

1 Q. **Project C-136, Upgrade Transmission Line Access Trails:**

2 What measures has Hydro taken to ensure that ATVs and snowmobiles used for
3 operational maintenance on the access trails are operated in a competent and safe
4 manner?

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7 A. Safety is a top priority for Hydro, and access to transmission trails, as well as safe
8 activity while on the trails, has been one of the areas of focus of the company in
9 ensuring it keeps its employees safe. Accordingly, a wide range of activities have
10 been undertaken to enhance ATV and snowmobile safety, ranging from proper
11 protective equipment (PPE) reviews, to equipment pre-use checks through to
12 training.

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14 Specific measures taken by Hydro to ensure ATV and snowmobiles are operated in a
15 safe and competent manner are:

- 16 • Ensuring PPE and clothing is provided, and employees are aware of and
17 committed to their proper use;
- 18 • Ensuring proper equipment maintenance and pre-use checks are performed;
19 and
- 20 • Ensuring that proper training is conducted. Hydro requires employees
21 attend training sessions, delivered by a certified instructor from Canada
22 Safety Council, for both ATV and snowmobiles before operation of these
23 vehicles is permitted. The ATV and snowmobile training sessions are
24 completely independent of each other and run from six to seven hours each.
25 Curriculum for both programs is based on field techniques. Participants
26 learn about controls, reading terrain, turning and climbing hills. PPE,

1 clothing and pre-use inspections are also covered. Participants ride and
2 train on the machines they will be using in the field.

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4 Hydro maintains that all links in the safety chain must be in place to ensure its
5 employees finish work safely each day. If employees cannot safely traverse
6 trails due to trail condition, no amount of training, PPE or equipment will
7 suffice.