

1 **Q. Reference: Application**

2 Please provide a discussion of the consideration being given to non-wires alternatives (NWAs) in
3 each Canadian jurisdiction addressing the current practices of Canadian integrated utilities,
4 transmission companies and major distributors. Further, please provide a discussion of the
5 consideration being given to NWAs in each Canadian jurisdiction addressing the current
6 practices of Canadian regulators.

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9 **A.** Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro (“Hydro”) considers a broad range of available options as
10 part of its strategic and capital planning processes to ensure it continues providing customers
11 with reliable service at the least possible cost. This includes consideration of non-wire
12 alternatives (“NWA”) when feasible.

13 Hydro is involved in several industry groups and committees to stay informed of advancements
14 in technology and their role in the regulated utility business. This includes advancements in
15 NWA solutions. Some of these industry groups and committees include:

- 16 • Electricity Canada;¹
- 17 • The Center of Energy Advancement through Technical Innovation (“CEATI”)
18 International;²
- 19 • Atlantic Power Utilities Distribution Conference (“APUDC”);³
- 20 • Off-Grid Utility Association (“OGUA”);⁴ and

¹ Electricity Canada includes 40 member utilities from across Canada. Hydro is a member utility.

² CEATI International includes 130 member utilities globally. Hydro is a member utility. This membership provides access to various reports on traditional poles and wires and asset management, along with emerging technologies such as NWA.

³ The APUDC is an annual conference of the Atlantic Canadian utilities including Newfoundland Power Inc., Hydro, Nova Scotia Power, Maritime Electric, Saint John Energy, and New Brunswick Power. These conferences include presentations and discussions by the utilities on various utility initiatives, research, and projects including NWA.

⁴ The OGUA is a group of all major Canadian utilities that operate isolated diesel-powered electrical systems for remote communities across Canada.

- 1 • Efficiency Canada.⁵

2 Hydro's long-term approach to planning for the interconnected system is addressed through the
3 *Reliability and Resource Adequacy Study Review* proceeding. The most recent update included
4 Hydro's Expansion Plan to meet load growth on the Island Interconnected System.⁶ As part of
5 the study, alternative resources including wind, solar, battery installations, rate design,
6 customer demand management, and capacity assistance, as well as traditional resources (e.g.,
7 hydraulic units, combustion turbines) were considered as potential sources of supply to meet
8 changing requirements on the Newfoundland and Labrador Interconnected System. Through
9 that proceeding, Hydro is also assessing the role of Dynamic Line Rating and Remedial Action
10 Schemes as non-wires alternatives to new transmission line construction.

11 As Hydro has not identified any non-wire alternatives to the distribution and transmission
12 projects and programs identified in its 2026 Capital Budget Application, it is Hydro's opinion that
13 the information requested would be most appropriate within the Reliability and Resource
14 Adequacy Study Review, and is not necessary for a satisfactory understanding of the matters to
15 be considered in the 2026 Capital Budget Application as required by the *Board of Commissioners*
16 *of Public Utilities Regulations, 1996*.

⁵ Efficiency Canada is a research and policy group that focuses on maximizing the benefits of energy efficiency resulting in a sustainable environment and a productive economy. This includes access to a policy database that includes NWAs.

⁶ "2024 Resource Adequacy Plan – An Update to the Reliability and Resource Adequacy Study," Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, rev. August 26, 2024 (originally filed July 9, 2024).