Q. (Reference NLH-NP-008, line 8) Why does Newfoundland Power not test a portion of poles removed to build a condition assessment database as is Hydro's practice?

A. Newfoundland Power's *Transmission Inspection and Maintenance Practices* outline the inspection and testing procedures used to determine the integrity of transmission line wood poles. The inspection and testing procedures include:

(i) Completing a visual inspection of the condition of the pole from the ground line to the top on all quadrants;
(ii) Completing a sounding test, which involves striking a pole with a hammer at regular intervals on all quadrants from the ground line to 2 metres above grade; and
(iii) Performing core sampling by using an approved device to drill through the centerline of the pole to extract a core sample for evaluation.

These testing procedures allow experienced Transmission and Distribution Planners to obtain the required information about the condition of poles, including an indication of the residual strength of a pole. For further information on the criteria used by Newfoundland Power for decisions on the replacement of wood poles see response to Request for Information NLH-NP-009.

It is Newfoundland Power's position that it would be prudent to await the results of the second cycle of Hydro's test and treat program, which is scheduled for completion in 2023, before incurring any additional cost associated with testing removed poles. If the results of Hydro's program indicate that the testing of a portion of poles is consistent with Newfoundland Power's obligation to provide safe, least-cost, reliable service to customers, the Company will review its practices to determine whether changes are necessary.[1] The Board has indicated it is satisfied with this approach.[2]

[1] See response to Request for Information NLH-NP-008, lines 32-34.
[2] See response to Request for Information NLH-NP-008, lines 16-30.