

1 **Q. (Reference NLH-NP-042, page 5 of 5, lines 8-10) Please provide details as to how the**
2 **operation of five downline reclosers during a severe blizzard in January 2020 avoided**
3 **approximately 3.5 million customer outage minutes without the assistance of field**
4 **crews. Please provide a detailed explanation.**
5

6 A. Downline reclosers are pole-mounted devices that essentially divide a distribution feeder
7 into multiple sections. When a fault occurs downstream of a downline recloser, the
8 recloser will operate automatically to restore service to customers upstream of the device.
9 Without a downline recloser, all customers on a distribution feeder would experience an
10 outage. Downline reclosers can also be operated remotely by the System Control Centre
11 (“SCC”). Once field crews complete repairs on a distribution feeder, the SCC can
12 operate a downline recloser to restore service to customers.
13

14 A severe blizzard in January 2020 caused damage to several distribution feeders that
15 resulted in customer outages. During this event, the operation of 5 downline reclosers
16 sectionalized damaged distribution feeders so that only a portion of customers served by
17 those feeders experienced outages, rather than all customers.
18

19 The downline reclosers that operated during his event were:
20

- 21 (i) BCV-03-R2. This downline recloser is located on a distribution feeder served by
22 Broad Cove Substation. Operation of this device avoided approximately 390,000
23 customer outage minutes.
24
- 25 (ii) WES-03-R2. This downline recloser is located on a distribution feeder served by
26 Wesleyville Substation. Operation of this device avoided approximately 266,000
27 customer outage minutes.
28
- 29 (iii) LEW-02-R2. This downline recloser is located on a distribution feeder served by
30 Lewisporte Substation. Operation of this device avoided approximately 576,000
31 customer outage minutes.
32
- 33 (iv) HWD-09-R3. This downline recloser is located on a distribution feeder served by
34 Hardwoods Substation. Operation of this device avoided approximately
35 1.1 million customer outage minutes.
36
- 37 (v) CHA-02-R2. This downline recloser is located on a distribution feeder served by
38 Chamberlains Substation. Operation of this device avoided approximately
39 1.2 million customer outage minutes.