

1 **Reference: "2023 Capital Budget Application," Newfoundland Power Inc., June 29,**  
 2 **2022, Schedule B, p. 15, para. 3 (Distribution Feeder Automation).**

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 4 **For example, the operation of five downline reclosers during a**  
 5 **severe blizzard in January 2020 avoided approximately 3.5**  
 6 **million customer outage minutes without the assistance of field**  
 7 **crews.**

8  
 9 **Q. a) For this example, please indicate the improvements in five-year**  
 10 **average SAIDI and SAIFI expected due to the operation of five**  
 11 **downline reclosers. Please compare this to the corporate and**  
 12 **Electricity Canada Region 2 averages.**

13  
 14 **b) Please provide the cost savings associated with not having to use field**  
 15 **staff to manually operate devices in the locations of the downline**  
 16 **reclosers.**

17  
 18 A. a) The efficiency and reliability benefits of downline reclosers are most pronounced  
 19 during significant events. In the example provided, the outage occurred during a  
 20 significant event. The improvement in the five-year average SAIDI and SAIFI for  
 21 the operation of the five reclosers referenced is not available. However, the  
 22 average avoided SAIDI by the operation of the five downline reclosers in January  
 23 2020 was 9.84. The average SAIFI avoided was 0.69. By comparison, the  
 24 Electricity Canada Region 2 average SAIDI during Significant Events over the  
 25 past five years was 2.10 and the average SAIFI during significant events was  
 26 0.24. Newfoundland Power's corporate average SAIDI during significant events  
 27 over the past five years was 2.37 and the average SAIFI during significant events  
 28 was 0.57.

29  
 30 b) Newfoundland Power is unable to provide the cost savings associated with the  
 31 operation of five downline reclosers during the severe blizzard in January 2020  
 32 referenced.

33  
 34 Downline reclosers provide efficiencies through their ability to be controlled  
 35 without dispatching field crews. They also provide efficiencies in outage  
 36 response as sections of line no longer need to be patrolled to identify the cause  
 37 and location of outages. The approximate overtime cost of a two-person line  
 38 crew is \$240/hour; the approximate overtime cost of a technologist is \$105/hour.  
 39 So, for example, reducing the response time required to locate an outage and  
 40 manually operate a device at night using a line crew and a technologist by just  
 41 two hours would yield savings of approximately \$690 for a single routine outage  
 42 call.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> (\$240 + \$105) x 2 = \$690.