

1 **Re: 2009 Capital Projects: \$500,000 and Over p. B-38 - Fibre Optic Cable -**
2 **Hinds Lake**

3 Q. The following quote appears at page B-39;

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5 "This project is needed to replace existing failing or deteriorated equipment.
6 Reliable equipment is required for communications and teleprotection of
7 Hydro's generation and transmission assets. A cost benefit analysis was
8 performed that showed it is more cost effective to replace the existing
9 microwave radio link with a fibre optic cable rather than replace it with
10 microwave radio technology. The cost advantage of the fibre optic link over
11 the microwave radio is \$296,000 considering an assumed life of 30 years."

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13 a) Does NLH currently employ fibre optic communication technology at any
14 of its other generating facilities?

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16 b) Is NLH considering replacement of microwave communication technology
17 at any of its other generating facilities?

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20 A. a) In addition to the existing fibre optic communication technology employed
21 at Hind's Lake, Hydro currently employs fibre optic communication
22 technology at the Cat Arm, Upper Salmon, Granite Canal and Bay d'Espoir
23 generating facilities.

24

25 b) Hydro is considering replacement of microwave communication
26 technology at its Bay d'Espoir and Upper Salmon generating facilities. As
27 with Hind's Lake, a cost-benefit analysis will be performed to ensure that the
28 proposed replacement technology is the least cost option for the ratepayer.