

1 Q. **Re Perform Wood Pole Line Management Program (B-41)**

2 In section 4.3 titled "Update of 2009 Work" of the report at Tab 16, it states that,
3 "The program is built on the strategy of focusing on the older lines first and working
4 towards the newer lines. Table 3 on the next page of the report indicates that out
5 of the Target Number of poles inspected of 2254, 648 poles were of 1990 vintage
6 (TL 219 and TL 259) with the report going on to note that not all of the planned TL
7 219 poles were inspected but that, "This was deemed acceptable because of the
8 relatively young age (20 years) of TL 219 and the minimal problems on the line." If
9 Hydro's strategy is built on the strategy of focusing on the older poles first, why is
10 Hydro committing such resources to poles of relatively young age?

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13 A. Utility poles are initially treated with a preservative to prevent the attack of insects
14 and fungi. To be effective, the amount of preservative has to be greater than a
15 certain threshold. For the common preservative, pentachlorophenol (penta), this
16 typical threshold value is 0.18 lb/ft³. Over time, the level of preservative in the
17 pole decreases and at some age (typically 20 to 25 years) it drops below the
18 required threshold, thus leaving the pole more susceptible to attack. The WPLM
19 inspection and treatment cycle is based on treating the poles at age 20 with a
20 secondary preservative to prevent the overall levels from dropping below the
21 required threshold.

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23 In 2009, system limitations restricted the outage time available on TL-219 and the
24 target number of poles was not reached. Because of the good condition and
25 relatively young age of the line, a delay of one year did not pose a high risk to the
26 levels of preservative.