

1 **Re Wood Pole Line Management (WPLM) Program, page B-13:**

2 Q. At page 4 of Hydro's 2009 Wood Pole Line Management report, Hydro  
3 asserts that if deterioration of the structures is not detected early enough,  
4 then the reliability of the structures will affect the reliability of the line and the  
5 system as a whole. Is there any statistical evidence of improvement of the  
6 reliability of the transmission system since implementation of the WPLM (*sic*)  
7 Program, when rates of transmission line failure for the five years period prior  
8 to implementation of the Program are compared to failures since  
9 implementation of the Program?

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12 A. On March 18-19, 2008 there was a severe ice storm on the Avalon  
13 Peninsula. Hydro's test site at Hawke Hill recorded more than 25 mm of  
14 radial glaze ice which exceeds the design load of the wood pole lines on the  
15 Avalon Peninsula. There were no reported failures with respect to wood pole  
16 lines on the Avalon Peninsula because the poles, which were not structurally  
17 sound, were already replaced during the past two inspection programs  
18 between 1998-2007. This supports the need for the proactive condition  
19 based management program which Hydro is pursuing. This WPLM program  
20 should be continued to ensure the reliability of the transmission line system.  
21 With respect to providing quantitative benefits on the improvement of  
22 transmission line reliability, Hydro will need long term data derived from two  
23 full inspection cycles to provide adequate statistical evidence.