

1 Q. **Reference: PUB-NP-040 pertaining to Newfoundland Power's 2025 CBA**

2 New Brunswick Power filed evidence with the New Brunswick Energy and Utilities Board on
3 August 1, 2019 entitled "Advanced Metering Infrastructure Capital Project
4 (<https://www.nbpower.com/media/1489724/nbp0103.pdf>) which states (page 5) "*The pace of*
5 *technological change has been increasing and will continue to increase. NB Power believes that*
6 *continuing to plan on the basis of making investments in traditional utility assets in the face of*
7 *such change may not be prudent and reasonable.*" Further, Nova Scotia Power states on its
8 website (<https://www.nspower.ca/cleanandgreen/innovation/smart-grid-nova-scotia>)
9 "*Globally, the electrical grids that have served us over the past century are evolving through new*
10 *technology into "smart grids." Smart grids offer a future in which individual pieces of the*
11 *electrical system — including "smart devices" in customers' homes and businesses — can*
12 *communicate with one another, so that the entire electrical system works together to use energy*
13 *more efficiently. This means lower overall costs for customers and a cleaner environment."*

- 14 a) The statement above indicates that electrical grids are evolving into smart grids
15 "globally". Does Hydro agree with this statement?
- 16 b) Please file documentation produced by, or on behalf of, Hydro that supports or refutes
17 these statements.
- 18 c) In the past 5 years, what has Hydro done to make its grid smarter so that the entire
19 electrical system works together to use energy more efficiently?
- 20 d) Is AMI technology (smart meters) a big part of utility efforts to make their grids
21 "smarter"?
- 22 e) How is Hydro's asset management approach taking into consideration technological
23 change and its impact on traditional utility assets in the face of such change?
- 24
- 25

26 A. a) It is Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro's ("Hydro") opinion that the information requested
27 is not necessary for a satisfactory understanding of the matters to be considered in the 2026

1 Capital Budget Application as required by the *Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities*
2 *Regulations, 1996.*

3 **b)** Please refer to part a) of this response.

4 **c)** Please refer to part a) of this response.

5 **d)** Please refer to part a) of this response.

6 **e)** Hydro continues to utilize technological change to improve its asset management systems.

7 In 2025, Hydro is continuing to mature its information base, with the goal of establishing a
8 technologically-driven maintenance management system, setting a solid foundation for
9 potential asset management growth for both traditional utility assets and emerging
10 technologies. This effort will be reviewed during the Asset Management Assessment of
11 Hydro to be completed by the Board's external consultant, EA Technology Ltd. in the second
12 half of this year.

13 *Hydro's Reliability and Resource Adequacy Study Review* continues to assess new and
14 emerging technologies, such as Battery Energy Storage Systems, Dynamic Line Rating, and
15 Remedial Action Schemes in addition to traditional utility assets to select technologies and
16 investments that meet its established reliability criteria and remain consistent with its
17 legislated mandate to provide reliable service at the lowest possible cost.