Q. Commencing on page 24 of the Upgrade Transmission Line Corridor Report thermal overloads are discussed. Several scenarios are outlined where TL266 line becomes overloaded. Please explain the implications of the overloading of TL266.

A. TL266 is a 230 kV transmission line connecting Soldiers Pond and the Hardwoods Terminal Stations. TL266 is established with the termination of TL201 between Western Avalon and Hardwoods in and out of the Soldiers Pond Terminal Station. The TL266 between Soldiers Pond and Hardwoods is of H-frame wood construction and consists predominantly of 636 kcmil, 26/7, ACSR, "GROSBEAK" conductor. Consequently, this line has the lowest thermal rating of any 230 kV transmission line between Soldiers Pond and Hardwoods/Oxen Pond Terminal Stations. The overloads on TL266 are experienced for line out contingencies between Soldiers Pond and the St. John's area. As such, the overloads are the result of load growth within the St. John's area and not the addition of the Soldiers Pond Terminal Station. The decision to construct the Bay d'Espoir to Western Avalon 230 kV transmission line is not impacted by the TL266 overload issue.

The analysis has identified the future thermal overload issue associated with TL266 during a single contingency line outage between Soldiers Pond and Hardwoods/Oxen Pond Terminal Stations. TL266 was built in 1966 and based upon existing load forecasts, Hydro expects TL266 to become thermally overloaded during single line out contingencies in the 2020-21 time frame, as the line reaches end of life. Hydro continues to monitor the line loading on TL266 as part of its annual analysis and will bring forward a separate capital budget proposal for TL266 rebuild/replacement at the appropriate time.