Q. (Reference 2.1 2026 Substation Refurbishment and Modernization, Appendix A) On pages 1 to 3 it is indicated that the 66 kV and 12.5 kV wooden pole structures were installed in 1981 and 1990, respectively. They will be replaced with galvanized steel structures. Please provide a cost comparison of wooden versus galvanized steel structures. What is the probability that the steel structures will become stranded?

A. The estimated cost for the proposed steel structures is $440,000. The estimated cost to install wooden pole structures is $312,000.

Galvanized steel structures provide several advantages over wood structures. They offer a longer service life and greater physical stability compared to wood structures which can move and twist over time. This makes steel better suited for mounting high-voltage switches as proper alignment is maintained, reducing the need for maintenance, repair, or replacement of the switches. Unlike wood, steel structures do not require guying, which decreases the overall substation footprint compared to designs utilizing guyed wooden structures. For these reasons, Newfoundland Power installs galvanized steel when replacing bus structures.

Greenspond Substation is required in the Company's long-term plans to serve existing customers. There are no network reconfigurations contemplated in the long-term plan that would eliminate the site. In addition, the steel structures are designed to engineering standards and fabricated in modular sections to allow for efficient disassembly and reassembly at another location if required. The probability of these steel structures becoming stranded at Greenspond Substation is considered low.