Q. (Reference CA-NP-042) With respect to the Mount Carmel Pond Dam Fibre:

a) What is the purpose of adjusting the outlet gate's position?

b) In recent years, how, and by whom, was it decided when the gate position should be adjusted?

c) How many times in 2024 was staff sent to the facility to adjust the outlet gate's position?

d) What is the estimated labour and related costs for a single staff trip to the site to adjust the outlet gate?

e) How does the Distribution Feeder CAB-01 Extension project relate to the Mount Carmel Pond Dam Fibre project? Are each necessary for the other?

f) In its 2025 CBA, (Mount Carmel Pond Dam Refurbishment, page 12), NP indicated that its preferred alternative involved "*replacing the Mount Carmel Pond spillway structure and automating the outlet gate in 2025 and 2026 for an estimated capital cost of $4,616,000*." and (footnote 11) indicated that additional projects would be requested in 2026 CBA to allow for "*full automation*." Please clarify how much automation will be achieved from the work approved by the Board in the 2025 CBA for the Refurbishment project and what "full automation entails.

g) Would foregoing the Mount Carmel Pond Dam Fibre project, at $150,000, and the Distribution Feeder CAB-01 Extension project, at $1.346 million, reduce the NP's estimate of the benefits of the Mount Carmel Pond Dam Refurbishment given in NP's 2025 CBA?

A. a) The purpose of the outlet gate is to control the discharge of water from Mount Carmel Pond.[1] Adjusting the position of the outlet gate increases or decreases the water discharged from Mount Carmel Pond to Horse Chops Pond, which serves as the forebay for the Horse Chops Plant. Improper positioning of the outlet gate may result in the loss of water from the Cape Broyle-Horse Chops hydroelectric development or insufficient water supply to operate the Cape Broyle and Horse Chops Plants.

b) Changes in configuration of Newfoundland Power's outlet gates are the responsibility of the Manager of Generation Operations, a Professional Engineer in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Gate positioning decisions are informed by plant operating guidelines, hydrological studies performed by specialized consultants and operational experience.

c) See the response to Request for Information CA-NP-042, part a). Newfoundland Power does not track the operation of its outlet gates.

d) The labour cost of a single staff trip to modify the position of the outlet gate is approximately $203 during regular operations and $271 during overtime periods.

[1] See report *4.1 Mount Carmel Pond Dam Refurbishment* as filed in Newfoundland Power's *2025 Capital Budget Application*.

e) The fibre optic cable installed as part of the *Mount Carmel Pond Dam Fibre* project will be mounted to the distribution poles installed as part of the *Distribution Feeder CAB-01 Extension* project. The completion of both projects is necessary to supply power and communications to the Mount Carmel Pond gatehouse.

f) The *Mount Carmel Pond Dam Refurbishment* project approved as part of the *2025 Capital Budget Application* does not include any work to automate the outlet gate. Any automation to be completed has been proposed as part of the *Mount Carmel Pond Fibre* project. Full automation entails providing the ability to program and remotely operate the outlet gate.

g) The lifecycle cost analysis completed as part of the *Mount Carmel Pond Dam Refurbishment* project included the capital costs associated with the *Mount Carmel Pond Fibre* and *Distribution Feeder CAB-01 Extension* projects, and provided a net benefit for customers of between 7.12 ¢/kWh and 7.28 ¢/kWh.[2] The differences between costs and benefits suggest any reasonable variance in the estimates will support continued operation of the development.

[2] *Ibid.*