



Your Trusted, Local Energy Resource

DPU 25-10/DTC 25-1:

Utility Pole Attachments,
Conduit Access, Double
Poles

Maggie Downey – Compact Administrator
Maril Marchand – Power Supply Planner

For the Cape and Islands Municipal Leaders Association
February 14, 2025

Summary of Inquiry

- Opened by Department of Public Utilities and the Department of Telecommunications and Cable (the Departments)
- Explores utility pole attachments, conduit access, double poles, a related database, and other considerations
- Departments request comment/data from electric distribution companies, Verizon, municipal light plants, state and local entities and officials that manage public rights of way
- Double poles: the Department has requested the distribution companies to answer various questions related to the number of double poles and whether an increase in that count is expected



Schedule and Next Steps

- Comments are due March 18, 2025; technical session and reply comments to follow
- Input and data received in response to this inquiry will allow the Departments to open a rulemaking in a separate proceeding to update their regulations
- The Compact will focus its comments on double poles
- The Compact is also seeking input from member towns on issues they would like to raise that are responsive to the Departments' questions for state and local entities



Past Compact Comments on Double Poles

- Safety, reliability, aesthetic issues of double poles
- The Compact has argued for reporting or metrics on double poles (DPU 12-120, DPU 24-15).
- In Eversource's recent electric sector modernization proceeding, the Compact emphasized that the double pole count may increase in the coming years:
 - Eversource has noted that an expected increase in infrastructure upgrades and investments may affect the double pole count
 - Eversource is actively replacing poles because (a) its poles are “rapidly approaching the end of their useful life in all regions,” and (b) for resiliency and hardening due to climate change



Comments from Towns

- The Departments encourage stakeholders to present consensus positions and submit comments jointly when possible
- The Compact has put together a short survey for the towns based on the Departments' questions for state and local entities
 - Please distribute to the appropriate person
 - **Responses due to Compact by March 4**
 - **<https://forms.gle/3FUW2ofyy2hRrCMU6>**
- Town(s) can submit comments on their own

