

I am in favor of Eversource's planned three phase electrical power because it is an upgrade promoting reliability plus.

The 'plus' sells me as I understand the three phase circuit to have more than one feed allowing isolation and bypass of a break by switching over to a second feed which the present single phase system cannot.

So, the bottom line with three phase is, once the power loop is completed, the entire line does not have to suffer every time there is a break. Or, to paraphrase the words of the eighteenth century philosopher Bishop Berkeley who famously said "if a tree falls in the forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?" I say, If a tree falls in someone else's forest whether or not it makes a sound, your electricity can be restored pronto through three phase.

I am on my second generator on Durham Point Road, legendary for its frequent and extended outages. While I am delighted that 2019 had fewer outages than 2018 and prior, I am not convinced that somehow we have acquired power reliability. How could we? Everything depends on ice storms and other weather vagaries as well as the Eversource routine cycles of cut and trim catching the right trees and just plain good weather pattern fortune and most recently, a crow.

I have studied the list of the 48 trees to be cut and counted 15 marked 'canopy defect' and all the rest but one pine, marked, 'dead, dying in decline, failure prone species or rotten at the base'. If no cutting is allowed most of these trees are destined to end any phantom reliability streak.

All of the cutting and trimming will be monitored and inspected by the Planning Board to make sure its cutting and trimming standards are precisely followed. The Planning Board can pull its approval at any point and Eversource knows it. Furthermore Eversource has demonstrated it has listened carefully to a concerned community by lowering the number of tree cuttings from 137 to 48.

The circuit upgrade requires new poles some fifteen feet higher than existing poles. Some of the existing poles are fifty years old and their replacements will be the taller poles as the existing poles will no longer be used by Eversource.

There is no beauty in poles, short or tall and hopefully there will not be a beauty contest over the additional required height if that's what it takes to gain upgraded power circuits.

Finally, I hope the Planning Board gives its approval.

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