Q. Please describe the extent that lateral taps off of mainline distribution feeders are fused.

A. Newfoundland Power utilizes fuses on distribution feeders to protect equipment from electrical faults. Fuse size and types are selected based upon the load on the tap and maintaining coordination with upstream protection devices, as well as other downstream fuses. The main goal of this coordination is to isolate the faulted circuit from the electrical system while maintaining power to the balance of customers served by the distribution feeder.

Generally, all lateral taps off of mainline distribution feeders are fused, except in the following cases:

1. Taps with only a few spans of conductor may not be fused if the entire tap is clearly visible from the mainline.

2. Heavily loaded taps in which a blown fuse is at risk of causing the trunk feeder protection to trip.[1]

[1] Heavily loaded single and two phase taps are reviewed regularly. Alternatives such as splitting the tap into two smaller taps or extending an additional phase (or phases) are considered as part of this review. Distribution projects resulting from overloaded single phase taps are regularly included in the Company's Capital Budget Applications.