

1 **Q. (Reference PUB-NP-040)**

2 **New Brunswick Power filed evidence with the New Brunswick Energy and**
 3 **Utilities Board on August 1, 2019 entitled "Advanced Metering Infrastructure**
 4 **Capital Project (<https://www.nbpower.com/media/1489724/nbp0103.pdf>)**
 5 **which states (page 5) "The pace of technological change has been increasing**
 6 **and will continue to increase. NB Power believes that continuing to plan on**
 7 **the basis of making investments in traditional utility assets in the face of such**
 8 **change may not be prudent and reasonable." Further, Nova Scotia Power**
 9 **states on its website**

10 **([https://www.nspower.ca/cleanandgreen/innovation/smart-grid-nova-](https://www.nspower.ca/cleanandgreen/innovation/smart-grid-nova-scotia)**
 11 **[scotia](https://www.nspower.ca/cleanandgreen/innovation/smart-grid-nova-scotia)) "Globally, the electrical grids that have served us over the past**
 12 **century are evolving through new technology into "smart grids." Smart grids**
 13 **offer a future in which individual pieces of the electrical system — including**
 14 **"smart devices" in customers' homes and businesses — can communicate**
 15 **with one another, so that the entire electrical system works together to use**
 16 **energy more efficiently. This means lower overall costs for customers and a**
 17 **cleaner environment."**

18 **a) Please file documentation produced by, or on behalf of, NP that supports**
 19 **or refutes these statements.**

20 **b) What is NP doing to make its grid smarter so that the entire electrical**
 21 **system works together to use energy more efficiently?**

22 **c) How is NP's asset management review taking into consideration**
 23 **technological change and investing in traditional utility assets in the face**
 24 **of such change that may not be prudent and reasonable?**

25
 26 **A. a) See the response to part d) of Request for Information CA-NP-016. There are no**
 27 **capital expenditures associated with Advanced Metering Infrastructure ("AMI") or**
 28 **smart grids included in Newfoundland Power's 2025 Capital Budget Application.**
 29 **Newfoundland Power is aware that system cost savings resulting from the demand**
 30 **response potential of AMI technologies are not sufficient to offset implementation**
 31 **costs *at this time*. As a result, the Company has not conducted a more detailed**
 32 **assessment of various AMI technology options and is unable to provide the**
 33 **requested documentation. Further to the response to Request for Information CA-**
 34 **NP-247, Newfoundland Power will continue periodic analysis of the cost effectiveness**
 35 **of AMI implementation.**

36
 37 **b) Newfoundland Power enables the "smart" and efficient operation of its electrical**
 38 **system through operational technologies and electrical system automation. Specific**
 39 **examples include:**

40
 41 **(i) Newfoundland Power's *Distribution Feeder Automation* project, which**
 42 **involves increasing automation of the distribution system through the**
 43 **installation of downline reclosers.¹ During Hurricane Larry, the automatic**

¹ See Newfoundland Power's *2025 Capital Budget Application, Schedule B - 2025 Capital Projects and Programs Over \$750,000*, pages 12-16.

- 1 operation of downline reclosers avoided 3.8 million customer outage
2 minutes.²
3
- 4 (ii) The Company's Outage Management System automatically assesses multiple
5 individual outage reports and groups them into single events using pre-
6 determined logic. This enables timely restoration of service to customers
7 experiencing outages.³
8
- 9 (iii) Newfoundland Power's Geographic Information System was expanded to
10 provide accurate location-related information for electrical system assets,
11 such as street lights. This reduces duplicate reports of street light outages
12 allowing the Company to optimize field operations.⁴
13
- 14 Further actions Newfoundland Power has taken to maintain overall efficient service
15 delivery to customers can be found in the responses to Requests for Information
16 PUB-NP-017, PUB-NP-023, and PUB-NP-036 filed as part of Newfoundland Power's
17 *2025/2026 General Rate Application*.
18
- 19 c) Newfoundland Power is closely coordinating its Asset Management Review among
20 various internal departments to ensure comprehensive long-term planning. This
21 approach ensures that innovation, electrification, and grid modernization, among
22 other topics, are factored into asset management decisions.

² See Newfoundland Power's *2025/2026 General Rate Application, Section 2: Customer Operations*, page 2-23.

³ Ibid.

⁴ See Newfoundland Power's *2025/2026 General Rate Application, Section 2: Customer Operations*, page 2-28.