

1 **Q. Reference: “2022 Capital Budget Application,” Newfoundland Power, May 18,**
2 **2021, Volume 1, Section 3.1, Transmission Line Rebuild at p.3**

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4 **Of the transmission lines 94L and 124L poles identified as deteriorated, what**
5 **quantity of poles on each line has been identified as deteriorated through**
6 **mechanical testing (i.e., sounding or core sampling)?**

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8 A. Newfoundland Power inspects its transmission lines in accordance with its *Transmission*
9 *Inspection and Maintenance Practices*. Following these practices, the condition of a pole
10 can be assessed using visual inspections or mechanical testing. Visual inspections
11 identify types of pole deterioration or defects, such as pole top rot, external decay, and
12 large splits and checks. Mechanical testing includes a sounding test.¹

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14 The inspection results identified that 62% and 97% of poles are deteriorated on
15 transmission lines 94L and 124L, respectively. The inspection results do not indicate
16 what quantity of poles were inspected via mechanical testing. However, the Company’s
17 *Transmission Inspection and Maintenance Practices* require sounding tests be completed
18 for all poles over 35 years of age. Given these transmission lines were placed in service
19 in the 1960s, the majority of poles would have undergone sounding tests.

¹ Sounding tests use a flat faced hammer to strike the pole at regular intervals while listening for changes in the sound produced. If the sound does differ, for example giving a hollow sound, this could indicate internal decay is present, and further testing can be used to help make a final determination on pole integrity