

Transmission

Q. Reference: "2024 Capital Budget Application," Newfoundland Power Inc., June 22, 2023, Supporting Materials, Transmission: 3.1, p. 9.

Transmission Line 146L was originally scheduled for rebuild in 2008 as part of the 2006 Transmission Line Rebuild Strategy. The rebuild of this line has been deferred for 15 years as a result of regular maintenance. Due to its deteriorated condition and increased risks to customers, a capital project is required to address the deficiencies present on the line.

- a) Please provide a comparison of the current condition assessment and the previous most recent condition assessment.**
- b) Please explain in detail what changes in the condition assessment require a capital project in 2024 to address the deficiencies present on the line.**
- c) Is the 15-year deferral statement based on the average life assumption of a transmission line or as a result of targeted capital investments made to extend the life of the line? Please explain. If the latter, please provide the capital costs incurred by year to defer the rebuilding of transmission line 146L.**
- d) Transmission line 146L was originally scheduled for rebuild 15 years ago. The line is still in operation with minimal maintenance costs (\$247,000 over the last 10 years) and a limited number of power interruptions (3 outage events over the last 5 years). Has Newfoundland Power modified its transmission line inspections as a result of transmission lines remaining in reliable service past their initial planned rebuild date?**

- A.
 - a) The comparison of the annual inspection results for Transmission Line 146L can be found in Newfoundland Power's *2024 Capital Budget Application*, report 3.1 *2024 Transmission Line Rebuild*, page 4, Table 1. The table provides a comparison of TD4 work requests, which represent deficiencies to be addressed as part of Newfoundland Power's longer-term capital planning process. In 2023 there were 156 TD4 work requests identified on Transmission Line 146L compared to 84 in 2022. A detailed inspection of the line was completed in 2023 to quantify its overall condition as part of the capital planning process. The inspection determined that 104 of 160 H-Frame structures have deficiencies.¹ A detailed engineering assessment of the deteriorated line condition and the associated increased risks to customers, detailed in report 3.1, concluded that a capital project commencing in 2024 is required to address the deficiencies present on the line.
 - b) See the response to part a).

¹ See Newfoundland Power's *2024 Capital Budget Application*, report 3.1 *2024 Transmission Line Rebuild*, page 4.

1 c) Deferral of the rebuild of Transmission Line 146L by 15 years can be attributed to
 2 the Company's *Transmission Inspection and Maintenance Practices* and the
 3 associated capital maintenance activities.
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5 Table 1 provides the capital maintenance cost for Transmission Line 146L incurred
 6 by year since 2008.

Table 1 146L Capital Maintenance Costs (2008 to 2022)	
Year	Costs
2009	\$98,000
2011	\$35,000
2014	\$169,000
2017	\$19,000
2019	\$48,000
2022	\$11,000

7 d) No, Newfoundland Power has not modified its transmission line inspections as a
 8 result of transmission lines remaining in reliable service past their initial planned
 9 rebuild date.
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11 In accordance with its *Transmission Inspection and Maintenance Practices*,
 12 Newfoundland Power inspects all of its transmission lines annually. These annual
 13 inspections determine the condition of transmission lines and inform whether
 14 rebuilding a section of line or selectively replacing deteriorated components is
 15 required. The selective replacement of deteriorated components is routinely
 16 conducted as part of the Company's *Transmission Line Maintenance* program and in
 17 some cases, allows for the extension of the useful service life of the transmission
 18 line.