

1 **Q. Explain what conditions trigger distribution feeder inspectors to sound and bore**
2 **distribution poles and what conditions trigger when a distribution pole must be**
3 **replaced.**
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5 A. The requirement to complete sounding and core-sampling tests on wood distribution
6 poles, as well as determining when a distribution pole must be replaced is based on the
7 judgement and experience of the distribution feeder inspectors.¹ The inspectors use the
8 Distribution Inspection and Maintenance Practices document as a guideline for
9 completing distribution feeder inspections.²
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11 For sounding and core-sampling tests, page 4 of the Distribution Inspection and
12 Maintenance Practices document states that:
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14 “During each distribution line inspection, all wood poles require a detailed visual
15 inspection. Depending on the results of the visual inspection a sounding test may
16 be performed. If the visual inspection and/or the sounding test indicate a
17 problem, a core-sampling test may be performed to aid in the evaluation of the
18 pole.”
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20 The Deficiency Reference Tables in Appendix A of the document identify common
21 deficiencies and repair priorities for wood poles, as well as other types of equipment.
22 The conditions that would typically trigger a wood pole replacement are broken or
23 seriously cracked poles, rotted poles, or poles with severe woodpecker holes.

¹ To inspect Newfoundland Power distribution lines, an inspector must have the following minimum qualifications: (i) minimum 3 years of experience in the electrical utility industry in the operations or engineering area; (ii) familiarity with the operation, maintenance and construction of utility lines; (iii) familiarity with the use and operation of ATV's and snowmobiles; and, (iv) basic understanding of the electrical and mechanical nature of utility lines. Distribution line inspections require evaluation of the distribution poles.

² A copy of the Company's Distribution Inspection and Maintenance Practices is provided in Attachment A of the response to Request for Information PUB-NP-067. All overhead primary distribution lines are required to have a minimum of 1 detailed ground inspection every 7 years. However, Superintendents of Area Operations have the discretion to have more frequent inspections done if time and manpower allow.