

Re Volume III, Distribution Lightning Arrestors, Appendix 2, Attachment B

Q. Please provide evidence that the incidence and severity of lightning related damage in certain areas of the Province has increased over the last decade and that this trend will continue into the future.

A. Other than information related to transformer failures due to lightning activity, Newfoundland Power does not have any other evidence to support the proposition that the incidence and severity of lightning related damage in certain areas of the province has increased over the past decade or that there will be an increasing trend in the future. Due to the nature of lightning, it is difficult to predict where it will strike or the severity of any damage that may result from a strike.

As noted on page 3 of the Report referred to in this question, Newfoundland Power's operating experience over the past five years has seen an increase in the number of transformer failures due to lightning, including an all-time high number of failures in 2002. The average annual number of transformer failures due to lightning over the past 13 years is approximately 115, while over the last 5 years, the average has increased to approximately 140 per year.