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Q. Tab 1.2: Purchase Mobile Generation

Newfoundland Power has stated that the current mobile gas turbine is rated at 6,750 kW and its use for system support has increased in the last 5 years. In these circumstances, why would Newfoundland Power consider purchasing a unit size at the lower end of the 3.5 MW to 7.5 MW range?

A. The unit size of the mobile gas turbine which Newfoundland Power will purchase will depend upon a combination of market conditions and specific unit factors such as mobility, including set up time and weight.

Commercially available mobile generating units typically range in capacity from 3.5 MW to 7.5 MW. When soliciting proposals for new mobile generation, the Company anticipates proposals will include: (i) new units, which are typically at the lower end of the capacity range; and (ii) refurbished units, which are generally similar in capacity to the Company's existing unit.¹

The average generation load for the MGT over the past 10 years has ranged from between 2.8 MW and 4.9 MW.² The budgetary cost estimate of \$13,915,000 is based on a quotation provided by a North American manufacturer for a new 5.4 MW mobile gas turbine. This unit would meet the average generation load served by the Company's existing MGT, and reflects the midpoint of the capacity range for commercially available units. It is therefore considered a reasonable budgetary estimate.

While mobile gas turbines are available in larger sizes, these units cannot be transported and set up in an expedient manner. This would limit the effectiveness of the unit in responding to emergency situations. Additionally, there are weight restrictions on road transport within the province and larger units may prove impractical for transport on the province's roadways.

The Company will consider these factors, and other relevant information, in procuring new mobile generation.

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The opportunity to purchase a refurbished unit will depend upon the availability of such units at the time the Request for Proposals is released. The market for these units is small and the availability of suitable units cannot be easily predicted.

Data on the average generation load is contained in Table 1 on page A-4 of Mobile Gas Turbine Condition Assessment, included as Appendix A in Tab 1.2. This table was updated to include 2016 and 2017 data in the response to Request for Information CA-NP-006.