

1 **Q. Please provide Newfoundland Power’s most recent studies (if any) of the costs and**
2 **benefits of implementing advanced metering infrastructure (AMI). Please include**
3 **any expected cost contributions from the Federal Government.**
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5 A. Newfoundland Power has not completed a recent study of the costs and benefits of
6 implementing Advanced Metering Infrastructure (“AMI”). In 2016, the Company began
7 accelerating the deployment of Automated Meter Reading (“AMR”) meters.¹ Virtually
8 all meters in Newfoundland Power’s service territory were automated by the end of 2017.
9 This automation allows the Company to more efficiently read the approximately 254,000
10 customer meters in its service territory.² As a result, meter reading operating costs were
11 reduced by approximately 65%, or \$1.8 million, between 2012 and 2017.³
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13 The Company is aware of Federal Government funding available under the Smart Grid
14 Program, one of the Green Infrastructure Programs, but is not currently expecting any
15 cost contributions.⁴

¹ The accelerated deployment of AMR meters is described in Newfoundland Power’s *2016 Capital Budget Application, Report 4.4: 2016 Metering Strategy*.

² Newfoundland Power maintained 426 meter reading routes in 2015. The Company reduced the required number of routes to 143 by year-end 2017. The reduction in routes reflects the more efficient meter reading process provided through automation.

³ Meter reading operating costs were approximately \$2,810,000 in 2012 and \$980,000 in 2017. $(\$2,810,000 - \$980,000) / \$2,810,000 = 0.65$, or 65%.

⁴ The Smart Grid Program provides funding for utility projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, better utilize existing electricity assets, foster innovation and create clean jobs for smart grid technologies and integrated systems. Under this program, the Federal Government provides up to 50% of the total eligible project costs to a maximum of \$5 million.