

Requests for Information

Q. Please provide the numbers of skilled workmen by type and duties, for each of the last 5 years, for transmission line work, substation work, and distribution work.

A. Newfoundland Power does not track skilled employees by transmission, substation and distribution work as this question indicates.

Table 1 shows the number of skilled workers by occupation from 2009 to 2013.

Table 1
Skilled Workers by Occupation
2009 to 2013

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Powerline Technician	148	148	154	149	153
Technologist	88	87	88	91	92
Industrial Electrician	25	27	25	26	25
Industrial Millwright	14	14	14	14	13
Engineer	36	35	37	37	36
Planner ¹	15	15	14	11	10
Total	326	326	332	328	329

Many of the 326 to 332 employees indicated in Table 1 complete duties across multiple parts of Newfoundland Power's electrical system. Powerline Technicians and Technologists typically have duties related to the entire electrical network (i.e., transmission, substations and distribution assets). Industrial Electricians' and Industrial Millwrights' duties typically are related to generation and substations. Planners' duties typically relate to transmission, distribution and generation assets. Engineers' duties relate to all electrical system asset classes but may include areas of specialization such as substation equipment or protection and control.

¹ Over the past few years, Newfoundland Power has deployed mobile computing in all of its line trucks, implemented a computerized operations dispatch system, and expanded its use of geographic information systems for its vehicles and electrical system assets. This has improved the overall efficiency of both (i) the Company's response capabilities, and (ii) overall efficiency in capital and operating maintenance activities. During this period, the number of Planners, who are typically Powerline Technicians by training, decreased. This reflects a reallocation of some work formerly done by Planners to the Company's General Forepersons who formerly were responsible for dispatch of line crews. General Forepersons are typically Powerline Technicians or Technologists by training. This reallocation of duties was undertaken to improve the efficiency of Company maintenance.

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- 1 Newfoundland Power's skilled workers have occasionally performed work on
2 Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro assets.²

² For example, on February 14, 2014, Hydro requested Newfoundland Power assistance to make emergency repairs to a substation in Wabush, Labrador. On February 15, 2014, Newfoundland Power responded by sending 6 Powerline Technicians, 1 Foreperson and 1 Supervisor to the Wabush substation. The Newfoundland Power skilled workers used hotline methods to repair the energized high voltage bus avoiding an outage to the customers supplied from the substation in very cold weather.