Q. **Ref: Mobile Radio System Request for Information Technical Specification, p. 8, Section 5.0**. In the event of a failure of the Aliant network, what would be the impact on the operation of the proposed MRS and line work in progress? Has Hydro considered alternate means of backhaul communication as a backup?

A. Should the MRS fail while line work is in progress, that work would typically halt until communication was re-established. The impact of failures in Aliant's network is difficult to predict as there are many failure modes and the impact will differ depending on the location, severity, and availability of backup routing within Aliant's network. If a failure in Aliant's network affects the repeaters being used by personnel engaged in line work, that work will in general take longer, as communications with the Energy Control Centre and other crews not located in the immediate area will be delayed.

The circuit routing design will seek to minimize the impact of failures in Aliant's network and optimize the operating cost of the circuits required. It is Hydro's intent to fully utilize its existing microwave radio network for backhaul in order to minimize the reliance on leased services, thereby minimizing operating costs and utilizing the high availability intrinsic in the microwave network.