

1 Q. **Reference: PUB-NLH-026 and Hydro’s 2023 Capital Budget Application, Program 15 – Wood**
2 **Pole Line Management.**

3 In its *2023 Capital Budget Application*, Hydro described its reliance upon a “gap year” between
4 wood pole inspection and refurbishment activity to allow for outage planning, environmental
5 requirements and procurement processes. In Hydro’s experience, has the utilization of a gap
6 year for wood pole management been effective in identifying environmental and other
7 requirements and associated costs? Please explain.

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10 A. Implementation of the gap year in the Wood Pole Management Program has improved
11 Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro’s (“Hydro”) ability to complete more effective project
12 planning. Please refer to Hydro’s response to PUB-NLH-065 of this proceeding.