

1    Q.    Further to NP-70 NLH: Provide further explanation on the method used to  
2           conclude “the absence of long term trends”. For example, a consistent trend  
3           over how many years is required to be viewed as a “long term” trend?  
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6    A.    Several methods were used to investigate the possibility of trends, as  
7           documented in the report. The analysis included careful examination of the  
8           data, statistical tests, and consideration of the results for all the data sets.  
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10          Long term trends were defined as those that are monotonic with a positive or  
11          negative slope over the length of a data series. In order to be considered a  
12          valid trend, the trend should be apparent in the plotted data after smoothing,  
13          and it should pass statistical tests.  
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15          There is no set number of years required to define a trend, but rather relies  
16          upon judgment and the individual circumstances of the decision. It should be  
17          noted that the series should be long enough that any possible short-term  
18          trends within the series are not mistaken for a trend that might be expected  
19          to continue into the future.  
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21          The hydrology review concluded that, “Analysis of Hydro’s inflow series and  
22          records from other gauged basins on the Island did not show any definitive  
23          trends or changes.”