

- 1 **Q. (Reference Application, 2025 – 2029 Capital Plan, page 3) It is stated “A 2019**
 2 **market potential study completed by Dunsky Energy Consulting determined**
 3 **that dynamic rates may become cost-effective for customers between 2030**
 4 **and 2034. Dynamic rate structures will take several years to implement and**
 5 **require investments in Advanced Metering Infrastructure (“AMI”). The**
 6 **Company continues to assess the costs and benefits of AMI.”**
- 7 **a) Prior to submission of its report, did NP and Hydro make Dunsky aware of**
 8 **the generation capacity shortfall in the province, government net-zero**
 9 **carbon and electrification efforts and the government’s rate mitigation**
 10 **plan?**
- 11 **b) Did Dunsky conduct an assessment of smart meters, or did Dunsky only**
 12 **assess the value of dynamic rates relating to load shifting?**
- 13 **c) Please confirm that smart meters provide numerous benefits beyond load**
 14 **shifting and provide a list of such benefits.**
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- 16 **A.** a) The *2021 Electrification, Conservation and Demand Management Application* (the
 17 “2021 ECDM Plan”) was filed with the Board on December 16, 2020. The 2019
 18 market potential study completed by Dunsky Energy Consulting was filed as
 19 Schedule C to the 2021 ECDM Plan.¹ The Study Context section of the report outlines
 20 approaching changes to the electricity system², as well as expected impacts from
 21 government policies around lighting standards and carbon pricing.³
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- 23 b) As part of the 2019 market potential study, Dunsky Energy Consulting assessed the
 24 load shifting potential of dynamic rate structures, including an estimate of the cost of
 25 AMI implementation. The consultant did not complete an overall assessment of
 26 smart meters.⁴
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- 28 c) The benefits of smart meter technology can include: the ability to remotely read
 29 meters, automatic outage detection and management; the ability to remotely
 30 connect or disconnect service to customers; monitoring power quality;
 31 implementation of demand response programs such as Time-Of-Use rates;
 32 enablement of distributed energy generation; and the ability to provide customers
 33 personalized energy-saving tips and recommendations.⁵

¹ See Newfoundland Power’s *2021 Electrification, Conservation and Demand Management Plan*.

² Dunsky Energy Consulting outlined context for the study including that Newfoundland and Labrador’s electricity system was due to undergo significant changes, including the commissioning of the Muskrat Falls hydro-electric generation facility and the expansion of the Labrador-Island link transmission system. It was noted that these changes would present challenges, such as the need to maximize energy exports and off-peak sales to mitigate customer rates, while reducing winter peak demand.

³ See Newfoundland Power’s *2021 Electrification, Conservation and Demand Management Plan, Schedule C – 2020-2034 Potential Study*, pages 3-5.

⁴ See Newfoundland Power’s *Electrification, Conservation and Demand Management Plan, Schedule E – Potential Study Addendum: Demand Response Assessment*, page 10.

⁵ See IBM. *What is Advanced Metering Infrastructure?* Retrieved August 26, 2024 from <https://www.ibm.com/topics/advanced-metering-infrastructure>. See also U.S. Department of Energy. *Advanced Metering Infrastructure and Customer Systems*. Retrieved August 26, 2024 from https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2016/12/f34/AMI%20Summary%20Report_09-26-16.pdf.