

1 Q. **Reference: Application Volume 2, Upgrading of Worst-Performing Distribution Feeders (2022-**
2 **2023)**

3 It is stated (page 9) *“Rerouting Section B of this line will reduce power outage incidents and*
4 *materially improve overall performance.”* Is *“rerouting”* this section of the line the same as
5 building a new line on a different right-of-way? Does Hydro have access to a different right-of-
6 way or can this work be done on the existing right-of-way? How much of the \$2.8 million project
7 cost is related to this component of the proposed project?

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10 A. Yes, *“rerouting”* the distribution line involves building a new line on a different right-of-way.
11 Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro (*“Hydro”*) has proposed rerouting for only one section of the
12 line, Section B, as outlined in the project report.¹

13 The existing location of this section is not easily accessible as it is located off-road and is
14 surrounded by numerous large trees outside the standard right-of-way. The existing line
15 structures have poor accessibility and visibility. Therefore, Hydro has proposed to reroute this
16 section on a new right-of-way. Subject to project approval, Hydro would obtain the easement
17 for the new right-of-way. The estimated cost of establishing a new right-of-way is approximately
18 \$70,000 or approximately 2.5% of the total project cost.

19 A cost-benefit analysis has been completed to determine the most economical method of
20 providing least-cost, reliable service to customers. This analysis weighs the cost of upgrading the
21 existing line in place against the cost of rerouting and is impacted by the overall condition of the
22 existing line and the high amount of vegetation clearing that would be required to improve
23 reliability, as the majority of unplanned outages on the existing line are due to the presence of
24 dense vegetation. The newly rerouted section of line would be constructed in the road right-of-
25 way which would improve access to the line and reduce the amount of clearing required.

¹ “2022 Capital Budget Application,” Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, rev. September 17, 2021 (originally filed August 2, 2021), vol. II, sch. 8, tab 21.