Q. Reference: "2026 Capital Budget Application," Newfoundland Power Inc., June 27, 2025, Supporting Materials, Transmission: 3.1, p. 4.

> **A total of 122 of 148, or 82% of H-Frame structures have deteriorated poles, with the majority of these structures having both poles deteriorated. In total, there are 251 poles that require replacement. The deteriorated condition of these poles is to be expected given they have exceeded the typical useful service life of a transmission line wood pole.**

What methodology has Newfoundland Power used to determine 82% of H-Frame structures have deteriorated poles? Where the determination was based on visual inspection, was further testing and engineering analysis completed to confirm?

A. Newfoundland Power inspects its transmission lines in accordance with its *Transmission Inspection and Maintenance Practices.* In following these practices, the condition of a pole can be assessed using visual inspections or mechanical testing. Visual inspections identify types of poles deterioration or defects such as pole top rot, external decay, and large splits and checks. If required, mechanical testing, such as a sounding test, can be used during inspections to help determine the presence of internal decay in a pole.[1]

Newfoundland Power does not complete additional evaluations of their poles to confirm the results of these inspections.

[1] Sounding tests use a flat faced hammer to strike a pole at regular intervals while listening for changes in the sound produced. If the sound does differ, for example giving a hollow sound, this could indicate internal decay is present.