

1 **Q. (2021 Electrification, Conservation and Demand Management Application) Is it the**
2 **best time to embark on a capital program which is not an essential service in the**
3 **midst of a poor Provincial economy worsened by the Covid-19 global pandemic?**
4 **Please explain.**

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6 A. Implementation of customer electrification programs in 2021, including the associated
7 capital project, is consistent with: (i) the Board's recommendation as part of the
8 *Reference on Rate Mitigation Options and Impacts*; (ii) sound public utility practice; and
9 (iii) the least-cost delivery of reliable service to customers. Deferring implementation of
10 customer electrification programs would, in effect, defer the associated rate mitigating
11 benefits for customers. See, for example, response to Request for Information
12 CA-NP-033.

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14 In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Public Safety Canada developed a set of services
15 and functions deemed essential. These services and functions are considered essential to
16 preserving life, health and basic societal functioning. Public Safety Canada deems as
17 essential those workers needed to support EV charging stations and the electricity
18 distribution systems that support them.¹

¹ Public Safety Canada, *Guidance on Essential Services and Functions in Canada During the COVID-19 Pandemic*, <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/ntnl-scrtr/crtcl-nfrstrctr/esf-sfe-en.aspx>.