

1 **Q. (Reference 4.2 - Geographic Information System Upgrade) It is indicated that**
2 **the current GIS system was implemented in 2013 (page 1), but was**
3 **developed in the late 1990s (page 3). Why did NP implement a technology**
4 **that was more than 13 years old?**

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6 **A.** Newfoundland Power ("the Company") conducted a comprehensive Request for Proposal
7 ("RFP") prior to implementing its GIS in 2013. The Company compared various software
8 solutions based on cost, functionality, usability, technology, support, lifecycle and
9 development roadmaps, among other pertinent factors.

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11 The Company assessed all RFP responses and selected the current GIS product based
12 on the evaluation criteria listed above. The selected product vendor is a well-known
13 industry leader and is used by a large portion of the electric utility market.¹ The version
14 of the software implemented in 2013 was the latest version available at the time, not
15 the original 1997 version. As technology continued to evolve, the Company completed
16 necessary upgrades to ensure the software remained supported, implementing later
17 versions as recommended by the vendor.²

¹ Of the 19 Canadian electrical utilities assessed as part of a jurisdictional scan, 16 (or 84%) utilize the same GIS technology as Newfoundland Power.

² The GIS was upgraded in 2018 and 2021 to remain in vendor support. See Newfoundland Power's *2021 Capital Budget Application*, Volume 2, report 6.2 *2021 System Upgrades*, page 3 of 6 for the most recent upgrade.