **a)** When the Worst Performing Feeder program in the 2025 Capital Budget Application was developed, it used Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro's ("Hydro") Island Interconnected Distribution System Peak Forecasts in Spring 2023. At that time, the forecast for Hermitage was 13,180 kW for 2023 until 2028, which was the end of the forecast period.[1] To update load flow models, this forecast is broken out based on recloser reading which estimated a peak of 3,011 kW in English Harbour West ("EHW").

The analysis of the Contribution in Aid of Construction ("CIAC") request used Hydro's Island Interconnected Distribution System Peak Forecasts in Spring 2024 which is largely consistent with the previous forecast. At that time, the forecast for Hermitage was 12,950 kW for 2024 until 2029, which was the end of the forecast period. To update load flow models this forecast is broken out based on recloser reading which estimated a peak of 2,946 kW in EHW.

[1] This forecast includes Barachoix, Conne River, and English Harbour West.

b) Besides the proposed CIAC customer, the load in the Hermitage area is expected to remain stable.[2,3] The number of customers from 2016–2024 are included in Table 1. Hydro does not forecast the number of customers by systems for its rural distribution systems connected to the Island Interconnected System.

Table 1: **Load Forecast for Hermitage from 2016–2024**

Year	Total Customers
2016	2,601
2017	2,607
2018	2,607
2019	2,602
2020	2,611
2021	2,616
2022	2,630
2023	2,630
2024	2,625

c) Hydro's statement that the project is required to meet the growing needs of the area was referencing the addition of the customer's requested service connection.

[2] Based on historical trends, Hydro's forecast for the Hermitage area does not include any additional load growth from transportation or space heating electrification.
[3] Despite stable load on the system, planning criteria violations are present on the EHW System. Please refer to Hydro's response to PUB-NLH-005 for further information.