

1 **Q. a. Has NP implemented, or does it intend to implement, “smart grid/smart**
 2 **meter” technology? If so, please describe the programs and the expected**
 3 **savings.**

4
 5 **b. Please describe smart grid/smart meter programs being implemented by**
 6 **other Fortis-owned electric distribution companies in Canada.**

7
 8 **A. a.** With the exception of continuing to extend the reach of its SCADA system, and
 9 continuing the strategic deployment of automatic meter reading, Newfoundland
 10 Power does not have any specific plans to implement “smart grid/smart meter”
 11 technology.¹

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 13 The term “smart grid” refers to the modernization of the electricity system using
 14 digital technology with a view to delivering electricity more efficiently and
 15 reliably. A key element of the smart grid concept is the installation of smart
 16 meter technology.

17
 18 **b. *Maritime Electric***
 19 Maritime Electric’s smart grid/smart meter programs consist of the installation of
 20 radio interrogated AMR meters providing one way radio frequency
 21 communication between the meter and a hand held device used by meter readers.
 22 This technology is very similar to that employed by Newfoundland Power. By
 23 the end of 2013, Maritime Electric plans to have all domestic meters converted to
 24 this AMR technology.

25
 26 *Fortis Ontario*

27 The Ontario Government Energy Plan requires utilities to switch to time of use
 28 rates, with the metering data being collected by smart meters. The 4 utilities
 29 comprising Fortis Ontario are in different stages of smart meter implementation.
 30 Eastern Ontario Power and Canadian Niagara Power have smart meters installed,
 31 and have switched to time of use rates. Algoma Power will have their smart
 32 meters installed in time for a switch to time of use rates in early 2013. Cornwall
 33 Electric is not switching to time of use rates, as Cornwall Electric’s system is
 34 supplied via Hydro Quebec’s grid. Cornwall Electric has a small percentage of
 35 AMR meters installed.

36
 37 *Fortis Alberta*

38 Fortis Alberta has a complete Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system,
 39 including smart meters, based on power line carrier technology. The AMI system
 40 installation was completed in December 2011.

¹ Implementing advanced technology through SCADA systems and employing automatic meter reading can be considered elements of smart grid technology.

1 *FortisBC*
2 FortisBC currently has an application before the British Columbia Utilities
3 Commission to install an AMI smart meter system. The application involves a
4 capital expenditure of approximately \$48 million and involves installing smart
5 meters at close to 115,000 customer premises. If the application is approved,
6 FortisBC plans to install the smart meters in 2014 and 2015.