THE ISLAND REGULATORY AND APPEALS COMMISSION
Prince Edward Island
Île-du-Prince-Édouard
CANADA

UE20720

IN THE MATTER of an application by Maritime Electric Company Limited for approval of 2013 capital budget.

Interrogatories of Commission Staff

August, 2012

Commission staff hereby requests responses to the following written questions:

Question No.	Description
S-7	Page 3 – 2 Roof Refurbishment $123,000. Last year $67,000. Has the roof been fully replaced? Should it have been done last year when the roofing inspector identified the problems in 2010?
S-8	Page 3-3 Why are a number of these amounts always provisional yet appear year after year? If one is improving the lighting would it all be done at once? Does safety equipment have a shelf life?
S-9	Page 3-4 ECC and BCC Interior Renovations: Last year $33,400 for ECC SCADA Screen display. Also over $44,000 for roof and interior. Is that impacted by the re-locating of the SCADA equipment? Why weren't all the renovations planned and completed at one time? Is the ECC and back up constructed to withstand hurricane or serve weather?
S-10	Page 3-5 What happens to the tools? Almost $50,000 over the past two years?
S-11	Page 3-5, page 3-6 Amounts for Boiler improvements and insulation replacement are double. Is this due to the fact they were in active use during the cable repair? Is this an indication that maintenance costs will continue to climb for these units?

S-12 Page 3-7
Asbestos replacement of $125,000. How does this relate to the $130,000 on the previous page (3-6)?

S-13 Page 3-8
$63,000 for the CT3. How many operational deficiencies have already been addressed on this unit?

S-14 Page 3-9
Replacements of the fuel pump and lube oil cooler. Is this CT1?
Was this replaced on CT2 when it was overhauled?

S-15 Page 3-10.
"Management has been deferring major life extension investments for three years as it seeks to implement an economic replacement for the Plant". Specifically what has been deferred?

S-16 Break down the $618,000.
Would it not be appropriate to get a final decision on the Confederation bridge option prior to exploring other options?

S-17 Section 4:
Is there any bulk purchasing utilized by MECL on common items, either with Fortis or other utilities?

S-18 Page 4-5.
What is the breakdown of single phase and three phase km of line?

S-19 Page 4-6
DV19250 and DM 562 are repeats of last year. Why?

S-20 Page 4-7
WR 1622 is repeat. Why?

S-21 Page 4-12
How many Combination meters are now in use in the system?

S-22 Page 4-13
Outdoor metering tanks – What is the age of these units? Are they on the customer's property? Does the utility pay full cost?

S-23 Page 4-14.
Is this replacing all the mobile radio equipment? (Will there be a complete conversion of a mix).

S-24 Page 4-16.
Line tools and Equipment costs. Do these items have a life span dictated by safety?

S-25 Will the thermal imaging camera improve maintenance?

S-26 Page 5-4.
How are easement payments determined?

S-27 Page 6-1.
How many trucks operate out of the Western Service Centre? What is the benefit of the Phase one and Phase two expansions vs. other options?

S-28 Page 6-2
Hardware acquisitions – how much of the company IT system does this represent (i.e. all servers)?

S-29 $45,000 seems like a lot for a cash balancing system, what is the payback?

S-30 Page 6-3.
What specifically is proposed under the Working alone system?

S-31 Roof Refurbishment $123,000. Last year $67,000. Has the roof been fully replaced? Should it have been done last year when the roofing inspector identified the problems in 2010?

Additional interrogatories may follow.

DATED at Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, this 21th day of August, 2012.

J. Mark Lanigan CA
Senior Analyst, Island Regulatory & Appeals Commission