Q. **Reference: Application**

What is the current status of Hydro's studies on retirement of its small hydro generating facilities? Please file any studies Hydro has completed on its small hydro generation facilities, specifically, those with capacities that are less than 1 MW. Are these facilities expected to remain used and useful?

A. Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro ("Hydro") performed a technical assessment[1] of its hydroelectric generation facilities with capacities under 1 MW, and determined that the continued operation of the mini-hydro facilities[2] in Roddickton, Snook's Arm and Venams Bight is not economically feasible; as a result, all were identified for decommissioning. As noted in the technical assessment; Hydro has identified the sale of these assets as a potential opportunity to avoid incurring further costs.

Absent any viable opportunities for sale of the assets, Hydro plans to complete detailed engineering to further develop the decommissioning plan and confirm the breadth of environmental remediation required for each site prior to proceeding.[3] Once the scope of the decommissioning and remediation work is refined, Hydro will revisit the cost-benefit analysis and provide an update to the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities on the results.

[1] For further details, please refer to "Mini-Hydro: Economic and Technical Assessment," Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, December 20, 2024.
[2] Hydro classifies facilities with a capacity rating between 100 kW and 1 MW as "mini-hydro" facilities.
[3] Cost estimates completed for the analysis were Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering ("AACE") Class 5; given the uncertainty of the breadth of environmental mitigations required for each site, Hydro plans to complete detailed engineering to further develop the scope and estimate of the decommissioning plan.