

DISCLAIMER

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All costing information contained in this document are preliminary and were prepared for option assessment purposes only.

Transmission Maintenance Practices

Maintenance Practices

Transmission lines, including the East-West tie line, are inspected on a cyclical basis either by foot or helicopter patrol. These inspections are intended to identify defects that can affect the safety or security of the asset and to initiate corrective action. For northern Ontario, foot patrols are conducted on a 10 year cycle. Helicopter patrols are conducted annually in years Foot Patrols are not conducted.

More detailed structure and/or component inspections may be conducted on an “as required” or “age related” basis. Structures/components are inspected based partially on the number of years in service, as per the following general guidelines:

Components:	Minimum # of Years before Detailed Inspection
Wood Pole Structures	20 yrs
Steel Structures	40 yrs
Insulators	50 yrs
Foundations	30 yrs
Conductor	50 yrs (ACSR)
Shieldwire	30 yrs (galvanized steel)

Vegetation/ROW Management

Vegetation management activities are performed on a target cyclic schedule. Activities include line clearing, which addresses vegetation along the edge of the ROW corridor; brush control, which manages vegetation on the ROW corridor; and a mid-cycle condition patrol program. In the case of the above circuits, a target cycle of length of 8 years is applied, as measured between full line clearing and brush control treatments. The execution of the condition patrol program at mid cycle (in this case, approx. 4 years after line clearing and brush control) effectively means that the vegetation is either managed or inspected every 4 years. These programs remain flexible in order to respond to any potential concerns.

Vegetation may be controlled through the implementation of any of several different treatments, including mechanical control, manual control, or the use of herbicides. Treatments are prescribed using the principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM).