

1 Q. In Section 2.2 at page 2 of the *Business Case for VHF Mobile Radio System*
2 *Replacement* (Application, Section G, Appendix 4), it is noted that the
3 transmitters and receivers of Hydro's current VHF radio system can be
4 replaced with compatible equipment.

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6 Did Hydro evaluate the alternative of replacing the switch in 2004 and
7 staging the replacement of transmitters, receivers and repeaters over time?
8 If Hydro performed such an evaluation, please provide the results. If Hydro
9 did not evaluate such an alternative, why did it not do so?

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12 A. The existing repeaters have been Manufacturer Discontinued (MD'd) since
13 1996 and with the increasing failures, it is prudent for Hydro to replace the
14 complete infrastructure. Also, with the implementation of a new system
15 Hydro will be required by Industry Canada to utilize 12.5 KHZ radio channels.
16 The existing repeaters utilize 25 KHZ radio channels and are not compatible
17 with the new system and thus the existing radios will not be compatible. As a
18 result, the staged replacement of the current repeaters, radios and switch is
19 not considered a viable option and thus was not evaluated.