Distribution

Q. In the past five (5) years, has NP changed any of the testing or inspection procedures used to identify corroded conductors on transmission lines? If so, provide a commentary on whether the "significant increases" in the quantities of corroded conductors can be attributed to the change in testing and inspections.

A. Yes, during the past five years Newfoundland Power has introduced a conductor condition test whereby samples of conductor are sent to research laboratories for analysis. This testing helps the Company evaluate the condition of the conductor to determine whether it needs to be replaced.

However, the increase in the quantities of corroded conductors cannot be attributed to the introduction of the new testing procedure. The increase in the quantities of corroded conductor is a result of aging conductors operating in an extremely salt contaminated environment. At this point the laboratory testing of conductors has been focused on conductors where we have experienced problems. The tests have been conducted to verify if indeed corrosion was the cause of conductor failure. In future, the Company foresees using the conductor condition test as a proactive tool to determine the reliability of conductor prior to experiencing failure.