Q. Re: 2013 Capital Projects Over 200,000 but less than 500,000: p. D-239 Upgrade Server Technology Programs:
How did Hydro determine the maximum age for its servers at p. D-241?

A. Hydro planning for the life cycles of servers involves consideration of the following:

- Ability to run corporate software load (including new applications, software changes and security software);
- ability to support Operating Systems (OS) and OS plans;
- ability to connect network and peripherals;
- server reliability;
- server maintenance;
- new technology factors;
- industry best practices, standards and emerging trends, and
- changes in business requirements.

Hydro reviews all the factors that impact server replacement cycles to make the optimum decision. Hydro aims to keep servers for five to eight years. Servers will be productive for different types of business uses for different lengths of time. For example, Hydro has high performance servers in a highly dynamic environment with frequently updated and/or computer intensive software that justifies a five year replacement. Hydro also has situations where the application environment is highly stable and these servers can be productive with a seven to eight year replacement cycle. Hydro continues to review the trade-off for extending IT hardware life. While there may be clear capital savings, operational expenses may be impacted by higher support and maintenance costs and reduced user productivity because of system downtime.