



Department of Public Works

*Town of Durham
100 Stone Quarry Drive
Durham, N.H. 03824
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June 18, 2020

**To: Dianne Martin, Chairwoman, New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
Kathryn M. Bailey, Commissioner
Michael S. Giaimo, Commissioner**

Re: Formal Complaint against Consolidated Communications Regarding Double Utility Poles

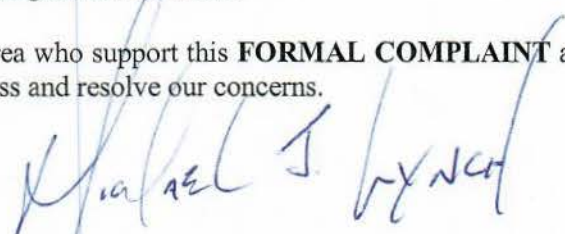
Dear Commissioners,

I write to you today not only representing Durham, but also several Seacoast Area Cities and Towns. We are all dealing daily with a real nuisance. We call this problem "double utility poles". Whether it is the Town of Durham or any other City / Town in New Hampshire, the story seems to be the same. Double utility poles are exactly what it sounds like. That is, Eversource or Consolidated Communications come into Communities and replace old wooden utility poles with new wooden structural poles. Trust me, we are all in favor of the upgrade of our utility poles. In Durham, most poles are owned by Consolidated Communications and Eversource, however Consolidated usually lags behind and chalks it off to not having the resources to install new poles or the staff to remove the old poles. Eversource then is forced to place the new pole(s), and then installing their power lines and equipment. Seacoast Communities then wait months or even years for Consolidated Communication to switch over their telephone wires and equipment.

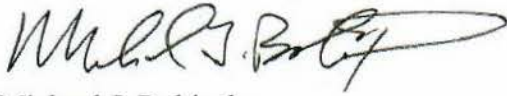
All this activity occurs in the municipal right of ways, sometimes just off the curbing and often times in the sidewalk! These double poles make our communities look unsightly, actually degrading the appearance of our neighborhoods. The double poles also present a dangerous safety situation effecting the site. These include concerns such as site distance impacts and ADA access issues. These might be concerns for sidewalk plowing and pedestrian utilization especially with carriages and wheelchairs. The two poles also have no give when struck by an automobile. A small fender bender could easily turn into a fatality. We would like to see the Public Utilities Commission develop a consistent policy/process for all utility companies utilizing poles to transfer/market their product to include removal of the old poles within 30-60 days past the installation date.

We welcome the Commissioners paying a visit to the Seacoast area and we will offer a van tour of several sites where "double utility poles" exist today. Here in Durham we have 61 double poles along our most scenic roadway called Durham Point Road. Other Seacoast municipalities have reports reflecting similar numbers.

On page two please find 6 signatures of officials from the Seacoast area who support this **FORMAL COMPLAINT** and look forward to meeting with the Public Utilities Commission to discuss and resolve our concerns.


Michael J. Lynch
Director of Public Works

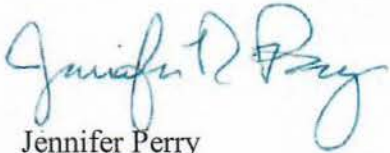
Cc: Debra A. Howland, Executive Director
Kath Mullholand, Director, Regulatory Innovation and Strategy
Thomas C. Frantz, Director, Electric Division
David Wiesner, Legal ✓



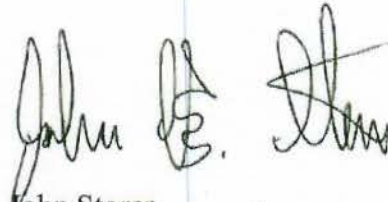
Michael J. Bobinsky
Director of Public Works and Utilities
Somersworth, NH 03878



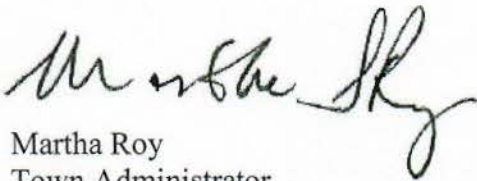
Peter H. Rice
Public Works Director
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Jennifer Perry
Director of Public Works
Town of Exeter, NH 03833



John Storer
Director of Community Services
Dover, NH 03820



Martha Roy
Town Administrator
Newington, NH 03801



Rick Malasky
Public Works Director
Newmarket, NH 03857