

1 **Q. (Reference Application Schedule B, Transmission Line Maintenance, Table 1,**
2 **page 84) It is stated "The Transmission Line Maintenance program involves the**
3 **replacement of transmission line infrastructure that has failed or is at risk of**
4 **failure." Table 1 shows that from 2019 through 2023 the adjusted cost varied**
5 **from a low of \$2.5 million to a high of \$2.6 million. How is it that there is so**
6 **little variation in cost over a five-year period when failures are random?**
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8 A. Newfoundland Power's transmission lines are the backbone of the electricity system
9 providing service to customers. The Company maintains approximately 27,000 wooden
10 support structures and overhead conductor on 2,100 kilometres of transmission lines
11 that are inspected on an annual basis.
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13 Newfoundland Power's *Transmission Line Maintenance* program is not limited to
14 corrective maintenance. The Company's *Transmission Line Maintenance* program
15 involves the replacement of transmission line infrastructure that has failed or is at risk of
16 failure and, as such, includes both corrective and preventative maintenance. Deficiencies
17 identified during annual inspections are prioritized for maintenance based on the
18 severity of deterioration observed.
19

20 Newfoundland Power considers its *Transmission Line Maintenance* program to be a
21 mature, stable and effective approach to maintaining a high volume of transmission line
22 assets. The budget for the *Transmission Line Maintenance* program is based on the
23 historical average of the most recent five-year period. While the Company cannot
24 precisely predict which particular assets will require replacement in a given year, the fact
25 that the total amount of work completed on both a preventative and corrective basis has
26 remained stable over the most recent five-year period reflects the maturity of this
27 program.