

1 Q. (Re: 2016 Standby Fuel Deferral Application, February 5, 2016 Report, pages 5 and
2 6) Hydro indicates that it “*estimates*” that hydro production from Nalcor Exploits,
3 Star Lake and Rattle Brook could be lower by about 190 GWh compared to the 2015
4 Test Year, and “*expects*” Newfoundland Power’s hydro production will also be
5 lower because “*reduced inflows are generally province wide*”. Please provide all
6 corroborating evidence from these parties supporting Hydro’s estimates and
7 expectations.

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10 A. Hydro’s estimates and expectations with respect to generation from Nalcor Exploits,
11 Star Lake, Rattle Brook and Newfoundland Power are based on knowledge of the
12 watersheds and indications from operations personnel at these other generation
13 facilities.

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15 Hydro’s watersheds are located across the island portion of the province. It is
16 unlikely that Hydro’s watersheds would be experiencing low inflows without other
17 lake and reservoirs across the province also experiencing low inflows. Anecdotal
18 evidence from public media reports of dry conditions also corroborates Hydro’s
19 experience.

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21 Hydro gets real time data feeds of water levels from Star Lake and Red Indian Lake
22 so is aware that the storage in these reservoirs is lower than normal at this time of
23 year. On February 1, 2016 Star Lake was 1.3 m below the average level for
24 February 1 of the previous three years. Red Indian Lake was 1.7 m below the
25 average of the previous three years. Hydro receives a daily indication of the
26 elevation of Deer Lake Power’s reservoir (Grand Lake). As of February 18, this
27 reservoir was at 43% of Maximum Operating Level (MOL).

1 Hydro is in close contact with operations personnel at Nalcor Exploits and
2 Newfoundland Power. Nalcor Exploits reports that they are experiencing extremely
3 low storage levels in Red Indian Lake. As of February 18, this reservoir was at 33%
4 of Maximum Operating Level (MOL).

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6 As well, pictures below are satellite images of Newfoundland from March 2, 2016
7 depicting little to no snow pack on the majority of the island. Contrasted to that
8 picture is an image from March 6, 2015, which clearly shows snowpack all across
9 the island. This snow pack is normally a major contributor to the inflows that the
10 province's reservoirs receive during the spring freshet.



Image 1: March 2, 2016 – no snowpack across the majority of the island

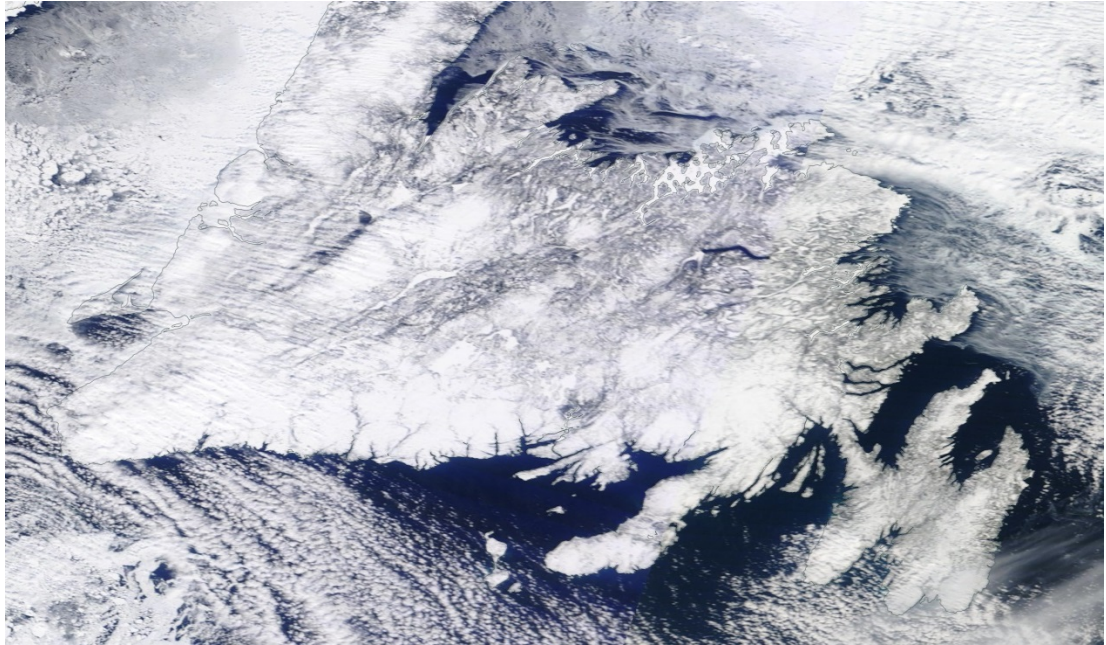


Image 2: March 6, 2015 – snowpack across the island