Q. Reference: "2021 Capital Budget Application," Newfoundland Power, July 9, 2020, Volume 1, Schedule B, Rebuild Distribution Lines (Pooled) at p. 45–47.

Citation:

> **The Distribution project involves the replacement of deteriorated distribution structures and electrical equipment that have been previously identified through the ongoing preventative maintenance programs or engineering reviews.**

Please describe in detail what is involved in the engineering reviews referenced.

A. The *Rebuild Distribution Line* project is based on a 7-year inspection cycle, with approximately 43 of the Company's distribution feeders inspected each year by the Company's Planners.[1] While in the field, the Planner identifies deteriorated line components that need to be addressed immediately, in the near term, or in the following year as part of the *Rebuild Distribution Line* project.

A subsequent engineering review is conducted on the inspection data gathered in the field. Based on the quantity and priority of the deficiencies identified through the inspections, additional site visits may be completed on some feeders, or sections of feeders, by engineering staff to further assess and determine the scope of the work required. These engineering reviews assess the condition of the full feeder, or section of feeder, and determine if simple component replacement or a more fulsome refurbishment of a section of distribution line is required.[2]

In some cases, engineering reviews indicate a much larger project is warranted than what is normally accomplished in the *Rebuild Distribution Lines* budget. In those cases, Distribution *Trunk Feeder* refurbishment projects are included in capital budget applications, with supporting engineering reports, for approval as dedicated capital projects.[3]

---

1 Planners perform distribution line inspections in accordance with the Company's *Distribution Inspection and Maintenance Practices*. Planner qualifications include a Powerline Technician certificate or an Electrical Engineering Technology diploma. A Planner must have experience working in the electrical utility industry and have an understanding of the Company's construction, inspection and maintenance standards.

2 For example, in some cases rerouting a section of the distribution line to the road right of way may be the least cost alternative for completing the work and for maintaining the line into the future.

3 For example, see *2021 Capital Budget Application*, report *4.3 LGL-02 Distribution Feeder Refurbishment* and *2020 Capital Budget Application*, report *4.3 GFS-06 Distribution Feeder Refurbishment*.