



An Avangrid company

March 18, 2025

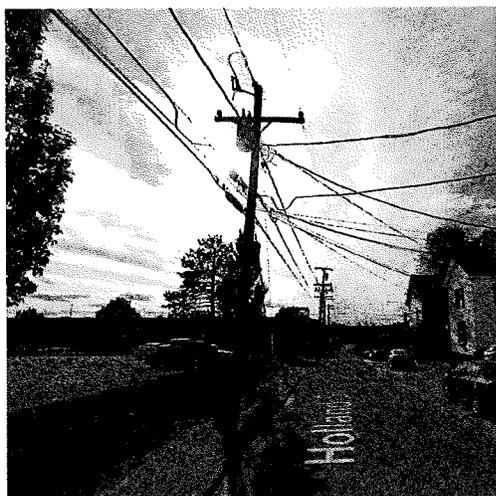
Testimony on behalf of Central Maine Power Company Neither For Nor Against

LD 873: An Act to Expand Municipal Authority Over Utility Pole Permits

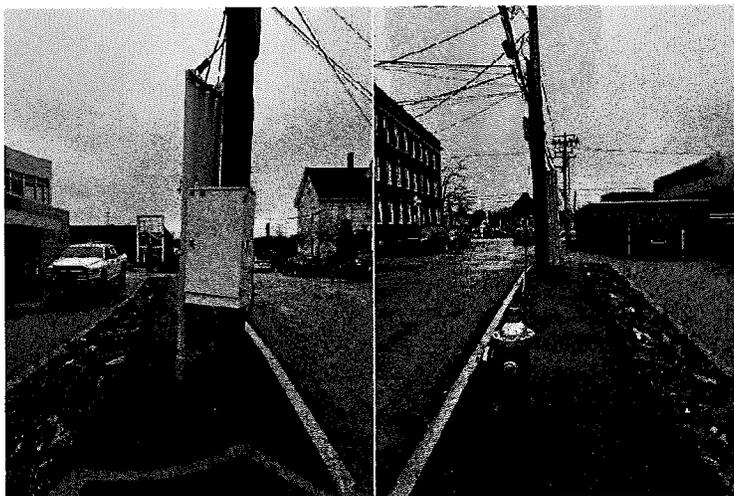
Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology, my name is Kathleen Newman, Vice President of Government Affairs for Central Maine Power Company, submitting testimony neither for nor against LD 873: An Act to Expand Municipal Authority Over Utility Pole Permits.

The City of Lewiston is a CCI pole-set area which means CMP and CCI jointly own the poles and CCI is responsible for maintenance though we work closely together to resolve any issues that come up.

We understand this legislation stems from a situation on Holland Street that resulted when sidewalks were updated following a construction project that left poles, with attachments and conduit (and a fire hydrant) in the sidewalk. See before and after photos below:



Pole 15 (before)



Pole 15 (after)

In this particular instance we were not approached to address the situation. However, since identifying it, our local service center manager has been in touch with the city to work on a solution. While the pole placement is ADA compliant (36" of clearance on the sidewalk), the attachments are impeding the sidewalk. This morning he discussed a plan with the City to relocate the communications box and conduits pictured above.

Our team also identified another pole on Holland Street that is marginal with respect to ADA compliance (see picture, right). We'll work with CCI and the city to address ADA compliance for this pole as well.

In speaking to multiple city officials we've learned this situation was not a problem with responsiveness from CMP – we were not approached to move our facilities – but rather a concern about addressing the ADA compliance post-construction and the cost of doing so.

We do not believe it is necessary to amend the statute that allows municipal officials of Maine's largest cities to order poles removed to address public safety and public welfare concerns. Particularly as this statute would require the city to notice and hold a public hearing for such determination.

We're happy to work with with any municipality, of any size, to address ADA compliance concerns.

Thank you for your consideration.

