Q. Reference: "2026 Capital Budget Application," Newfoundland Power Inc., June 27, 2025, Supporting Materials, Substations: 2.1, Appendix A, p. 3.

> **The 12.5 kV switches are 44 years old and have deteriorated from exposure to environmental factors and mechanical wear. This deterioration increases the risk of operational failure, necessitating their replacement.**

What is the nature of the deterioration noted on the high voltage switches at the Greenspond Substation, and how does this deterioration impact the switch operability and reliability?

A. Corrosion of metallic components and mechanical linkages have been observed on the high voltage switches at Greenspond Substation. These conditions result from long-term exposure to weather and contamination.

This deterioration impacts the switch operability and reliability by increasing the potential for misalignment, binding, or incomplete opening/closing during operation. It also affects reliability, as degraded contact surfaces and corroded components can lead to increased electrical resistance, overheating, or failure to open as designed. Collectively, these issues increase the risk of operational failure, which could compromise system reliability and safety.