

Transmission

Q. Reference: "2024 Capital Budget Application," Newfoundland Power Inc., June 22, 2023, Supporting Materials, Transmission: 3.1.

a) Has Newfoundland Power come to any conclusions as of yet regarding a plan to commence a Wood Pole Line Management ("WPLM") program, including the full-scale testing of select poles?

b) Did Newfoundland Power consider deferring this project until it has completed its WPLM review given that transmission line 146L is not a radial line?

A. a) No, Newfoundland Power has not come to any conclusions as of yet regarding a plan to commence a WPLM program similar to Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro ("Hydro"). Newfoundland Power has initiated discussions with Hydro's technical and engineering staff to better understand the potential benefits of a chemical re-treatment program for its transmission line wood poles.¹

b) No, Newfoundland Power did not consider deferring the *Transmission Line 146L Rebuild* project until it has completed its WPLM review. The rebuild of Transmission Line 146L has been identified due to the physical condition of the line, the risk of failure, the line's sub-standard design and the impact a failure could have on the Central Newfoundland 138 kV transmission system. Adopting a wood pole line management program similar to Hydro which includes the chemical re-treatment of wood poles would not address the advanced deterioration identified on Transmission Line 146L.

Delaying the proposed *Transmission Line 146L Rebuild* project would increase the risk of component failure due to deterioration. The consequence of component failure under peak load scenarios would result in voltage levels within the Central Newfoundland 138 kV looped transmission system dropping into the emergency range, increasing the risk of load shedding and customer outages.²

See Newfoundland Power's *2024 Capital Budget Application, Schedule B*, page 82, for the risk assessment of the *Transmission Line 146L Rebuild* project.

¹ See the response to Request for Information PUB-NP-047.

² See the response to Request for Information PUB-NP-044 for information on operating the Central Newfoundland 138 kV Looped Transmission System in the emergency voltage range.