

1 **Q. In reference to the evidence of Earl Ludlow, page 31, Transformers, please advise if**
2 **a concentrated program of inspections, maintenance and upgrading, and**
3 **replacement has ended - If not, when this program will be concluded.**
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5 A. In 1997, Newfoundland Power embarked on an initiative to address a number of
6 reliability, safety and environmental concerns related to distribution transformers. This
7 initiative was completed in 2001, and is the program that Mr. Ludlow refers to on Page
8 31 of the *Operations & Customer Service Evidence*. By addressing these concerns
9 simultaneously, costs were minimized by avoiding repeat trips to transformers. The main
10 components of the program were:

- 11 1. The replacement of rusty transformers;
- 12 2. The replacement of transformers located in sensitive areas, such as schools and
- 13 playgrounds, which contained PCB levels exceeding recommended limits; and,
- 14 3. Upgrades to transformer grounding
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17 Two additional programs related to distribution transformers remain ongoing:

- 18 1. Installation of lightning arrestors as required; and,
- 19 2. The proactive replacement of remaining transformers that contain PCB levels
- 20 exceeding recommended limits. We anticipate completion of this effort by 2007.
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23 In addition, transformer inspections for detection of corrosion continue as part of the
24 scheduled distribution plant inspection program.