

1 **Q. (Reference Application, 2021 Capital Plan, page 40) It is stated that the 2021 Capital**
2 **Budget “has not been adjusted to reflect any potential impacts of COVID-19”.**

3
4 **a) Is the reduction in new customer connections a result of COVID-19?**

5
6 **b) Has NP seen a reduction in electricity demand as a result of COVID-19?**

7
8 **c) Please submit the latest forecast incorporating COVID-19 impacts on the**
9 **number of customers and electricity demand for 2020 and 2021 and compare it**
10 **to the figures used to produce the 2021 Capital Budget.**

11
12 **A. a) No, reductions in the number of new customer connections are not a result of**
13 **COVID-19.**

14
15 The reduction in the 2020 forecast of new customer connections is a result of lower
16 housing starts and completions as forecast by the Conference Board of Canada from
17 their previous forecast. Please see the response to Request for Information
18 CA-NP-056.

19
20 While it is possible that the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis could impact the
21 number of new customer connections over the forecast period, any potential impacts
22 are currently unclear. Please see the response to Request for Information
23 CA-NP-034.

24
25 **b) Yes, Newfoundland Power has seen a reduction in energy sales (i.e. electricity**
26 **demand by customers) in 2020 as a result of the ongoing pandemic.**

27
28 Energy sales in the second quarter were 2.4% lower than the same quarter last year.
29 The reduction in sales is primarily attributable to the shutdowns required due to
30 COVID-19, particularly in the small commercial customer class and major projects
31 such as construction of the West White Rose offshore oil platform.

32
33 **c) The most recent customer, energy and demand forecast developed by the Company**
34 **was created as of April 2020.¹ This forecast does not incorporate COVID-19 impacts**
35 **on the number of customers and electricity demand for 2020 and 2021.**

¹ Newfoundland Power’s customer, energy and demand forecast is prepared annually in the Spring.