

1 Q. What benefits, if any, would accrue from equipping another unit at Holyrood  
2 to act as such a condenser?

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5 A. Unit 3 at Holyrood is operated as a synchronous condenser during the late  
6 spring, summer and early fall. As a synchronous condenser, the unit  
7 provides voltage support to the 230 kV system enabling Hydro to fully utilize  
8 the transfer capacity of the existing east coast transmission system and  
9 minimize operation of units at Holyrood during these “off-peak” periods.

10 Without a substantial increase in the generating capacity off the Avalon

11 Peninsula, the only benefit of equipping another unit at Holyrood with

12 synchronous condenser capability would be to increase the maintenance

13 window for Holyrood Unit 3. However, there is currently sufficient voltage

14 control equipment on the 230 kV east coast system (Long Harbour,

15 Hardwoods and Oxen Pond capacitor banks and Hardwoods gas turbine) to

16 accommodate the loss of a single piece of voltage control equipment.