

1 Q. Further to the response to PUB-NLH-031, what rate of replacement and approximate budget
2 amount would be required to replace all disconnect switches 60 years of age or older by the end
3 of 2028?

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6 A. Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro ("Hydro") has identified an error in its response to PUB-NLH-
7 031; there are 39 disconnect switches that will have reached a service life of 60 years by the end
8 of 2028. To replace all by then, Hydro would need to include 19 of these 39 in 2027, and 20 in
9 2028.¹ This would require the revision of the proposed program, and the submission of a
10 supplemental capital budget application with the revised proposal. Assuming budget approval
11 was received, purchase orders would need to be placed by March of each preceding year for
12 delivery within 56 weeks. The ability to replace all 39 switches also necessitates increased
13 labour, equipment, and outage availability. The increased replacements in 2027 and 2028 would
14 likely delay higher-priority projects. The approximate budget amount to replace the 39
15 disconnect switches that will have reached a service life of 60 years by the end of 2028 is
16 \$5,385,000.

17 Hydro has developed the Replacement Disconnects Program considering system criticality,
18 ability to execute, and resource and outage constraints. This program's pace is determined by
19 these considerations. At the current pace of replacement for disconnect switches, all 39 of these
20 disconnect switches are anticipated to be replaced by year 2036; Hydro considers this to be
21 prudent for these particular disconnect switches given that none of them have been determined
22 to meet either of our other two disconnect switch replacement criteria stated in Hydro's
23 "Terminal Station Asset Management Strategy – 2025 Update."² Hydro plans to update its
24 Terminal Station Asset Management Strategy to clarify its disconnect replacement strategy to
25 state that disconnects at age 60 are eligible for replacement but not necessarily planned for
26 replacement at age 60.

¹ The time frame is too short to be able to change the proposed program to replace more than are currently proposed for 2026.

² "2026 Capital Budget Application," Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, July 15, 2025, vol. I, sch. 1. app. F.