

1 **Re 2009 Capital Budgets Overview, page vi:**

2 Q. Hydro asserts that: *"Conventional practice is that a thermal plant is base*
3 *loaded throughout its career until it reaches maturity and then the plant is*
4 *operated as a peaking or standby facility in its final years, thus operating at a*
5 *very low capacity, often less than 10 percent."*

6 What percentage of thermal plants in North America, 30 years or older,

7 (i) are operating at less than a 10% capacity factor?

8 (ii) are operating at less than a 40% capacity factor?

9 (iii) have been retired?

10 (iv) have been the subject of condition assessment and life extension
11 studies?

12 (v) have initiated life extension projects?

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15 A. Hydro is unable to provide the specific data requested in these questions.

16 Hydro is not aware of any directory, database, report or other source of

17 information which would contain the data requested. Hydro's assertion was

18 based on numerous conversations with other utilities, journal articles, reports

19 and other documentation which has indicated the operating trend for thermal

20 power plants described in the statement.