

1 Q. **Reference: Schedule 1 – Upgrade Report – Penstock 1 Life Extension – Bay d’Espoir.**

2 Appendix M, page 47 of 219, states “One planned hatch (the 5th) is located immediately
3 upstream of the powerhouse, between the powerhouse and the switchyard. The scope of work
4 for this activity includes providing access to the penstock spring line in the vicinity of the hatch
5 (which will require vacuum truck style excavation means and methods and a temporary support
6 of excavation installation).” Please elaborate on the need for vacuum truck style excavation
7 means and methods and describe the proposed process.

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10 A. The location between the powerhouse and switchyard, the surrounding infrastructure, and the
11 overhead lines present challenges to traditional excavation using heavy equipment. In
12 development of the estimate, it was assumed a vacuum truck method, which does not require
13 an excavator, would be safer. The Hydrovac excavation process uses pressurized water and a
14 vacuum to transfer the debris and soil to the debris tank. This allows a more precise and less
15 disruptive way of excavating soil.