

April 11, 2017

The Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities  
Prince Charles Building  
120 Torbay Road, P.O. Box 21040  
St. John's, NL A1A 5B2

**Attention: Ms. Cheryl Blundon**  
**Director Corporate Services & Board Secretary**

Dear Ms. Blundon:

**Re: Investigation and Hearing into Supply Issues and Power Outages on the Island  
Interconnected System - Transmission System and Terminal Station Asset  
Management Execution Report**

Further to the Board's correspondence dated October 13, 2017, attached please find Hydro's annual report on transmission system and terminal station asset management including the status of completion of activities in relation to the 2016 annual plan and information relating to Hydro's 2017 planned activities.

We trust the foregoing is satisfactory. If you have any questions or comments, please contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

**NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR HYDRO**



Tracey L. Pennell  
Senior Counsel, Regulatory

TLP/bs

cc: Gerard Hayes – Newfoundland Power  
Paul Coxworthy – Stewart McKelvey Stirling Scales  
Roberta Frampton Benefiel – Grand Riverkeeper Labrador  
ecc: Denis Fleming- Vale Newfoundland & Labrador Limited

Dennis Browne, Q.C. – Consumer Advocate  
Danny Dumaresque

Larry Bartlett – Teck Resources Ltd.



**Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro's  
Transmission System and Terminal Station Asset Management Execution Report**

**April 11, 2017**

***A Report to the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities***



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1 **1.0 Introduction**

2 On October 13, 2016, the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities (the Board) requested  
3 Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro (Hydro) provide an annual report on Hydro’s transmission  
4 system and terminal station asset management execution, including the status of completion of  
5 activities in relation to the annual plan and information relating to the following year’s planned  
6 activities.

7  
8 Transmission and terminal station assets provide the means by which generated electricity can  
9 be delivered directly to high voltage customers and to the distribution system, which then  
10 delivers to the attached customers. Hydro maintains equipment for 3,510 km of transmission  
11 lines and 57 terminal stations for the Island Interconnected System. This infrastructure is  
12 composed of numerous types and quantities of assets. Through the application of asset  
13 management activities during the lifecycle of these assets, Hydro works to provide reliable  
14 electricity delivery at the least cost. Within these activities, Hydro:

- 15 • Installs new assets;
- 16 • Refurbishes existing infrastructure and equipment to meet expected operating  
17 conditions;
- 18 • Executes maintenance activities to maintain reliable operations; and
- 19 • Conducts asset assessments to provide appropriately timed refurbishment and  
20 replacement activities of infrastructure and equipment.

21 These activities are conducted within an Asset Management System by Long Term Asset  
22 Planning, Short Term Planning and Scheduling, and Operations and Work Execution personnel.

23

24 This report will provide information on:

- 25 • Hydro’s Asset Management Life Cycle Model;
- 26 • Roles and activities of the Long Term Asset Planning, Short Term Planning and  
27 Scheduling, and Work Execution (and Operations ) personnel;

- 1 • Background on Transmission and Terminal Station equipment function and asset
- 2 management practices;
- 3 • Background on Capital Related Interactions;
- 4 • Completion status of 2016 Annual Work Plan Maintenance activities and Capital
- 5 Transmission and Terminal Station projects ; and
- 6 • Information on planned 2017 Annual Work Plan Maintenance activities and Capital
- 7 Transmission and Terminal Station projects.

8

## 9 **2.0 Life Cycle of Hydro Asset**

10 At Hydro, new assets are brought into the system through reviews of load growth and new  
11 customer requests, configuration changes for improved reliability, and asset refurbishment, or  
12 renewal based upon condition and/or reduced reliability. The assets are maintained until  
13 condition assessments or asset management practices deem that they are no longer fit for  
14 service, or that the assets are no longer of use for Hydro's electrical system. Assets are disposed  
15 as per Hydro's established practices.

16

## 17 **3.0 Roles of Asset Management Personnel**

### 18 **3.1 Long Term Asset Planning**

19 Long Term Asset Planning (LTAP) personnel focus on an asset over its entire life cycle to achieve  
20 reliable, least cost service, and to implement replacement or refurbishment of the asset in a  
21 manner which optimizes its service life while avoiding unacceptable failures. To accomplish this  
22 objective, LTAP works with Hydro's Engineering Services to establish standards and practices for  
23 equipment and infrastructure installations to meet operating conditions and provide reliable  
24 service, as well as to review the commissioning results of newly installed equipment. LTAP  
25 personnel develop, monitor, and improve maintenance programs and procedures. They  
26 implement and monitor condition assessment techniques and incorporate results into asset  
27 maintenance regimes or the timing of capital plans for replacement or refurbishment. LTAP

1 personnel also incorporate failure analysis corrective actions into the above activities to  
2 improve asset reliability. LTAP is also responsible for establishing and monitoring spare  
3 equipment requirements.

4  
5 To begin an asset's life cycle, LTAP will ensure assets are entered and configured correctly  
6 inside of the computerized maintenance management system, ensure the correct Preventive  
7 Maintenance cycle is communicated to Short Term Planning and Scheduling (STPS) personnel,  
8 and ensure the correct check sheet for the maintenance is used. If required, LTAP personnel will  
9 update the maintenance manual to reflect any new maintenance tactics that may be required.

10

### 11 **3.2 Short Term Planning and Scheduling**

12 Based upon the maintenance procedures and frequencies determined by LTAP personnel, STPS  
13 personnel develop the annual work plan to execute the asset maintenance activities and  
14 schedule execution of the planned and required corrective maintenance work. STPS undertake  
15 the detailed efforts required to schedule and execute this work by determining the human  
16 resources, tools, procedures and equipment that are required and subsequently requisition  
17 materials, tools and equipment necessary.

18

### 19 **3.3 Operations and Work Execution**

20 Operations Management (Operations) review submitted corrective maintenance work orders to  
21 determine the priority of the work. When approved by Operations, Short Term Planning and  
22 Scheduling will plan and schedule the work order, as appropriate.

23

24 Work Execution personnel focus on the execution of work orders from STSP weekly scheduling  
25 activities. Work Execution assigns human, tool, and equipment resources to have the work  
26 completed and is responsible for ensuring the work is completed properly. The work order is  
27 updated with information on activities performed and any completed check sheets are

1 attached. This information is incorporated into the Asset Management System and used by  
2 LTAP and SPTS to improve maintenance practices and to assess the condition of assets.

3

#### 4 **4.0 Capital Related Interactions**

5 System Planning identifies new infrastructure required due to load growth, new major  
6 customer requests, and electrical system reliability improvements. LTAP personnel identify  
7 asset renewal or refurbishment based upon asset condition assessments, asset management  
8 practices, and/or reduced reliable operation. Condition assessment is normally determined by a  
9 review of completed Preventive Maintenance (PM) and Corrective Maintenance (CM) work  
10 orders as well as formal condition assessments, original equipment manufacturer  
11 recommendations, and other asset-specific criteria or legislative criteria.<sup>1</sup> Once capital work is  
12 identified, it is placed in the long term plan in the appropriate year for refurbishment or  
13 replacement. LTAP monitors the asset condition and adjusts execution timing, as required.

14

15 For each annual Capital Budget Application submitted for Board approval, the long term plan  
16 preliminary scope statements, justifications, and estimates prepared have detailed  
17 justifications, detailed scopes and estimates developed. Each project is reviewed by various  
18 groups within Hydro, including Engineering Services, Asset Owners, LTAP, Regulatory Affairs,  
19 and Finance.

20

21 Once the Capital Budget is approved, Project Execution teams, as part of Hydro's Engineering  
22 ServicesGroup, are assigned to execute the projects. The teams ensure appropriate design  
23 standards are followed, all necessary equipment is procured within the right specifications,  
24 equipment and infrastructure is properly installed, commissioning and energization plans are  
25 developed, spare parts are identified for new assets, as built drawings are completed, and  
26 Operation and Maintenance manuals are made available to LTAP, STPS and Work Execution.

---

<sup>1</sup> An example would include PCB Management.



1 Once the assets from the project are commissioned and placed into service, the assets are  
2 transitioned to regional staff for operation and maintenance.

3

## 4 **5.0 Terminal Stations Asset Management**

5 Hydro maintains assets in 57 terminal stations, with some having assets dating back to the late  
6 1960's. These stations contain electrical equipment, such as transformers, circuit breakers,  
7 instrument transformers, disconnect switches, arresters, and associated protection and control  
8 relays and equipment required to protect, control, and operate Hydro's electrical system.

9

10 Terminal stations play a critical role in the transmission and distribution of electricity. Stations  
11 act as transition points within the transmission system, and interface points with the lower  
12 voltage distribution and generation systems.

13

14 The following sections provide a summary of the maintenance, refurbishment and replacement  
15 criteria Hydro uses for Terminal Station assets. Appendix A, *Terminal Station Asset*  
16 *Management Overview*, which was included in the *Terminal Station Refurbishment and*  
17 *Modernization* project in Hydro's 2017 Capital Budget Application, provides additional terminal  
18 station asset management information. Appendix B provides additional information on the  
19 maintenance program for various major asset classes for terminal stations.

20

### 21 **5.1 Power Transformers and Oil Field Shunt Reactors**

22 Power transformers are critical components of the power system. Transformers allow the cost  
23 effective production, transmission, and distribution of electricity by converting the electricity to  
24 an appropriate voltage for each segment of the electrical system to allow economic  
25 construction and operation of the electrical system. Hydro has 111 power transformers which  
26 are 46 kV and above, as well as several station service transformers at voltages lower than 46  
27 kV.

1 Electrical insulation aging is directly related to transformer operating temperatures, and  
2 therefore it is critical that transformers operate as cool as possible. Higher operating  
3 temperatures affect the characteristics of the oil, which in turn lowers the strength of the  
4 insulation within the transformer. As a result, critical cooling is checked regularly. Additionally,  
5 it is important for the transformer oil to be tested to ensure acceptable oil quality, strength of  
6 insulation, and acceptable levels of dissolved gases. Doble Tests<sup>2</sup> are performed to measure the  
7 overall insulation of the transformer, as well as the bushings, and helps provide an overall  
8 condition of the unit. A winding resistance test is used to determine if there are any loose  
9 connections or shorted turns inside the transformer. Other important tests are also completed  
10 for the transformer protective devices such as gas relay, winding, and oil temperature relays. In  
11 the event of a low level problem within the transformer, these devices provide a warning alarm.  
12 For more severe conditions, these protective devices can cause breakers to trip, which will  
13 remove the unit from service.

14

15 Hydro's current replacement criterion for 46 kV and above power transformers is based upon  
16 one of the following:

- 17 1. Degree of polymerization (DP) less than 400 for network transformers and less than 500  
18 for generator step up transformers (in Asset Criticality A);
- 19 2. Uncontrollable gassing, which is an indication of an internal fault;
- 20 3. Forecasted replacement based upon DP value and rate of change of DP; or
- 21 4. Economic evaluation for refurbishment versus replacement of a transformer 3-5 years  
22 prior to the unit reaching 55 years of age.

23

24 Due to having an aging transformer fleet in a maritime environment, Hydro has developed an  
25 ongoing refurbishment program to cover bushing replacements, radiator replacements, oil  
26 refurbishment, moisture reduction, on load tap changer overhaul and leak repair, transformer

---

<sup>2</sup> Doble Tests are high voltage insulation tests that examine the overall integrity of high voltage equipment through power factor and capacitance measurements.

1 leak repair, protective device replacement, transformer painting, and installation of on-line  
2 Dissolved Gas Analysis monitors.

3

## 4 **5.2 Circuit Breakers**

5 Circuit breakers operate to complete, maintain, or interrupt current flow under normal or fault  
6 conditions. The failure of a breaker to operate properly may affect reliability and safety of the  
7 electrical system, resulting in failure of other equipment and electrical outages to customers.

8 Hydro has 184 terminal station circuit breakers in service, 69 kV and greater, on the Island  
9 Interconnected System. Hydro has three types of circuit breakers utilized throughout the  
10 system. They are Sulphur Hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>), air blast, and oil filled circuit breakers.

11

12 To ensure reliable operation, breaker operating mechanisms are inspected, lubricated, and  
13 tested to ensure low contact resistance and contact opening and closing timing is within  
14 manufacturer's guidelines.

15

16 SF<sub>6</sub> circuit breakers, 138 kV and 230 kV, are planned for overhaul at 20 years and replacement  
17 at 40 years. SF<sub>6</sub> breakers from 69 to 230 kV are replaced after 40 years or sooner if their  
18 condition dictates. Oil circuit breakers are not overhauled and all are planned for replacement  
19 by 2025 due to the bushings being suspected of containing PCBs greater than 50 parts per  
20 million (ppm). There is also a Federal Government environmental mandate to remove such  
21 bushings by 2025. Air blast circuit breakers are no longer overhauled due to execution of a  
22 project to have all air blast circuit breakers replaced by the end of 2020.

23

## 24 **5.3 Instrument Transformers**

25 Instrument transformers convert high voltage and high current into low voltages and currents  
26 for use in protection, control, and metering equipment.

1 The majority of Hydro's high voltage instrument transformers are filled with oil for electrical  
2 insulation purposes. If the oil leaks from the device, it could fail. Therefore, visual inspections  
3 are required to find oil leaks and Doble Testing is also used to confirm the high voltage  
4 insulation integrity of the unit.

5  
6 It is also common that junction boxes experience corrosion. The older designed junction boxes  
7 were constructed of mild steel and contain secondary wiring and terminal blocks connected to  
8 protection, control, and metering equipment. Severe rusting of these junction boxes could  
9 result in water leaking into the junction box, causing corrosion of electrical terminals and  
10 affecting the reliability of the protection circuits. Transformers with severely corroded junction  
11 boxes are replaced. Replacement units use either aluminum or stainless steel junction boxes.

12  
13 Instrument transformers are currently replaced for any of the following reasons:

- 14 1. Severe rusting;
- 15 2. Oil leaks;
- 16 3. Doble Testing indicate failing electrical insulation;
- 17 4. Unit is suspect to contain PCBs greater than 50 parts per million (ppm);
- 18 5. Current transformer is a 230 kV Asea IMBA.<sup>3 4</sup>

#### 20 **5.4 Surge Arrestors**

21 Surge arrestors provide overvoltage protection for equipment resulting from lightning strikes or  
22 switching surges. Arrestor failure is likely to result in a fault. To ensure the devices are reliable,

---

<sup>3</sup> IMBA is a model of current transformer manufactured by Asea AB.

<sup>4</sup> The failure of a 230 kV, IMBA type current transformer (CT) at the Holyrood Terminal Station in 2010 prompted the engagement of a consultant to provide a CT tear down investigation. One recommendation from the consultant's report was to remove all 230 kV IMBA type CTs within Hydro's system in a planned approach. Following the consultant's recommendation, all IMBA type CTs were identified and included in the instrument transformer replacement program (<http://www.pub.nf.ca/applications/nlh2013capital/files/application/NLH2013Application-Volumell-Report14.pdf>).

1 arrestors are visually inspected for contamination or cracking of the insulator. Arrestors also  
2 undergo Doble Testing to confirm overall condition.

3

4 Arresters are replaced if:

- 5 • Doble Testing has indicated a failed unit;
- 6 • Visual inspection identifies severe contamination or insulator cracking;
- 7 • Arrester type is prone to failure;
- 8 • A transformer is being replaced (consideration will be given to installing arrester  
9 replacement).

10

## 11 **5.5 Disconnect Switches**

12 Disconnect switches are used as isolating devices to enable other equipment to be removed  
13 from service and restored to service safely. It is critical when a switch is required to open or  
14 close that all electrical contacts open or close properly. When high voltage disconnect contacts  
15 do not close properly a high resistance connection can occur resulting in overheating of the  
16 contacts. This heating could melt the contacts and damage the switch resulting in breakers to  
17 operate and, depending on the terminal station configuration, cause a customer outage. To  
18 ensure disconnects function, both manually and electrically, visual inspection and infrared  
19 scans are performed. Switches are also lubricated and functionally tested.

20

21 Replacement of disconnects is primarily decided based upon its condition, identified operating  
22 problems, issues determined during maintenance, and requirement for excessive corrective  
23 maintenance. Secondary prioritization for the long term plan is based on equipment age.

24

## 25 **5.6 Protection and Control Relays**

26 The terminal station protection and control system automatically monitors, analyzes and causes  
27 action by other equipment in the terminal station to occur, such as opening of breakers, to  
28 ensure the safe, reliable operation of the electrical system, or to initiate operation of

1 equipment when a command is issued by system operators. The protection and control system  
2 also provide indications of system conditions and alarms, and allows the recording of system  
3 conditions for analysis.

4  
5 To ensure protective relays operate correctly, relays are tested and recalibrated. As well, during  
6 230 kV breaker PMs, breakers are operated from the protection to ensure the overall system is  
7 verified. After a protection operation on the system, engineering personnel review the  
8 occurrence to ensure protective relaying operated correctly. If there was a malfunction of the  
9 relaying, corrective actions are implemented.

10  
11 There are two types of relays used throughout Hydro's system, digital solid state (new and  
12 older vintage) and the older electromechanical design.

13  
14 Historically, protective relays were replaced based on performance, obsolescence, age, and the  
15 inability to provide the desired protection functionality and information required for fault  
16 analysis. Hydro has a protective relay replacement program for electromechanical and obsolete  
17 solid state relaying. Hydro plans to complete the 230 kV related replacement by 2026 and will  
18 develop the plan further to replace the 138 kV and 69 kV related relaying. As well, there are  
19 programs to upgrade alarm systems and breaker failure protection in major terminal stations.  
20 Starting in 2018, Hydro plans to start a program to replace deteriorating transformer tap  
21 changer paralleling controllers.

22  
23 The electromechanical and older digital solid state type relays lack features, such as data  
24 storage and event recording capability, so modern digital multifunction relays are used to  
25 replace these older style relays. The modern digital multifunctional relays have increased  
26 setting flexibility, fault disturbance monitoring, communications capability, metering  
27 functionality, and offer greater dependability and security, thus enhancing system reliability.

1 **5.7 Battery Banks and Chargers**

2 Battery banks and chargers provide direct current power supply to protection and control  
3 equipment, circuit breakers, and disconnect switches. Battery banks are visually inspected for  
4 leaks and contact corrosion, and are tested annually for contact conductance. Discharge testing  
5 is completed for battery banks during factory acceptance testing and is scheduled on critical A  
6 and B flooded cell banks after 10 years of service and then every 5 years thereafter.

7

8 Based upon experience, Hydro plans replacement of Flooded Cell battery banks after 20 years  
9 of service and Valve Regulated Lead Acid batteries after 10 years of service. Equipment  
10 condition and operating problems are also considered and equipment is replaced sooner, if  
11 required.

12

13 **5.8 Capacitor Banks**

14 Capacitor banks are required at various locations on the system to provide voltage control for  
15 different system conditions. These banks are typically made up of capacitor modules in series  
16 and parallel. Capacitor banks are visually inspected for insulating oil leaks or insulator cracking.  
17 Preventive maintenance, which is conducted on a six year cycle, will clean the capacitor bank  
18 and execute capacitance testing.

19

20 Hydro replaces capacitor banks based upon condition and will also consider replacement after  
21 the capacitor bank has been in service for 35 years.

22

23 **5.9 Air Systems**

24 Air systems consist of both compressors and air dryers. They are used mainly to supply dry air  
25 to air blast circuit breakers. For air blast circuit breakers to operate correctly, air must be  
26 available and the air must be dry. Maintenance for compressors and dryers ranges from  
27 monthly visual inspections and cleaning to annual performance and function testing. Overhauls  
28 are undertaken as warranted by equipment condition.

1 With the existing condition of the air systems and an on-going program to replace air blast  
2 circuit breakers by 2020, Hydro is not planning to replace air dryers or compressors needed for  
3 those breakers.

4

5 Some SF<sub>6</sub> and Oil Filled Circuit Breakers use compressed air in the operating mechanism. Any  
6 remaining compressors used for those breakers will be assessed for replacement.

7

### 8 **5.10 Grounding**

9 The grounding system in a terminal station or distribution substation consists of copper wire  
10 used in the ground grid under the station, gradient control mats for high voltage switches,  
11 bonding wiring connecting the structure and equipment metal components to the ground grid  
12 and a crush stone layer. In the event of a line-to-ground fault, electrical potential differences  
13 will exist in the grounding system. If the grounding system is inadequate or deteriorated, these  
14 differences may be hazardous to personnel. These potential differences are known as step and  
15 touch potentials. Effective station grounding reduces these potentials to eliminate the hazard.

16

17 Hydro will continue with its grounding upgrade program, in which disconnect gradient control  
18 mats have been replaced and grounding systems are upgraded in accordance with  
19 IEEE Standard 80 "*IEEE Guide for Safety in AC Substation Grounding*".

20

### 21 **5.11 Insulators**

22 Insulators provide electrical insulation between energized equipment and ground. When an  
23 insulator fails and a fault occurs, a safety hazard to personnel and customer outage may occur.  
24 Terminal stations contain solid core, cap and pin, multi-cone, and suspension type insulators.



1 For insulators using porcelain, cement is used in mating the porcelain and metal hardware.  
2 Some older insulators have failed by a phenomenon known as “cement growth”.<sup>5</sup> In such  
3 situations, pieces of falling porcelain are a hazard to personnel and equipment below the  
4 insulator. Also, when an insulator failure causes a fault customer outages may occur. Hydro  
5 replaces identified cement growth insulators in its capital program.

6

## 7 **5.12 Steel Structure and Foundations**

8 Reinforced concrete foundations support high voltage equipment, structures, and bus work.  
9 The majority of these foundations were installed during the original station construction and  
10 most are in excess of thirty-five years of age. Exposure to freeze/thaw cycles and other weather  
11 and age can cause deterioration and impact the foundations structural integrity. When routine  
12 visual inspections identify significant damage, refurbishment or replacement of the foundation  
13 is included in Hydro’s capital program.

14

15 As well, there is a refurbishment program scheduled to be completed in 2018, to address  
16 corrosion between aluminum structures and the concrete foundations at Holyrood Terminal  
17 Station, which could lead to structure failure.

18

## 19 **5.13 Control Buildings**

20 The control buildings house protection, control, and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition  
21 (SCADA) equipment, as well as battery banks and chargers. Control buildings are inspected for  
22 leaks, and general building and life safety condition during 120 day terminal station inspections.  
23 Hydro has an on-going program to address capital deficiencies.

---

<sup>5</sup> Cement growth is a phenomenon where cement grout expands due to moisture egress, which leads to radial cracks of porcelain suspension insulators.

1 **5.14 Asset Criticality and Spares**

2 Hydro has developed a terminal station asset criticality ranking based on the health of each  
3 piece of equipment, available alternatives (i.e., parallel transformers), environmental impact,  
4 customer impact, likelihood of breakdown, and cost of repairs, which is considered in  
5 prioritizing maintenance and capital work. Hydro uses similar factors for establishing rankings  
6 for power transformers, circuit breakers, battery banks and chargers, disconnect switches, and  
7 instrument transformers. In 2017, Hydro will start development of asset criticality rankings for  
8 protection and control assets.

9

10 Hydro reviews its spare terminal station equipment on a routine basis and takes action or  
11 establishes plans to achieve appropriate spares levels based on the outcome of those reviews.

12

13 **6.0 Transmission Line Asset Management**

14 On the island of Newfoundland, Hydro maintains approximately 1,280 km of lattice steel  
15 structure transmission lines operating at voltages of 138 and 230 kV. In addition, Hydro  
16 maintains approximately 2,230 km of wood pole transmission lines operating at voltages of 69,  
17 138 and 230 kV for a total combined line length of 3,510 km with a right of way area of 10,290  
18 hectares. Many of these assets date back to the mid to late 1960's.

19

20 Transmission lines are a set of conductors supported by structures that carry electrical power  
21 from generation plants to terminal stations and link terminal stations together, which allows for  
22 the distribution of electricity to customers. A transmission line consists of structures,  
23 conductors, insulators, grounding system, and right-of-ways.

24

25 The subcomponents of a steel structure are the legs, cross-members, and grillage foundations  
26 which are typically fabricated from structural steel angle. These subcomponents are hot-dip  
27 galvanized to ensure extended life. A typical lattice steel structure can last in excess of 70 years.

1 The subcomponents of a wood pole structure are the poles, cross-arms, and cross braces. These  
2 subcomponents are treated with preservatives to ensure extended life. A typical treated pole  
3 can last in excess of 60 years. Typically treated cross-arms and braces can last in excess of 30  
4 years. The summary of the maintenance, refurbishment, and replacement criteria Hydro uses  
5 for its transmission line assets follows.

6

### 7 **6.1 Wood Pole and Steel Structure Line Management Programs**

8 These management programs are the primary means by which Hydro maintains and refurbishes  
9 its transmission lines. These cyclical programs include structure-climbing inspections; wood  
10 pole Resistograph® readings, and shell thickness measurements; visual inspection of  
11 conductors, guying, and foundations; and they establish condition-based assessments to  
12 identify and prioritize capital and maintenance corrective activities so as to extend the line's life  
13 expectancy. The condition based data collected is also used to determine when a total line  
14 replacement is required. As component replacement quantities increase beyond the budgetary  
15 framework of the pertinent line management program, separate capital job applications are  
16 raised and placed into the long term plan as upgrade projects.

17

### 18 **6.2 Helicopter Patrols**

19 Helicopter patrols are carried out twice a year on transmission lines. This is a visual inspection  
20 of the transmission line from the air looking for visible defects and right-of-way deficiencies.  
21 Hydro video records all helicopter patrols, which allows for further assessment. All deficiencies  
22 are documented and scheduled for corrective work.

23

### 24 **6.3 Ground Patrols**

25 Ground patrols are generally carried out as part of the Wood Pole and Steel Structure Line  
26 Management Program. In high exposure areas, ground patrols are carried out on an annual  
27 basis. Patrols conduct visual inspection from the ground to identify, assess, and prioritize

1 deficiencies to a transmission line and its right-of-way. Identified deficiencies are documented  
2 and scheduled for corrective work.

3

#### 4 **6.4 Infrared Inspections**

5 Hydro's completes infrared scanning of connections on dead-end structures on all transmission  
6 lines. All deficiencies are documented and scheduled for corrective work. The next cycle of  
7 inspections are scheduled in 2017.

8

#### 9 **6.5 Wood Pole Treatment**

10 Preservative treatment is added to the poles to extend their service life through the wood pole  
11 line management program.

12

#### 13 **6.6 Right-of-Way Maintenance**

14 A transmission line runs along a corridor typically referred to as a "right-of-way". The width of  
15 the right-of-way depends on the voltage class of the transmission line or if several lines run  
16 through the same corridor. Uncontrolled vegetation growth may eventually lead to conductor  
17 contact leading to outages or being unable to travel the right-of-way due to thick brush. During  
18 transmission line inspections, tree height and vegetation growth are noted in addition to areas  
19 that need repairs as a result of washouts. The work to control vegetation is prioritized based on  
20 condition. Hydro utilizes a combination of cutting and spraying to control vegetation growth on  
21 its right of ways. Hydro cuts/sprays on average 10% of its right-of-ways per year with 60% being  
22 cut and 40% being treated.

23

#### 24 **6.7 Asset Criticality and Spares**

25 Hydro has developed a transmission line asset criticality ranking based on the health of each  
26 piece of equipment, available alternatives (i.e., radial lines), environmental impact, customer  
27 impact, likelihood of breakdown, and cost of repairs, which is considered in prioritizing

1 maintenance and capital work. Rankings have been established for all transmission lines using  
2 this approach.

3  
4 Hydro reviews its spare transmission materials on a routine basis. From those reviews it takes  
5 action or establishes plans to achieve appropriate spares levels.

6  
7 **7.0 Status of Planned 2016 Transmission and Terminal Station Activities**

8 The completion status of the Annual Work Plan (AWP) and Winter Readiness (WR) activities for  
9 transmission and terminal station facilities on the Island Interconnected System is summarized  
10 in the sections to follow.

11  
12 **7.1 Transmission**

13 As shown in Figures 1 and 2, Hydro completed 100% of its planned 2016 transmission AWP and  
14 winter readiness (WR) activities.

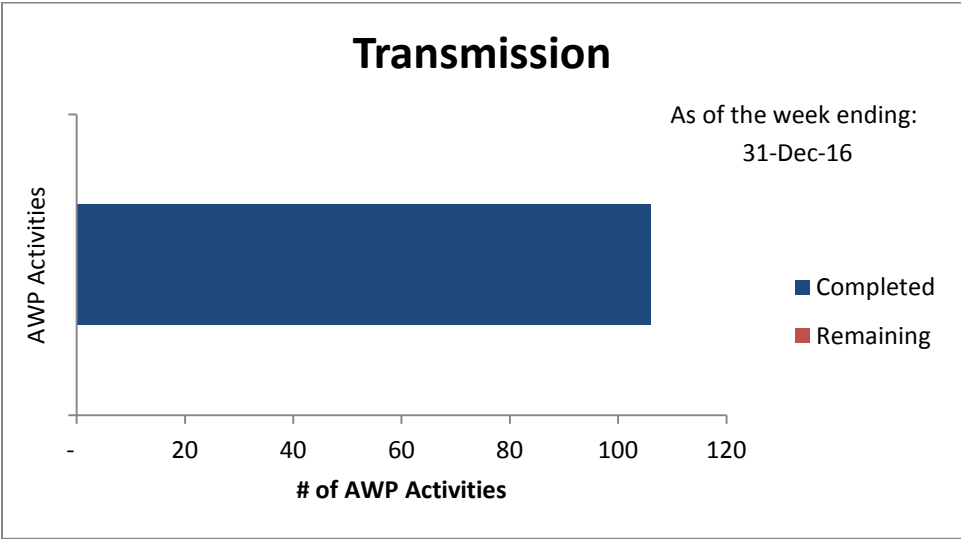
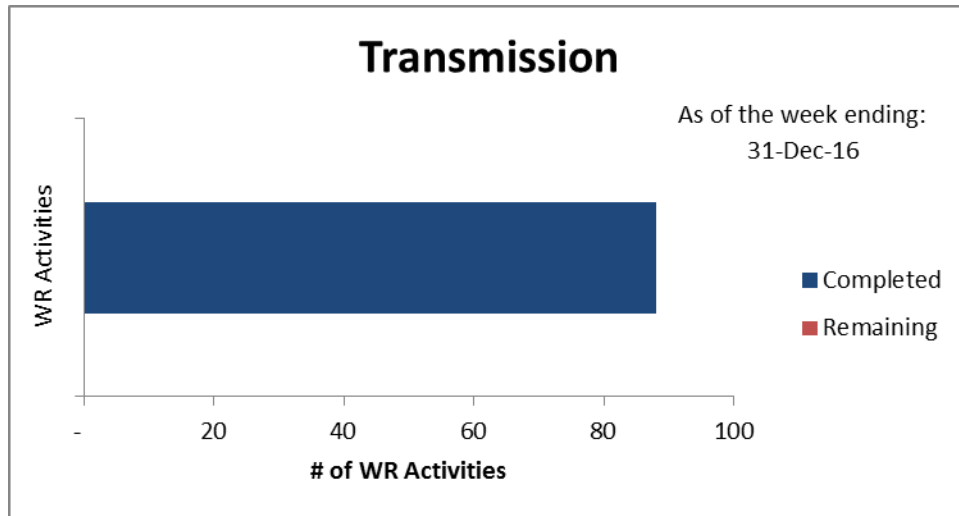


Figure 1: Transmission – AWP Activities (December 31, 2016)



**Figure 2: Transmission – WR Activities (December 31, 2016)**

- 1 The following is a summary of the Transmission activities:
- 2
- 3 • Replaced Insulators on TL203.
  - 4 • Relocated a section of TL227 as a result of the landslide near Sally’s Cove (year 1).
  - 5 • Wood Pole Line Management Inspections and Refurbishments.
    - 6 ○ Inspection on lines TL212, TL219, TL232, TL241, TL244, TL250, TL251, and TL261.
    - 7 ○ Refurbishment on lines TL201, TL203, TL209, TL218, TL224, TL227, TL232, and TL250.
  - 8 • Steel Line Inspection Program, as noted in Table 1.

**Table 1: 2016 Steel Line Climbing/Ground Inspections**

Line #	Climbing Inspection (Structures)	Ground Patrol (Structures)
TL202	53 - 69, 335 - 355	53 - 69, 35 - 68
TL204	31 - 40, 150 - 165	31 - 40, 205 - 235
TL205	63 - 83	42 - 83
TL206	53 - 69, 346 - 363	35 - 68, 212 - 249, 53 - 69
TL207	1 - 15	1 - 30
TL208		
TL211	43 - 56	43 - 56, 28 - 55
TL212	74 - 147	74 - 147
TL214	275 - 355	275 - 355, 56 - 110, 111 - 166
TL217	151 - 180	57 - 112
TL228	19 - 36, 263 - 271	38 - 74, 189 - 219, 263 - 271
TL231	77 - 87, 178 - 203	77 - 87, 85 - 105, 211 - 245
TL236	18 - 23	1 - 56
TL237	163 - 179	37 - 72
TL242	37 - 48	25 - 49
TL247	75 - 111	75 - 149, 372 - 410
TL248	37 - 54	38 - 75, 37 - 54

**1 7.2 Terminal Stations**

- 2 As shown in Figures 3 and 4, Hydro completed 99% of its planned 2016 terminal station AWP
- 3 and winter readiness (WR) activities.

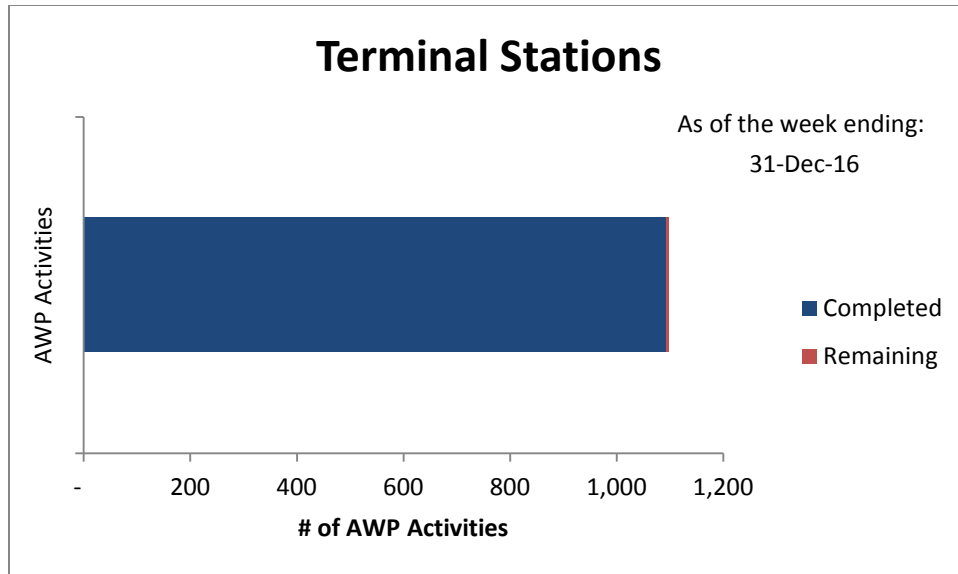


Figure 3: Terminal Stations – AWP Activities (December 31, 2016)

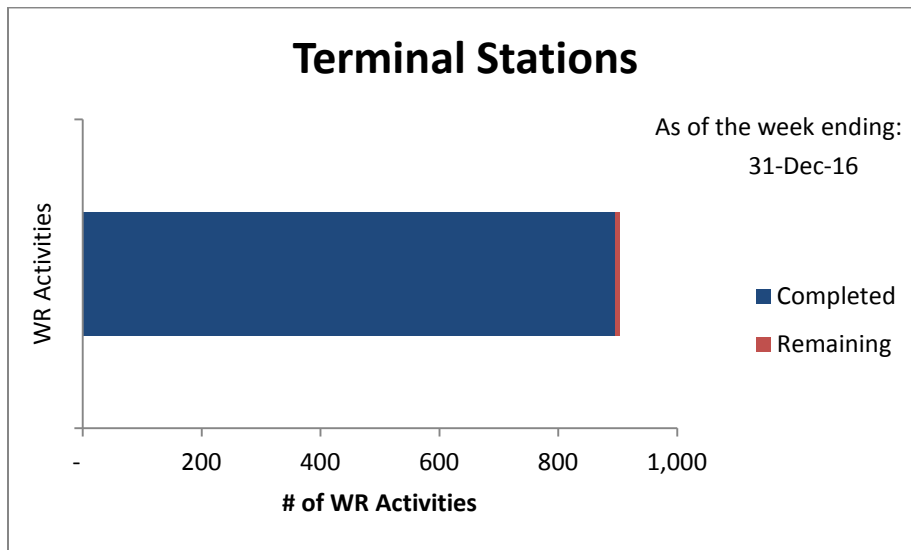


Figure 4: Terminal Stations – WR Activities (December 31, 2016)

- 1 The following is a summary of the Terminal Station activities:
- 2
  - Completed 21 Six Year Breaker Maintenance procedures.
- 3
  - Operated all 69 kV and above circuit breakers once throughout the year and operated
- 4
  - from the protection system during 11 Six Year 230 kV Breaker Maintenance procedures.



- 1 • Completed 20 Six Year Power Transformer Maintenance procedures and 22 Six Year
- 2 Power Transformer Doble Maintenance procedures.
- 3 • Completed Oil Quality and Dissolved Gas Analysis Program for power transformers and
- 4 tap changers.
- 5 • Completed 108 Disconnect Switch Preventive Maintenance procedures
- 6 • Completed Six Year Protection and Control Maintenance procedures at 9 stations.
- 7 • Completed 56 Six Year Instrument Transformer Doble Maintenance procedures.
- 8 • Completed infrared scans at all terminal stations.
- 9 • Replaced a power transformer at Cat Arm and Bay D’Espoir.
- 10 • Replaced 18 circuit breakers with 11 being air blast circuit breakers replacements.
- 11 • Completed for power transformers: 4 oil refurbishments, 2 radiator replacements, 26
- 12 bushing replacements on 4 transformers, 1 corrosive sulfur remediation, installation of
- 13 7 online gas monitors, 33 arrestor replacements.
- 14 • Replaced 14 disconnect switches.
- 15 • Replaced protective relays for 6 power transformers, 6 transmission line and breaker
- 16 failure at one station.

17

18 The following is also an update on planned 2016 maintenance items shown as not completed in  
19 Hydro’s letter on March 3, 2017, to the Board regarding *The Board's Investigation and Hearing*  
20 *into Supply Issues and Power Outages on the Island Interconnection System —Winter Readiness*  
21 *Planning Report —Update.*

22

- 23 • Item: Preventive maintenance on the Massey Drive B1B5 disconnect switch could not be
- 24 carried out due to issues on a separate 69 kV disconnect switch.

25

26 Update: As noted in the letter, the preventive maintenance work was carried over to  
27 2017 with low risk of operational issues during operation. This work has been added to  
28 Hydro's 2017 integrated annual work plan, for execution later in 2017.

- Item: One action for relay preventive maintenance at Sunnyside Terminal Stations had to be delayed for the higher priority Hardwoods engine installation and the Sunnyside lightning incident investigation on Breaker B3L19 and was rescheduled for the week of December 5, 2016.

Update: This work was completed on March 23, 2017.

### 7.3 Status of 2016 Terminal Station and Transmission Line Capital Projects

Appendix C identifies the capital projects that included planned construction completion in 2016 for assets in terminal stations and on transmission lines, and indicates the completion status of each. Table 1 below summarizes the completion status of these projects by asset category.

**Table 2: Status of Capital Projects with Planned Construction Completion in 2016**

TABLE 2 Status of Capital Projects with Planned Construction Completion in 2016				
Asset Category	Complete	Partially Complete/Deferred	Incomplete	Total
Transmission Lines	2	0	0	2
Terminal Stations	16	3	0	19
TOTAL	18	3	0	21

Some elements of work in the Terminal Station Asset Category have been deferred to 2017. These are mostly a result of unforeseen events including damage from Hurricane Matthew, vandalism at three terminal stations, and the unavailability of Bay d'Espoir Units 1 and 2 due to the requirement to refurbish the associated penstock. The deferred work included transformer oil refurbishments at 2 of 8 terminal stations, 1 of 10 breaker refurbishments, and 3 of 35 instrument transformer replacements. While this work has been deferred, Hydro determined that these deferred activities would not impact reliability of the Island Interconnected System

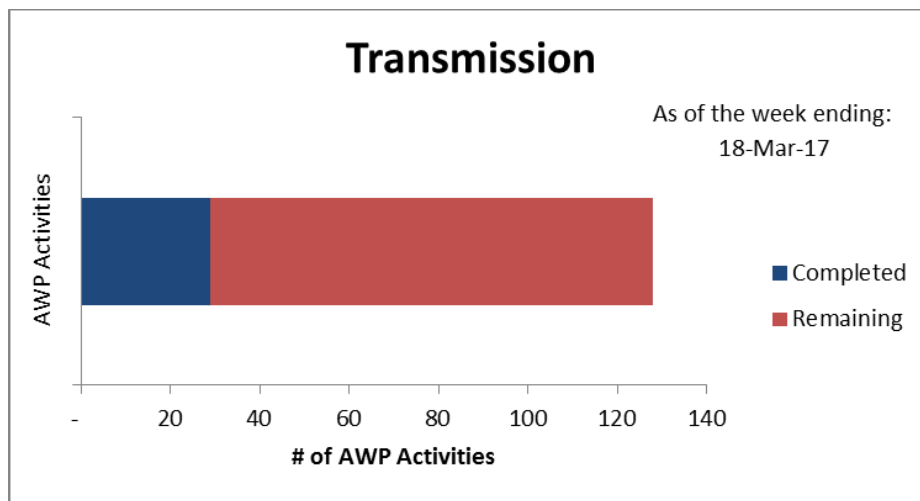
1 for the winter 2016-2017. Details regarding the cause of the deferrals, as well the risk and  
2 mitigation through the winter are provided in the Notes Section of Appendix C.

3

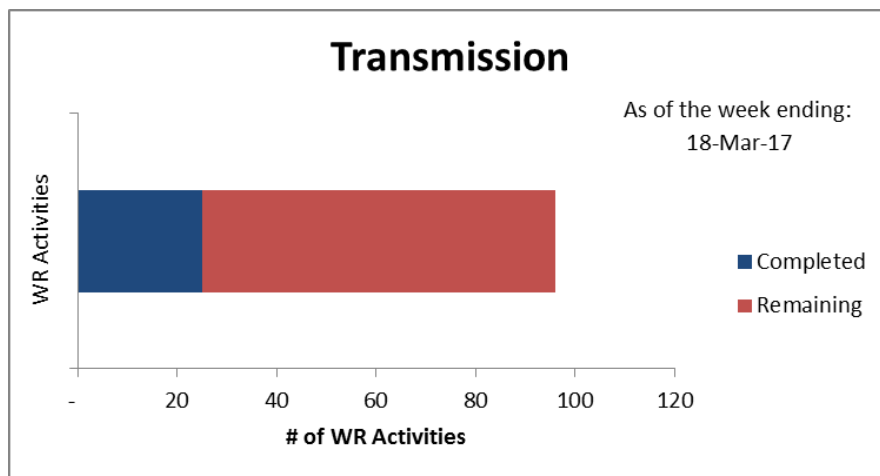
## 4 **8.0 Planned 2017 Transmission and Terminal Station Activities**

### 5 **8.1 Transmission**

6 As shown in Figures 5 and 6, Hydro has completed 23% of its planned 2017 transmission AWP  
7 activities and 26% of its 2017 winter readiness (WR) activities as of March 18, 2017.



**Figure 5: Transmission – AWP Activities (March 18, 2017)**



**Figure 6: Transmission – WR Activities (March 18, 2017)**

- 1 The following is a summary of the Transmission work plan activities scheduled for 2017:
- 2     • Completion of TL267 from Bay D’Espoir to Western Avalon.
- 3     • Interconnection of TL269 from Granite Canal to Bottom Brook.
- 4     • Interconnection of TL270 from Granite Canal Plant to Granite Canal Station.
- 5     • Relocate section of TL227 as a result of the landslide near Sally’s Cove (year 2).
- 6     • Replace Aircraft Markers at Grand Lake Crossing on TL228.
- 7     • Refurbish Anchors & Footing on TL202 and TL206.
- 8     • Wood Pole Line Management Inspections and Refurbishments.
- 9         ○ Inspection on lines TL212, TL219, TL220, TL227, TL241, TL250, TL251, TL252, and
- 10             TL261.
- 11         ○ Refurbishment on lines TL201, TL212, TL219, TL232, TL241, TL244, TL250, TL251,
- 12             and TL259.
- 13     • Steel Line Inspection Program Inspections.

**Table 3: 2017 Steel Line Climbing/Ground Inspections**

Line #	Climbing Inspection (Structures)	Ground Patrol (Structures)
TL202	70 - 87, 173 – 190	70 – 87
TL204	41 - 50, 166 – 187	41 - 50, 174 - 204, 23 – 44
TL205	84 – 104	84 – 125
TL206	70 - 87, 174 – 191	70 – 87
TL207	16 – 30	1 – 30
TL208	26 – 46	
TL211	57 – 70	57 – 70
TL212	1 – 73	1 – 73
TL214	184 - 228, 275 – 355	184 - 228, 275 – 355
TL217	181 – 210	113 – 168
TL228	37 – 54	
TL231	44 - 54, 161 – 177	44 - 54, 64 - 84, 176 – 210
TL236	24 – 29	1 – 56
TL237	1 – 18	73 – 108
TL242	49 – 60	50 – 74
TL247	417 - 430, 112 – 148	
TL248	55 – 72	55 – 72

1 **8.2 Terminal Stations**

- 2 As shown in Figures 7 and 8, Hydro has completed 16% of its planned 2017 terminal station
- 3 AWP activities and 22% of its 2017 winter readiness (WR) activities as of March 31, 2017.

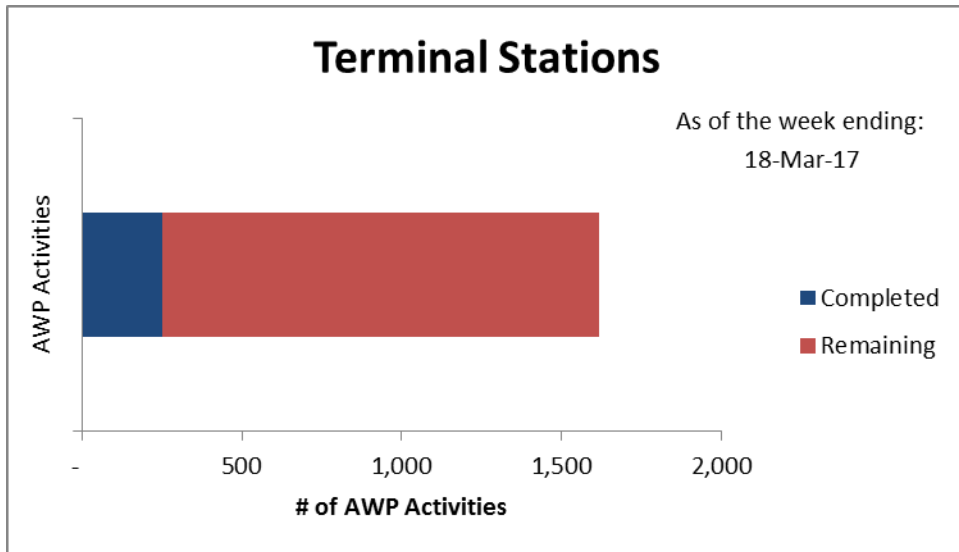


Figure 7: Terminal Stations – AWP Activities (March 18, 2017)

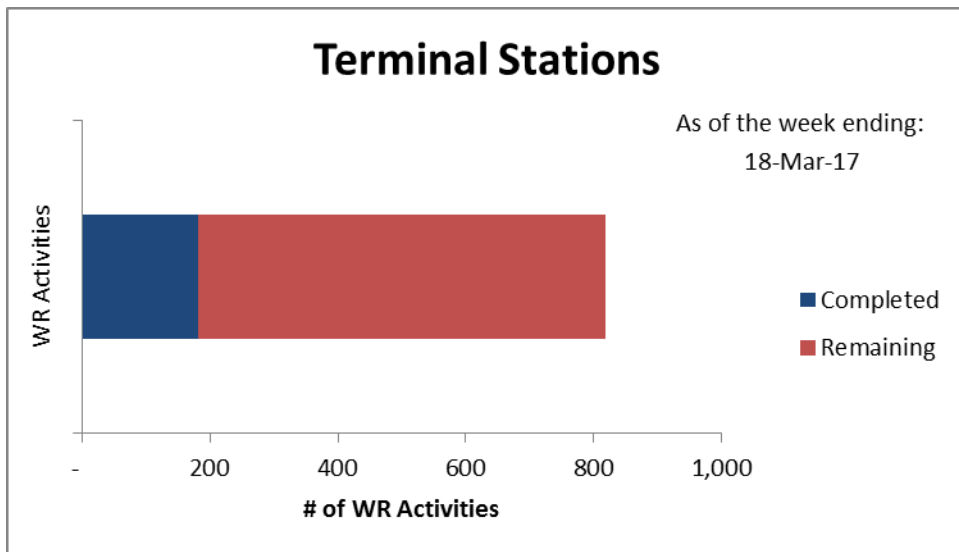


Figure 8: Terminal Stations – WR Activities (March 18, 2017)

- 1 The following is a summary of the Terminal Station work plan activities scheduled for 2017:
- 2 • Interconnection of new transmission line TL267 at Bay D'Espoir and Western Avalon.
  - 3 • Interconnection and splitting of lines to place Soldiers Pond Terminal Station in service
  - 4 for Lower Churchill Project.
  - 5 • Interconnection of a new 230 kV AC station at Bottom Brook and Granite Canal to
  - 6 accommodate new TL269 and Emera DC link.
  - 7 • Completed 25 Six Year Breaker Maintenance procedures.
  - 8 • Replace 8 breakers; 4 of which are to replace air blast circuit breakers.
  - 9 • Operated all 69 kV and above breakers once and operate eleven 230 kV breakers from
  - 10 the protection during Six Year Breaker Maintenance.
  - 11 • Completed 24 Six Year Power Transformer Maintenance procedures and Six Year Power
  - 12 Transformer Doble Maintenance procedures.
  - 13 • Completed Oil Quality and Dissolved Gas Analysis Program for power transformers and
  - 14 tap changers.
  - 15 • Completed for power transformers: 5 oil Refurbishments, 2 radiator replacements, 2 tap
  - 16 changer upgrades, bushing replacements on 8 transformers, 9 leak refurbishments, 4
  - 17 corrosive sulfur remediations, and install 7 online gas monitors.
  - 18 • Replaced 36 arrestors on power transformers.
  - 19 • Completed PMs on 116 disconnect switches.
  - 20 • Replaced 15 disconnect switches.
  - 21 • Replaced protective relays for 1 power transformer, 8 transmission lines and install
  - 22 breaker failure protection at three stations.
  - 23 • Completed Six year Protection and Control Maintenance procedures at 9 terminal
  - 24 stations.
  - 25 • Completed 80 Six Year Instrument Transformer Doble Maintenance procedures.
  - 26 • Completed infrared scans at all terminal stations.

## **Appendix A**

### **Terminal Station Asset Management Overview**

A REPORT TO  
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

	Electrical
	Mechanical
	Civil
	Protection & Control
	Transmission & Distribution
	Telecontrol
	System Planning

## Terminal Station Asset Management Overview

July 2016





## **SUMMARY**

Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro (Hydro) has developed an ongoing capital program to replace or refurbish assets as they reach the end of their design life, or require attention due to obsolescence or anticipated failure.

Historically, Hydro's terminal station projects could be divided into two categories; Stand-alone and Programs. Programs include projects that are proposed year after year to address the upgrade or replacement of deteriorated equipment such as disconnects or instrument transformers, and have similar justification each year. Stand alone would include projects that do not meet the definition of a program. Hydro has typically had as many as 15 separate program-type projects in its Capital Budget Application, with each program based upon a particular type of asset.

Hydro is proposing a change to how the terminal station programs have historically been proposed for consideration by the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities (the Board). Hydro proposes to consolidate the programs, thereby improving regulatory efficiency and easing the administrative effort for both the Board and Hydro and allowing Hydro to look for opportunities to realize efficiencies by improving coordination of capital and maintenance work in terminal stations.

With the 2017 Capital Budget Application, Hydro submits this *Terminal Station Asset Management Overview* (the Overview) to consolidate Hydro's asset maintenance philosophies into one document. Annually, beginning with the 2017 Capital Budget Application, Hydro will propose the required work specific to each year, referencing this Overview document, submitted with the 2017 Capital Budget Application.

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

Hydro has 69 terminal stations which contain electrical equipment, such as transformers, circuit breakers, instrument transformers, disconnect switches, and associated protection and control relays and equipment, required to protect, control, and operate Hydro's electrical grid.

Hydro has an Asset Management System which governs the life cycle of its terminal station assets. This system monitors, maintains, refurbishes, replaces and disposes of assets with the objective of providing safe, reliable electrical power in an environmentally responsible manner at least cost. Within this system, assets are grouped such as breaker, transformers, grounding systems, buildings, and sites. This allows the asset managers to establish consistent practices to equipment specification, placement, maintenance, refurbishment, replacement and disposal. These practices mean that the monitoring, assessments, action justifications for capital refurbishment and replacement for asset sustaining projects are consistent. Hydro established programs which enact these practices for groups or sub groupings of assets, for example High Voltage Switch Replacements.

Part of Hydro's annual capital program is a sustaining effort to ensure the safety and reliability of Station assets. Historically, the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities (the Board) approval for this effort has been requested by Hydro submitting either individual projects for particular assets, or programs for Station sustaining work in its Capital Budget Application (Application). This approach can result in a segmented view of the expenditures to sustain Station assets. For example in the 2016 Application, there were 15 separate program-type projects submitted. The expenditures detailed in these projects according to the Board's classifications are pooled, related, normal capital expenditures. This situation provides an opportunity to increase regulatory efficiency.

With the 2017 Application, Hydro is consolidating planned Terminal Station sustaining work into a project called *Terminal Station Refurbishment and Modernization Project* (the Project). Additionally, Hydro is proposing a project titled "Terminal Station In-Service Failures", to cover

the replacement or refurbishment of failed equipment, or incipient failures. Hydro is utilizing this document, *Terminal Station Asset Management Overview*, (Overview) as a reference for both projects to streamline and focus information submitted. The Overview provides supporting information, which was, historically, annually presented for similar pooled classification projects in the Application. The remainder of this document provides information as to the assets involved, an overview of each asset program, and how this document will be updated in the event of changes to Hydro's asset management philosophies.

## **2 TERMINAL STATIONS BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro's Terminal Stations**

Terminal stations play a critical role in the transmission and distribution of electricity. Terminal stations contain electrical equipment, such as transformers, circuit breakers, instrument transformers, disconnect switches, and associated protection and control relays and equipment, required to protect, control, and operate the Hydro's electrical grid. Stations act as transition points within the transmission system, and interface points with the lower voltage distribution and generation systems. Hydro owns and operates throughout Newfoundland and Labrador.

### **2.2 Terminal Station Infrastructure**

Stations contain the following infrastructure, which is described throughout this report:

- Transformers;
- Circuit Breakers;
- Instrument Transformers;
- Disconnect and Ground Switches ;
- Surge Arrestors;
- Grounding;
- Buswork;
- Steel Structures and Foundations;
- Insulators;
- Control Buildings;
- Protection and Control Relays;
- Yards, Fences and Access Roads; and
- Battery Banks.

Many of Hydro's terminal stations were constructed in the 1960s. Annual capital commitment is needed to sustain terminal station assets to ensure that Hydro can continue to provide customers with reliable electrical service.

### **3 TERMINAL STATION CAPITAL PROJECTS**

#### **3.1 Historical Terminal Station Capital Projects**

In 2016 Capital Budget Application, there were 22 individual terminal station projects, which accounted for \$30 Million, or 16% of the Capital Budget. Historically, Hydro's terminal station projects were divided into two categories; Stand-alone and Programs. Programs include projects that are proposed year after year to address the required refurbishment or replacement of assets such as disconnects or instrument transformers, and have similar justification and other information presented each year. Of the 22 individual terminal station projects proposed in 2016, 15 were program-type projects.

#### **3.2 A New Approach to Terminal Station Capital Project Proposals**

In the 2017 Capital Budget Application, Hydro has consolidated the historical station projects into the *Terminal Station Refurbishment and Modernization Project*. The 2016 projects now included in the Project are:

1. Upgrade Circuit Breakers (Beyond 2020);
2. Replace Disconnect Switches;
3. Install Fire Protection;
4. Replace Surge Arrestors;
5. Upgrade Terminal Station Foundations;
6. Upgrade Control Buildings;
7. Upgrade Terminal Station for Mobile Substation;
8. Upgrade Terminal Station Protection And Control\*;
9. Upgrade Protective Relays\*;
10. Upgrade Fault Recorders\*;
11. Upgrade Data Alarm Systems\*; and
12. Install Breaker Failure Protection\*.

\* These projects are combined in the Overview and Project as *Protection and Control Refurbishment and Upgrades*.

The Terminal Station Refurbishment and Modernization project consolidates all of the above 2016 Station Projects into a single project, with the exception of:

- Transformer Replacement & Spares – Although transformer replacement fits within the description of a terminal station program, these projects often have unique justification and a high project cost, and therefore are proposed separately.
- Accelerated Circuit Breaker Replacement – Hydro proposed the accelerated replacement of 230 kV Circuit Breakers as part of the 2016 Capital Budget Application “Upgrade Circuit Breakers” project. This project involves the replacement of high-voltage circuit breakers through the year 2020. As this project has already been approved, it is not included in the Terminal Station Upgrades and Modernization Program. However, future breaker replacements not captured in the 2016 “Upgrade Circuit Breakers” project will be included in future Capital Budget Applications, and therefore the justification for such programs is included in this report.

The Terminal Station Refurbishment and Modernization program will not include projects related to growth, or projects related to an isolated issue in a particular Terminal Station. These projects will be proposed separately.

Hydro will continue to maintain individual records with regards to asset capital, maintenance and retirement expenditures and performance, which will be queried to support the development of the annual capital plan.

In addition to this document, which is submitted to the Board as part of the 2017 Application, Hydro will annually submit a *Terminal Station Refurbishment and Modernization Project proposal* and a *Terminal Station In-Service Failures project proposal*. Future Applications will not include a copy of the Overview unless Hydro alters its contents. In the case of any alterations to the Overview, Hydro will clearly denote such changes for review and approval by the Board.



### **3.3 Benefits of the New Approach**

As supporting information for programs changes infrequently referencing the Overview in the Project documentation will eliminate the preparation and review of repetitious information Hydro estimates that with this change it could save up to \$120,000 annually, not including time and costs for review by the Board and Intervenors.

Hydro has a proactive Asset Management System which strives to anticipate future failures so that refurbishment or replacement can be incorporated into an Application. However, there are situations where immediate refurbishment or replacement, which has not been included in an Application, has to be undertaken due to the occurrence of an unanticipated failure or the recognition of an incipient failure so as to maintain the delivery of safe, reliable electricity at least cost. These situations seldom include extenuating or abnormal circumstances and costs. With aging Station assets unanticipated failures may increase. This increase will require additional future efforts to provide and review regulatory documentation. By introducing a *Terminal Station In-Service Failures* project, there will be a reduced need for that documentation and change management processes. Each year, the project proposal will provide concise information of the previous year's work.

Hydro expects the *Terminal Station Refurbishment and Modernization Project* will provide opportunities whereby Hydro can further optimize the coordination of opportunities to optimize capital and maintenance work so as to minimize outages to customers and equipment as personnel look to further coordinate work by location.

## 4 ASSET MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

### 4.1 Electrical Equipment

#### 4.1.1 High Voltage Instrument Transformer Replacements

The metering protection, and control devices, such as protective relaying, power quality monitors, and Kilowatt-Hour meters used in generation and transmission systems are not manufactured to handle the electricity involved in those systems. Measurement of the electricity's currents and voltages are provided to these devices through a current transformer (CT) and a potential transformer (PT) respectively. CT and PT are collectively known as instrument transformers (IT). Hydro has approximately 900 individual high voltage instrument transformers within the Island and Labrador Interconnected Systems.

A high-voltage IT consists of an insulated electrical primary and secondary winding, tank and bushing components. The insulation system involves the use of insulating oil or dry type insulation and a high voltage porcelain bushing which allows the safe connection of the winding to high voltage conductors. The winding is enclosed in a steel tank.

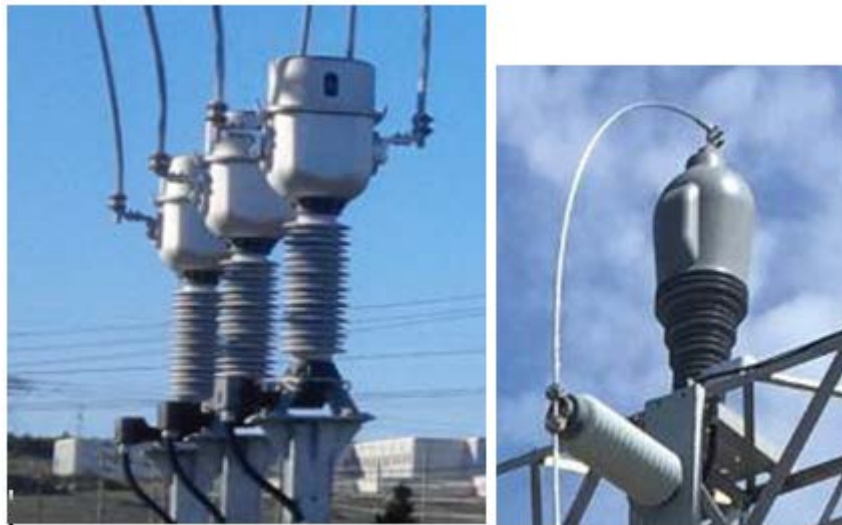


Figure 1: 69 kV CT (Left) and PT (Right)

Hydro's manages planned budgeted IT replacements in three categories:

1. Condition;
2. PCB Compliance Replacements; and
3. Manufacturer and Model.

### Condition

Deterioration or damage to the various IT components can result in the failure of the unit to provide accurate measurements to metering, protection and control devices, which may affect the safe and reliable operation of the generation and transmission systems. Failure could also result in an oil spill. Also, in some situations pieces of the IT may be forcibly projected resulting in a safety risk for personnel in the area, or damage to other infrastructure.

Damage to an IT normally results from vandalism, impacts from catastrophically failed equipment or accidental contact of mobile equipment. Upon such incidents, Hydro assesses the electrical and physical integrity of IT to determine if replacement is required.

Hydro monitors IT for physical and electrical deterioration by conducting regular visual inspections of the units as part of its station inspection program plus regularly scheduled station IR inspections and electrical insulation testing.

Physical deterioration involves conditions such as oil leaks, rusting, or small chips and cracks in the insulation. Figure 2 shows an example of rusting on a PT tanks.



**Figure 2: Rusting PT**

Electrical deterioration is identified by conducting power factor testing at intervals which is used to establish the rate and level of insulation degradation. Hydro uses a Doble, a world recognized testing company, to provide an assessment of the test results

On an on-going basis, Hydro's asset management personnel review the unit deterioration information and determine when corrective maintenance or unit replacement is required. Hydro conducts minor IT corrective maintenance, such as painting and small bushing chip treatment. External services to economically undertake major corrective maintenance or unit refurbishments do not exist; so units requiring major corrective maintenance or refurbishments are replaced.

#### PCB Compliance Replacements

Environment Canada's PCB Regulations requires that by 2025 all ITs will not have a PCB concentration greater than 50ppm. Instrument transformers are sealed oil filled units, where the oil, which acts as an electrical insulator, has been known to contain PCBs for equipment prior to 1985. Due to the age of the units and the risk of introducing contamination such as air

into the unit, which could impact the electrical integrity of IT, Hydro does not sample ITs. Therefore, establishing the actual PCB concentration in an IT is not possible. Hydro, in consultation with manufacturers, has established that units manufactured before 1985 are suspected to contain PCBs in concentration levels greater than or equal to 50 ppm. Thus Hydro has a program to replace all suspect oil-filled ITs before 2025.

#### Manufacturer and Model

In 2010 Hydro experienced a failure of a 230 kV Asea IMBA Current Transformer. The failure analysis recommended this manufacturer and model be replaced over time. These replacements are included in this program.

#### ***Exclusions from IT replacement program***

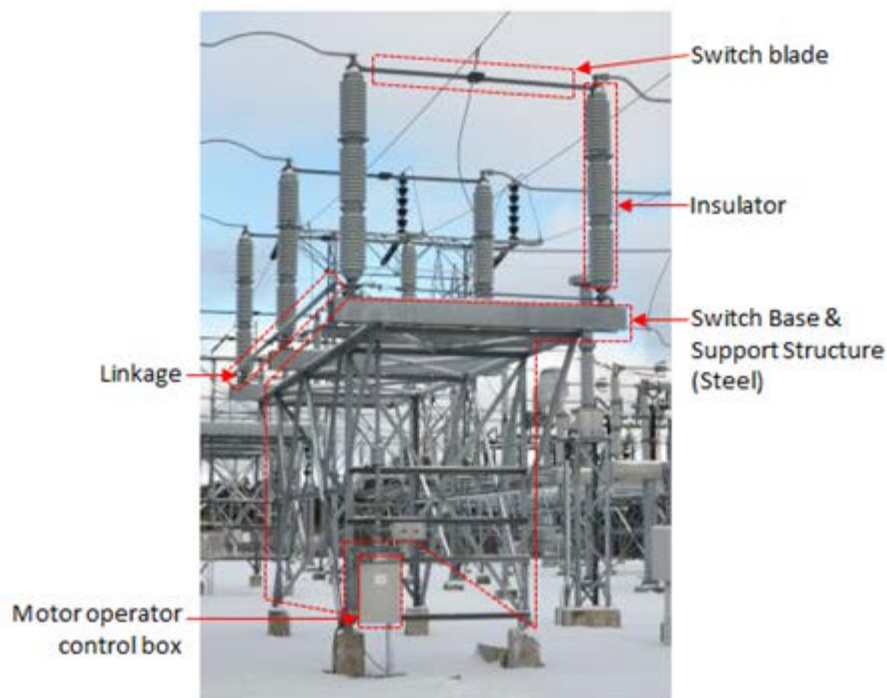
Modern-day circuit breaker technology includes CTs embedded in the circuit breaker bushings. Therefore, where possible, external CTs will be displaced by bushing CTs as circuit breakers are replaced, and such CTs are not included in this program.

#### **4.1.2 High Voltage Switch Replacements**

High Voltage switches are used to isolate equipment either for maintenance activities or for system operation and control (Disconnect Switches). Switches are also used to bypass equipment to prevent customer outages while work is being performed on the equipment. Disconnect Switches are an important part of the Work Protection Code as they provide a visible air gap, i.e., visible isolation, for utility workers. Work Protection is defined as “a guarantee that an ISOLATED, or ISOLATED and DE-ENERGIZED, condition has been established for worker protection and will continue to exist, except for authorized tests.” Proper operation of disconnect switches is essential for a safe work environment and for reliable operation.

The basic components of a disconnect switch are the blade assembly, insulators, switch base and operating mechanism. The blade assembly is the current carrying component in the switch and the operating mechanism moves it to open and close the switch. The insulators are made

of porcelain and insulate the switch base and operating mechanism from the current carrying parts. The switch base supports the insulators and is mounted to a metal frame support structure. The operating mechanism is operated either manually, by using a handle at ground level to open and close the blade, or by a motor operated device, in which case the switch is known as a Motor-Operated Disconnect (MOD). A disconnect and its associated components are shown in Figure 3.



**Figure 3: The various components of a high-voltage disconnect switch**

Hydro monitors the condition of its switches by conducting regular visual inspections of the units as part of its station inspection program and its IR inspection program and by reviewing reports from the JDE work order system or staff who operate the switch, outlining problems such as inoperable mechanical linkages, misalignment of switch blades, broken insulators, and seizing of moving parts. Asset management personnel determine the timing of corrective maintenance or switch replacement. If the required parts are available then repairs are undertaken as part of on-going maintenance. Switches that have no replacement parts

available due to obsolescence, damaged beyond repair or cannot be economically repaired and do not require immediate replacement are designated for replacement under this program.

Figure 4 shows an example of a badly damaged disconnect switch.



**Figure 4: Broken insulator on 69 kV disconnect switch**

#### **4.1.3 Surge Arrestors Replacements**

Surge arresters (also known as lightning arrestors) are used on critical terminal station equipment to protect that equipment from voltage due to lightning, extreme system operating voltages and switching transients (collectively called overvoltages). In these situations, voltage at the equipment can rise to levels which could damage the equipment's insulation. The surge arresters act to maintain the voltages within acceptable levels. Without surge arrestors, equipment insulation could be damaged and faults could result during overvoltages. Hydro typically has surge arrestors installed on the high side and low voltage sides of it 46 kV and above power transformers.

Figure 5 shows the arrestors on a 230 kV power transformer.



**Figure 5: Western Avalon Terminal Station Transformer T3 230kV Surge Arresters**

Surge arrestors can fail because of the cumulative effects of prolonged or multiple overvoltages. When a surge arrester fails, it is not repairable and must be replaced immediately; otherwise the major equipment maybe exposed to damaging overvoltages. The older arrester designs have a higher incidence of failure than the newer designs.

Hydro's surge arrester asset management program replaces surge arrestors based upon the following criteria:

1. Removal of gapped type arresters with Zinc Oxide design due to enhanced performance;
2. Replace units due to a condition identified through visual inspections for chips or cracks or electrical testing such as Doble testing;
3. If failures occur on a given transformer, all arresters on both the high and low side



- are considered for replacement either immediately or in a planned fashion; and
4. If transformers are being planned for maintenance or other Capital work, consideration is given to changing aged arresters on a common outage.

#### 4.1.4 Insulator Replacements

Insulators provide electrical insulation between energized equipment and ground. When an insulator fails and a fault occurs, a safety hazard to personnel and customer outages may occur.

Insulators consist of insulating material such as glass, porcelain and metal end fittings to attach the insulator to the structure and the conductor. The metallic hardware is mated with the porcelain or glass insulator using cement. There are different styles of insulators. An example of a suspension insulator is shown in Figure 6.

Terminal stations contain post type, cap and pin-top, multi-cone and suspension type insulators.

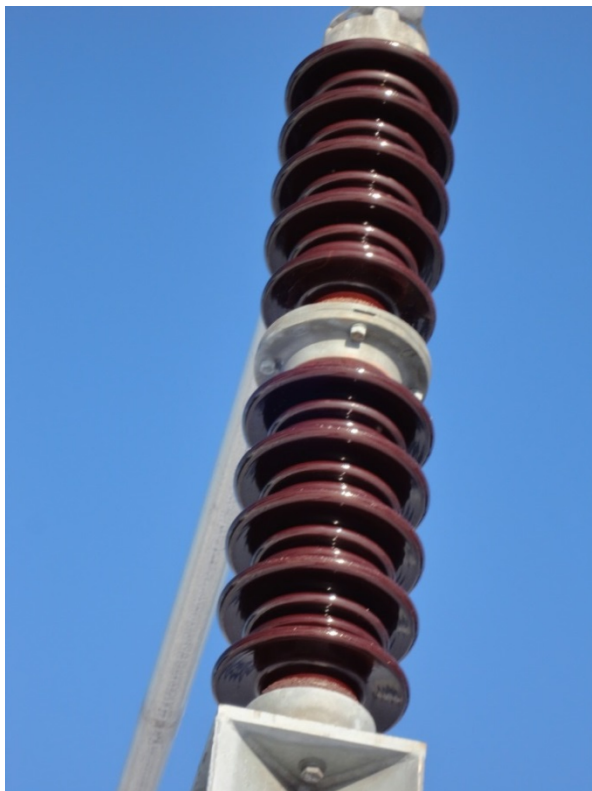


Figure 6: A multi-cone type insulator prone to failure due to cement growth

For insulators using porcelain, cement is used in mating the porcelain and metal hardware. Some older insulators have been damaged by a phenomenon known as cement growth. This is a common problem in the utility industry. In such situations water is absorbed into the concrete causing swelling of the cement, during freeze/thaw cycles, placing stress upon the porcelain. Over time, the increasing pressure caused by cement growth will crack or break the porcelain resulting in insulator failure. In such situations, porcelain may fall presenting a safety hazard to crews or damaging equipment below. Also faults resulting in outages to customers often occur, when insulator failure leads to flash-over. Sometime ago insulator manufacturers identified and researched cement growth problems, and have improved their cement quality to eliminate this problem.

Hydro carries out detailed insulator surveys by geographical area. Hydro identifies any insulator types known to be prone to failure due to cement growth, and replaces these insulators under this program.

#### **4.1.5 Grounding Refurbishment and Upgrades**

The grounding system in a terminal station or distribution substation consists of copper wire used in the ground grid under the station, gradient control mats for high voltage switches, and bonding wiring connecting the structure and equipment metal components to the ground grid. In the event of a line to ground fault electrical potential differences will exist in the grounding system. If the grounding system is inadequate or deteriorated these differences may be hazardous to personnel. These potential differences are known as step and touch potentials. Effective station grounding reduces these potentials to eliminate the hazard.



**Figure 7: Typical grounding connection on terminal station fence**

To determine whether grounding upgrades are required, Hydro performs a step and touch potential analysis of the terminal station or distribution substation. Step and touch potential analysis involves the gathering of field data and conducting analysis in order to determine if ground grid modifications are required to eliminate step and touch potential hazard. This engineering is conducted in accordance with the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Standard 80-2000. Grounding systems with hazardous step and/or touch potentials are upgraded, by adding additional equipment bonding, gradient control mats, or copper wire to the station grounding grid. In the case where the terminal station grounding infrastructure has deteriorated with age, or is damaged due to accidental contact or vandalism, the grounding system is refurbished, by repairing damage or replacing missing infrastructure. Upgrades and refurbishments are made in accordance with Hydro's Terminal Station Grounding Standard.

#### **4.1.6 Power Transformer Upgrades and Refurbishment**

Power transformers are a critical component of the power system Transformers allow the cost

effective production, transmission and distribution of electricity by converting the electricity to an appropriate voltage for each segment of the electrical system allow for economic construction and operation of the electrical system.

Hydro has 136 power transformers 46 kV and above, as well as several station service transformers at voltages lower than 46 kV.

The basic components of a power transformer are:

- Transformer steel tank which contains the metal core and paper insulated windings which does the voltage conversion; oil which is part of the insulating system and a gasket system which keeps the oil from getting into the environment.
- Bushings mounted to the top of the transformer tank which connects the windings to the external electrical conductors.
- Radiators and cooling fans which remove heat for the transformer's internal components.
- Load tap changer is a device attached internally or externally through which transformer's voltage are maintained at acceptable levels.
- Protective devices to ensure the safe operation of the transformer, such as gas detector relays, oil level and temperature relays and gauges.

Figure 8 shows a picture of a 75 MVA, 230/66 kV power transformer at Hardwoods Terminal Station.



**Figure 8: Power Transformer**

Transformers are expensive components of the electrical system. Hydro, like many North American utilities, is working to maximize and extend the life of its transformer by regularly assessing their condition, executing regularly schedule maintenance and testing and undertaking refurbishment or corrective actions as required. Transformers regularly undergo visual inspection as part of Hydro’s terminal station inspection, and scheduled preventative maintenance and testing, to identify concerns regarding a transformer’s condition such as:

1. Insulating oil and paper deterioration
2. Oil moisture content;
3. Oil leaks;
4. Tank, radiators and other component rusting/corrosion;
5. Tap changer component wear or damage;

6. Damaged/Deteriorated and PCB contaminated bushings;
7. Failure of the protective devices; and
8. Cooling fan failures.

Details on the assessment procedures and corrective action for each of these concerns are provided below.

### ***Transformer Oil Deterioration***

The insulating oil in a transformer and its tap changer diverter switch is a critical component of the insulation system. Normal operation of a transformer will cause its oil to deteriorate. Deterioration results from a number of causes such as heating, internal arcing of electrical components, or ingress of water moisture into the transformer. Deterioration of the oil will affect its function in the insulation system and may damage the paper component of the insulation system. Unacceptable levels of deterioration can affect the reliable operation of the transformer. To ensure the oil in a transformer is on acceptable quality, Hydro has an oil monitoring program, in which an oil samples are obtained annually from each transformer and then the samples are analyzed by a professional laboratory. The test results are assessed to determine the level of deterioration. If an unacceptable level of deterioration is identified required corrective action is identified by asset management personnel. This action entails either the refurbishment of the oil to improve its quality or the replacement of the oil.

### ***Moisture Content***

Oil samples are also analyzed to determine their moisture content. Moisture in a power transformer may be residual moisture, or may result from the ingress of atmospheric moisture. Oil and insulating paper with high moisture content has a reduced dielectric strength, and therefore its performance as an electrical insulator is diminished. To address transformers with high moisture content, Hydro will install an online molecular sieve dry-out system, which circulates and dries the transformer oil without requiring an equipment outage.

### ***Oil Leaks & Corrosion***

Transformer oil leaks are an environmental hazard and as oil is part of the insulation system, unchecked leaks can affect the safe and reliable operation of a transformer. Leaks can be caused by a number of factors, including failed gaskets, perforated radiators, tanks piping and other steel components. Transformers are visually inspected for leaks as part of the regularly scheduled terminal station inspection program and assessed by asset management personnel to determine the level of corrective action. Minor action, such as small repairs, patching and minor painting is undertaken as part of the maintenance. Work requiring major refurbishments and replacements such as radiator or bushing replacements, gasket replacements and tank rusting refurbishment are undertaken under this program.

### ***Load tap changer***

Load tap changer diverter switches, which are externally mounted on the tank, adjust the voltage by changing the electrical connection point of the transformer winding. This involves moving parts, which are subject to wear and damage. Additionally, in older non vacuum designed diverter switches, arcing occurs during the movement, leading to deterioration of the insulating oil. This wear and deterioration can lead to failure of the tap changer. Oil testing techniques have been developed by professional laboratories which provide assessments of the condition of the parts and oil. Oil samples are obtained annually from each load tap changer to perform a Tap Changer Activity Signature Analysis (TASA) by the laboratory. This analysis provides a condition assessment of the tap changer oil and components. Hydro implements the laboratories recommendations. This ranges from continued or increased annual sampling, planned refurbishment to immediate removal from service, inspection and repair. The latter two activities are covered by this project. Another component covered by this project is to correct leaking seals between tap changer diverter switches and the transformer main tank. Currently Hydro has several transformers that show low levels of combustible gases, such as acetylene, due to gasses migrating from the tap changer diverter switch compartment to the main tank.

### ***Bushings***

In addition to the aforementioned leaking bushings, Hydro must also address suspected to have PCB levels not compliant with the latest PCB Regulations, as well as bushings with degraded electrical properties.

The latest regulations state that all equipment remaining in service beyond 2025 must have a PCB concentration of less than 50 mg/kg. Hydro has approximately 500 sealed bushings that were manufactured prior to 1985 which are suspected to contain PCBs greater than 50 mg/kg and possibly greater than 500 mg/kg. Some sealed bushings have sampling ports to allow sampling, however Hydro does not sample due to small quantity of oil in bushings and the risk of contamination during sampling. Bushings which are known or suspected of having unacceptable PCB levels are replaced.

Hydro performs Power Factor (Doble<sup>™</sup>) testing on bushings every six years as part of the transformer preventative maintenance. When Power Factor results indicate unacceptable electrical degradation, bushings are scheduled for replacement.

### ***Protective Devices and Fans***

Protective devices and cooling fans are tested during visual inspections and preventative maintenance, and are replaced when they fail to operate as designed or their condition warrant replacement. In addition, cooling fans are added where additional cooling is required due to increased loads.

### ***On-line Oil Analysis***

In addition to oil quality, Dissolved Gas Analysis (DGA) is performed on oil. DGA analyzes the levels of dissolved gases in oil, which provides insight into the condition of the transformer insulation. The presence of gases can indicate if the transformer has been subjected to fault conditions or overheating, or if there is internal arcing or partial discharge occurring in the windings. The annual oil sample test can only provide an analysis of transformer condition at



the time when the sample is taken. In 2015, as part of this program, Hydro began installing Online Dissolved Gas Monitoring on GSUs, to allow real-time, continuous monitoring of dissolved gases in oil. The on line gas in oil monitoring continuously monitors the transformer and provides early fault detection. Continuous data is also a useful tool for personnel to use to trend gases to help schedule repairs or replacement prior to in-service failures, improving the overall reliability of the Island Interconnected System. Continuous monitoring enables Hydro to reduce unplanned outages and lessen the probability of equipment in-service failure.

This program is being extended to non-GSU transformers in 2017, with Online DGA being installed on critical power transformers on the Island Interconnected System. The factors used to determine the criticality score were submitted to the Board in the June 2, 2014 “Transformers Report”. Hydro has identified 50 transformers for installation of online DGA devices through 2024.

#### **4.1.7 Circuit Breaker Refurbishment and Replacements**

The circuit breaker is a critical component of the power system. Located in a terminal station, each circuit breaker performs switching actions to complete, maintain, and interrupt current flow under normal or fault conditions. The reliable operation of circuit breakers through its fast response and complete interruption of current flow is essential for the protection and stability of the power system. The failure of a breaker to operate as designed may affect reliability and safety of the electrical system resulting in failure of other equipment and the occurrence of an outage affecting more end users. Hydro has 195 terminal station circuit breakers with voltage rates greater than 66 kV in service.

Currently, Hydro maintains three different types of high voltage circuit breakers:

1. Air Blast Circuit Breakers (ABCB), which use high pressure air to interrupt currents and will be at least 38 years old at replacement. In the 2016 Capital Budget Application “Upgrade Circuit Breakers – Various Sites” project, approval was obtained to replace ABCBs on an accelerated schedule by the end of 2020. This

- work is covered under a separate project and is not part of the work outlined in the Overview.
2. Oil Circuit Breakers (OCB), which use oil to interrupt currents and will be at least 36 years old at replacement. In the 2016 Capital Budget Application “Upgrade Circuit Breakers – Various Sites” project, approval was obtained for the replacement of 10 OCBs up to 2020 which not compliant with Environment Canada PCB regulations. The remaining non-compliant breakers will be replaced before 2025. From 2017, any replacements not previously approved in the 2016 Application will be included in the work conducted under this section of the Overview.
  3. Sulphur Hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>) Circuit Breakers, which use SF<sub>6</sub> gas to interrupt current and installation of these breakers started in 1979 and is used for all new installations. In the 2016 Capital Budget Application “Upgrade Circuit Breakers – Various Sites” project, approval was obtained, until the end of 2020, for the mid-life refurbishment and replacement of SF<sub>6</sub> circuit breakers with voltage rates 66 KV and above. From 2017, any SF<sub>6</sub> replacements and refurbishments not previously approved in the 2016 Application will be included in the work conducted under this section of the Overview.



**Figure 9: Circuit Breakers – ABCB (left), Oil (middle), and SF<sub>6</sub> (right)**

As presented in the 2016 Capital Budget Application, “Upgrade Circuit Breakers – Various Sites” project, SF<sub>6</sub> circuit breakers rated at 138 kV and above are required to be refurbished after 20 years of service. Replacement of SF<sub>6</sub> circuit breakers rated at 66kV and above will be after 40 years of service, as is consistent with Hydro’s philosophy, most recently presented to the board

in the 2016 capital budget application “Upgrade Circuit Breakers – Various Sites” project. Some SF<sub>6</sub> circuit breakers may require replacement before the 40-year service life period based upon their condition and operational history. Hydro expects to replace up to six breakers per year beyond 2020 and an average of five breakers and overhaul one breaker per year for 2022 and 2023 and not require overhauls again until beginning 2030. As per the 2016 Capital Budget Application, “Upgrade Circuit Breakers – Various Sites” project, Hydro does not currently overhaul breakers rated below 138 kV.

Figure 10 shows the age distribution of circuit breakers not approved for replacement prior to 2017.

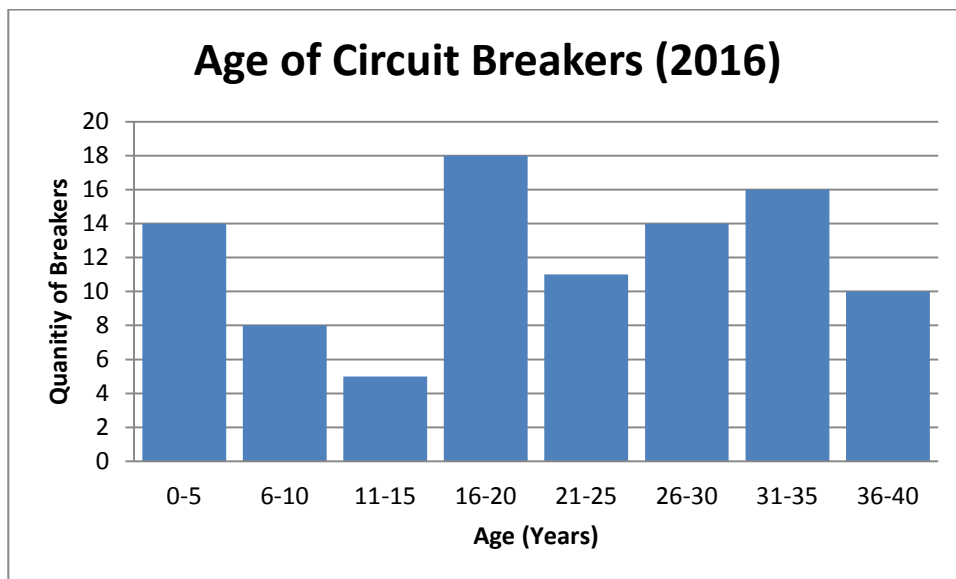


Figure 10: Age of Circuit Breakers Not Included in Ongoing Replacement Program

#### 4.1.8 Station Service Refurbishment & Upgrades

The power required to operate the various terminal station and distribution substation (collectively referred to as “station” equipment and infrastructure is provided by the Station Service System. The station service system provides AC (Alternating Current) and DC (Direct Current) power to operate the equipment in a station.

The AC station service is generally supplied by one or more transformers in the station. Due to their criticality, 230 kV terminal stations have a redundant station service feed, fed either through a redundant transformer tertiary, supplied from Newfoundland Power’s electrical system where available, or by a diesel generator. Common AC station service loads are:

- Transformer Cooling fans;
- Anti-Condensation Heaters;
- Station Lighting;
- Control building HVAC;
- Control building lighting;
- Air Compressors; and
- Battery Chargers.

The DC station service is supplied by a battery bank, with is charged from the AC station service. The DC station service provides power to critical devices in the station, and is designed to allow operation of the station in the event of an AC station service failure. Hydro’s DC station service system is a 125V system in the majority of the stations with some lower voltage stations and telecommunications equipment having 48V systems. Common DC station service loads are:

- Circuit Breaker Charging Motors;
- Digital Relays;
- Emergency Lighting;
- Disconnect Switch Motor Operators; and
- Telecommunications Equipment.

As terminal station equipment is replaced, added, or upgraded, the AC and DC station service loads may increase. Upon the installation of new equipment in the terminal station, Hydro carries out a station service study to determine the loading on the station service system. In the event that the new station service loads exceed the design load of the system, upgrades such as cable, circuit breaker panel, splitter, and transfer switch replacements or additions are required. Replacement of station service transformers and battery banks and chargers are not included in this program, as they are addressed separately in the Application, under the *Replace Power Transformers* and *Replace Battery Banks and Chargers* projects.

## **4.2 Civil Works and Buildings**

### **4.2.1 Equipment Foundations**

Reinforced concrete foundations support high voltage equipment and structures in Hydro's terminal stations. These foundations range in age from one to forty-five years. Terminal station foundations support equipment and buswork. The majority of these structures formed part of the original station construction and are in excess of thirty-five years of age.

The service life of galvanized steel structures varies depending on the operating environment, but can exceed 100 years, outliving the foundations on which they are built. A number of the foundations in Hydro terminal stations have deteriorated significantly due to repeated exposure to damaging freeze/thaw cycles, weathering, and age, leading to concerns over their integrity. Degraded structure foundations are shown in Figures 11 and 12.



**Figure 11: Structure B1T1 Bottom Brook Terminal Station**



**Figure 12: Structure L01L37-1 Western Avalon Terminal Station**

To ensure foundations perform as per the original design intent, severely deteriorated concrete

foundations must be refurbished or replaced. Failure to complete repairs could result in a catastrophic failure, causing outages or personal injury. Hydro has carried out engineering inspections of all 230 kV stations and identified foundations requiring repairs. Additionally, Hydro performs visual inspections of foundations every 120 days during regular terminal station inspections. Foundations identified for repair are addressed under this program.

#### **4.2.2 Fire Protection**

Hydro's terminal station control buildings contain combustible materials. As these facilities are unattended, a fire could spread, causing severe damage to protection and control wiring and equipment which would cause extended and widespread outages. To restore of a terminal station severely damaged by fire to normal operation could take months.

Hydro is installing gaseous fire suppression systems in its 230 kV terminal stations to protect the control cabinets and cables and any other critical equipment from being destroyed by a fire, without damaging sensitive electronic equipment and wiring.

In the 2015 and 2016 Capital Budget Application "Install Fire Protection" projects, Hydro received approval to install fire protection in the Holyrood and Bay D'Espoir terminal stations respectively. Due to their criticality, Hydro intends to continue its program to install fire suppression systems in all 230kV terminal stations.

### **4.3 Protection, Control, and Monitoring**

#### **4.3.1 Protection and Control Upgrades and Refurbishment**

The terminal station protection and control system automatically monitors, analyzes and causes action by other equipment, such as breakers, to ensure the safe, reliable operation of the electrical system, or to initiate action when a command is issued by system operators. The protection and control system also provides indications of system conditions and alarms, and allows the recording of system conditions for analysis. Hydro carries out capital work on various protection and control equipment, including:

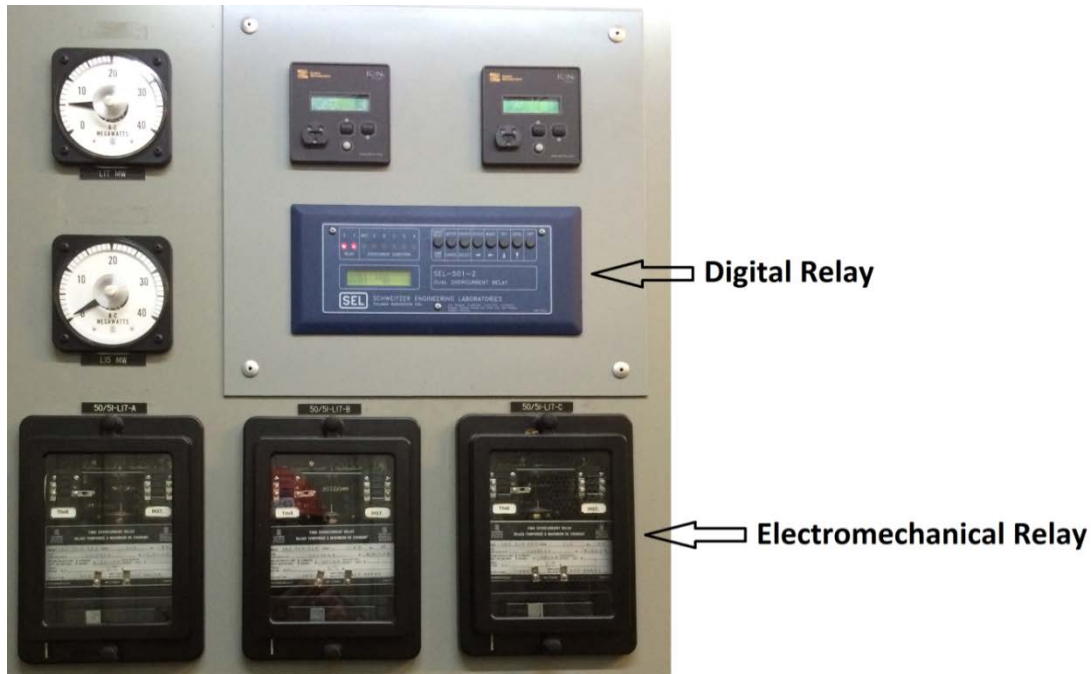
- Protective Relays;
- Breaker Failure Protection;
- Tap Changer Controls;
- Data Alarm Systems;
- Frequency Monitors; and
- Cables and Panels.

### **Electromechanical & Solid State Protective Relay Replacement**

Protective relays monitor and analyze the operation conditions of the electrical system. When a relay identifies unacceptable operating conditions, such as a fault, it will initiate an action to isolate the source of the condition by commanding high voltage equipment such as breakers to operate. Protective relays play a crucial role in maintaining system stability, preventing hazardous conditions from damaging electrical equipment, or harming personnel.

Older relays existing on Hydro's system are the electromechanical and older solid state types, and lack features such as data storage and event recording capability. Modern digital multifunction relays are used to replace these older style relays, as they have increased setting flexibility, fault disturbance monitoring, communications capability and metering functionality, and offer greater dependability and security, enhancing system reliability. Digital and electromechanical relays are showing in Figure 13.





**Figure 33: Digital and Electromechanical Relays**

In the “Report to the Board of Commissioners of Public Utilities Related to Alarms, Event Recording Devices, and Digital Relays” dated August 1, 2014, Section 3.1, “Review of Updates and Changes to Existing Digital Relay Program” stated that “Hydro plans to review its existing transformer, bus, and line protections in an effort to develop plans for future implementation of modern digital relays with data storage and fault recording capabilities.” To fulfill this commitment, Hydro completed the following:

- A review of all transformer, bus, and line protection on 230 kV, 138 kV, and 69 kV systems, including data storage and fault recording capabilities.
- A plan to replace all existing electromechanical transformer, bus, timer, and line protection relays with modern digital relays. The 230 kV relays are the priority for the first phase of the plan, with 138 kV and 69 kV to follow.

As part of the annual Terminal Station Refurbishment and Modernization Project, Hydro will continue to execute the replacement of 230 kV electromechanical and obsolete solid-state transformer, line, and bus relays with modern digital multifunction relays, which began in 2016

under the “Replace Protective Relays” program. Additionally, in line with 2016 RFI CA-NLH-037, Hydro is installing redundant multifunction transformer protection relays in 2016 for transformers rated above 10 MVA. Under this program Hydro will continue to install these upgrades.

### **Breaker Failure Protection**

Protective relaying is designed to trip a breaker during fault conditions to remove the fault from the electrical system so as to minimize equipment outages and maintain system stability and safe, reliable operation. If the breaker does not isolate the fault, current remains flowing through the breaker for a predetermined time (approx. 250 milliseconds), and other breakers that can contribute current to the fault will be commanded to trip. This will result in tripping more equipment but will ensure isolation of the original fault in a time to minimize damage to equipment and minimize impact to the system. The failure of a breaker to isolate a fault when commanded is called a Breaker Failure. Circuit breaker protective relaying is designed to recognize a breaker failure and to initiate action to surrounding breakers to minimize damage to equipment and the spread of the impact of a breaker failure. This breaker protection feature is called Breaker Failure Protection.

Prior to 2014, breaker failure protection was implemented only in Hydro’s 230 kV terminal stations. In 2014, Hydro completed a review of breaker failure protection in 66 kV and 138 kV terminal stations. Hydro also developed a protection and control standard “Application of Breaker Failure Relaying”, calling for breaker failure protection on transmission breakers rated at 66 kV and above. From this review, Hydro identified 20 terminal stations requiring breaker failure protection.

As part of the Hydro’s 2016 Capital Budget Application, Hydro proposed and received Board approval for the installation of breaker failure protection in three terminal stations. As part of the annual Terminal Station Refurbishment and Modernization Project, Hydro will continue its plan to execute the installation of breaker failure protection in the remaining terminal stations.

### **Tap Changer Paralleling Control Replacement**

Tap changer paralleling controls are designed to:

- 1) Ensure the load bus voltage is regulated as prescribed by the setting;
- 2) Minimize the current that circulates between the transformers, as would be due to the tap changers operating on inappropriate tap positions; and
- 3) Ensure the controller operates correctly in multiple transformer applications regardless of system configuration changes or station breaker operations and resultant station configuration changes.

Current tap changer controls are of similar vintage as the power transformers dating back to the late 1960's, and require replacement. Recent feedback from the tap changer paralleling control supplier indicated older equipment has capacitors that will dry out over time resulting in control issues. Additionally, it was recommended the same controller model be applied to all transformers to optimize tap changing control. The control issues as described by the supplier have been seen by Hydro staff at numerous sites through review, which indicated a high number of operations experienced at various sites.

Hydro plans to start replacing tap changer paralleling controls in 2018 beginning at Western Avalon Terminal Station.

### **Equipment Alarm Upgrades**

Alarms inform the Energy Control Centre (ECC) and operating personnel that equipment and relaying requires attention, and are communicated to the ECC, and/or displayed locally on the station annunciator.



**Figure 14: An annunciator commonly found in Hydro terminal stations**

Hydro’s review of Alarms, Event Recording Devices and Digital Relays found that by providing more detailed alarm schemes, the ECC and local operators are able to troubleshoot system events more accurately and quickly.

Hydro’s internal study identified required increases to alarm detail for five 230 kV terminal stations to the ECC. Stony Brook, Holyrood, Sunnyside, Oxen Pond, and Massey Drive were assessed. Hydro proposed and received approval to implement the proposed upgrades at the Stony Brook Terminal Station as part of the 2016 Capital Budget Application “Upgrade Data Alarm Systems” project. Hydro will continue its plan to install improved data alarm management as part of the Terminal Station Refurbishment and Modernization project, with the remaining stations being addressed in future applications in 2018 and beyond.

### **Frequency Monitoring Additions**

As a result of investigations into the outage of January 2013, a recommendation was made to install frequency monitoring devices on the island interconnected system to allow better analysis of system events, such as pre and post-fault scenarios. It was recommended that one such device be installed in an Eastern, Western, and Central location on the interconnected

system. Hydro Place (East), Massey Drive Terminal Station (West), and Bay d'Espoir Terminal Station #2 (Central) have been chosen for the installation of frequency monitoring devices.

### **Protection and Control Cable and Panel Modifications**

This program will cover protection and control panels and wiring may require alteration, replacement or addition to existing wiring due to deterioration from environment conditions, accidental damage or the modification/addition protection and control equipment.

## **Appendix B**

### **Details of Terminal Station Preventive Maintenance, Overhaul and Replacement Criteria**

## Details of Terminal Station Preventive Maintenance, Overhaul and Replacement Criteria

### 1.0 Introduction

The following outline's Hydro's the preventive maintenance program and Hydro's overhaul and replacement criteria for the various major asset classes within Terminal Stations.

### 2.0 Power Transformers & Shunt Reactors

- 120 Day PM (120 days): cooling fan function testing, operational data collection, visual inspection
- Oil Sample PM (1 year by default, more frequently as needed): DGA, oil quality, moisture
- Furan PM (4 years by default, 1 year as needed): To test Degree of Polymerization (DP) of the paper.
- 6 Year PM (6 years): electrical testing (Doble Testing, winding resistance, winding insulation resistance, protective device insulation resistance, surge arrester grounding continuity), protective device function testing, tap changer function testing, cooling fan function testing, visual inspection)
- Hydro's current replacement criteria for Power Transformer Replacement (46 kv and above) is based upon one of the following:
  1. Condition based upon DP (degree of polymerization) <400 for network transformers and <500 for Generator Step Up transformers in Asset Criticality A).
  2. Uncontrollable gassing which is an indication of an internal fault
  3. Forecasted based upon DP vale and rate of change of DP.
  4. An economic evaluation for a given transformer for refurbishment versus replacement 3-5 years prior to the unit becoming 55 years old.

1 Due to Hydro's aging transformer fleet Hydro has developed an ongoing refurbishment  
2 program to cover bushing replacements, radiator replacements, oil refurbishment, moisture  
3 reduction, on load tap changer overhaul and leak repair, transformer leak repair, protective  
4 device replacement , transformer painting and installation of on line DGA monitors. The  
5 following will provide the details for each.

6

### 7 **3.0 Power Transformer Bushing Replacement**

8 Hydro's current replacement criterion is based upon one of the following:

- 9 1. Condition (bad Doble Test results as identified by Doble Engineering OR unobservable oil  
10 level OR non removable tap caps OR visual damage allowing moisture ingress)
- 11 2. Suspected of containing PCB-contaminated oil (All sealed equipment containing  $\geq 50$ ppm  
12 must be removed from service by 2025.)

13 Prioritization: poor condition first (by condition severity), PCB-contaminated next.

14

### 15 **4.0 Power Transformer Radiator Replacement**

16 Hydro's replacement criteria is based upon the condition of the radiator (rust) from a visual  
17 inspection and ranking by an Asset Specialist.

18

### 19 **5.0 Power Transformer Oil Refurbishment**

20 Hydro's oil refurbishment criteria is based upon oil being IEEE Class III. Class III units will have  
21 their oil either reclaimed or replaced. If the oil has a PCB content greater than 2 ppm the oil will  
22 be replaced, otherwise it will be reclaimed to improve the oil quality.

23

### 24 **6.0 Power Transformer Moisture Reduction**

25 Hydro's moisture reduction criteria is based upon having paper  $>3.5\%$  moisture OR paper is  
26  $\geq 2.5\%$  AND inferred DP is  $<1100$ ), AND replacement not forecasted within 10 years of current  
27 year.



1 Prioritization: equal weighting of paper moisture severity and asset criticality.

2

### 3 **7.0 Power Transformer On-Load Tap Changer Leak Repair**

4 Hydro's criteria to complete leak repair for on On-Load Tap changers is based upon having  
5 stable acetylene and other combustible gases in the transformer and a proven leak test. Units  
6 testing positive to leak tests are planned for refurbishment.

7

### 8 **8.0 Power Transformer On-Load Tap Changer Overhaul**

9 Hydro's criteria for tap changer overhaul is based upon

- 10 1. An annual oil sample to measure dissolved gases and particle count. Hydro using a Tap  
11 Changer Analysis Signature Assessment (TASA) to provide a ranking of very good (1) to  
12 very poor (4). A rank >3, or
- 13 2. Stenestam Ratio > 5.0, or
- 14 3. Number of operations (based upon OEM recommendation for contact maintenance).

15

### 16 **9.0 Power Transformer Leak Repair**

17 Hydro's criteria to complete leak repairs is based upon

- 18 1. Identified leaks
- 19 2. Major refurbishment will include gasket replacements to prevent future leaks.

20

### 21 **10.0 Power Transformer Protective Device Replacement**

22 Hydro will complete transformer protective relay replacements if condition warrants as  
23 determine by 120 day or 6 year PM. Protective devices and associated cabling is also changed  
24 as required during other transformer refurbishment work.

1 **11.0 Power Transformer Online DGA Monitors**

2 Hydro's criteria for On line DGA monitors is to install full monitoring of all combustible gases for  
3 Criticality A and B transformers (GE TransFix) and install GE Hydran units on criticality C and D  
4 units. All data is and will be brought back to a GE Perception Software that is remotely  
5 accessible by engineers and asset specialist.

6  
7 **12.0 Power Transformer Painting**

8 Hydro's criterion for rust removal and painting is based upon a visual inspection for rust. As well  
9 transformers undergoing major refurbishment will have painting considered.

10  
11 **13.0 Circuit Breakers**

- 12
- 13 • 120 Day PM: visual inspection, check pressures for Air and/or SF<sub>6</sub>, record heater amps.
  - 14 • Annual Operate breaker PM is completed to confirm operation once per year.
  - 15 • Oil sample from OCBs every 3 years.
  - 16 • Every 4 years the following is completed for Air Blast Circuit Breakers - Conductor,  
17 timing, trip coil measurement, check auxiliary contact, check pressure switches, function  
18 test breaker, and measure trip coil resistance.
  - 19 • Every 6 years the following is completed for SF<sub>6</sub> Circuit Breakers - Check SF<sub>6</sub> pressure,  
20 operating mechanism pressure, conductor, measure trip coil resistance, check pressure  
21 settings, check primary connections, lubricate mechanism, measure timing and function  
22 test breaker.
  - 23 • Every 6 years the following is completed for Oil Circuit Breakers (OCB) - Change oil in  
24 compressor. Check dash pot oil level, breaker in open position. Check pressure switches  
25 and record if applicable. Inspect contactors. Lubricate Operating mechanism. Measure  
26 and record run time of compressor from cut-in to cut-out. Measure interrupter resistors  
( 138 kV KSO only ) Check bushings and wipe down if required. Complete a dielectric

1 test ASTM 877 of the oil. Perform megger of each phase to ground with breaker.

2 Perform doctor and timing.

- 3 • 138 and 230 kV SF6 breakers are planned for overhaul at mid-life (20 years) and  
4 replaced at 40 years or sooner if condition dictates. 69 kV SF6 circuit breakers are not  
5 overhauled but are planned to be replaced at 40 years or sooner if condition dictates.
- 6 • Oil circuit breakers are not overhauled and are being planned for replacement by 2025  
7 due to the bushings being suspect to contain PCBs  $\geq$  50 ppm.
- 8 • Air blast circuit breaker are no longer overhauled and a plan is in place to have all air  
9 blast circuit breakers removed from service at the end of 2020.

10

## 11 **14.0 Protective Relays**

- 12 • 6 Year PM Inspection: Function test each protective relay one at a time: clean, dust, and  
13 Inspect connections, connect the relay test equipment to the relay, configure the relay  
14 test equipment settings to those required for the relay, function test each in-service  
15 function of the relay using the relay test equipment, troubleshoot the relay if it fails any  
16 function tests, record and save the results in the relay testing software, return relay to  
17 service.
- 18 • For Electromechanical Relays, perform the additional steps of: remove glass and clean  
19 inside and out, pull biscuit(s) and check for oxidation (tarnished), clean with a white  
20 eraser, unlock relay and gently pull out of case, check for Iron filings on operating disc,  
21 if equipped, clean contact surfaces with a burnishing tool, manually move disc to look  
22 for smooth operation and to ensure it resets properly.
- 23 • Every 6 years, Function Test 230 kV circuit breakers from the protection during the  
24 scheduled 230 kV breaker PM.
- 25 • Historically protective relays were replaced based on age, performance, obsolescence,  
26 and their inability to provide the desired protection functionality and information  
27 required for fault analysis. Following the events of January 2014, Hydro formalized a  
28 protective relay replacement plan which will see protective relay systems (which had

1 not already been previously replaced) replaced for all major equipment on the 230 KV  
2 system, during the period from 2015 to 2026. Further plans will be developed for 138  
3 and 69 kV equipment. As well, as a result of the events of January 2104 plans have been  
4 put in place to upgrade alarm systems and breaker failure protection in major terminal  
5 stations.

## 7 **15.0 Current Transformers**

- 8 • 120 Day General Inspection, the following is checked: bushings, tanks, oil leaks,  
9 rust/paint condition, concrete base, primary connections, conduits, cabinets, and  
10 grounding.
- 11 • Every 6 years the following is done:
  - 12 - Wiring connections checked;
  - 13 - Secondary connections checked;
  - 14 - Heater amperage checked;
  - 15 - Touch-up painting done, as required; and
  - 16 - Doble Test performed.
- 17 • Current transformers are currently replaced based upon either :
  - 18 1. Condition as determined visual inspection for rust and leaks.
  - 19 2. If the unit is suspect to contain PCBs  $\geq 50$  ppm.
  - 20 3. If the unit is a 230 kV IMBA.

## 22 **16.0 Potential Transformers/Capacitive Voltage Transformers**

- 23 • On 120 Day General Inspection, the following is checked: bushings, tanks, oil leaks,  
24 rust/paint condition, concrete base, primary connections, conduits, cabinets, voltages at  
25 each secondary winding, and grounding.
- 26 • Every 6 years the following is done:
  - 27 - connections for position and tightness checked

- 1 - grounding device checked
- 2 - coupler box internally inspected
- 3 - gaskets and gap clearances checked
- 4 - heater amperage checked
- 5 - touch-up painting done, as required
- 6 - perform Doble Test
- 7 - surge protection device in CVT junction box checked/tested, if fitted for wave-
- 8 trap
- 9 - ground switches cleaned and lubricated
- 10 - surge gap checked
- 11 • Potential transformers and capacitive voltage transformers are currently replaced based
- 12 upon either :
- 13 1. Condition as determined visual inspection for rust and leaks.
- 14 2. Condition as determined by Doble Testing.
- 15 3. If the unit is suspect to contain PCBs  $\geq 50$  ppm

16

## 17 **17.0 Surge Arresters**

- 18 • 120 Day Power Transformer Inspection, a visual inspection is performed.
- 19 • Every 6 years a visual inspection is performed and a Doble Test is performed.
- 20 • Arresters are replaced based upon:
  - 21 1. Doble Testing has indicated a failed unit;
  - 22 2. Visual inspection identifies severe commination or insulator cracking;
  - 23 3. Arrester type is prone to failure; and
  - 24 4. A transformer is being replaced (consideration will be given to installing arrester
  - 25 replacement).

1 **18.0 Disconnects**

- 2 • 120 day inspection is completed which includes: visual check for alignment and signs of  
3 overheating, insulator conditions, and heater.
- 4 • Annual Infrared scans to look for hot spots. The following guidelines shows  
5 temperature difference between phases and outlines response time required to address  
6 identified hot spots:

7

8 Priority	9 Temp. Difference ( $\Delta T$ Phase to Phase)	Respond Within
10 1 (Emergency)	Visually Hot	24 hours
11 2	Above 50°C	1 week
12 3	20°C to 50°C	1 month
13 4	Below 20°C	1 year

- 14 • Every 6 years (1 or 3 years as well if located in severe environmental contamination) the  
15 following is checked: All connections and contacts, switch operation, Contacts are  
16 greased, linkages and operating mechanism are lubricated. On motor operated  
17 disconnects the motor operation is checked and if load break, interrupter modules are  
18 checked.
- 19 • Disconnects are replaced mainly based primarily on condition and operating problems  
20 and issues as determined by issues found during PM's, problems encountered during  
21 operation, excessive corrective maintenance required, etc. Secondary prioritization for  
22 the long term plan is based on equipment age.

23

24 **19.0 Batteries and Chargers**

- 25 • 120 day inspection includes: voltmeter checks, ammeter checks, visually checking  
26 battery condition as well as electrolyte levels for flooded cells. Distilled water may be  
27 added to flooded cells and equalize charge given if required.

- 1 • Annually the batteries and chargers are inspected and cleaned. Also included in this is a  
2 conductance test performed on all the cells and straps with a Midtronics battery tester.  
3 For flooded cells the specific gravity is also checked on all cells.
- 4 • Discharge testing is completed for all battery banks during factory acceptance testing  
5 and is scheduled to be completed on Criticality A and B flooded cell banks after 10 years  
6 of being in service and then every 5 years thereafter.
- 7 • Battery banks and chargers are recommended to be replaced after 20 years and VRLA  
8 batteries after 10 years. Equipment condition and operating problems are also  
9 considered and equipment is replaced sooner if required.

10

## 11 **20.0 Air Systems**

- 12 • Compressor Annual PM (1 year): change deteriorated disposable parts, cleaning, record  
13 operational data, performance testing, protective device function testing, visual  
14 inspection
- 15 • Monthly Air System PM (monthly): cleaning, record operational data, performance  
16 testing, protective device function testing, visual inspection
- 17 • Compressor overhauls - Overhauls are based on the inspections performed as well as  
18 experience. Factors considered for compressor overhauls are, excessive oil  
19 consumption, change in inter-stage pressure/back pressure, excessive time to bring  
20 system up to pressure, oil leaks, broken valve spring/overheating, excessive noise,  
21 vibration, etc.
- 22 • Many of the air systems have been upgraded prior to the decision to replace all air blast  
23 circuit breakers and as a result there is no longer a plan in place to replace air dryers or  
24 compressors. Any remaining compressors used in a different application will be  
25 assessed by the each for replacement.

1 **21.0 Grounding**

- 2 • 120 Day PM (120 days): visual inspection.
- 3 • Grounding is upgraded as a result of visual inspections and grounding analysis
- 4 completed in accordance with IEEE Standard 80.
- 5

6 **22.0 Capacitor Banks**

- 7 • 120 Day PM (120 days): record operational data, blown fuse replacement, visual
- 8 inspection.
- 9 • 6 Year PM (6 years): record operational data, electrical testing (capacitance, insulation
- 10 resistance), blown fuse replacement, cleaning, visual inspection.
- 11
- 12 Hydro will plan replacement of capacitor banks based upon condition or consider replacement
- 13 as banks approach 35 years in service.



## **Appendix C**

### **2016 Terminal Station and Transmission Line Project Status**

## HYDRO ISLAND INTERCONNECTED SYSTEM - 2016 CAPITAL PROJECTS STATUS

### Transmission System and Terminal Station Assets

Asset Category	Project Description	Status of 2016 Planned Construction Completion
Transmission	Perform Wood Pole Management Program - Various Sites	Complete
Transmission	Insulator Replacement - TL203	Complete
Terminal Stations	Exciter Refurbishment - Corner Book Frequency Convertor	Complete
Terminal Stations	Replace Battery Banks and Chargers - Various Sites	Complete
Terminal Stations	Upgrade Terminal Stations Protection & Control - Various Sites	Complete
Terminal Stations	Replace Disconnects - 2015-2016 - Various Sites	Complete
Terminal Stations	Upgrade Power Transformers - Various Areas	Note 1
Terminal Stations	Replace Surge Arrestors - Various Areas	Complete
Terminal Stations	Replace Instrument Transformers - Various Areas	Note 2
Terminal Stations	Upgrade Aluminum Support Structures - Holyrood	Complete
Terminal Stations	Replace Protection Relays - Various Sites	Complete
Terminal Stations	Upgrade Circuit Breakers 2015-2016 - Various Sites	Complete
Terminal Stations	Upgrade Circuit Breakers 2016-2020 - Various Sites	Note 3
Terminal Stations	Upgrade Digital Fault Recorders - Various Sites	Complete
Terminal Stations	Upgrade Terminal Station Equipment Foundations - Various Sites	Complete
Terminal Stations	Replace Air Receivers and Compressors - St. Anthony	Complete
Terminal Stations	Install Online Gas Monitoring - Various Sites	Complete
Terminal Stations	Install Support Structures C2 Capacitor Bank - Hardwoods	Complete
Terminal Stations	Increase 230 kV Transformer Capacity - Oxen Pond	Complete
Terminal Stations	VBN T1 Major Inspection and Repairs	Complete
Terminal Stations	WAV T5 Inspection and Repairs	Complete

#### **NOTES**

1 - The 2016 scope of work included transformer refurbishments at eight terminal stations and the replacement of two transformers at Bay d'Espoir and Cat Arm. Transformer refurbishments at seven terminal stations are 100% complete and the two new transformers are in service. The planned refurbishment work at Hinds Lake included internal cleaning and oil processing for the two unit transformers. This work was partially completed due to a significantly shortened outage window as a result of a revised generation outage schedule. The generation outage schedule was revised in order to schedule emergency refurbishment for Bay d'Espoir Penstock 1. The oil was successfully processed for one of the two transformers. To reduce the risk on the second transformer, an inspection and partial cleaning was performed, which is deemed to be sufficient to mitigate the risk of failure during the 2016/2017 winter season. The internal cleaning and oil processing on the second transformer is rescheduled for the planned outage for Hinds Lake in 2017 Q4.

2 - The 2016 scope of work included the replacement of 35 instrument transformers at 12 locations. A total of 32 instrument transformers have been replaced. Three instrument transformers at Howley were not replaced in 2016. Two of these three were inspected and found to be in acceptable condition to extend their replacement to a future year. The one remaining instrument transformer at Howley could not be replaced in 2016 as a result of the unavailability of labour resources and the mobile substation, due to grounding vandalism damage restoration in three substations. The mobile substation could not be removed safely from the South Brook Terminal Station. Without the mobile substation, an 8-hour customer outage would be required to complete the work. It was decided to defer this work to 2017 Q3 to align with other work at Howley and the availability of the mobile substation. To mitigate the risk of failure through this winter, monthly infrared temperature scans will be performed. In the unlikely event of a failure, Hydro is construction-ready for immediate replacement.

3 - The 2016 scope of work included the assessment, replacement or refurbishment of ten circuit breakers. This work is complete except for the refurbishment of one breaker at Howley. This refurbishment could not be completed in 2016 for the same reason as reported above for the instrument transformer at Howley (vandalism prevented the mobile substation from being available). As with the instrument transformer, the work has been rescheduled to 2017 Q3 to align with other work at Howley and the availability of the mobile substation. To mitigate the risk of failure through this winter, monthly infrared temperature scans will be performed. In the unlikely event of a failure, Hydro is construction-ready for immediate refurbishment.