

1 **Q. PUB 22.0 NP**

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3 **Application Enhancements (Pooled), \$1,281,000, p. 53 of 65**

4 **Has NP undertaken a review of the Asset Management System with regard to**
5 **current performance, costs, and plans for the future? If so, please provide a report**
6 **to the Board.**

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8 A. The Company has not undertaken a review of the Asset Management System with regard
9 to current performance, costs, and plans for the future.

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11 As stated in the report entitled *Information Technology Strategy 2004 – 2008*¹, the
12 Company's IT investments will be focused on getting further value out of its existing
13 technology investments.

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15 The Asset Management System, Avantis, was initially installed in June 2003 as part of
16 the two-year Facilities Management project that was approved by the Board as part of the
17 Company's 2002 and 2003 Capital Budget Applications.

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19 Since the initial implementation of Avantis for the management of substation and power
20 plant equipment, the Company has looked for opportunities to enhance this application to
21 improve operating efficiency and service to customers. As such, the Company has
22 enhanced Avantis to include transmission line inspections, customer technical work
23 requests, and padmount distribution transformer inspections. To date, Avantis has been
24 effective in helping the Company manage its substation, power plant, and transmission
25 line assets.

26
27 In 2007, the Company plans to enhance Avantis for distribution assets and inspections.
28 Distribution inspections produce 1000 to 2000 work orders annually for follow-up work
29 such as replacing a rusty transformer, installing a guy wire or replacing a pole.

30
31 Extending Avantis to include distribution assets and inspections will result in more
32 efficient management of the Company's distribution system that includes over 300
33 feeders.

34
35 Going forward, the Company will continue to evaluate opportunities to enhance the
36 Avantis Asset Management System to support improvements in customer service and
37 operating efficiency.

¹ Filed with the Company's 2004 Capital Budget Application.