Q. **Reference: Application**

Hydro states that the GRA forecast is intended for rate setting and differs from forecasts used in other proceedings. Provide:

a) each load forecast currently used, to the extent that the forecasts differ, for rate setting; resource planning; reliability planning; and capital planning/projects;

b) a comparison of annual energy and demand assumptions for each common year; and

c) the rationale for material differences.

A. **a)** The 2026 General Rate Application ("GRA") forecast is based on the Operating Load Forecast, which uses the annual load forecast Reference Case scenario, and is consistent with all previous GRA filings.

The production plan is based on the Reference Case scenario, or Expected Case scenario, as it reflects the expected or most likely future scenario based on current information.

The *Reliability and Resource Adequacy Study Review* proceeding is based on a Planning Load Forecast and evaluates multiple load forecast scenarios.

As a rule, in any utility, system planning activities require consideration of a broad range of potential future outcomes to reflect uncertainty in the load forecast model input data and the relationships estimated in the model. This enables sound decision-making by demonstrating the resiliency of plans against a range of input considerations, allowing for increased certainty when making recommendations. From a load forecast perspective, this process requires the establishment of an appropriate Reference Case, as well as the analysis of several scenarios, which capture the breadth of potential future outcomes, highlighting the sensitivity of the load forecast to changes in key drivers that impact long-term planning. The Planning Load Forecast includes self-supplied loads that are also included as generation resources, whereas these loads are excluded from the GRA rate-setting forecast.

Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro ('Hydro") updates both the Operating Load Forecast and the Planning Load Forecast on an annual basis. Therefore, the timing of the particular filings in question may also mean a different load forecast was utilized as the basis of the analysis. For example, the 2024 Resource Adequacy Plan[1] utilized the 2023 Planning Load Forecast, which included a Reference Case, Slow Decarbonization, and High Decarbonization load forecast. The 2025 Build Application[2] used the 2024 Planning Load Forecast, which continued to include the Reference Case and the Slow Decarbonization forecast. Alternatively, the 2025 Operating Load Forecast (Reference Case) was used as the basis of the 2026 GRA.

b) Customer Demand and Energy requirements differ only for the single Industrial customer that has been included in the 2026 GRA but not the 2025 Operating Load Forecast (Reference Case).[3]

c) Please refer to Hydro's response to part b). A detailed description of the 2025 Planning Load Forecast is contained within the 2025 Load Forecast Report.[4]

[1] "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).
[2] "2025 Build Application – Bay d'Espoir Unit 8 and Avalon Combustion Turbine," Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, March 21, 2025.
[3] Please refer to Hydro's response to CA-NLH-005 of this proceeding.
[4] "2025 Island Interconnected System Load Forecast Report," Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, November 5, 2025.