

1 **Q. (CA-NP-22) It is stated “The reliability experienced by customers principally**  
2 **reflects the general condition of the electrical system. Newfoundland Power**  
3 **maintains the condition of its electrical system by applying mandatory construction**  
4 **and maintenance standards and by using inspection and maintenance guidelines**  
5 **that reflect industry best practices.” Why is NP’s reliability so much better than**  
6 **jurisdictions elsewhere? Are other jurisdictions not properly maintaining their**  
7 **systems, or not applying mandatory construction and maintenance standards and**  
8 **using inspection and maintenance guidelines that reflect industry best practice? Is it**  
9 **possible that climate impacts are not as harsh on the Island as they are in other**  
10 **Canadian jurisdictions?**

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12 A. The reliability of Newfoundland Power’s electrical system principally reflects the general  
13 condition of its distribution and transmission systems. Approximately 97% of the  
14 Company’s distribution system and over 99% of the Company’s transmission system is  
15 overhead construction. These systems are exposed to a variety of weather conditions,  
16 including ice accumulation, wind loading and temperature variations.

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18 The primary engineering standard used to construct and maintain the Company’s  
19 distribution and transmission systems is the Canadian Standards Association (“CSA”)  
20 standard *C22.3 No.1-15, Overhead Systems* (the “Standard”). In prescribing minimum  
21 construction requirements for a jurisdiction, the Standard accounts for geographic  
22 variations in weather.<sup>1</sup> Due to the harsh weather conditions experienced in  
23 Newfoundland Power’s service territory, the Standard requires the Company to construct  
24 and maintain its systems to among the highest standards in Canada.<sup>2</sup> As stated in  
25 response to PUB-NP-019, this contributes to Newfoundland Power’s reliability  
26 performance relative to its Canadian peers.<sup>3</sup>

27  
28 Newfoundland Power assumes that other utilities construct and maintain their systems  
29 according to the relevant requirements within their jurisdiction.

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<sup>1</sup> The Standard recognizes 4 classifications of weather load conditions for ice accumulation, wind loading, and temperature. These are: (i) medium loading B; (ii) medium loading A; (iii) heavy; and (iv) severe.

<sup>2</sup> Newfoundland Power’s service territory has heavy and severe loading classifications. Only 2 other provinces throughout Canada are identified as having severe weather loading areas. These are: (i) parts of northern and southern Manitoba; and (ii) rural parts of eastern Quebec, including the Gaspé Peninsula.

<sup>3</sup> More information on Newfoundland Power’s reliability performance relative to other Canadian utilities is provided in response to Request for Information CA-NP-023.