

1 Q. **Project C-136, Upgrade Transmission Line Access Trails:**

2 On page C-139, it is stated that the operating budget for access trail maintenance is
3 \$160,000. What were the actual operating expenditures, per year, for access trail
4 maintenance in the period 2001-2010? What does Hydro project as the operating
5 budgets, per year, for access trail maintenance for the period 2012-2016 if this
6 Project is approved? What does Hydro project as the operating budgets, per year,
7 for access trail maintenance for the period 2012- 2016 if this Project is not
8 approved?

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11 A. Prior to 2000, Hydro had resources dedicated to maintenance of access trails. In
12 2001, these resources were removed from the operating maintenance program due
13 to budget constraints. Therefore, from 2001 to 2007, there were no funds directly
14 budgeted or spent on access trail maintenance. Access trail maintenance involves
15 bringing a trail back to its original condition by clearing vegetation, repairing
16 washouts, potholes, and ruts. In 2008, it was recognized that due to deterioration
17 of the trails, the operating maintenance program needed to be restarted. The
18 actual operating expenditures from 2008 to 2010 for trail maintenance were
19 \$85,678, \$145,501, and \$136,000, respectively.

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21 Hydro does not currently have a five-year (2012 – 2016) operating budget plan in
22 place for access trail maintenance. The trail maintenance budget for 2012 is
23 \$149,678 and is based on a combination of history (actual spent from previous
24 years) and the amount of planned trail inspections for 2012. The approval or non-
25 approval of the capital project will have no impact on 2012 operating budget for
26 trail maintenance since the capital project involves the improvement of a trail

- 1 beyond its original condition such that it conforms to the new Hydro trail standard.
- 2 Maintenance work as discussed previously is required to repair a trail only.