Hydro's proposed project is scheduled to be completed in the second half of 2027. Is Hydro recommending that the current arrangement in place for the supply of power to Charlottetown remain as is until 2027? If so, please detail the risks of doing so and the actions Hydro plans to mitigate them. If not, please detail Hydro's plans until such time as Hydro's proposed project is completed.

Q.

A. Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro ("Hydro") has no choice but to continue to operate Charlottetown in its current state until a permanent solution is implemented. It is not feasible to build any sort of temporary diesel generating station on that site while the site is still fully operational and providing power to the community. A temporary plant which relies on mobile generation would not be expected to fully mitigate the reliability risks associated with the use of mobile generation in a prime power application.

With continued operation of mobile generation in Charlottetown, Hydro anticipates that it will continue to experience similar operational and reliability challenges that it has faced since their implementation in 2019, which has included unit outages and loss of units due to fire. As Hydro noted in its April 26, 2022 correspondence, "Hydro has completed all work that can reasonably be undertaken to reinforce the mobile generating units that have been acting as the interim solution for electrical service in Charlottetown since 2019".1

To continue to mitigate these risks, Hydro intends to maintain N-2 redundancy, winterize units when feasible, and rent units in the event that units are removed from service or damaged beyond repair. Existing Hydro-owned units in Charlottetown have been "winterized" to the extent possible in the current configuration, which includes the use of remote radiators, remote after-coolers, snow hoods for intake vents and additional heating in the containers housing the units. Hydro is not able to modify rental units; therefore, these units are not winterized.

¹ "Long-Term Supply for Southern Labrador – Phase 1 – Correspondence Regarding Requirement for Further Information," Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, April 26, 2022, p. 2.