

1 Q. To what extent has the decline in rural population, especially on the Northern
2 Peninsula, been factored in to NLH's forecasts of the rural deficit?

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5 A. The decline in rural population factors into NLH rural load forecast as a
6 reduction in domestic customer growth from one year to the next and as
7 lower overall consumption per customer. In terms of forecasting the rural
8 deficit in a particular year, Hydro does not directly link the rural population
9 level with the rural deficit level.