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3 **Q. Assuming the reliability standard applies to distribution feeders, would the**
4 **same reliability standard apply to each distribution feeder within Newfoundland**
5 **Power’s service territory? If not, on what basis does Mr. Bowman propose to**
6 **establish different reliability standards for different distribution feeders?**
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8 **A.** Mr. Bowman recommends (page 38, lines 13 – 17 of his Pre-filed Evidence) that
9 development of the standard be a tri-party effort, led by Newfoundland Power with input
10 and review by Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro and the Consumer Advocate.
11 Therefore, he is open to different proposals. However, he acknowledges that it is neither
12 possible nor desirable from a cost perspective to achieve the same level of reliability for
13 each feeder on the system; some feeders have very low customer densities and are located
14 in remote, hard to access, regions. At the same time, “The policy of the province as set
15 out in the *Electric Power Control Act, 1994* (the “Act”) requires, in effect, that customers
16 should have equitable access to power and should pay the lowest possible cost consistent
17 with reliable service” (CA-NP 69, lines 20-23). This suggests that all customers should
18 receive some minimum level of service reliability.
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20 Mr. Bowman points out that it is common to have different benchmarks for different
21 jurisdictions. As stated on page 34, footnote 11, “Current SAIDI benchmarks in Delaware
22 are 295 minutes per customer for Delmarva which serves primarily urban areas and 635
23 minutes per customer for Delaware Electric Cooperative which serves primarily rural
24 areas. Mr. Bowman believes there should be a minimum performance indicator related to
25 individual feeders that if not met, would require an explanation of why the target has not
26 been met with proposed corrective measures, and if the utility does not believe corrective
27 measures are necessary, it should be required to explain why. In either case, the
28 recommendation should be subject to the Board’s approval. Use of CELID and CEMI
29 indices as discussed in NP-CA 11 might provide a useful basis for addressing individual
30 customer/feeder reliability performance.
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