

1 Q. Reference: Hydro's 2016 Standby Fuel Deferral Application, February 5, 2016,
2 response to Request for Information NP-NLH-003. Hydro states:

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4 *"...Hydro uses guidance from the results of the Vista Decision Support System which*
5 *provides recommended hydro and thermal generation schedules using simulations*
6 *of all historic inflow scenarios. In addition, other factors are taken into*
7 *consideration such as: weather and load forecasts, snow pack, distribution of the*
8 *storage within the reservoir system, and the available thermal capacity."*

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10 Did Hydro continue to use thermal and standby generation to support reservoir
11 levels once Vista indicated it was no longer necessary to do so? If so, please
12 indicate how much energy from thermal and standby generation sources was used
13 for this purpose in each instance after Vista recommended it was no longer
14 required.

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17 A. Vista is a decision support software and the recommendations from Vista are
18 tempered with the professional judgement and experience of the System
19 Operations engineers and managers that attend Hydro's weekly water management
20 meetings. Other factors taken into consideration include recent and forecast
21 weather, reservoir levels and trends, and system conditions such as unit outages
22 and watershed conditions such as snow pack levels.

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24 In early January 2016, Vista was indicating a requirement for high thermal
25 generation for all of the 56 historic inflow sequences that it simulated. As the spring
26 progressed, the need for high thermal generation continued to forecast in the driest
27 of the sequences but not in all sequences. During this period, regular snow surveys

1 indicated that the snow pack was considerably lower than normal. Therefore, of the
2 56 inflow sequences that Vista normally simulates to come up with its
3 recommendations, some of them were known to be less likely than others and so
4 could be discounted.

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6 On April 14, 2016, Hydro determined that, from a water management perspective,
7 only minimum generation was required at Holyrood in the near term. At that time
8 Vista was still recommending marginally above minimum thermal generation for
9 short periods of the driest historic scenario but continued higher inflows meant that
10 thermal generation did not have to be increased again.