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1    Q.    **Project C-37: Perform Wood Pole Line Management Project**

2            With reference to the “Justification” for the 2015 Wood Pole Management project  
3            set out on page 5 of the Tab 15 report, and Hydro’s statement that “Full scale tests  
4            of poles at Memorial University since 1999 indicate a 25% reduction of average pole  
5            strength over a 35-year period”, is there any evidence of the rate of failure of poles  
6            at a specific percentage, or percentage range, of reduction of pole strength?

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9    A.    There is no such explicit relationship between the percentage of reduction in  
10           strength and the rate of pole failure.

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12           The cause of a pole failure will depend on a number of variables, including the  
13           reduction of pole strength, the original design of the pole, the geographical  
14           location, the environmental loadings, as well as the physical geometry of the  
15           structure.

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17           The relationship between pole strength reduction and pole failure can only be  
18           developed through long term data collection, testing and the observed failures in a  
19           utility’s own service area. This is one of the long term objectives of the Wood Pole  
20           Line Management program.