Q. Reference: Application

Does Hydro have the ability to develop typical load profiles for its customers that might be used, for example, to manage EV charger demand, high efficiency heat pump demand, etc?

A. The last load research study was completed in 2006 as a joint initiative between Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro ("Hydro") and Newfoundland Power Inc. ("Newfoundland Power") ("Utilities"). In Newfoundland Power's 2022–2023 General Rate Application Settlement Agreement, Newfoundland Power agreed to conduct a new Load Research Study. The plan for this study was provided to the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities ("Board") and parties in June 2023; and, according to Newfoundland Power's submission, its consultant planned to study loads through two winters (2023–2024 and 2024–2025).¹

In the interim, regarding the management of electric vehicle ("EV") charging, Newfoundland Power, with a letter of support from Hydro, submitted an application for an "EV Load Management Pilot Project" designed to "assess the cost-effectiveness of strategies to manage light-duty EV load on the Island Interconnected System," which has since been approved by the Board. The pilot project is currently ongoing and the Utilities continue to work together to understand the optimal path forward for EV demand response in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Newfoundland Power recently completed its Heat Pump Load Study after four winter seasons, which has been valuable in identifying the load impact of heat pumps, particularly in the context of oil-to-electric space heating conversions.

¹ "Load Research Study Plan," Newfoundland Power Inc., June 15, 2023.

² "Application for Electric Vehicle Load Management Pilot Project," Newfoundland Power Inc., June 2, 2023.

³ Board Order No. P.U. 23(2023).