

1 Q. Has there been any assessment of the continuing need for both the gas
2 turbines “for voltage support and supplying peaks loads on the transmission
3 system”, in light of the shut down of the Stephenville paper mill?
4

5

6 A. Both the Stephenville and Hardwoods gas turbines continue to be required
7 for voltage support and supplying peak loads. The Hardwoods unit is
8 required to support the East Coast voltage particularly at peak load and
9 during the summer period when the Holyrood Thermal Plant is not operating.
10 With the shutdown of the Stephenville paper mill the loading on the West
11 Coast system is extremely light at night, particularly during summer, resulting
12 in higher than normal transmission voltages. The Stephenville gas turbine
13 operating as a synchronous condenser is instrumental in controlling voltages
14 to an acceptable level. The shutdown of the Stephenville mill has deferred
15 future generation requirements by 2-3 years. However, the reduction in load
16 is not sufficient to warrant the removal of one of the gas turbines from the
17 existing Island generation capability and it would require advancement of a
18 new source of generation to meet accepted planning criteria.