

NOVA SCOTIA ENERGY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: THE PUBLIC UTILITIES ACT

- and -

IN THE MATTER OF: A COMPLAINT by MARTIN AND WENDY TANNER concerning the proximity of electrical, distribution and telecom lines to the main structure on their property.

REDACTED INFORMATION REQUESTS

To: **David Maxwell**
Riverport Electric Light Commission
3808 Highway 332
Riverport NS B0J 2W0
By email: billing@riverportelectric.com

From: **Nova Scotia Energy Board**
Board Staff

Responses Due: **30 May, 2025**

Copies: 1 electronic copy (PDF searchable)

Contact Person: **Somesh Singh, P.Eng.**
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Nova Scotia Energy Board
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Issued at Halifax, Nova Scotia, this 9th day of May, 2025.



Lisa Wallace, Chief Clerk

Request IR-1:

On pdf page 2 of its resubmitted report (Exhibit-T-3), the Utility states the following:

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 RELC's approved regulations that specifically addresses the minimum clearance distances required by electrical code standards.

In absence of any Board approved Regulations on the minimum clearance distances:

- a) Please explain how the Utility ensures that its distribution power line installations do not pose safety risks and that its installations meet other applicable standard installation requirements, such as CSA and Utility Standards.

Request IR-2:

On pdf page 2 of its resubmitted report (Exhibit-T-3), the Utility states the following:

RELC further notes that since it appears the deck in question 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.

- a) Does the Utility have any documentation to support its statement above? If yes, please submit it.
- b) If not, please explain the basis for this statement.

Request IR-3:

Does the Utility have any electrical easement drawings related to the residence [REDACTED] showing that the poles are installed within its easement boundaries?

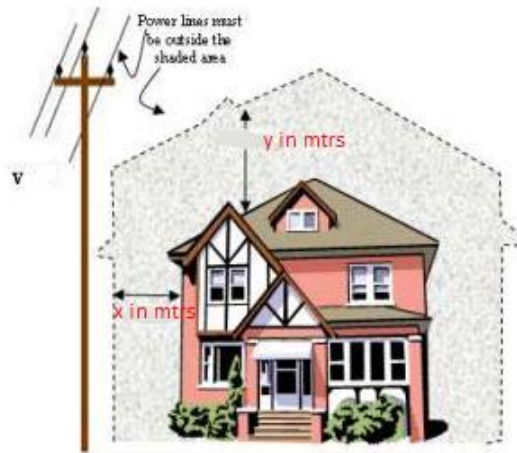
- a) If yes, please submit the drawing and confirm the location of the pole on the drawing.
- b) If not, please explain how the location of the pole was determined.

Request IR-4:

Please list the number of conductors and their respective voltage levels as they approach and pass the residence [REDACTED].

Request IR-5:

Board staff's understanding is that depending on the voltage of the power line, regulations provide x and y value in meters and the power lines must be outside the shaded region as shown in the image below:



a) Does the Utility concur with the Board staff's understanding as expressed in the above preamble?

b) If yes, using a professional engineer:

i. Please provide the values of x and y, along with the standards used as reference.

ii. Please provide the measurements of x and y for the residence [REDACTED], assuming that the front porch is considered part of the building's protuberances.

iii. Please provide the measurements of x and y for the residence [REDACTED], at the edge the building's front view, including any protuberances. Assume that the front porch is not considered part of the building's protuberances.

c) If not, then using a professional engineer:

i. Please provide an envelope drawing that includes the building in relation to the installed pole, illustrating how the x and y measurements will be taken.

ii. Please provide all the information as outlined in IR-5(b).

Request IR-6:

Please submit a report, signed by a professional engineer, that includes all the measurements specified in this IR document and provides a recommendation regarding the safety clearance for the residence [REDACTED].

Request IR-7:

On pdf page 2 of its resubmitted report (Exhibit-T-3), the Utility states the following:

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.

a) Is the Utility in a position to provide a budgetary cost estimate for any cost-effective solution?

i. If yes, please submit the cost estimate along with the proposed solution.

If not, please provide an estimated time frame required for submission if requested

Request IR-8:

On page 3 of the complaint (Exhibits-T-1), in its email response to the complainants, the Utility states the following:

“...I was instructed to make you aware that any actions RELC may take to fix the situation with power, carries no implication that any of the other services sharing the poles will move their lines also...”

a) Please confirm whether the Utility owns the electric poles.

b) If the Utility owns the poles, what is the agreement regarding any work performed on the poles, including work carried out on behalf of other companies, such as Eastlink, which utilizes the poles for their services?

c) If the Utility does not own the poles, please explain how electrical work is carried out by the Utility on these poles.