

1 **Q. In advance of the completion of the pole count survey, can Newfoundland Power**
2 **provide any information on the poles that will be purchased by Bell Aliant i.e.**
3 **location, number, condition, age, etc?**
4

5 **A. A. Background**
6

7 From an asset accounting perspective, Newfoundland Power has historically tended to
8 view distribution support structures in terms of a single interconnected asset rather than
9 hundreds of thousands of individual assets (i.e., poles, anchors and guys). From an
10 operational perspective, support structures tend to be viewed in terms of the distribution
11 power lines which actually deliver electricity to customers.
12

13 Over the history of Joint Use in Newfoundland Power's service territory, Joint Use
14 agreements (and 3rd party attachment agreements) have typically been concluded on the
15 basis of mutually acceptable estimates which were acknowledged to have an element of
16 imprecision in them.
17

18 Imprecision of the tracking of *specific* Joint Use Support Structures in the field does not
19 impair the accounting for these assets. The dollar value of investment in Support
20 Structures and the number of Support Structures installed in each year are documented in
21 the Company's accounting records on an annual basis.
22

23 Although there is an element of imprecision in estimates of Support Structures in the
24 field, Newfoundland Power does maintain a variety of detailed information on its Support
25 Structures.
26

27 **B. Detailed Pole Information**
28

29 The Joint Use Support Structures to be sold to Bell Aliant are all treated wooden
30 distribution poles.
31

32 As explained in the Response to Request for Information PUB-NP-8, the specific Joint
33 Use Support Structures to be transferred to Bell Aliant will reflect an equitable division
34 of all of Newfoundland Power's Joint Use Support Structures, considering the population
35 characteristics and average costs of Newfoundland Power's Joint Use Support Structures.
36

37 The detailed information in the following tables is derived from Newfoundland Power's
38 plant records and other historical Support Structure data. This information will be
39 confirmed and updated by the pole count survey, and will be used in determining the
40 specific Support Structures to be sold to Bell Aliant.

Table 1 shows the age profile of Newfoundland Power's Support Structures.

Table 1
Age Profile of Poles

Pole Age¹	Percentage
Less than 20 years	34%
20 to 30 years	22%
Greater than 30 years	44%

Table 2 shows the height profile of Newfoundland Power's Support Structures.

Table 2
Height Profile of Poles

Pole Height	Percentage
Less than 35 feet	26%
35 feet or greater	74%

Table 3 shows the percentage of Newfoundland Power's Support Structures which are mainline, service and overhead guy pole types.

Table 3
Type of Pole

Pole Type	Percentage
Mainline	81%
Service	15%
Overhead Guy	4%

¹ The average age of the Support Structures described in Table 1 is approximately 26 years.

Table 4 shows the percentage of Newfoundland Power's Support Structures which have anchors.

Table 4
Presence of Anchors

Pole Anchor	Percentage
With Anchor	55%
No Anchor	45%

Table 5 shows the percentage of Newfoundland Power's Support Structures which are located in front and rear lot locations.

Table 5
Lot Location

Location Relative to Street	Percentage
Front of Lot	94%
Rear of Lot	6%

Table 6 shows the approximate distribution of Support Structures throughout Newfoundland Power's eight operating areas. A map showing Newfoundland Power's operating areas is provided as Attachment A.

Table 6
Wooden Distribution Poles by Operating Area

Operating Area	Percentage
St. John's	26%
Avalon	21%
Burin	6%
Bonavista	11%
Gander	11%
Grand Falls	9%
Corner Brook	7%
Stephenville	8%

Table 7 provides details on all of Newfoundland Power's Support Structures in service as of December 31, 2010, estimated based on Newfoundland Power's plant records and historical data.

Table 7
Estimated Total Support Structures as of December 31, 2010

	Poles in Service					Anchors	3rd Party Attachments
	Mainline	Back Lot	Service	O/H Guy	Total Poles		
St. John's	50,058	10,618	11,236	2,996	74,908	41,200	41,435
Avalon	49,242	978	9,300	2,480	62,000	34,101	27,668
Burin	13,130	268	2,481	662	16,541	9,098	7,513
Bonavista	25,564	522	4,831	1,288	32,205	17,713	10,676
Gander	26,111	533	4,934	1,316	32,894	18,092	12,743
Grand Falls	20,368	416	3,849	1,026	25,659	14,112	10,030
Corner Brook	16,590	339	3,135	836	20,900	11,494	9,894
Stephenville	19,343	395	3,655	975	24,368	13,402	9,416
Totals	220,406	14,069	43,421	11,579	289,475	151,474	129,375

The pole count survey will confirm the quantities set out in Table 7. The pole count survey will also provide detailed information on the other relevant characteristics of individual poles that will be used to determine an equitable split of the Joint Use Support Structures from an operational and cost perspective as contemplated by the Purchase Agreement.

Table 8 provides a representative profile, by operating area, of the Joint Use Support Structures required to be sold to Bell Aliant to achieve an equitable split of Joint Use Support Structures from an operational perspective.²

Table 8
Estimate of Joint Use Support Structures to be Sold

	Poles in Service				Total Poles	Anchors	3rd Party Attachments
	Mainline	Back Lot	Service	O/H Guy			
St. John's	16,019	3,398	3,596	959	23,972	13,184	15,745
Avalon	15,758	313	2,976	794	19,841	10,912	10,514
Burin	4,202	86	794	212	5,294	2,911	2,855
Bonavista	8,181	167	1,546	412	10,306	5,668	4,057
Gander	8,356	171	1,579	421	10,527	5,789	4,842
Grand Falls	6,518	133	1,232	328	8,211	4,516	3,811
Corner Brook	5,309	108	1,003	268	6,688	3,678	3,760
Stephenville	6,190	126	1,170	312	7,798	4,289	3,578
Totals	70,533	4,502	13,896	3,706	92,637	50,947	49,162

² The values in Table 8 are estimated on the basis of the information contained in Table 7, the estimated Joint Use Rate of 80% as set out in the Purchase Agreement, and the proposed sale of 40% of the Joint Use Support Structures to Bell Aliant. The actual distribution of Joint Use Support Structures sold to Bell Aliant may vary.

**Map of Newfoundland Power's
Operating Areas**

