

1 **Q. The response to PUB-NP-062 states 10 transmission lines were not inspected in 2012**
2 **and 8 were not inspected in 2013. Please explain the justifications for not timely**
3 **inspecting these lines.**

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5 A. Please refer to the response to Request for Information PUB-NP-062 (1st Revision) which
6 contains revised information on backlogged transmission jobs in 2012 and 2013.

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8 Newfoundland Power's transmission line inspections are completed by transmission &
9 distribution planners. Throughout 2012 and 2013, 4 planners retired. Replacements
10 required training and this reduced productivity. In addition to reduced planner
11 productivity there were other considerations such as Tropical Storm Leslie which
12 impacted inspection work in the 2012-2013 timeframe.

13
14 Newfoundland Power replaces deteriorated and damaged equipment on a priority basis.
15 So, if it becomes apparent that all transmission line ground inspections will not be
16 completed in a year, inspections are prioritized to ensure that high priority work is
17 addressed. In some situations helicopter patrols are undertaken to identify high priority
18 deficiencies that could result in outages in the immediate future. Recently rebuilt
19 transmission lines or lines that are looped are typically considered a lower priority as they
20 present a lower risk for unplanned outages. A final option is to defer inspections to early
21 in the following year.

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23 The response to Request for Information PUB-NP-062 (1st Revision) indicates 8
24 transmission lines were not inspected in 2012.

25
26 Looped transmission lines comprised 6 of the 8 transmission lines which were not
27 inspected in 2012. Inspections were completed on 4 of these lines in January 2013. The
28 other 2 looped lines were partially completed in late-2012 with the assistance of a
29 helicopter patrol. Transmission line 104L connecting the Roycefield Mine to the Island
30 Interconnected System was not inspected in 2012 as the mine was not in operation. The
31 ground inspection of the remaining line, 116L from Hare Bay substation to Wesleyville
32 substation, was 40% completed in 2012. This line was considered a lower risk as the
33 Wesleyville Gas Turbine was available if emergency repairs were necessary.

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35 The response to Request for Information PUB-NP-062 (1st Revision) indicates 7
36 transmission lines were not fully inspected in 2013.

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38 Helicopter patrols were completed on 4 of the transmission lines which were not fully
39 inspected in 2012. Between 12% and 50% of these lines received follow up ground
40 inspection in 2013. One transmission line inspection schedule for 2013 was deferred to
41 January 2014. The remaining 2 ground inspections that were not completed in 2013 were
42 for transmission lines that are less than 5 years old. Both of these lines had helicopter

1 patrols that did not identify any deficiencies that required follow up with a ground
2 inspection.
3
4 All transmission lines which were not given a full ground inspection in 2012 and 2013 (i)
5 received partial or complete helicopter inspection during the year; (ii) were inspected
6 early in the succeeding year; and/or (iii) presented relatively low risk of customer impact.