

1 **Q. Upon completion of the pole count survey, what will be the factors considered in**
2 **determining which poles will be transferred to Bell Aliant?**

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4 A. Determination of the specific Support Structures to be transferred to Bell Aliant will be
5 based on maintaining an equitable distribution of the costs and benefits of Joint Use.

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7 The specific Support Structures to be transferred to Bell Aliant will be determined using
8 Newfoundland Power's Support Structure field data as confirmed by the pole count
9 survey and Newfoundland Power's plant accounting records.

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11 This information will be used to identify specific Joint Use Support Structures to be
12 transferred to Bell Aliant which, to the extent practical, reflect in aggregate the
13 characteristics of the total population of Newfoundland Power's Joint Use Support
14 Structures. These characteristics will include: (i) physical characteristics, such as age and
15 height; (ii) geographic location, with respect to Newfoundland Power's operating areas
16 and front and rear lot location; and (iii) the distribution of third party attachments.¹

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18 The transfer of specific Joint Use Support Structures to Bell Aliant will also provide for
19 sole ownership of all Support Structures within each pole line or distribution feeder,
20 where practical.²

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22 The Company's plant accounting data will then be used to confirm that the poles
23 identified to be transferred to Bell Aliant account for 40% of Newfoundland Power's
24 embedded cost of Joint Use Support Structures.

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26 This approach will ensure that the specific Joint Use Support Structures transferred to
27 Bell Aliant (i) comprise an equitable proportional representation of Newfoundland
28 Power's Joint Use Support Structures by physical characteristics, geographic location and
29 third party attachments, and (ii) comprise 40% of Newfoundland Power's embedded cost
30 of Joint Use Support Structures. This, in turn, ensures that future operating and financial
31 obligations of both Newfoundland Power and Bell Aliant related to Joint Use of Support
32 Structures reasonably reflect the 60% / 40% cost sharing arrangement.

¹ Responses to Requests for Information PUB-NP-10 and PUB-NP-7 provide details regarding the population characteristics of Newfoundland Power's Support Structures which will be confirmed by the pole count survey and considered in determination of the specific Joint Use Support Structures to be transferred to Bell Aliant.

² The avoidance of mixed ownership of pole lines where practical, has been recognized for decades as desirable for Joint Use as it reduces administrative complexity on an ongoing basis.