1   **General**

2

3   **Q.   Ref: B-70 (Application Environment) Vol. IV, Appendix 2, and PUB-86 NP. What,**
4   **among the listed projects, is capable of being deferred for one (1) year without**
5   **incurring vendor support issues or degradation of existing business processes.**

6

7   A.   There are no projects within Application Environment that are capable of being deferred
8   for one year without incurring vendor support issues or degradation of existing business
9   processes.

10

11   Projects within this category are necessary in order to upgrade outdated technology and
12   to take advantage of newly developed capabilities as part of the upgraded technology.
13   The Application Environment, which includes the software products, development tools,
14   and related components, is essential to ensuring that changes made to software
15   applications are sufficiently tested and stable before deployment into the production
16   environment, thereby mitigating the risks of downtime and customer service interruption.

17

18   The potential impacts of deferral of each of the projects included in the "Application
19   Environment" project are provided below.

20

21   Microsoft Enterprise Agreement - deferring this expense would result in higher
22   acquisition costs and administration and software deployment costs, as stated in the
23   Company's response to Request For Information PUB-90 NP.

24

25   Database and Development Software – Please refer to the response given for PUB-188
26   NP. As well, the installed version of the development software, Computer Associates
27   ERWIN is not supported by the vendor.

28

29   Environment Management - current business processes related to Contributions in Aid of
30   Construction (CIAC) and Payroll, as well as data retention and integrity could be
31   compromised, putting normal business operations at risk.

32

33   Application Software Upgrades - the vendor will no longer support Great Plains version
34   6 after March 31, 2004. With regard to the Avantis.PRO upgrade, the terms of the
35   Company's support contract state that full support will be available until March 2005,
36   provided that the Company upgrades to the latest general release prior to this date. This
37   project must be conducted in 2004 in order to ensure our compliance with these terms.

38

39   SCADA Development Environment - current business processes related to the operation
40   of the electrical system could be compromised, affecting system reliability, Company
41   operations, and customer service.