

1 **Q. (Reference Application) On April 21, 2023, NL Hydro filed with the Board a**  
 2 **report entitled "Wood Pole Line Management Program – Progress Report".**  
 3 **The report concludes (page 12)**

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 5 ***"Hydro's WPLM Program is achieving the goals of increasing reliability,***  
 6 ***extending asset life, reducing Hydro's environmental footprint and reducing***  
 7 ***total cost of ownership. Hydro is projecting an average life extension of its***  
 8 ***transmission wood pole plant of at least 17 years beyond the benchmark***  
 9 ***Iowa-50 survival curve. Hydro's WPLM Program is well aligned with best***  
 10 ***practices used in the industry. Hydro's assessment demonstrates that the***  
 11 ***cost of the WPLM Program is well justified by cost avoidance savings through***  
 12 ***reduced in-service failures and reduced unplanned repair costs, as well as***  
 13 ***reliability improvements and life extension of existing pole plant assets. In***  
 14 ***addition, the program has been effective in preventing the premature***  
 15 ***retirement of viable components which still have continued life expectancy."***

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 17 **On June 28, 2023 NP filed with the Board comments on NL Hydro's report. NP**  
 18 **states that it has "initiated discussions with Hydro and has further meetings**  
 19 **planned with Hydro's technical and engineering staff to better understand the**  
 20 **potential benefits of a chemical re-treatment program for Newfoundland**  
 21 **Power's transmission line wood poles." NP goes on to identify examples of**  
 22 **the types of information it will be seeking from Hydro and states:**

23  
 24 ***"Newfoundland Power is currently undertaking a review of its asset***  
 25 ***management practices to ensure its practices continue to be adequate, given***  
 26 ***the age of its electrical system, and remain consistent with industry best***  
 27 ***practice. This review will include an assessment of the Company's***  
 28 ***transmission line asset management practices including its capital***  
 29 ***investment and maintenance programs. The potential implementation of a***  
 30 ***wood pole chemical re-treatment program for the Company's transmission***  
 31 ***assets would be considered in the full context of the lifecycle management of***  
 32 ***the Company's transmission assets. The review will also ensure any changes***  
 33 ***to the Company's transmission line asset management practices are***  
 34 ***consistent with utility best practice."***

- 35  
 36 **a) Is NP in favour of implementing a wood pole line management program**  
 37 **similar to that of Hydro following completion of its asset management**  
 38 **review?**  
 39 **b) Please identify NP capital and maintenance projects/programs that might**  
 40 **be impacted by the introduction of a wood pole line management program**  
 41 **similar to Hydro's.**

42  
 43 **A. a) Newfoundland Power already has an established maintenance program for its**  
 44 **transmission lines similar to Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro's *Wood Pole Line***  
 45 ***Management* program.**

46  
 47 **Transmission lines are inspected and maintained as a part of the Company's**  
 48 ***Transmission Line Maintenance* program. This program, as outlined in *Schedule B* of**

1           the Company's *2025 Capital Budget Application* addresses the remediation and  
2           replacement of transmission line infrastructure that has failed or is at risk of failure.  
3           In addition, the Company has introduced a *Wood Pole Retreatment* project as part of  
4           its *2025 Capital Budget Application*. Wood pole retreatment is also a component of  
5           Hydro's *Wood Pole Line Management* Program.  
6

7           b) See part a).