

1 Q. **Reference: Volume I: 2021-2025 Capital Plan**

2 Appendix A lists all the projects that Hydro has planned for the years 2021-2025.

3 Page A-11 lists the planned rural generation projects for 2021-2025.

4 Please provide an update, including next steps, on the expressions of interest (“EOI”) process
5 with respect to renewable energy solutions for 14 of the province's isolated diesel powered
6 electricity systems.

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9 A. Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro (“Hydro”) remains committed to providing least-cost reliable
10 service to its customers. This includes supporting the interconnection and integration of
11 renewable energy within Hydro’s isolated diesel powered electricity systems in ways that fulfill
12 this commitment. One particular initiative that Hydro has underway is the expression of interest
13 (“EOI”) process which was started in 2019 when Hydro and the Department of Natural
14 Resources jointly issued a Request for Expression of Interest for Renewable Energy Solutions for
15 Isolated Coastal Diesel-Powered Electricity Systems in Newfoundland and Labrador.

16 Since receiving expressions of interest from interested parties in July 2019, Hydro has advanced
17 the EOI process as follows:

18 **1)** To facilitate the safe and reliable interconnection of renewable energy sources to Hydro’s
19 diesel plants, Hydro has prepared technical interconnection requirements and an
20 interconnection procedure. These documents outline various technical and procedural
21 requirements that renewable energy developers must consider when developing renewable
22 energy solutions for Hydro’s isolated systems.

23 **2)** Hydro is actively participating in working groups with Nunacor, the business development
24 arm of the NunatuKavut Community Council (“NCC”) to support of the Nunacor/NCC
25 Sustainable Commercial Energy Plan. This energy plan is expected to outline the role

1 Nunacor/NCC wish to play with regards to owning and operating renewable energy in their
2 territory. The NunatuKavut territory contains all of Hydro's isolated diesel power systems in
3 Labrador that are south of Happy Valley-Goose Bay. These systems make up 9 of the 14
4 systems included in the EOI process.

5 Outside of the EOI process, Hydro is supporting the interconnection and integration of
6 renewable energy in a number of other ways. This includes:

- 7 **1)** The establishment of agreements between Hydro and independent power producers for the
8 generation of renewable energy in two of its isolated systems—Frontier Energy in Ramea
9 and St. Mary's River Energy in Mary's Harbour. These agreements allow Hydro to purchase
10 wind energy in Ramea and hydroelectric paired with solar energy in Mary's Harbour to
11 offset diesel generation in these communities;
- 12 **2)** Hydro is working with the Nunatsiavut Government as part of its Energy Security Working
13 Group to assess the feasibility of renewable energy projects in that region; and
- 14 **3)** Hydro is working with Frontier Energy and Nalcor Energy on planning next steps for
15 renewable energy in Ramea, which is one of the fourteen systems included in the EOI
16 process.

17 Before releasing further requests for proposals or requests for pre-qualification, it is necessary
18 for Hydro to continue consultation with Nunacor in consideration of its Sustainable Commercial
19 Energy Plan. Hydro will also continue discussions with Frontier Energy and Nalcor Energy
20 regarding the renewable energy future in Ramea.

21 The remaining four systems combine to make up less 5% of the energy consumption within the
22 scope of the EOI process. These communities will be considered once other initiatives that have
23 greater potential to reduce diesel fuel consumption are complete.