

- 1 **Q: Conclusion VI-12 states: "Given that the Maritime Link will be in service in**
2 **about one year, there does not appear to be suitable progress in resolving issues**
3 **relating to market transactions, such as responsibility, rate treatment, open**
4 **access, and avoidance of conflicts between marketing and operations". Please**
5 **comment on whether the issues that need to be resolved prior to the ML coming**
6 **into service also include: (a) NERC / NPCC compliance, (b) Government action**
7 **and direction as required to complete the Provincial reliability framework (to**
8 **the extent that this is a prerequisite for NERC compliance initiatives as well as**
9 **open access requirements), (c) conclusion of formal agreements with Nova**
10 **Scotia Power and New Brunswick Power to assure that the proposed 300 MW**
11 **backup supply for the IIS benefit will be available in an emergency starting**
12 **situation when the ML comes into service, and (d) to the extent that adequate**
13 **backup supply cannot be secured through formal agreements with Nova Scotia**
14 **Power and New Brunswick Power, conclusion of plans to provide adequate new**
15 **generation capacity on the IIS that Liberty has concluded will likely be needed**
16 **pre- and post-Muskrat Falls coming fully into service.**
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- 19 **A.** The issues that need to be resolved include all four of those cited in this RFI, but the
20 timetable is less clear. As noted earlier (for example, IC-PUB-011), the near-term
21 operation of the Maritime Link is not restrained by any of these issues. But
22 realization of the full benefits of Muskrat Falls, the Labrador Island Link and the
23 Maritime Link, including assurance that the IIS is as reliable as practical, requires all
24 four of the issues be resolved.