

1 Q. Does Mr. Henderson believe that the climate today is the same as it was in
2 the 1950s? Has Mr. Henderson discussed the issue with Environment
3 Canada?

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5 A. Issues of climate change and climactic trends pose a challenge to owners of
6 hydroelectric generators. Nobody knows with any degree of certainty what
7 the future climate trends will be. Environment Canada states on its web site,
8 “Indications are that as climate warms both global evaporation and
9 precipitation will increase. This will affect each region differently since
10 precipitation belts will shift. Some previously wet regions will become much
11 drier while other areas may become far wetter than usual” (A Primer on
12 Climate Change – Forecasting the Future, Environment Canada).

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14 When contacted by staff in Mr. Henderson’s department, Environment
15 Canada indicated that there is no current research that would provide
16 meaningful indication regarding the impact of climate change upon hydrology
17 conditions on the island of Newfoundland. As a matter of interest, the
18 Atlantic region summer precipitation for 2001 was the third driest on record,
19 falling between the years 1957 and 1960 in the 54-year seasonal ranking.