

1 Q. **Reference: 2025 Capital Budget Application, Program 10, Wood Pole Line Management (2025),**  
2 **page 3, lines 4 to 6 and lines 12 to 14.**

3 a) Does Hydro re-test wood poles that have undergone retreatment to verify the  
4 effectiveness of their retreatment in restoring preservative levels above the threshold  
5 needed to prevent decay from fungi and insects? If not, why not?

6 b) During detailed inspections, does Hydro fully or partially excavate around their poles to  
7 determine if there is decay present below the groundline? If not, why not?

8 c) Does Hydro attribute the 15-year increase in expected useful life entirely to its wood  
9 pole retreatment program? If not, what other factors does Hydro attribute to the  
10 increase?

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13 A. a) No, poles are inspected approximately every ten years as part of the program cycle.  
14 Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro (“Hydro”) retreats its poles during every inspection with  
15 water-diffusible glass co-biocide internal treatment rods, which deliver high concentrations  
16 of borates and copper to the pole. For aggressive decay climates, manufacturer research  
17 demonstrates that boron and copper levels remain above their minimum toxic thresholds  
18 after ten years.

19 b) No, full excavation around poles is not economical. Partial excavations (i.e., hand digging  
20 with a shovel) were once included in the inspection program but, no underground decay  
21 was detected, and no significant underground decay has been present in poles that have  
22 been replaced for above-ground degradation. For this reason, Hydro does not currently  
23 perform partial excavations during inspections.

24 c) Hydro does believe that its retreatment program effectively extends the useful life of its  
25 wooden transmission poles; however, the climate and soil in which a pole is erected also  
26 greatly affects its service life. All of Hydro’s wooden transmission poles have been retreated

- 1 under the program, therefore no “control group” exists to enable a measurement of life
- 2 extension due to retreatment in Hydro’s system.