

1 **Q. (Reference Application, 3.2 Transmission Line 94L Rebuild, page 4) It is**  
2 **stated “Due to the Provincial Government’s plans to designate land in the**  
3 **immediate vicinity of the Project as “environmental reserve” lands, the**  
4 **timeline related to the release of the Project from the EA was delayed. The**  
5 **process ultimately spanned months longer than anticipated, and final release**  
6 **of the Project by the Environmental Assessment Division was not received**  
7 **until September 2022.” When did NP first become aware of the Provincial**  
8 **Government’s plans to designate the land as “environmental reserve” lands?**  
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10 A. In 2020, Newfoundland Power became aware of a number of proposed environmental  
11 reserve areas across the province which either intersected or were adjacent to  
12 Newfoundland Power infrastructure, including Transmission Line 94L.<sup>1</sup> As a result, the  
13 Company was aware of the proposed environmental reserve area in the vicinity of  
14 Transmission Line 94L prior to registering the *Transmission Line 94L Rebuild* project for  
15 environmental assessment. The Environmental Protection Plan developed for the project  
16 included mitigations designed to ensure the execution of the project would be conducted  
17 in an environmentally sustainable manner.  
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19 The environmental assessment regulations indicate that a ministerial response to  
20 registered projects is to be provided to project proponents not more than 45 days after  
21 the project is registered for environmental assessment.<sup>2</sup> As a result of the regulatory  
22 timeframes, the Company did not anticipate the delays experienced during the  
23 environmental assessment process.

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<sup>1</sup> The proposed protected areas were first announced in 2020. Newfoundland Power has been included in the consultation process respecting the proposed protected areas since they were announced. Newfoundland Power is committed to protecting the Province’s biodiversity while ensuring the Company’s ability to maintain its transmission infrastructure to order to allow for the continued supply of safe, reliable power to customers.

<sup>2</sup> See *Environmental Assessment Regulations, 2003*, NLR 54/03, section 4.