# Cost-Benefit of Life & Durability



# Longest Life Case Study



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### **Summary** -

A Pacific island utility traditionally used wood and steel poles for distribution and transmission. Wood was used for lower initial cost; steel was used to resist brush fires. The utility evaluated the Net Present Value (NPV) benefit of RS poles versus other materials over a 20 year cost period to determine the most cost effective solution.

#### Problem -

Both wood and steel deteriorate quickly in the local climate:

- Wood is susceptible to termites and rot
- Steel is susceptible to corrosion as a result of the humid coastal climate and airborne salt exposure

Conventional materials require regular maintenance and costly early replacement. The utility was spending a large portion of resources maintaining and replacing their grid frequently.

#### **RS Pole Solution**

- No replacement costs which was costing the utility \$15,000/pole.
- No regular inspections which was costing the utility \$175/pole.
- 6 Minimum 6-fold increase in service life.
- NPV savings of RS poles vs. Wood for a 20 year cost period (based on typical yearly usage) is estimated at \$27,573,624.

