Q. Will a power systems study consultant, independent from the two HVDC
manufacturers, be retained to perform steady state, stability and transient studies
to validate the performance of the Labrador Link, the Maritime Link, the
synchronous condensers, power system stabilizers and other devices that may
interact with each other? If yes, are agreements in place for the various
manufacturer's models to be provided to the independent consultant? If no, what
are the plans to validate the performance?

A. Hydro and Emera have formed a System Planning Integration Working Group and have been meeting on a regular basis for the past two years to ensure the successful integration of both the Labrador – Island HVdc Link and the Maritime Link into the Island Interconnected System, the Nova Scotia system and the greater North American grid. This group is leading the joint modeling exercise to ensure that both vendors are using the same system models during the design phase of the projects. The vendor-developed models for each link will be provided to this group upon completion of design and validation studies for use in the necessary operational studies prior to final commissioning of the links. In addition, Nalcor has engaged TransGrid Solutions Inc. of Manitoba as an independent HVdc consultant to assist in the design review and validation process.