Q. Further to the response to PUB-NLH-013, which states that the load in the last week of December 2013 and the first week of January 2014 was "*exceptional and unusual*", explain in detail why Hydro was unable to forecast the higher load. In the response specifically address why each of the factors listed in the response could not reasonably have been forecast.

A. During the period in question, there was an aspect to system load that was exceptional and unusual. The unavailability of the Hardwoods gas turbine and later supply limitations associated with Holyrood and the increased power supply provided to the Avalon Peninsula through Hydro's transmission system, resulted in increased demand losses[1] on Hydro's system. Hydro subsequently conducted a load flow analysis of the conditions experienced and determined the losses to have been 30-40 MW higher (approximately double) than they would have been if all generation had been available. During the first week of January and subsequent to the introduction of rolling outages, Hydro's system loads were impacted by the increased demand requirements associated with cold load pickup on NP's and Hydro's distribution feeders. The cold load pickup requirement was also considered to be exceptional as broad based cold load pickup is not part of normal day-to-day operations.

Hydro's spring 2013 operating load forecast as provided in PUB-NLH-011 did not forecast the higher December load because of the reason outlined above and because the actual weather conditions driving the utility peak demand

[1] Demand losses are the electrical losses on the transmission lines and transformers, which are measured as the differences between generation and customer load.

requirements of NP and Hydro Rural in December were more severe than average historical weather conditions for December.

Based on Hydro's forecasting experience it believes the number of end-use customers, the number of end-use customers using electric heat and the seasonal loads associated with the Christmas period can be reasonably forecast but the specific timing and pattern of weather conditions that drive the utility demands of NP and Hydro Rural could not have been forecast months in advance.