

1 Q. **2026 Capital Budget Application, Project 6, Relocate Section of Line – TL220.**

2 a) For figure 3 on page 3, provide a map detailing the original route of TL220 and the
3 proposed relocated route.

4 b) Please confirm that Hydro is planning to rebuild a complete section of transmission line
5 TL220 whereby 23 of the 109 poles are currently deteriorated and would require
6 imminent replacement and 17 additional poles are expected to require replacement
7 within the Wood Pole Line Management program by 2030.

8 c) Please explain how replacement of the remaining 69 poles ($109 - 23 - 17 = 69$) is
9 consistent with Hydro's Wood Pole Line Management initiative.

10 d) If Hydro was not considering relocation of the section of transmission line TL220, would
11 it plan to replace only the 23 poles that are currently deteriorated and require imminent
12 replacement?

13 e) Please provide a history of wood pole retreatment that has been applied to the line
14 TL220. In Hydro's view, has the pole retreatment been effective in extending the life of
15 transmission line TL220?

16
17
18 A. a) Figure 1 shows the original TL220 route and the proposed relocation.

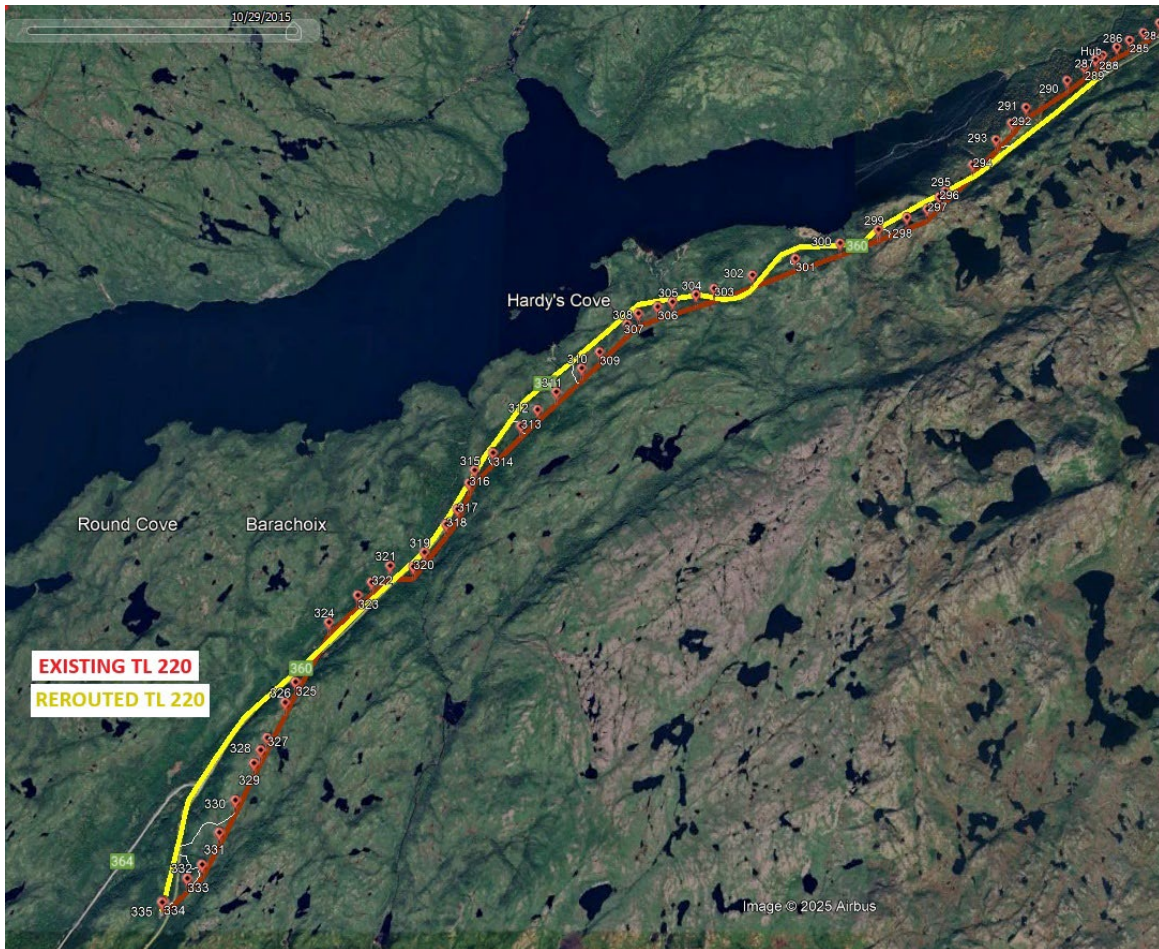


Figure 1: TL220 Route and Relocation

b) Yes, this is confirmed.

c) Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro's ("Hydro") Wood Pole Line Management ("WPLM") Program is a condition-based asset management program that follows reliability-centered maintenance principles to manage transmission line assets in such a manner as to balance reliability and costs. Due to difficult access conditions and generation requirements to replace the existing poles identified as deteriorated on TL220, the least-cost evaluation recommended proceeding with the proposed alternative to reroute a section of this line instead of refurbishing the existing under the typical replacement program. Once the relocation project has been completed, it will be monitored and maintained under the current program, and any preventive/corrective maintenance will be completed under the WPLM Program.

1 **d)** If Hydro was not considering the relocation of a section of TL220, Hydro would continue to
2 maintain the line under its Wood Pole Line Management Program; however, as rerouting a
3 section of TL220 was identified as the least-cost alternative, replacement solely of the 23
4 poles which are currently deteriorated would result in a higher cost to rate payers and
5 would not be consistent with Hydro's mandate to provide reliable service at the lowest
6 possible cost.

7 **e)** Wood pole retreatment applied to TL220 includes treatment with boron rods in 2009 and
8 2017. In Hydro's experience, the initiatives and protocols established under the WPLM
9 Program, including the application of pole treatment, have been successful in extending the
10 life of all transmission lines, including TL220.

11 It should be noted that the majority of poles within Hydro's system were installed well
12 before the implementation of the WPLM Program, including TL220. As such, any treatment
13 applied to the poles in question would have been done at a later stage in their lifecycle and
14 not from their original installation, reducing the effectiveness of the treatment.