

1 Q. Re: 2013 Capital Projects 500,000 and Over: Explanations, page C-45 Perform
2 Wood Pole Line Management Program:
3 What is the “rule of thumb” approach Hydro uses to identify the health of a typical
4 pole?

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7 A. Hydro uses formal inspections and data analysis to determine the health of poles,
8 complemented by the experience and judgment of field personnel. The formal
9 inspection approach is detailed within the Wood Pole Line Management Program.
10 Hydro’s inspection program utilizes conventional sounding and boring techniques
11 supplemented by the non-destructive evaluation testing of each pole as well as full
12 scale destructive testing of a limited number of poles removed from service each
13 year.

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15 The pole inspection program includes the following inspection techniques:

- 16 • Visual inspection from groundline to the top of the pole;
- 17 • Sound and bore of pole to look for internal decay. This includes measuring
- 18 the internal shell thickness when the pole sounds hollow;
- 19 • Non-destructive evaluation reading (strength measurement) only for poles;
- 20 • Core samples and preservative retention level analysis (samples);
- 21 • Selected poles removed from the field are also tested periodically at Memorial
- 22 University; and
- 23 • All poles are treated with a preservative and if ant activity is noted, then the
- 24 pole is injected with an additional liquid preservative.