

**CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY
RESPONSE TO FOURNIER'S DATA REQUEST NO. 1
DOCKET No. 2008-255**

October 17, 2008

FOURNIER-01-15

- Q.** Please explain when CMP decided to change it's 75 foot clearance from centerlines now existing on our land to the boundaries of the Easements to a 50 foot clearance to the boundary from proposed new transmission lines. Why does CMP consider 50 ' clearance or less to be sufficiently safe and reasonable?
- A.** CMP's transmission line spacing standard has a long and consistent history, dating back many decades for the 115 kV H-frame structure type. As new structure configurations have been added to the system, such as 345 kV H-frames (in the 1970's) and 115 kV single pole configurations (in the 1980's), this standard has been updated accordingly. In preparing this response, the Petitioners assume dimensions listed in the question are in reference to spacings from the centerline of a 115 kV H-frame structure to the edge of the right-of-way (75 feet) and the spacing from the centerline of a 115 kV single pole structure with davit arms to the edge of the right-of-way (50 feet). These dimensions have remained unchanged in the CMP standard since their original introduction.

In determining the required width of the right-of-way, many factors must be considered, including, but not limited to: line voltage, minimum horizontal design clearances, structure type and geometry, insulator type, span lengths, conductor type and tension, vegetation management practices and maintenance procedures. In the situation noted in the question above, the most salient parameter in determining to use 75 feet verses 50 feet is the type of structure used.

CMP's clearance of 50 feet from the centerline of a 115 kV single pole structure with davit arm construction to the edge of the right-of-way is based on the above noted requirements. The electric utility industry has a long history of safe and reliable operation when the requirements of the NESC are met, sound engineering principles are employed and Good Utility Practice is exercised in operation and maintenance activities.

Response Prepared and Submitted By:

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