

1 **QUESTION:**

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3 Would the consultant agree that proceeding with an integrated resource plan before the release
4 of the Report would potentially pose the potential for:

5
6 (a) Inconsistency, and/or

7 (b) Unnecessary expenditure/duplication of costs to the detriment of ratepayers.

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9 **RESPONSE:**

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11 It is assumed the Report to which the question refers is the Province's Energy Plan. In Messrs
12 Bowman and McLaren's view the status of the Province's Energy Plan should in no way preclude
13 NLH from preparing a long-term system plan along the lines described in the pre-filed testimony,
14 nor relieve NLH from its basic responsibility to have a plan for its major regulated assets and for
15 how it can be able to provide reliable least-cost power into the future under the various
16 conditions that may arise.