

Riverport Electric Light Commission

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March 11, 2025

board@novascotia.ca

Nova Scotia Utility & Review Board

PO Box 1692, Unit "M"

Halifax, NS, B3J 3S3

Martin and Wendy Tanner

Dear Board:

M12104 - Riverport Electric Light Commission - Power Pole complaint - Wendy and Martin Tanner

This is in response to your direction to provide you with our response to the above-noted matter.

On February 23, 2025, Wendy and Martin Tanner, customers of the Riverport Electric Light Commission ("REL C") filed a complaint with the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board (the "Board") regarding the electrical distribution lines on their property at [REDACTED]. In its acknowledgement letter dated February 26, 2025, the Board directed REL C to file a response to the complaint with the Board and the complainants by March 12, 2025.

As noted in its February 26, 2025 letter, the Board's role in resolving customer complaints is limited to determining whether the utility has properly followed and applied the Board's approved regulations in its dealings with customers. In this case, there is nothing in REL C's approved regulations that specifically addresses the minimum clearance distances required by electrical code standards. Nevertheless, in order to be responsive to its customers' safety concerns, REL C contacted Strum Engineering to assess compliance with the relevant electrical code

requirements. Strum reviewed the matter in consideration of the Canadian Electrical Code requirements for vertical (Table 32) and horizontal (Table 33) clearances from an energized high voltage conductor to a building or protuberance and vertical clearance from the energized high voltage conductor to ground (Table 34) and found no compliance issues in this case. It should be further noted that the clearances are measured from the energized high voltage conductor toward the building as either a vertical or horizontal distance. The horizontal distance is not measured from a point on the ground directly under the energized high voltage conductor toward the building or protuberance, but from the conductor at the top of the pole.

RELC further notes that since it appears the deck on the front of the house was built after the distribution lines were originally placed on the property, the issue of the proximity of the deck to those distribution lines and equipment is likely a result of subsequent construction and so should not require changes to the pre-existing configuration in any event. In this regard, section 6.3 of RELC's Board-approved Regulations states:

If changes in the Commission's plant and equipment installed to provide electric service to a customer, except for the purpose of supplying increased loads, are requested by a customer, the Commission shall, if it is able to do so without prejudice to safety and operational efficiency, make such changes, and the costs thereof shall be borne by the customer.

Consistent with these Regulations, RELC can work with the complainants on potential solutions to address their concerns, but only on the basis that the complainants confirm their obligation to bear all the costs associated with implementing the requested changes in the equipment installed to provide electric service to them.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

David Maxwell

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D Maxwell". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Chair of RELC