

1 **Q. (Reference Application Schedule C, page 1 of 9, Replacement Meters and New**
 2 **Meters)**

3 **a) What types of meters are used to replace deteriorated meters, and what**
 4 **types of meters are installed at new customer sites?**

5 **b) Is Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) being used, and if not, why not?**

6 **c) Will meters required for the load research study be used for replacement**
 7 **meters or meters at new customer sites?**

8
 9 A. a) Automatic Meter Reading ("AMR") meters compatible with the Company's meter
 10 reading equipment are used to replace deteriorated meters and are installed at new
 11 customer sites.

12
 13 b) The Company anticipates dynamic rate structures may become cost-effective for
 14 customers between 2030 and 2034. Dynamic rate structures will take several years
 15 to implement and require investments in Advanced Metering Infrastructure ("AMI").¹
 16 The Company anticipates commencing a transition to meters with advanced
 17 functionality as early as 2027.

18
 19 AMI technology has continually evolved with improved communication networks and
 20 additional functionality. Installing AMI meters too far in advance of an AMI
 21 implementation increases the risk of the meters becoming obsolete prior to the full
 22 AMI implementation. This could also increase costs to customers as a result of the
 23 higher cost of AMI meters compared to AMR meters.

24
 25 The Company's plans for AMI will be refined regularly as new information becomes
 26 available on the benefits of dynamic rates and as technology advancements are
 27 achieved in AMI technology.² Ongoing rate design and load research studies will
 28 inform the business case for AMI technology when it is developed.

29
 30 c) Newfoundland Power has engaged a consultant with expertise in utility load research
 31 studies to assist with the Company's load research study.³ The consultant has
 32 established a study plan that includes a statistically valid sample of customers from
 33 Newfoundland Power's Residential and General Service rate classes. For statistical
 34 purposes, the meters required for the load research study will not be limited to new
 35 customers or customers that require a replacement meter. Newfoundland Power will
 36 seek to reuse any meters that are returned to inventory once the load research
 37 meters are installed.

¹ See Newfoundland Power's *2024 Capital Budget Application, 2024-2028 Capital Plan*, section 2.2, pages 2 to 3.

² For more details on the Company's plans for transitioning to AMI technology from AMR technology, see the response to Request for Information PUB-NP-016 from Newfoundland Power's *2023 Capital Budget Application*.

³ The load research study being undertaken by Newfoundland Power requires meters capable of recording a customer's load data over 15-minute intervals. Standard AMR meters used by Newfoundland Power capture the customer's overall electricity consumption between monthly meter reads.