

1 **Q. Further to the response to PUB-NP-081, explain the various functions of “Planners”**
2 **(as used to inspect lines). Are they all Power Line Technicians? If not what qualifies**
3 **one to be a Planner?**
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5 A. The primary functions of Transmission and Distribution Planners are inspections, work
6 planning and supervision of contractors.
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8 Planners perform transmission line, distribution line, padmount transformer and
9 vegetation inspections. Deficiencies identified during these inspections are recorded
10 electronically as work requests in their handheld devices.
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12 Planners plan work. This includes reviewing work requests initiated from inspections or
13 submitted by other operating personnel, as well as planning corrective action work
14 orders. Planners also review completed work orders for follow up and close out work
15 orders. The work planning process involves working with engineering and operations
16 staff to ensure requirements for work execution are available. Planners also work with
17 supervisors to ensure priority work is communicated and completed in a timely manner.
18

19 Planners implement vegetation management programs including reviewing customer
20 requests for vegetation removal, determining tree trimming and brush clearing
21 requirements during inspections, planning work orders and supervising vegetation
22 contractors. This requires effective customer service skills, contract administration skills
23 and a focus on safety and the environment.
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25 Currently all of Newfoundland Power’s Transmission and Distribution Planners are
26 Powerline Technicians. Planner qualifications include a Powerline Technician certificate
27 or an Electrical Engineering Technology diploma. A planner must have experience
28 working in the electrical utility industry and have an understanding of construction
29 standards, inspection and maintenance standards, safety and environmental regulations
30 and requirements, and customer service skills.