

1 Q. Further to NP-27 NLH: The totals for helicopter rentals for the period 1998 –
2 2002 averaged in excess of \$1 million annually. Please provide the details of
3 how often helicopter patrols for line inspections are carried out annually and
4 the typical results of helicopter patrols. How many ground patrols of these
5 same lines are carried out annually?

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8 A. Helicopter patrols for the period 1998-2002 were conducted quarterly.

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10 Typical results from these patrols would include identification of:

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12 • Damage to poles, cross arms, insulators and other hardware as a
13 result of lightning, or extreme weather;

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15 • Damage to conductor and insulators resulting from misuse of firearms
16 and other vandalism; and

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18 • Identification of danger trees, deteriorated poles, broken guys,
19 encroachment on rights-of-way and construction activity.

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21 Ground patrols for the same period were conducted on 20% of all lines
22 annually. Ground patrols were typically conducted using ATV's and targeted
23 items not readily assessed from helicopter patrols such as exposed footings,
24 ground line damage to structures and guys and access road conditions.