

1 Q. **Reference: Application**

2 With respect to wood pole line management:

- 3 a) What are Hydro’s policies and practices regarding reduction of the environmental  
4 footprint relating to wood pole disposal?
- 5 b) What preservatives has Hydro used to extend the life of wood poles?
- 6 c) What is the unit cost to purchase wood poles?
- 7 d) What is the unit cost to dispose of wood poles?
- 8 e) Please provide a table showing the total and per unit costs of wood pole purchases in  
9 each of the last ten years.

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- 12 A. a) Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro (“Hydro”) aims to maximize the life of its transmission  
13 wood poles through the execution of the Wood Pole Line Management Program. When  
14 poles require replacement, they are disposed of in approved landfills as per provincial  
15 requirements.
- 16 b) To extend the life of its transmission wood poles, Hydro retreats the poles internally with  
17 fungicide in the form of solid fused glass rods. The fungicide is a combination of Anhydrous  
18 Disodium Octaborate, Copper (from Copper Hydroxide) and Boric Acid.
- 19 c) Please refer to part e) of this response.
- 20 d) The cost of disposal varies greatly depending on the location of the wood pole; greater costs  
21 will be associated with the disposal of a pole from a remote transmission line that is difficult  
22 to access, than one that is located in an easily accessible urban area. For this reason, Hydro  
23 is unable to provide a unit cost to dispose of wood poles.
- 24 e) Please refer to Table 1 for the total and per unit costs of wood pole purchases under the  
25 Wood Pole Line Management Program from 2014 to 2023.

**Table 1: Costs of Wood Pole Purchases (2014–2023)<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Approximate Average Unit Cost (\$)</b>	<b>Approximate Total Cost (\$)</b>
2014	1,626	92,662
2015	1,955	97,770
2016	1,991	75,651
2017	2,036	63,105
2018	1,289	37,374
2019	1,867	59,745
2020	1,135	34,057
2021	2,506	52,625
2022	1,649	21,437
2023	3,304	75,986

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<sup>1</sup> Pole costs vary by length with longer poles being more expensive. Average unit cost can be affected by the length of pole used, and thus increases and decreases between years are partially, if not mostly, determined by this factor. The pole line length used in 2023 was larger than what was used in 2022.