Q. (Reference Application, 5.1 Port Union Building Replacement, page 2) It is stated "*Four employees, two Powerline Technician Lead Hands and two Powerline Technicians, use the Facility as their daily headquarters. Five additional employees, including two Electrical Maintenance persons, one Materials Handler, one Meter Reader and one Customer Service Representative, use the Facility part time while completing work in the Area*."

a) What is the difference between a "powerline technician lead hand" and a "powerline technician"? Please provide job descriptions for each, and describe a typical work-day for each.

b) Would the meter reader position be eliminated if NP installed smart meters?

c) Would it make sense to install smart meters in remote areas such as this to reduce meter reading costs and response times to outages and customer supply interruptions? Might smart meters reduce the number of "powerline technician lead hands" and "powerline technicians" needed?

A. a) Power Line Technicians ("PLTs") are employees with a Powerline Technician Operating Red Seal Certificate who are primarily responsible for installing and maintaining energized and de-energized power lines at various voltages. Their duties may also include interpreting single line drawings and specifications as well as inspecting and maintaining tools, equipment, and vehicles used to carry out line work.

PLT Lead Hands are generally responsible for leading PLTs while they are performing work in the field. In addition to the job duties of PLTs, PLT Lead Hands are responsible for directing, leading and working with line crews in maintaining, constructing and inspecting transmission and distribution lines and substations. PLT Lead Hands assist in ensuring appropriate work planning is in place and the Company's work methods and standards are followed. They provide safety leadership on worksites for line crews and contractors, ensure all appropriate equipment and materials are available, and that quality work is completed safely and efficiently.

b) One of the benefits of smart meter technology is the ability to remotely gather customer usage data which would likely negate the need to deploy meter reading staff to collect this information.

c) See the response to Request for Information CA-NP-016. There are no capital expenditures associated with Advanced Metering Infrastructure ("AMI") included in Newfoundland Power's *2025 Capital Budget Application*.

The deployment of AMI would include the procurement and deployment of additional communications infrastructure and data management capabilities. The field collection services technology currently used to collect customer electricity usage data from Advanced Meter Reading ("AMR") meters is not compatible with today's AMI technology. As a result of the studies referenced in part a) of the response to Request for Information CA-NP-016, Newfoundland Power is aware that system cost savings resulting from the demand response potential of AMI technologies is not

sufficient to offset AMI implementation costs at this time. Given that AMI is currently cost prohibitive and incompatible with AMR, Newfoundland Power does not view the partial deployment of smart meters as a viable alternative to address outages or customer supply interruptions in remote areas. The Company has therefore not conducted any analysis specific to the effect of AMI on field response times in remote areas.

The Company's plans for AMI will be refined regularly as new information becomes available on the benefits of AMI and as technology advancements are achieved. Ongoing rate design and load research studies will inform the business case for AMI technology when it is developed. While the deployment of AMI would likely provide the Company with information related to customer outages and affect the Company's meter reading practices, it is not clear that there would be any reduction in required numbers of PLTs or PLT Lead Hands who have no role in meter reading and who would continue to be required for outage response activities.