

1 Q. **Reference: Application**

2 What is the status of Hydro’s wood pole test and treat program?

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5 A. Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro’s (“Hydro”) Wood Pole Line Management Program is a
6 condition-based asset management program that uses reliability-centred maintenance
7 principles and strategies.

8 Hydro first initiated the program as a pilot study in 2003 and the program was presented in the
9 2005 Capital Budget Application.¹ Hydro’s experience with the Wood Pole Line Management
10 Program has demonstrated that the expected useful life of its transmission lines can be
11 extended by more than 15 years. This program continues to be a least-cost strategy for wood
12 pole line management, as investments made in regular inspections and early detection of issues
13 extends the useful life of poles, supports the deferral of line reconstruction, and prevents forced
14 outages. Hydro filed the “Review of Current WPLM Program, Interim Report” as part of its 2013
15 Capital Budget Application² and “Progress Report #2 (2012-2017) Review of the Current Wood
16 Pole Line Management (WPLM) Program” as part of its 2019 Capital Budget Application.³ Hydro
17 plans to submit a further update to the Board in 2023 to provide the quantitative benefits of the
18 program based on the data of the program’s first 20 years.

¹ “2005 Capital Budget Application,” Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, rev. September 28, 2004 (originally filed August 10, 2004).

² “2013 Capital Budget Application,” Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, rev. August 31, 2012 (originally filed August 8, 2012), vol. II, tab 17, app. B.

³ “2019 Capital Budget Application,” Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, rev. October 9, 2018 (originally filed July 31, 2018), vol. I, 2019–2023 Capital Plan, app. C.