

1 **Q. Reference: “2022 Capital Budget Application,” Newfoundland Power, May 18,**
 2 **2021, Volume 1, Section 3.1, Transmission Line Rebuild at p.3**

3
 4 **Does Newfoundland Power consider the degree of deterioration (decay, shell**
 5 **separation, and checking) in determining whether wood poles require replacement?**
 6 **If so, please provide the thresholds utilized for such decisions. If not, why not?**

7
 8 A. Yes, Newfoundland Power considers the degree of deterioration such as decay, shell
 9 separation, and checking in determining whether wood poles require replacement.

10
 11 The Company makes decisions on the replacement wood poles based on the criteria
 12 outlined in its *Transmission Inspection and Maintenance Practices*. These practices
 13 outline the classification priority and inspection and testing procedures used to determine
 14 the integrity of poles.

15
 16 Table 1 provides the classification priority for wood poles outlined in the Company’s
 17 *Transmission Inspection and Maintenance Practices*.

Table 1			
General Guidelines for Classification of Priority			
Wood Poles			
Emergency	TD1	TD2	TD4
Broken/severe undermining	Serious cracks or deterioration/unauthorized attachment		Serious checks or splits/woodpecker holes/decay

18 These classification criteria, evaluated by planners with expertise in conducting
 19 inspections, determine the priority and type of maintenance or replacement required for
 20 all wood pole deficiencies identified during line inspections.

21
 22 Wood poles classified as Emergency are replaced through corrective maintenance as soon
 23 as possible. Wood poles classified as TD1 and TD2 are replaced through preventative
 24 maintenance in the year in which they are identified. Wood poles classified as TD4 are
 25 addressed through preventative maintenance the following year. Depending on the
 26 deterioration noted, wood poles classified as TD4 will be replaced or repaired.¹ Wood
 27 poles that do not meet these classifications are not replaced.

¹ For example, wood poles with woodpecker holes may be repaired using an expanding sealant.