

- 1 Q. **Reference: Technical Conference 1 Presentation, slide 47) It is noted that acquiring firm**
2 **imports from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and New England are not feasible in the near term.**
- 3 a) Why are firm imports not available in the near term? What are the limiting factors?
4 b) Are firm imports expected to be available in the mid- to long-term, and if so, what is
5 expected to change between the near- and mid-terms?
6 c) Are there potential transmission reinforcements available in other eastern Canadian
7 provinces or the northeastern United States that would remedy this situation? If so,
8 please identify the possibilities and any actions being taken to pursue such possibilities.
9 d) It is understood that generating capacity is short on the Island, New Brunswick and Nova
10 Scotia. Studies relating to regionalization of power systems (for example, the formation
11 of Regional Transmission Organizations in the U.S.) generally show economic benefits
12 because it enables economic dispatch over a broader region, a reduced need for
13 capacity reserves and optimized generation and transmission planning (to name a few).
14 i) Have any such studies been undertaken in Eastern Canada? If so, what were the
15 results? ii) What would it take to get such a study underway? iii) Is Hydro considering
16 such a study as part of the Resource Adequacy Plan?
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- 19 A. a) The limiting factors are transmission and availability of surplus capacity in neighboring
20 jurisdictions. Further discussion of the import potential to the Island Interconnected System
21 can be found in the 2024 Resource Adequacy Plan.¹
- 22 b) Firm imports are not expected to be available in the mid- to long-term.
- 23 c) In December 2023, Nova Scotia Power Inc. (“Nova Scotia Power”) received environmental
24 approval² from the Nova Scotia government for the construction of a new 345-kilovolt

¹ “2024 Resource Adequacy Plan – An Update to the Reliability and Resource Adequacy Study,” Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, rev. August 26, 2024 (originally filed July 9, 2024), app. B, sec. 5.1.3.1.

² “NS–NB Reliability Intertie Project,” Government of Nova Scotia. <https://www.novascotia.ca/nse/ea/ns-nb-reliability-intertie/>.

1 transmission line twinning the existing line to the New Brunswick border. This new
2 transmission line is expected to significantly increase the amount of capacity between New
3 Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Nova Scotia Power is estimating a 2028 completion date.
4 Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro (“Hydro”) will continue to monitor the progress of this
5 transmission line; however, surplus firm capacity beyond the needs of Nova Scotia and New
6 Brunswick would be required in order to have any possibility of acquiring firm capacity for
7 the Island system.

8 **d)** At this time, Hydro is not aware of any efforts taken towards system regionalization by
9 Eastern Canadian system operators. Hydro previously participated in some high-level
10 discussions regarding the Atlantic Loop; however, this initiative did not proceed. Rather,
11 regional expansion was limited to the new transmission interconnection between New
12 Brunswick and Nova Scotia described above. While Hydro does participate in regular system
13 planning and system operator meetings with other utilities, Hydro is not considering
14 undertaking a regional study as part of its *Reliability and Resource Adequacy Study Review*.