

1 **Q. Reference: “2022/2023 General Rate Application,” Newfoundland Power, May 27,**
2 **2021, Volume 2, Section 3.**

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4 **Have any impacts or potential impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic been included in**
5 **the development of Newfoundland Power’s load forecast?**

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7 A. Newfoundland Power’s energy sales in 2020 and 2021 have been affected by the
8 COVID-19 pandemic.¹ This is due to public health measures introduced by the
9 Provincial Government to manage the COVID-19 pandemic.²

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11 The Company is forecasting that energy sales in 2021 will begin to resemble energy sales
12 in years prior to 2020. This is largely due to the Provincial Government vaccination plan,
13 which is expected to result in the large-scale inoculation of residents throughout 2021.³

14 As vaccination efforts have progressed throughout 2021 public health measures have
15 begun to subside.⁴

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17 Newfoundland Power’s Customer, Energy, and Demand (“CED”) Forecast assumes that
18 public health measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic will conclude throughout
19 2021. As a result, the Company has not included potential impacts of the COVID-19
20 pandemic in its CED Forecast for 2022 and 2023.

¹ See the *2022/2023 General Rate Application, Volume 2, Supporting Materials, Tab 3, Customer, Energy, and Demand Forecast, Section 4.1: 2020 Energy Sales, and Section 4.2: Customer and Energy Sales Forecast (2021-2023)*.

² The Provincial Government initiated public health measures to address the spread of COVID-19 in March 2020. On March 18, 2020, a Public Health Emergency was declared, resulting in the closure of non-essential businesses and organizations. Public health measures have continued in varying degrees throughout 2020 and into 2021.

³ On April 8, 2021, the Provincial Government released an update to its *COVID-19 Immunization Timeline*. It indicated that the first dose of COVID-19 vaccines would be available to all eligible residents by July 2021. As of August 15, 2021, approximately 85% of eligible residents in Newfoundland and Labrador had received their first vaccination dose and approximately 66% had received their second dose.

⁴ For example, on July 30, 2021 the Provincial Government announced that it was moving to Step Two of its Reopening Plan. This includes: (i) less stringent travel restrictions for Canadian citizens; (ii) expanded attendance at indoor and outdoor public gatherings; (iii) elimination of capacity restrictions at restaurants and lounges with physical distancing maintained; (iv) recommencement of indoor and outdoor sports tournaments; and (v) continued return to work guidance for businesses.