

1 **Reference: Schedule B Projects and Programs over \$750,000**

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3 **Q. Page 36, Rebuild Distribution Lines. It is stated that distribution feeders are**
4 **inspected on a seven-year cycle. When did Newfoundland Power last review**
5 **the appropriateness of this frequency and is it consistent with Canadian**
6 **utility practices?**

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8 A. The *Rebuild Distribution Lines* program is part of the Company's preventative
9 maintenance program for distribution lines. Newfoundland Power's preventative
10 maintenance program for its distribution lines involves following its *Distribution*
11 *Inspection and Maintenance Practices*, which includes condition assessments on all of its
12 distribution feeders on a seven-year cycle.

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14 The Company's *Distribution Inspection and Maintenance Practices* are regularly reviewed
15 and updated as required. A 2014 survey of 23 utilities conducted by the Centre for
16 Energy Advancement through Technological Innovation ("CEATI") on distribution line
17 inspection practices found that all utilities responding inspected their distribution
18 feeders. The average inspection cycle was five years, with a range of one year to 12
19 years.¹ Newfoundland Power's seven-year inspection cycle is within this range and is
20 consistent with Canadian utility practices.²

¹ The report titled *CEATI Report No. T134700- 50/119 Distribution Inspection & Maintenance Cycle Comparison of Utility Practices* can be purchased from CEATI International Inc.

² The *Report on Island Interconnected System to Interconnection with Muskrat Falls addressing Newfoundland Power Inc.* completed by The Liberty Consulting Group ("Liberty") on behalf of the Board concluded that Newfoundland Power's distribution feeder and pole inspections and corrective maintenance practices are generally consistent with good utility practices. The Board found that Liberty's review of Newfoundland Power was comprehensive and confirmed that Newfoundland Power's operations conform to good utility practice.