

1 Q. **Reference: CA-NLH-012.**

2 The response (part i) states *“Through the development of its 2022 Capital Budget Application*
3 *“Replace Metering System” (“Metering Application”), Hydro commissioned a study on various*
4 *metering technology alternatives which was prepared by a third party, Util-Assist.*

5 The Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board’s decision (M08349 issued in 2018) on Nova Scotia
6 Power’s proposed AMI (smart meter) project
7 (<https://nsuarb.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/M08349%20Decision.pdf>) notes (pages 9 and
8 10) that the largest benefit of the AMI project related to a reduction in meter reading and field
9 work. Nova Scotia Power determined that AMI would eliminate 99% of manual meter reading
10 costs and 55% of other meter related service order field work, resulting in annual cost savings of
11 \$4.6 million which on a net present value basis offset roughly one-third of the total lifecycle cost
12 of the AMI project.

13 a) What is the comparable figure included in Hydro’s study of smart meters?

14 b) What were Hydro’s meter reading costs in 2023?

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17 A. a) Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro (“Hydro”) estimated that once fully installed, an
18 advanced metering infrastructure (“AMI”) meter reading system would result in savings of
19 approximately 90% of the operating budget. This estimate was included as part of the net
20 present value evaluation of the AMI versus automatic meter reading (“AMR”) technology,
21 and the AMR option was determined to be the least cost.

22 b) Hydro’s meter reading costs in 2023 were approximately \$850,000. Table 1 further breaks
23 down the expenditures by labour and non-labour costs.

Table 1: 2023 Meter Reading Costs (\$000)

Description	Amount
Labour Costs	749
Non-Labour Costs ¹	101
Total	850

¹ Non-labour costs include vehicle expenses, travel costs, personnel safety equipment and cell phones.