

1 Q. Please explain why Hydro waited seven months from the August 15, 2021 heavy rain event that
2 caused the nitrogen-water mist station to discharge in the engine hall to apply for the roof
3 replacement. Please address whether a more timely application would have provided sufficient
4 time for the steel roof materials to be delivered for installation during the 2022 construction
5 season.

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8 A. Following the discharge of the nitrogen-mist fire suppression system on August 15, 2021,
9 Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro (“Hydro”) engaged the system supplier to conduct an
10 investigation and determine the root cause of the trip. This investigation found that water had
11 infiltrated a section of conduit which runs to a manual pull station. The water caused a short
12 circuit, which resulted in the system activation. The source of the water was believed to be a
13 roof leak.

14 In an effort to ensure that the least-cost alternative was pursued to address the roof leaks,
15 Hydro engaged a consultant to complete a site assessment of the roofing system and provide
16 recommendations for its refurbishment. A request for proposals was prepared and issued for
17 tender on September 20, 2021. Bids were evaluated on the closing date of September 29, 2021,
18 and a purchase order was issued to proceed with the investigation. The necessary preparations
19 were made and a site assessment was conducted during the week of October 25, 2021. A draft
20 report, outlining the assessment findings and recommended alternatives, was completed on
21 November 25, 2021. Upon receipt of the report, Hydro completed an alternative analysis to
22 establish the project scope.

23 Given the material lead times along with the short construction season in coastal Labrador,
24 Hydro did not believe it was likely that the roof replacement could be completed during the
25 2022 construction season. Hydro considered proposing the replacement of the roof in its 2023
26 Capital Budget Application as a single-year job, which would have allowed for construction
27 during the 2023 construction season while avoiding the need for supplemental capital
28 expenditure. However, recognizing that material lead times have increased significantly, Hydro

- 1 made the decision to advance the proposal as a 2022 supplemental capital expenditure to
- 2 ensure execution during the 2023 construction season.