

1 **Q. The Board's December 20, 2021 letter titled *Provisional Capital Budget Application***
2 ***Guidelines* states "*In addition Government recently announced a plan for the renewable***
3 ***energy industry in the province which may have an impact on utility capital expenditures***
4 ***in the near future as the province transitions to a net-zero economy and more renewable***
5 ***energy sources.*"**

6 **a) As part of this initiative, has the Government contacted Newfoundland Power**
7 **about their role?**

8 **b) Has the Government specifically endorsed the electrification programs proposed**
9 **by Newfoundland Power and identified them as a critical component of the**
10 **initiative to transition to a net-zero economy?**

11 **c) How might the Government's initiative to transition to a net-zero economy impact**
12 **the analyses relating to the electrification program, particularly the baseline**
13 **scenario?**

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15 **A. a)** No, the Provincial Government has not yet contacted Newfoundland Power with
16 respect to its role in the *Renewable Energy Plan* announced in December 2021.
17 However, consultations are anticipated as several actions in the *Renewable Energy*
18 *Plan* indicate a commitment to working with the province's utilities (the "Utilities"),
19 including supporting the Utilities in identifying opportunities to increase the
20 efficiency of the province's electricity system, working in partnership to expand the
21 province's electric vehicle ("EV") charging infrastructure, and determining
22 opportunities for port electrification.

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24 **b)** Yes, the Provincial Government has provided letters of support for the 2021 Plan.

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26 A letter of support was provided by the Provincial Government prior to filing the
27 2021 Plan and is included in Volume 2 of Newfoundland Power's Application.¹ The
28 letter states that the 2021 Plan aligns with provincial rate mitigation efforts.

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30 The Provincial Government provided 2 additional letters of support for the 2021 Plan
31 in March 2022. A letter of support from the Department of Environment and Climate
32 Change specifically references the province's net-zero initiative as follows:

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34 *"The electric vehicle initiatives and charging infrastructure proposed in*
35 *Newfoundland Power and Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro's*
36 *Electrification, Conservation and Demand Management Plan: 2021-2025 will*
37 *assist with emission reduction efforts and meeting our collective goal of net*
38 *zero emissions by 2050."*²

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40 **c)** The Provincial Government's *Renewable Energy Plan* references actions related to
41 electrifying the province's transportation and space heating sectors. These include
42 working with the Utilities to expand upon the province's EV charging infrastructure
43 and explore options to increase electrification of vehicles and space heating.³

¹ See Newfoundland Power's Application, Volume 2, Schedule M, page 1.

² See response to Request for Information TC-PUB-NP-003, Attachment A.

³ See actions 1.4.4 and 1.4.6 of the *Renewable Energy Plan*.

1 To Newfoundland Power’s knowledge, programs resulting from the *Renewable*
2 *Energy Plan* have not been finalized. While programs implemented under this plan
3 could theoretically contribute to higher EV adoption under the baseline scenario, it is
4 not possible to quantify potential impacts at this time.

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6 The *Renewable Energy Plan* clearly articulates that the Provincial Government
7 intends to work with the Utilities in exploring these areas. Similar to the Utilities’
8 approach to delivering CDM programs, the Utilities will work with the Provincial
9 Government to ensure utility programs are structured in a manner that maximizes
10 customer benefits and minimizes duplication with other initiatives.