

1 **Q. Please provide a comprehensive and detailed explanation in relation to operations**
2 **under Section 19 - Inspection and Planned Maintenance of the Administration**
3 **Practices.**

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5 A. Section 19 of the Administration Practices incorporates into the 2011 Joint Use
6 Agreement (“2011 JUA”) the inspection and planned maintenance standards currently
7 being followed by Newfoundland Power. These standards require that all overhead
8 primary distribution lines have a minimum of one detailed Support Structure inspection
9 every 7 years and a vegetation inspection of the right of way every 3 ½ years.

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11 Following completion of the proposed sale, Newfoundland Power and Bell Aliant will
12 each be responsible for completing the inspections required by Section 19 on the Support
13 Structures owned by them. The Support Structure inspections involve inspection of only
14 the pole, anchor and guy. Newfoundland Power will continue to inspect the electricity
15 fixtures on all Joint Use Support Structures, whether owned by Bell Aliant or
16 Newfoundland Power.

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18 Following the completion of the sale of 40% of the Joint Use Support Structures to Bell
19 Aliant, inspections will continue based on the existing Newfoundland Power schedule,
20 which will simply be carried forward. Neither the frequency and scope of inspections,
21 nor the scheduling of planned maintenance based on those inspections, will change.

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23 All defects identified through this inspection process will be prioritized based on the
24 maintenance classifications set out in subsection 19.06 of the Administration Practices.
25 This classification system establishes specific timeframes by which deficiencies must be
26 addressed.

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28 Under the current Joint Use regime, there is a practical requirement for coordination of
29 all Support Structure work between Newfoundland Power and Bell Aliant. Overall
30 responsibility for such coordination rests with the Joint Use Working Committee
31 established under the Joint Use Facilities Partnership Agreement. This will continue to
32 be the case under the 2011 JUA.

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34 The only change in this regard resulting from the sale of 40% of the Joint Use Support
35 Structures to Bell Aliant is that the responsibility for the collection of inspection data and
36 the completion of planned maintenance, including vegetation management, will be shared
37 by Newfoundland Power and Bell Aliant on the basis of pole ownership.