

1 Q. The Rigolet diesel generating plant is located on Labrador Inuit Lands. Did Hydro consult with
2 the indigenous groups? Why or why not?

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5 A. Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro (“Hydro”) met with Nunatsiavut Government
6 representatives on January 10, 2024, at Hydro’s office in St. John’s to discuss the Nunatsiavut
7 Government’s new service request for the Department of Health and Social Development
8 facility. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the impact the new facility will have on the
9 electrical system in Rigolet, and explain the reliability risks of connecting the facility prior to
10 upgrades to the diesel generating station.

11 Through these discussions, Hydro learned the Nunatsiavut Government has a strong preference
12 for electric heat, based in part, on their experience that it is the most reliable source of space
13 heating within their community and the challenges they experienced with oil heating. Hydro has
14 also learned there is a large gap between the infrastructure needs and the infrastructure
15 currently present in Nunatsiavut communities, and that the Nunatsiavut Government is
16 presently working on a long-term infrastructure plan for their region. There is also a significant
17 housing shortage in Nunatsiavut and the Nunatsiavut Government is working to increase
18 housing stocks in the communities.

19 During the meeting, Hydro discussed timelines associated with its capital planning and
20 regulatory processes, as well as the need to balance costs and reserve capacity set aside to
21 accommodate load growth. Hydro also discussed the benefit of early information sharing so that
22 Hydro could prepare its systems for load growth in Nunatsiavut. One of the main takeaways
23 from the meeting was to establish a joint load growth working group that consists of members
24 from both Nunatsiavut Government and Hydro. The objectives of the working group are to
25 promote and provide a means of sharing information related to load growth in Nunatsiavut, to
26 improve energy security in Nunatsiavut, discuss energy efficiency opportunities, and facilitate
27 the provision of safe, reliable electricity in an environmentally responsible manner consistent
28 with least cost.

1 To date, the joint load growth working group has met three times.¹ The first meeting was
2 primarily focused on Hydro explaining its system planning and capital planning processes, and
3 Nunatsiavut Government representatives explaining the infrastructure planning process and at
4 which stage certain information becomes available. There was also discussion on space heating,
5 energy efficiency, and funding available from Hydro for energy efficiency programming for
6 residential and commercial customers, and discussion on specific new service requests Hydro
7 has received from the Nunatsiavut Government, such as the Rigolet Department of Health and
8 Social Development facility, and the status of Hydro’s application to upgrade the diesel
9 generating station. The second and third meetings of the joint load growth working group were
10 primarily focused on updating a tracking list of ongoing, upcoming, and potential new service
11 requests including an update on Hydro’s work to review the new service requests and potential
12 energy efficiency programming funding.

13 In addition to the three working group meetings, Hydro also participated in meetings with
14 representatives from the Nunatsiavut Government and consultants retained by the Nunatsiavut
15 Government specifically for two separate facilities under development in Nunatsiavut, one of
16 which is the Rigolet Department of Health and Social Development facility.

¹ Meetings were held via teleconference on January 23, 2024, April 12, 2024, and May 13, 2024. An additional meeting was scheduled for August 13, 2024; however, it is being rescheduled until September.