1   Q.   **Volume I, Section C: Projects Over $500,000, Replace Hydro Personal Computers (2021), page**

2   **C-100, lines 13 to 17.**

3   Hydro operates and maintains approximately 313 desktop computers, 502
4   laptops, 75 workstations, 58 ruggedized mobile computers, and 273 thin-client
5   computing devices. A preliminary analysis based on existing device age has
6   identified 128 desktop computers, 139 laptops, 3 workstations, and 42
7   ruggedized mobile computers that are due for replacement in 2021. Hydro has
8   included an estimated replacement of 300 monitors in this budget for failure
9   replacement and new computer setups.

10   Why is there such a high percentage of desktop computers and ruggedized mobile computers

11   being replaced in 2021?

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14   A.   The high percentage of desktop and ruggedized computers being replaced in 2021 reflects: (i) a

15   higher than average number of purchases in 2015 and 2016 which are due for replacement in

16   2021[1] and (ii) deferrals from previous years.[2] Hydro has not purchased new ruggedized

17   computer devices since 2016 and has not purchased new thin-client devices since 2015. The

18   identified ruggedized and thin-client devices proposed for replacement in Hydro's 2021 Capital

19   Budget Application are at the end of their useful lives.[3]

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[1] Since 2018, Hydro's lifecycle for replacing desktops increased from five years to six years and laptops increased from four to five years. For further information regarding Hydro's replacement life cycle, please refer to Hydro's response to CA-NLH-006 of this proceeding.

[2] The original approved Replace Hydro Personal Computer project budget amount for 2018 was materially reduced due to a cost-savings initiative. Proactive replacements were halted and the allocated costs for fiscal 2018 were used for emergency reactive break-fix hardware replacements only. As such, devices originally scheduled for replacement in 2018 were identified to be replaced in 2019 and those in 2019 were deferred into 2020, etc.

[3] As prices for thin-client devices are now comparable to desktop computers, which offer more functionality, Hydro is replacing thin-client devices with desktop computers.