

1 **Q. General**

2 Please advise of any safety protocols that NLH has implemented to deal with the
3 advancing age of the majority of NLH equipment and assets.

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6 **A.** There are no specific safety protocols implemented to deal with the advancing age
7 of the majority of Hydro equipment and assets, as the nature and location of each
8 asset make the safety protocols situation specific. A safety protocol that deals
9 specifically with aged equipment is an assessment used to determine if a wood pole
10 is safe to climb. As well, Hydro's Wood Pole Line Management is basically an
11 enhanced preventive maintenance program for wood pole lines, where the
12 frequency of inspection is based on age, condition and criticality of the equipment.
13 Safety concerns may be identified and corrected as part of this program.

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15 General safety protocols include:

16 Minimizing the time spent in close proximity to operating equipment. (i.e. get in the
17 station, get the work done, and get out.)

18 Infrared testing is used on both new and old equipment, and may identify heating
19 problems that can often be linked to age.

20 Hydro uses a database for the identification and remediation of unsafe conditions,
21 where observations are made and corrective action assigned as required.

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23 The revised Asset Management Strategy will assist in the identification of safety
24 issues common to specific types of assets.