

1 Q. **Reference: Volume I, 2020 Capital Projects Over \$500,000, Wood Pole Line Management**
2 **Program – Various, page C-49, lines 11 to 12**

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4 Any replacement and/or refurbishment will be based on the assessment of
5 quantitative risk with respect to in-service pole strength.
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7 Please describe how Hydro determines the in-service pole strength of transmission wood poles.
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10 A. All poles inspected under the Wood Pole Line Management Program are rated based on a full
11 climbing inspection and condition assessment. Inspections that result in findings on the lower
12 end of the rating scale, identified in Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro's ("Hydro") response to
13 NP-NLH-37, are subject to further assessment and increased inspection frequency. If these
14 inspection results identify concern over the adequacy of a pole, further analysis is performed to
15 estimate the in-service pole strength. The extent of the decay can be measured in the field using
16 a combination of a Resistograph® (shell thickness indicator) and a measuring tape. Using these
17 measurements, the percentage of remaining pole strength can be estimated. Various programs
18 are available to assist in the calculations; Hydro currently utilizes a program called D-Calc.¹ Once
19 the remaining strength of a pole is estimated, the data can be used to determine if the structure
20 in question is adequate based on the site specific conditions.

¹ Information on this software can be found at: <<https://edmlink.com/images/documents/Products/D-Calc%20Flyer.pdf>>.