

1 **Q. Does Newfoundland Power make use of contractors for construction, maintenance,**
2 **and vegetation management? Are any contractors dedicated to Newfoundland**
3 **Power work, or are they called in only when needed? Explain how many contractor**
4 **personnel, of each type, are typically available.**

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6 A. Newfoundland Power utilizes contractors for distribution line construction, transmission
7 construction, pole installation, substation construction, vegetation management,
8 installation and repair of street lighting, live line distribution maintenance and civil
9 works. The Company currently has standing agreements with 5 contractors for
10 distribution construction services, 3 for transmission construction services, 5 for
11 substation construction services, 3 for vegetation management, 3 for installation of poles
12 and anchors, 1 for live line maintenance, 1 for street light installation and repair, and 13
13 for civil works.¹ The Company also has agreements in place for contractor support
14 functions such as traffic control (flag person) services.

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16 Most of these contractors provide island-wide services for Newfoundland Power.
17 However, the contracts for live line maintenance, and the installation and repair of street
18 lights, are currently limited to the St. John's operating region. These St. John's-only
19 contractors are dedicated to Newfoundland Power work.

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21 With the exception of civil works contractors, whose services are not unique to the utility
22 industry, Newfoundland Power work constitutes a significant portion of the work of our
23 other contractors. Due to the nature of their services, however, many of these contractors
24 also provide services to Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro and the telecommunication
25 service providers on the island.

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27 The following is a summary of available personnel by contract type for contractors that
28 have standing agreements with Newfoundland Power.²

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- 31 • Distribution Construction Services - 28 Power Line Technicians ("PLTs") and
32 PLT Apprentices available.
 - 33 • Transmission Construction Services - 42 PLTs, PLT Apprentices and
34 Construction Linepersons available.
 - 35 • Pole Installation - 21 crews (average crew size of 3 persons) available.
 - 36 • Vegetation Management - 60 Utility Arborists and field support employees
37 available. One of the vegetation management contractors is a large North
38 American operation that can draw on significant Canadian and U.S. resources if
39 required.
 - 40 • St. John's Live Line Maintenance - 8 PLTs.
 - Street light maintenance and repair - 13 operators/labourers.

¹ Standing agreements contain the standard contract terms and conditions. These are supplemented by individual Work Authorizations that specify work requirements for individual projects.

² Excludes civil works contractors.