

1 **Q. Reference: Response to PUB-NLH-117**

2 **a)** Does Hydro currently have, or plan to implement, an outage management system to work
3 with the nine technology solutions identified to further enhance customer outage
4 response?

5 **b)** What is Hydro’s plan for distribution automation beyond the reclosers located in
6 substations? In the response, discuss any reports or studies undertaken by or for Hydro to
7 explore the potential benefits for distribution automation in Hydro’s rural distribution
8 systems.

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11 **A. a)** Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro (“Hydro”) does not currently utilize a dedicated outage
12 management system ("OMS") for its distribution operations. As outlined in Hydro's
13 response to PUB-NLH-117 of this proceeding, Hydro has implemented, and continues to
14 invest in, a range of technology solutions that support outage response and service
15 restoration, including enhanced Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (“SCADA”)
16 functionality, secure remote access capabilities, remote operation of distribution
17 equipment, improved asset monitoring, and upgrades to protection and communications
18 systems.

19 Hydro evaluates potential technology investments based on reliability objectives,
20 operational requirements, and overall customer cost impacts. At this time, Hydro has not
21 identified the implementation of a dedicated OMS as a prudent investment given the size
22 and operational characteristics of its distribution system. Hydro's existing outage response
23 processes and technology solutions provide the functionality required to support
24 restoration activities and operational decision making.

25 Hydro continues to assess technologies and operational improvements as part of its
26 ongoing planning processes and would evaluate a dedicated OMS in the future should
27 operational requirements warrant such an investment.

1 **b)** Hydro’s distribution automation strategy includes automation of all distribution level
2 equipment across its rural service areas in two stages: (i) stage one – substation equipment
3 (source side) and (ii) stage two – feeder level (downline/loadside). The strategy proposes
4 connecting distribution substations to the SCADA system as the first phase of stage one.
5 Once the source side equipment has been connected, the automation project will shift to
6 stage two and begin connecting the downline equipment until all justifiable connections
7 are complete.

8 Reports reviewed as part of the automation strategy assessment are as follows:

- 9 • The Liberty Consulting Group, *Supply Issues and Power Outages Review: Island*
10 *Interconnected System—Report Addressing Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro,*
11 December 17, 2014; and
- 12 • Newfoundland Power Inc., 2020 Capital Budget Application, Report 4.5,
13 “Distribution Feeder Automation.”