

1 **Q. (Reference Application Schedule B, Application Enhancements, page 138) It is**
2 **stated "The software vendor has indicated that all clients will be required to**
3 **upgrade to GIS Enterprise prior to their next system upgrade, which for**
4 **Newfoundland Power is required by 2026. By implementing GIS Enterprise in**
5 **2023, annual subscription fees of approximately \$35,000 will be eliminated**
6 **and the mandatory software prerequisites for the next upgrade of the**
7 **Company's GIS will have been completed."**

8
9 **a) Please confirm that there is no risk to customer service if the project**
10 **were deferred until 2026.**

11 **b) What will the annual subscription fees be after the project is completed?**

12
13 A. a) There is no risk to the reliability of the Company's GIS if the project were
14 deferred to 2026. However, customer costs would be higher in that scenario due
15 to the annual subscription fees necessary to access the vendor's online portal.
16 This would be inconsistent with the Company's obligation to provide reliable
17 service at least-cost. For example, completing the GIS enhancement in 2023
18 compared to 2026 will provide a net present value of approximately \$50,000 for
19 customers.

20
21 b) There will be no subscription fees associated with accessing the vendor's online
22 portal after the project is completed. The annual subscription fees of
23 approximately \$35,000 will be eliminated.

24
25 Newfoundland Power's current service agreement with its vendor enables the
26 functionality currently accessed through the online portal to be delivered through
27 an add-on to existing software, known as GIS Enterprise. Implementing this
28 functionality will not increase the cost of the current service agreement.