

1 Q. Hydro has stated that a new record system peak load was reached in December
2 2013. What factors contributed, in Hydro's opinion, to the record December 2013
3 peak and the January 2014 peak and explain if these factors could have been
4 forecast?

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7 A. In Hydro's opinion, the factors that contributed to the record peak loads in
8 December 2013 and January 2014 up to and including January 2 include the
9 following:

- 10 • Higher number of end-use customers;
- 11 • Record number of end-use customers using electric heat;
- 12 • Seasonal loads associated with the Christmas period;
- 13 • Colder weather conditions across the Island than has been experienced in
14 the previous five years;
- 15 • Cold and windy weather conditions across multiple days in sequence; and
- 16 • Cold and windy weather conditions on the days that system peak loads were
17 experienced.

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19 The December 2013 peak load was further impacted by the early onset of cold and
20 windy weather within the month. The January demands after January 2 were
21 further impacted by the increased demand requirements associated with cold load
22 pickup on distribution feeders as the customers on those feeders were returned to
23 service as part of the rotating outages that had occurred.

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25 All of the contributing factors referenced above can be forecast with varying levels
26 of accuracy. The load experienced during the last week of December and the first
27 week of January was exceptional and unusual. Based on the information that Hydro

- 1 now has, Hydro will be reviewing the circumstances to determine if any changes to
- 2 the load forecasting methodology are required.