

1 **Q. (Reference Application Schedule B, Distribution Feeder OXP-01**  
 2 **Refurbishment, page 22) It is stated "The section of three-phase distribution**  
 3 **trunk supplying Thorburn Road, west of Team Gushue Highway, was recently**  
 4 **inspected in 2022. The inspection identified a significant number of**  
 5 **deficiencies on the 3.2-kilometre section of three-phase trunk along Thorburn**  
 6 **Road."**

- 7 **a) How many other distribution feeders does NP own that are sub-standard?**  
 8 **b) Is OXP-01 currently a safety concern?**  
 9 **c) Please provide the results of any inspections of the 3.2-kilometre section**  
 10 **undertaken prior to 2022.**

11  
 12 A. a) Newfoundland Power operates approximately 300 distribution feeders across its  
 13 service territory. These feeders are inspected in accordance with the Company's  
 14 *Distribution Inspection and Maintenance Practices*. The intent of inspections is to  
 15 identify deteriorated and deficient equipment. The intent of inspections is not to  
 16 identify existing plant which is not up to current construction standards.

17  
 18 When feeders are first constructed, they are designed and constructed to meet the  
 19 standards at that time. As feeders are inspected and deficiencies are rectified, that  
 20 infrastructure is constructed to current standards.

21  
 22 b) No, distribution feeder OXP-01 is not a safety concern.

23  
 24 The *Distribution Feeder OXP-01 Refurbishment* project is not proposed as a result of  
 25 any safety concerns.<sup>1</sup> The project is being proposed to address deteriorated poles,  
 26 conductor and hardware on distribution feeder OXP-01. These deficiencies make the  
 27 feeder more susceptible and prone to equipment failure and increased risk of  
 28 outages.

29  
 30 The 2022 inspection of distribution feeder OXP-01 identified a significant number of  
 31 deficiencies along the 3.2-kilometre section of Thorburn Road. A total of 32 poles,  
 32 or 40%, require replacement due to deep cracks or rotting. A total of 35 crossarms,  
 33 or 42%, require replacement due to severe splits and other deterioration. A total of  
 34 105 insulators, or 43%, are vintage porcelain insulators that are prone to failure due  
 35 to separation from the pin which results in the conductor coming free from the  
 36 crossarm or pole.<sup>2</sup>

37  
 38 c) Prior to 2022, distribution feeder OXP-01 was last inspected in 2017. There were 18  
 39 deficiencies addressed on the 3.2-kilometre section of feeder. Deficiencies  
 40 addressed included the replacement of deteriorated poles, crossarms, distribution  
 41 transformers, and other hardware.

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<sup>1</sup> Immediate safety concerns or high-priority deficiencies identified during inspections would be remedied immediately or within a short timeframe under the *Reconstruction* program.

<sup>2</sup> See Newfoundland Power's *2024 Capital Budget Application, Schedule B*, pages 22 and 23.