

Transmission

Q. Reference: "2024 Capital Budget Application," Newfoundland Power Inc., June 22, 2023, Supporting Materials, Transmission: 3.1, sec. 3.3, p. 7.

The historical reliability performance of Transmission Line 146L has been reasonable. There have been three outage events over the last five years due to requirements to undertake preventative and corrective maintenance.

a) Newfoundland Power identifies three outages on transmission line 146L over the last five years. Were these outages planned or unplanned? If unplanned, were investigations performed and, if so, was the cause related to deteriorated components, environmental conditions that exceeded the original design parameters, or other causes? Please detail the causes identified.

b) Please provide the outage minutes per customer served on transmission line 146L for each year over the period 2013–2022.

c) Does Newfoundland Power consider the level of service provided by transmission line 146L in 2022 to be reliable? If not, why not?

A. a) See Newfoundland Power's *2024 Capital Budget Application*, report 3.1 *2024 Transmission Line Rebuild*, Table 2, page 8 for a list of planned and unplanned outages and causes.¹

The unplanned outage in November 2018 was caused by inclement weather. The line was patrolled and no trouble was found.

The unplanned outage in July 2022 was caused by equipment failure. The line was patrolled and damaged insulators on one of the structures was found to be the root cause of the outage.

b) There were no customer outage minutes logged for the period from 2013 to 2022 as a direct result of an outage on Transmission Line 146L.

c) The reliability performance of Transmission Line 146L can be attributed to the Company's *Transmission Inspection and Maintenance Practices*. In accordance with these practices, transmission lines are maintained to operate to a high standard of reliability and, as a result, have not had a material impact on the average service reliability to customers in recent years.

Reliability indices, as requested above, are lagging indicators that encompass historical issues on the electrical system. Waiting for reliability on the transmission

¹ See the response to the Request for Information PUB-NP-046 for additional information on these outages.

1 system to degrade before undertaking capital investments would result in poor
2 quality of service being experienced by large numbers of customers for several
3 years. Such an approach would not recognize the criticality of transmission lines in
4 serving customers.
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6 Newfoundland Power relies on an assessment of a transmission line's condition and
7 its criticality in serving customers when determining whether a transmission line
8 should be rebuilt. While the Company considers the level of service provided by
9 Transmission Line 146L to be reliable in 2023, the sub-standard design and
10 deteriorated condition pose a risk to the delivery of reliable service to customers.