

- 1 **Q. Reference: NLH-NP-004.**
- 2 **a) Does Newfoundland Power believe that customers would continue to**
- 3 **experience reliability better than that of the Electricity Canada Region 2**
- 4 **average if the Distribution Feeder Program were to be paused? If not, why**
- 5 **not?**
- 6 **b) Does the Distribution Feeder Automation Program improve Newfoundland**
- 7 **Power’s ability to rotate customer outages, for example, in the unlikely**
- 8 **event of a supply capacity shortfall?**
- 9 **c) Given the stated 52-week lead time for reclosers, has Newfoundland**
- 10 **Power already placed orders for reclosers for installation under this**
- 11 **program in 2025?**
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- 13 **A.** a) Distribution feeder automation has become commonplace in modern utility
- 14 operations. Automation of electrical distribution systems allows for enhanced system
- 15 resilience and flexibility to respond to both major disruptions and local system
- 16 events.
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- 18 Leveraging the deployment of automated distribution devices allows Newfoundland
- 19 Power to better serve customers by providing the capability to decrease the
- 20 restoration time upstream of system faults and by allowing for sectionalizing of the
- 21 distribution line to reduce the number of customers affected by an outage event.
- 22 The occurrence of outage events will not be affected by the installation of
- 23 automated distribution devices therefore future reliability of a distribution line cannot
- 24 be predicted based on the continuation of this project alone. It can be inferred that a
- 25 distribution line with automated devices installed will have better reliability than the
- 26 same line without automated devices when comparing like-for-like outage events.
- 27
- 28 b) Yes, devices such as downline reclosers installed as part of the *Distribution Feeder*
- 29 *Automation* project improves Newfoundland Power’s ability to rotate customer
- 30 outages in the event of a supply capacity shortfall.
- 31
- 32 c) No, orders have not yet been placed for the reclosers installed under this project in
- 33 2025.