## Q. <u>ENERGY SUPPLY</u>

2 3

PUB 38.0 (RE: B- 10, Hydro Plants Facility Rehabilitation, Volume II, Energy Supply, Appendix I)

**PUB 38.4** 

Does the cost of work to be performed at "Lookout Brook" including the Upgrading of Protection and Controls (Volume II, Energy Supply, Appendix 1, p.5, paragraph (f)) and Projects < \$50,000 (Appendix 1, p. 7, paragraph (h)) exceed \$50,00 in total, and if so, why wouldn't it be considered a separate "Project".

 A. The "Various Plants - Upgrade Protection and Controls" budget item contained in the Hydro Plants - Facility Rehabilitation project includes a proposed expenditure of \$139,900 for the Lookout Brook plant to replace older technology with modern protection and control devices.

The "Projects < \$50,000" budget item includes a proposed expenditure of \$33,000 to refurbish a bridge at Lookout Brook, which is a minor expenditure that is necessary to ensure the safety of persons using the bridge.

The organization and presentation of Newfoundland Power's capital budget applications is intended to provide informative explanations of a wide variety of capital projects, and the presentation is continually evolving in response to both the perceived information requirements and the explicit orders of the Board. Although major plant refurbishment projects are typically presented and justified as single projects, the considerations are different than those associated with smaller expenditures on minor projects, particularly those essential to the continued safe operation of viable facilities.

Both of these budget items were contained in the Hydro Plants Facility Rehabilitation project, and appropriately disclosed in the filing. Whether it is more appropriate to aggregate budget items such as protection and controls, or to aggregate budget items by plant is a matter of judgment.