O. Mr. Brockman stated on page 11 of his evidence: "Hydro's cost to serve Newfoundland Power together with the Rural Deficit allocation is proposed to increase by approximately 145%, from approximately \$215 million in the 2002 Test Year to approximately \$526 million in Hydro's proposed 2015 Test Year. By comparison, Hydro's cost to serve Labrador Interconnected customers together with the Rural Deficit allocation is proposed to increase by approximately 37%, from approximately \$15 million in the 2002 Test Year to approximately \$20.5 million in Hydro's proposed 2015 Test Year."

 Given most of the increased cost of serving Newfoundland Power between the 2002 Test Year and the 2015 test Year is a result of the increased fuel cost of generation at the Holyrood Thermal Generating Station, does Mr. Bowman consider the comparison relevant in the evaluation of the fairness of the cost of service methodology for allocation of the Rural Deficit? Please provide the reasons for your response.

A. Mr. Doug Bowman does not see the relevance of this comparison to the issue of fairness in the allocation of the costs of the rural deficit. The costs allocated to Newfoundland Power and to Labrador Interconnected customers are based on the cost of service, plus the rural deficit. The costs allocated to Newfoundland Power have increased by a larger amount because the cost to serve Newfoundland Power has increased by a larger amount. The cost of service for these customers is independent of the rural deficit.