

1 Q. **Reference: Application, Capital Programs and Projects, Widen Right of Way (2026–2028) –**
2 **Gros Morne National Park, page 7**

3 It is stated *“In addition to forced outages, these tree contacts pose an electrical*
4 *safety hazard to anyone travelling the ROWs, as well as a significant forest fire*
5 *risk.”*

- 6 a) Please identify each injury and each forest fire that has occurred as a result of the
7 narrow right-of-ways on these transmission lines.
- 8 b) Was the original decision to have a narrow ROW the result of a request by Parks Canada
9 or an independent decision by Hydro?
- 10 c) Has Parks Canada ever expressed concerns to Hydro regarding safety hazards and forest
11 fire risks associated with the ROW?
- 12 d) Has Parks Canada ever requested Hydro to clear more trees and vegetation along the
13 ROW and is this project proposal due to a request from Parks Canada?
- 14 e) Who travels along the ROW? Is it open to the general public?
- 15 f) To the extent that widening of the ROW creates safety benefits to those traveling along
16 the ROW and reduces the risk of forest fire, has Parks Canada offered a contribution to
17 the work?
- 18 g) To the extent that the safety and forest fire risks are valid, is not the onus on Parks
19 Canada to do this work? After all, the issue appears to be Parks Canada trees making
20 contact with Hydro’s power lines, not Hydro’s power lines falling on trees.

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23 A. a) No injuries or forest fires have occurred to date; however, trees that have caused outages
24 due to contacting the lines have been observed to be scorched, and may have caused
25 wildfires under different fire hazard index conditions.

- 1 **b)** The original decision to have a narrow right of way (“ROW”) was the result of a request by
2 Parks Canada.
- 3 **c)** Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro (“Hydro”) brought the concern to Parks Canada
4 regarding safety hazards and forest fire risks associated with the ROW. Upon
5 communicating these risks to Parks Canada, they have worked closely with Hydro on the
6 process to have the ROWs widened.
- 7 **d)** There has been no request from Parks Canada to clear more trees and vegetation along the
8 ROWs. This project proposal is not due to a request from Parks Canada.
- 9 **e)** The ROWs in the park are utilized by Hydro to access the lines for maintenance and repair.
10 However, the ROWs are open to the public, are crossed by numerous hiking trails, and are
11 also accessed by Parks Canada staff.
- 12 **f)** Hydro is responsible for ensuring that its facilities are reasonably safe. As the easement
13 holder, Hydro is responsible for ROW maintenance, liability, and access, not Parks Canada.
14 This is consistent with generally accepted utility practice. As such, Parks Canada would not
15 contribute to the cost of this project.
- 16 **g)** Please refer to part f) of this response.