

1     Q.    Ref: Schedule B, Project Title - Insulator Replacements, p. B-45. Please  
2           provide a statement on the status of the remaining installed base of  
3           insulators, including details on the number of COB and CP insulators still in  
4           use, their current projected life span (by class) and the estimated cost of their  
5           replacement and estimated time frame to complete their replacement.

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8     A.    Hydro has approximately 50,000 COB insulators installed on its 230 kV, 138  
9           kV and 69 kV transmission lines. Approximately 25,000 of these will be  
10          replaced under two projects proposed in its 2004 capital budget: Ref.  
11          Schedule B, Project Title – Upgrade TL 214 – (138 kV Bottom Brook –  
12          Doyles), p. B-25; and Ref. Schedule B, Project Title – Replace Insulators TL  
13          233 – (230 kV Buchans – Bottom Brook), p. B-27. The remaining 25,000  
14          insulators will continue to be inspected and tested as part of Hydro’s  
15          transmission maintenance program. Analysis of these inspections and tests,  
16          as well as overall line performance, will determine the timeframe for  
17          replacement of these units. It is estimated that the replacement cost for the  
18          last 25,000 COB insulators is in the order of \$4.0 million; they will probably  
19          be replaced in the 2005-8 timeframe.

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21          Hydro currently does not have a detailed inventory of COB and CP insulators  
22          for its distribution systems; however, part of our work plan is to have such an  
23          inventory developed by the end of 2003.