

1 **Q. Reference: CA-NP-227: in this response, NP states that it is not aware of how other**  
2 **Canadian Utilities use estimates of housing starts or if they use housing starts from**  
3 **the CMHC and the Conference Board of Canada for the purposes of preparing**  
4 **customer and energy forecasts. Is it not possible for NP to at least obtain the**  
5 **requested information from its sister Fortis Utilities and to undertake a brief survey**  
6 **of other utilities.**

7  
8 A. Newfoundland Power has surveyed its affiliated companies that are Canadian utilities  
9 with respect to the inputs used for preparing their residential customer and energy  
10 forecasts.

11  
12 Residential forecasts by Maritime Electric are made using an econometric model that  
13 includes population, personal disposable income and the real price of electricity.

14  
15 Residential forecasts for FortisOntario are made using historical trends.

16  
17 Residential forecasts for FortisAlberta are made using an adjusted housing start forecast  
18 prepared by Canada Mortgage and Housing.<sup>1</sup>

19  
20 Residential forecasts for FortisBC are made by using population growth as a predictor for  
21 residential growth.

22  
23 Residential forecasts for Terasen Gas are made using a forecast of household formations  
24 prepared by BC Stats, a provincial branch of Statistics Canada.

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<sup>1</sup> To make the housing start forecast more representative of its territory, FortisAlberta removes housing starts for Calgary, Grand Prairie and Fort McMurray from the provincial housing forecast.