

1 Q. **B-46, Upgrade Line 2 Voltage Conversions to 25 kV, 22010 - \$82,000, 2011 -**
2 **\$512,700**

3 Since this project involves the future decommissioning of the existing substation,
4 why has NLH not also applied, at this time, for the approval of the future
5 abandonment of this plant?
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8 A. The role of the former substation has been obviated by the change in the primary
9 voltage by which service will be delivered in Gaultois. At present, the 25 kV
10 submarine cable terminates at a substation, at which point the voltage is stepped
11 down to 4.16 kV for distribution around the town. This means that the primary
12 voltage in the town's distribution system is 4.16 kV and power is stepped down
13 further from 4.16 kV to delivery voltages from poletop transformers. Under the
14 proposed project, the voltage at the high side of the poletop transformers in the
15 town's distribution system will be 25 kV, not 4.16 kV, and these poletop
16 transformers will step the voltage down to delivery voltages.
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18 While the substation will be decommissioned, this is simply because the
19 transformation process from 25 kV to delivery voltages will now happen directly in
20 one step at the poletop transformer stage and does not require the intermediate
21 voltage reduction in the substation. That is, the voltage step-down role of the
22 substation will not be required.
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24 The existing transformation service is not being abandoned and, therefore, there is
25 no requirement to seek approval of such action under section 38 of the *Public*
26 *Utilities Act*. That section reads as follows:

Abandonment

38. A public utility shall not abandon a part of its line, or works, after they have been operated, or discontinue a service without notice to the board, and without the written consent of the board, which consent shall only be given after notice to an incorporated municipal body interested, and after there has been an inquiry.

Under the proposed project, a step in the voltage transformation (i.e. step-down) process is being eliminated through an increase in the high-side transformer capacity in the distribution system. No service is being discontinued nor is any function of the distribution system being abandoned in any way; rather, the distribution system is being reconfigured to avoid an unnecessary transformation step in the process of delivering reliable power and energy to Hydro's customers.