



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITY CONTROL

DONALD W. DOWNES
CHAIRPERSON

THE ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

**Senate Bill 597: AAC THE TIMELY REMOVAL OF DOUBLE AND BARE UTILITY
POLES**

March 3, 2009

TESTIMONY OF CHAIRMAN DONALD W. DOWNES

The Department of Public Utility Control (Department) does not believe Senate Bill No.597 is necessary for the reason outlined below. Senate Bill No. 597 would require the Department to conduct a contested proceeding to establish uniform procedures and time schedules for the timely removal of double and bare poles. The Department recently rendered a decision on point, dated September 29, 2004, in Docket No. 03-03-07, DPUC Review of Public Utility Structures and Poles Within Municipal Rights of Way, which was opened at the request of the Capital Region Council of Governments concerning the installation of public utility company facilities in the public rights-of-way. Actively participating in the docket were: the OCC, the utility companies, certified telecommunications service providers, cable television companies and all of the state's regional councils of government as well as several legislators who submitted comments in the proceeding.

In this proceeding, the Department conducted a thorough review of the regulation of public utility facilities to be installed in public rights-of-way and the removal of utility poles being replaced by new poles. The DPUC ordered a series of deadlines by which the complete elimination of double poles in the state was to be accomplished. Pertaining to future double poles in the public rights of way, the DPUC ordered that:

each pole custodian should remove, under normal conditions, all double poles within 18 months starting from the time a new pole was installed or within six months after all facilities have been shifted, whichever is earlier. Furthermore, old double poles that are located along high traffic roadways should be removed within twelve months of installation of a new pole or six months after transfer of facilities, whichever is earlier. (DPUC Decision at 17)

As indicated by the submittal of this bill, the occurrence of double poles has once again flourished. Nonetheless, the Department has already rendered a ruling on this issue and established clear timelines and procedures to handle this issue. With that said, the Department recommends that it reopen its docket on this matter and issue such orders as will completely eliminate the current backlog of double poles, while instituting regular compliance reporting to verify that this situation does not repeat itself.