

- 1 **Q. (Reference Technical Conference Issue 7) PUB-NP-016 states “Ongoing rate**
 2 **design and load research studies will inform the business case for AMI**
 3 **technology when it is developed.”**
- 4 **a) What details can NP provide with respect to the proposed study of**
 5 **meters in terms of timing and scope?**
- 6 **b) It has been stated that there is no business case for AMI before 2030**
 7 **(Dunsky). Why is NP proposing to undertake this study now?**
- 8 **c) Is AMI inevitable given the high penetration levels of electric heat,**
 9 **upcoming EV charger demand and other changes going on in the**
 10 **industry, if for no other reason than to ensure the fairness of the rate**
 11 **structure?**
- 12 **d) The response to NLH-NP-021 states “As the Company does not currently**
 13 **utilize Advanced Metering Infrastructure, loading on individual sections**
 14 **of distribution line can only be approximated by the modeling software,**
 15 **and must be verified in the field”. How much would AMI reduce such**
 16 **costs?**
- 17
- 18 **A. a) Newfoundland Power has not proposed a metering study.**
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- 20 The Company is developing a detailed framework to guide its planned load
 21 research study and retail rate design review. The framework will outline the
 22 timing and scope of the studies. See the response to Request for Information
 23 CA-NP-027.
 24
- 25 **b) See part a).**
 26
- 27 **c) No, Newfoundland Power does not have information at this time to suggest that**
 28 **implementing AMI technology is inevitable. Based on the province’s current**
 29 **legislative framework, AMI technology could only be implemented if it was**
 30 **determined to be consistent with the delivery of least-cost, reliable service for**
 31 **customers.¹ AMI technology is not currently expected to be cost-effective for**
 32 **customers until at least 2030. See part d) of the response to Request for**
 33 **Information CA-NP-135.**
 34
- 35 **d) Field verification of load data requires installing digital recording devices on the**
 36 **three phase conductors of the distribution feeder being studied. The labour**
 37 **associated with installing and removing the recording devices is in the order of**
 38 **two to four hours per location. As such, the cost associated with the current**
 39 **method of field verification of load data would be in the range of hundreds of**
 40 **dollars. The savings associated with avoiding those costs would therefore not be**
 41 **considered material in a business case for an AMI implementation.**

¹ See section 3(b)(iii) of the *Electrical Power Control Act, 1994*.