

1 **Q. Does NP intend to implement any distribution automation programs in the next**
2 **three years? If so, what benefits are expected?**

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4 A. Newfoundland Power has no plans to implement any distribution automation *programs* in
5 the next three years.

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7 Newfoundland Power has not included any distribution automation projects in the 5 year
8 forecast submitted with its 2013 Capital Budget Application.¹ However, Newfoundland
9 Power has, on an ongoing basis over a number of years, increased the deployment of
10 modern automation technology to monitor and control its distribution feeders.

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12 Newfoundland Power monitors the power system through its SCADA, or supervisory
13 control and data acquisition, system. The SCADA system remotely monitors and
14 controls equipment located in its distribution substations. In 1999, Newfoundland Power
15 upgraded its SCADA technology, substantially improving its ability to monitor and
16 control distribution feeders. The increased intelligence and control of the distribution
17 circuitry has allowed Newfoundland Power to improve service reliability with a smaller
18 workforce.

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20 Through its annual capital budgets, Newfoundland Power continues to upgrade the
21 devices used to control the distribution system to more fully utilize the technical
22 capabilities of its SCADA system.²

¹ “Distribution automation” refers to monitoring and control technology deployed on the distribution feeder remote from the distribution substation.

² As part of its annual Substations Refurbishment and Modernization capital projects, Newfoundland Power installs devices such as digital relays, advanced reclosers and power quality-enabled meters that provide distribution system information.