

1 **Q. Reference: “2021 Capital Budget Application,” Newfoundland Power, July 9, 2020,**
 2 **Volume 1, 2021 Capital Plan, sec. 4.3.9 at p.39.**

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 4 **Has Newfoundland Power investigated the usage of other VHF systems currently in**
 5 **place within Newfoundland and Labrador?**

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 7 A. No, Newfoundland Power has not investigated the usage of other VHF systems currently
 8 in place within Newfoundland and Labrador.

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 10 Newfoundland Power’s VHF mobile radio system is provided by Bell Mobility.¹ Other
 11 users of this system include Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro and some departments of
 12 the Provincial Government. The Provincial Government has started a process to
 13 transition away from the current VHF radio system to a new province-wide public safety
 14 radio system.

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 16 Newfoundland Power will investigate options to provide its field staff with mobile radio
 17 communications when notice is provided that the current Bell Mobility VHF technology
 18 is being retired.² Those options could include becoming part of the public safety radio
 19 system, joining another VHF system, building a private system owned by Newfoundland
 20 Power or discontinue the use of VHF radio communications by field staff.

21
 22 As more information becomes available with respect to the future of the Bell Mobility
 23 mobile radio system, Newfoundland Power will be in a better position to fully evaluate
 24 other options. In the interim, Newfoundland Power has put an estimate of \$1,750,000 in
 25 its 5-year plan in the event that a project is required.³

¹ It is Newfoundland Power’s understanding that the equipment comprising the Bell Mobility mobile radio system is technically obsolete and continued support and maintenance will be limited.

² The investigation to date has involved participating in discussions with other Bell Mobility mobile radio system users and providing information to the Provincial Government’s consultant.

³ The \$1,750,000 estimate is based on the replacement of the existing vehicle based mobile radio units and does not include expenditures for radio site or system capital cost.