

1 Q. **B-34, Upgrade Distribution Lines, \$1,385,200**

2 When did Hydro adopt the policy to remove and discard all blackjack poles?

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5 A. Hydro has not implemented a policy to remove and discard all blackjack poles from
6 its distribution system. Existing blackjack poles are currently being replaced based
7 on the factors below:

8 • Creosote treated poles are not as widely used as in the past and Hydro has
9 found availability of these poles to be minimal. Other treated poles such as
10 Penta and CCA are much more common and easy to procure today than
11 blackjack poles; and

12 • Due to the lack of availability, no blackjack poles have been installed in the
13 past 30-40 years. This means the currently installed blackjack poles have
14 reached their expected lifespan and beyond. These poles are visually
15 assessed for condition and replaced, if warranted, in the same manner as
16 non-blackjack poles.

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18 Hydro has not implemented a policy to quantify and replace all blackjack poles
19 currently existing in its distribution system, unless they have been deemed to be
20 inadequate to continue in their current application. The intent is to replace
21 blackjack poles in the same fashion as all other poles. The inability to source these
22 poles suggests that, with replacements on a necessity based schedule, all blackjack
23 poles will eventually be removed and discarded from Hydro's distribution system.