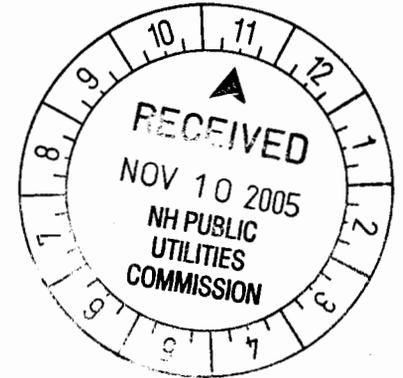


25 High St.

Exeter, NH 03833

Mr. John R. Donnell
25 High St.
Exeter, NH 03833

Deborah Howland, Executive Director
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 south Fruit St., Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301-2429



Re: DM 05-172/In the Matter of Utility Pole Investigation

Dear Sir/Madam

The Unitil electric utility maintains AC. power lines that run about 15 to 20 feet in front of my house. About 15 years ago they added a 30,000+ volt (30KV) to ground, 3 phase distribution line to the poles. About this time our broadcast TV reception degraded due to electrical arcing or corona discharge from these lines. Despite my complaints to the utility, this condition has persisted through the years affecting our TV watching and my Amateur Radio activities.

I hold an FCC Extra class Amateur Radio licence, and an FCC Commercial Licence. I am also a retired Engineer from the Radio Department at Bell Laboratories. The power utility has made some efforts to improve the situation but the problem persists. This problem does not affect cable TV distribution. The success of cable TV has allowed utility companies to neglect their lines. They allow obvious problems like tree limbs to hang in contact with the 30KV lines. The result is a confusing mix of multiple radio noise sources. The telltale patterns on my TV reveal that the 30KV line is a source of line noise. The problem is so bad (intermittent) that at time channels 2 to 13 are unwatchable and the TV sound that is frequency modulated (rejects noise) is not listenable. I have several high quality FM radio tuners that are also useless when these serious breakdowns occur.

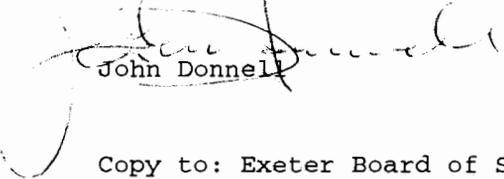
The FCC defines power distribution systems as incidental radiators. They are subject to conditions that no harmful interference is caused (Title 47, CFR Section 15.5). They say that manufacturers of these devices (the utility) shall employ good engineering practices to minimize the risk of harmful interference (Title, CFR Section 15.13).

The second issue with the pole distribution involves the amount of hardware and number of lines hanging on these poles. My house is an older house in the Exeter Historic district but the defining architectural feature of the

neighborhood is a utility pole system overloaded with eyesores. Verizon is adding another Fiber line as I write this letter. We have 3 phase power lines at 30KV, 3 phase power lines at 2.4KV, single phase power at 120/240V, residential feed lines, plain old telephone lines, fiber lines for broadband, cable TV lines , traffic light signaling lines, transformers , equalizers, insulators, lightning arrestors, support structures, tin boxes with who knows what in them, street lights and god knows what else hanging on these poles. Most cities place these utilities underground for this very reason. This street rates as a city street with 35,000 cars a day (and climbing) passing my house.

Please let me know if I can be of further help to you on these issues. I may be reached at 603-778-8880

Very truly yours



John Donnell

Copy to: Exeter Board of Selectman