

1 Q. **Reference: Program 1: Wood Pole Line Management (2027), Appendix A, Plan for Wood Poles**
2 **Greater than 55 years old**

3 The survivor curve provided by Concentrics in Hydro's 2026 GRA suggests that approximately 5%
4 of poles would survive to 80 years in service. Almost 50% of the transmission lines in Table 1 on
5 page A-2 have an average pole age at retirement that meets or exceeds 80 years.

6 Discuss whether the Concentric recommendation of a historic life of 50 years and a survival rate
7 at 80 years impacts the WPLM program and Hydro's approach to aging wood poles.

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10 A. As mentioned in Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro's ("Hydro") response to PUB-NLH-027 of
11 this proceeding, there are several factors which affect the life expectancy of wood poles
12 throughout different utility jurisdictions. As such, there is no one concrete number that defines
13 life expectancy. Hydro's Wood Pole Line Management ("WPLM") Program is based on utility
14 industry survival curves and continues to be calibrated with Hydro's real-time data. WPLM
15 Program was established with a mandate to extend the life of the assets in a manner that
16 balances cost and reliability. Hydro will continue to manage and monitor the data collected
17 through the inspection process established under the WPLM Program and will adjust life
18 expectancy accordingly. Hydro notes that it will take time for the impacts of the WPLM to be
19 fully realized in its depreciation studies.

20 The recommendation of 50 years made by Concentric Advisors, Inc. ("Concentric") is applicable
21 to distribution poles. The recommendation for transmission (wood) poles is 57 years. This is a
22 conservative estimate; however, it is fully supported by Hydro's inspection data.

23 The condition data for this age of pole (60+ years) is limited; therefore, Hydro is accruing
24 inspection data and experience to better determine the life expectancy of the poles.

25 Hydro further notes that the relevant accounts within its depreciation study refer to both
26 distribution- and transmission-class poles. Hydro will review the information presented in the

- 1 Concentric report and determine if there are any modifications required to the internal
- 2 management program, specifically with respect to survival rates.