

1 Q. **Reference: Schedule 6, Program 7 Wood Pole Line Management (2024), Page 3, lines 1–3**

2 It is stated that Hydro’s experience demonstrates that the expected life of its transmission line
3 can be extended by more than fifteen years through the early inspection and refurbishment.

4 a) Is Hydro targeting a specific extension of the life of its transmission line wood poles?

5 b) What is the depreciation period over which Hydro depreciates a transmission line wood
6 pole?

7 c) What is the Canadian utility standard for the average life of a transmission line wood
8 pole?

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11 A. a) Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro (“Hydro”) is not targeting a specific extension of the life
12 of its transmission line wood poles. As stated in the Wood Pole Line Management (2024)
13 program proposal, the Wood Pole Line Management (“WPLM”) program provides for the
14 life extension of existing pole plant assets by between 10 to 20 years.¹

15 b) Based upon Hydro’s 2016 Depreciation Study,² the average service life for transmission
16 wood pole structures is 57 years (unit of property – P05).

17 The WPLM program analyses exclude data such as line failures under extreme wind and ice
18 conditions or any poles replaced before the initiation of the WPLM program. The analysis in
19 the depreciation study for transmission poles (unit of property – P05) includes failures under
20 extreme wind and ice conditions and the poles replaced prior to the initiation of the WPLM
21 program.

22 As part of its next Depreciation Study, planned for filing in Hydro’s next general rate
23 application, Hydro will take into consideration the findings submitted in the WPLM program

¹ “2024 Capital Budget Application,” Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, rev. August 18, 2023 (originally filed July 12, 2023), sch. 6, prog. 7, p. 12.

² “2017 General Rate Application,” Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, rev. July 4, 2018 (originally filed July 28, 2017), vol. II, exh. 11.

1 in assessing the average service life of transmission wood pole structures. However, it would
2 be premature to conclude the impact of the depreciation study prior to its completion.

3 c) There is no Canadian utility standard for the average life of a transmission line wood pole. In
4 2019, an information exchange was circulated to member utilities of the Centre for Energy
5 Advancement through Technological Innovation. In this information exchange, four
6 Canadian utilities provided an average life span for their wooden transmission poles. The
7 four values were 40, 55, 70, and 80 years. The span of 80 years was submitted by Hydro and
8 was a projection based on its survival curve data at the time.