

1 **Q. Reference: “2021 Capital Budget Application,” Newfoundland Power, July 9, 2020,**
2 **Volume 1, Schedule B, Transmission Line Rebuild (Clustered) at p. 21–23.**
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4 **Has Newfoundland Power taken down any of its old transmission infrastructure in**
5 **the past ten years? If so, has it been mechanically tested? If so, did the results show**
6 **any remaining capacity in the components? Please provide the results of any testing**
7 **completed. If no testing was completed, why not?**
8

9 A. Yes, Newfoundland Power has taken down old transmission infrastructure in the past ten
10 years.

11
12 No, the Company has not mechanically tested any transmission infrastructure.

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14 Newfoundland Power takes down its transmission infrastructure based on the criteria
15 outlined in its Transmission Inspection and Maintenance Practices.¹ These practices
16 outline the inspection and testing procedures used to determine the integrity of
17 transmission infrastructure, including:
18

- 19 (i) Sounding tests, which involve striking a pole with a hammer at regular intervals on
20 all quadrants from the ground line to 2 metres above grade; and
21 (ii) Core sampling tests, which involve using an approved device to drill through the
22 centerline of the pole to extract a core sample for evaluation.
23

24 These testing procedures allow experienced Transmission and Distribution Planners to
25 obtain the required information about the condition of poles, including whether
26 replacement is required. Other infrastructure, such as insulators and hardware, is
27 replaced upon failure. Additional mechanical testing, such as that conducted in a
28 laboratory setting, is therefore not required.
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30 In Order No. P.U. 5 (2020), the Board indicated it was satisfied that Newfoundland
31 Power’s current practices are reasonable.²

¹ A copy of Newfoundland Power’s Transmission Inspection and Maintenance Practices was provided as Attachment B to response to Request for Information NLH-NP-001 as part of the Company’s 2020 Capital Budget Application.

² See page 22 of Order No. P.U. 5 (2020).