Q. How many new customer connections are included in the 2015 and 2016 forecast found in the application by customer class? Please explain any variance from the five year actual average.

A. Table 1 provides the customer information requested.

Table 1
Customers by Class

	Actual				Forecast			
Class	**2009**	**2014[1]**	**Avg.**	**Growth**	**2015**	**2016**	**Avg.**	**Growth**
Domestic	207,335	224,824	3,498	1.6%	227,081	229,354	2,265	1.0%
0-10 kW	12,036	12,441	81	0.7%	12,468	12,480	20	0.2%
10-100 kW	8,770	9,572	160	1.8%	9,692	9,803	116	1.2%
110-1000 kVA	1,088	1,241	31	2.7%	1,233	1,241	0	0.0%
1000 kVA and Over	68	70	0	0.6%	64	65	(3)	(3.6%)
Total General Service	21,962	23,324	272	1.2%	23,457	23,589	133	0.6%
Street and Area Lighting	10,010	10,731	144	1.4%	10,826	10,924	97	0.9%
Total	239,307	258,879	3,914	1.6%	261,364	263,867	2,494	1.0%

Over the past 5 years, the number of customers has increased on average by 3,914 or 1.6% per year. The growth in the number of customers reflects average housing starts of 3,192 units and service sector gross domestic product growth of 2.0% per year during this period.

Newfoundland Power's Customer, Energy and Demand Forecast was completed on March 13, 2015, and reflects the Conference Board of Canada and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's most recent forecasts. For the 2015 and 2016 period, the number of customers is forecast to increase on average by 2,494, or 36% lower than the previous 5 year period. For the 2015 and 2016 period, the number of housing starts is forecast to increase on average by 2,017 units, or 37% lower than the previous 5 years. In addition, service sector gross domestic product is forecast to grow on average by only 1.3% per year.

[1] In 2014, colder than normal peak conditions and power supply issues resulted in above normal peaks for some General Service customers. As a result, there were a number of 10-100 kW customers who moved to 110-1000 kVA, as well as number of 110-1000 kVA customers who moved to 1000 kVA and Over. With warmer than normal peak conditions in 2015, these customers have moved back to their original rate categories. For example, in March 2015, there were 1,222 customers in the 110-1000 kVA category and 65 customers in the 1000 kVA and over category.

Overall, the reduced customer growth in the current forecast is a reflection of forecast economic conditions.