

1 **Q. Does Newfoundland Power typically have line and vegetation contractors working**
2 **on site or immediately available for severe storm work? How quickly can Fortis or**
3 **other utilities in Nova Scotia or other Provinces provide additional line and**
4 **vegetation crews? What mutual aid agreements does Newfoundland Power have**
5 **with other utilities?**
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7 A. Yes. Newfoundland Power has line and vegetation contractors working under contract
8 on a full-time basis.¹ The agreements with these contractors contain terms that provide
9 for immediate field response as required to respond to damage caused by storms.
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11 Newfoundland Power also has access to emergency assistance from other utilities,
12 including other Fortis affiliate utilities and Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, subject to
13 the contributing utilities' own requirements. Such resources have been drawn upon by
14 Newfoundland Power following previous storms, and Newfoundland Power has also
15 provided emergency assistance to neighbouring utilities and Fortis affiliate utilities.
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17 When such assistance is required and available, the response timeframe is typically
18 limited only by travel time requirements.
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20 All Fortis-owned electric utilities have Power Line Technician and support resources that
21 are designated for response in the case of severe storms affecting any of the Fortis
22 utilities. A formal notification system is utilized across the Fortis group to facilitate
23 bringing these resources to ready state when a severe storm is expected.
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25 While Newfoundland Power does not have formal mutual aid agreements currently in
26 place, the Company is an active participant in the Canadian Electricity Association
27 ("CEA") Mutual Assistance Working Group, which is currently developing a Mutual Aid
28 Agreement for adoption by all CEA members. The work of the CEA working group is
29 expected to form the basis of a similar agreement among the Fortis affiliate utilities.

¹ Detailed information on the contract resources available to Newfoundland Power is contained in the response to Request for Information PUB-NP-195.