

1 Q. **Reference: Program 17 Replace Disconnects (2025-2026)**

2 a) Under the current pace for replacement reflected in the forecast for 2025-2029, in what  
3 year will all the disconnect switches which have currently been in service >50 years be  
4 replaced?

5 b) Further to a), what is Hydro's plan for replacing disconnect switches that are not  
6 currently > 50 years but will be or will be approaching 50 years when the current pace  
7 for replacement is complete?

8 c) Does Hydro consider the pace of the proposed replacements adequate to ensure proper  
9 operation of disconnect switches, which are essential for a safe work environment and  
10 terminal station reliability? If yes, how did Hydro reach that conclusion?

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13 A. a) The current pace for replacement reflected in the forecast for 2025–2029 is an annual  
14 average of 13 units. At this pace, it will be 2039 before all the disconnect switches that have  
15 currently been in service for more than 50 years are replaced. Newfoundland and Labrador  
16 Hydro ("Hydro") notes that the annual replacement pace will be adjusted based on  
17 condition assessment and ability to execute, such as resource and outage constraints.

18 b) Hydro's current plan is to replace these disconnect switches when or after they become  
19 eligible for replacement; eligibility is defined by the criteria stated in its 2025 Capital Budget  
20 Application.<sup>1</sup>

21 c) Yes, Hydro considers the pace of the proposed replacements adequate to ensure proper  
22 operation of disconnect switches. Hydro reached this conclusion based on its maintenance  
23 program (i.e., deficiencies found and fixed when completing maintenance) and its operating  
24 experience. Hydro plans to continue to complete condition assessments through the review  
25 of data collected from maintenance activities and operating experience and will use this

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<sup>1</sup> "2025 Capital Budget Application," Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, July 16, 2024, sch. 1, app. F, p. F-11.

- 1 data to adjust replacements as required, including prioritization of switches that present a
- 2 heightened risk to safe operation or terminal station reliability.