

1 **Q. Please provide all independent studies commissioned by the Public Utilities Board**
 2 **and/or Newfoundland Power to provide evidence that the re-build of the**
 3 **transmission lines, which were the subject of the Technical Conference, are required**
 4 **to be completed on an urgent basis and must be completed in the next capital budget**
 5 **year 2020.**

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 7 A. There are no independent studies commissioned by the Board and/or Newfoundland
 8 Power concerning the rebuilding of transmission lines identified in the *2020 Capital*
 9 *Budget Application*.

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 11 The *2020 Capital Budget Application* report *3.1 Transmission Line Rebuild* includes the
 12 evidence prepared by Newfoundland Power to justify the project. There were also a
 13 number of Requests for Information from the Board and Newfoundland and Labrador
 14 Hydro (“Hydro”) in relation to the *2020 Transmission Line Rebuild* project.¹

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 16 There have been three independent reviews of Newfoundland Power’s engineered
 17 operations commissioned by the Board over the past 30 years.

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 19 In 1991, George Baker, P.Eng, completed an independent review and filed a report on the
 20 *Technical Performance of Newfoundland Light & Power Co. Limited*, recognizing that
 21 reliability was largely dependent on the quality of the system and the effects of weather.
 22 The report stated that “*NP’s transmission system is energetically efficient, and that it is*
 23 *operated and maintained in a cost-effective manner.*”²

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 25 A second independent review of Newfoundland Power was completed by D. G. Brown,
 26 P.Eng, in 1998. This report, titled *Newfoundland Light & Power Co. Limited Quality of*
 27 *Service and Reliability of Supply*, identified the need for Newfoundland Power to
 28 improve reliability. With specific reference to transmission, Mr. Brown observed that:

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 30 *“the Company is following good utility practice in the operation and maintenance of*
 31 *its transmission and sub-transmission systems. It is regularly subjected to severe ice*
 32 *and wind storms which result in severely damaged transmission. The Company has*
 33 *undertaken a program of rebuilding to improve the strength and ultimately the*
 34 *reliability of the transmission subjected to major storm damage.*”³

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 36 The Transmission Line Rebuild Strategy was among the capital projects reviewed by the
 37 Board’s consultant, The Liberty Consulting Group (“Liberty”), in January 2014 following
 38 widespread customer outages known as #darkNL. Regarding Newfoundland Power,
 39 Liberty observed that its “*transmission and distribution systems operate effectively in*
 40 *ensuring adequate service reliability. Effective maintenance and capital programs, that*

¹ See Requests for Information PUB-NP-007 and NLH-NP-001 through NLH-NP-009, inclusive.

² See *Technical Performance of Newfoundland Light & Power Co. Limited*, George Baker, P. Eng, page 6.

³ See *Newfoundland Light & Power Co. Limited Quality of Service and Reliability of Supply*, D. G. Brown, P.Eng, page iii.

- 1 *appropriately recognize the age of its assets, have contributed materially to improved*
2 *reliability.”⁴*

⁴ See the response to Request for Information PUB-NP-007 and Liberty’s *Report on Island Interconnected System to Interconnection with Muskrat Falls addressing Newfoundland Power Inc.*, December 17, 2014, page ES-2.