

1 Q. Further to NP-24: The number of Hydro vehicles in 2002 is 282 which is a
2 slight increase from the 274 vehicles in 1998. During the same period of time
3 permanent staff levels have reduced by 98 (see Response to Request for
4 Information NP-9 NLH.) Please explain the necessity to maintain a slightly
5 higher number of vehicles in 2002 than was the case in 1998 in light of the
6 reduction in permanent staff levels.

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9 A. Referring to NP-9 NLH the staffing levels indicated for 1998 is 889 and for
10 2002 it is 801 for a reduction of 88 permanent staff.

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12 The increase in vehicles from 1998 to 2002 reflects the difference between
13 15 units purchased for capital projects and 7 units eliminated as a result of
14 fleet rationalization.

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16 A reduction in staff does not necessarily result in a corresponding reduction
17 in vehicles. The majority of vehicles are assigned to operations and
18 maintenance personnel, and are utilized by more than one employee.
19 Whenever organizational change has the potential to significantly impact fleet
20 levels a review is undertaken and any appropriate adjustments made.