

1 Q. **Reference: PUB-NLH-039**

2 Further to the response to PUB-NLH-039, please explain the specific environmental work
3 required for the 2024 Wood Pole Program that led to the increase in costs and provide the
4 amount of the budget estimate associated with the increased environmental work.

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7 A. In 2024, approximately 1.5 kilometres of environmental mitigations must be installed to access
8 various wood pole structures that require refurbishment. This mitigation work will involve
9 placement of geotextiles, geogrids,¹ and fill to establish “floating” roads across sensitive bogs
10 and wetlands.² This mitigation work is estimated to cost approximately \$750,000.

¹ A geogrid is a geosynthetic material commonly used to reinforce soils and other similar materials.

² “Floating” roads enable equipment to travel across sensitive areas while minimizing damage to fragile habitats. Locally harvested corduroy and/or rig matting may also be used to establish floating roads in some areas.