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EVERSOURCE	EVERSOURCE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM ELECTRIC OPERATIONS ORGANIZATION

Distribution and Sub-Transmission Wood Poles

Document Number:	**Issued Date**:	**Revised Date**:	**Revision**:	**Applicability:**
EMP 5.61	15-Jul-11	31-Dec-24	5	All

Scope:

This document establishes a uniform approach for distribution and sub-transmission wood pole inspections, treatment, restoration, and replacement. It defines the schedule, inspection, and reporting requirements for these facilities.

Safety:

Providing a work environment, free of recognized hazards is a value at Eversource. Therefore, prior to the start of any work, ensure that you are familiar and knowledgeable with all Eversource Safety Rules, Policies and Procedures that are applicable to the work and tasks at hand and perform a job brief at the job site, prior to commencing work. PPE requirements to protect the worker shall be followed as required in the Eversource Employee Safety Manual.

Approved by: *Signature on File* Date: 31-Dec-24

[redacted]
Vice President, Distribution Engineering

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Rev No.	Description	Date
5	1. Update inspection interval to 10 years for all states. 2. Replaced EMP 6.61 references to WMS 08.15. 3. Updated Section 8.1.	December 31, 2024
4	4. Changed names of the Approvers on the Signature page, as required. 5. Removed Note 2 and Inspection Type table since the inspection type is covered by EMP 6.61. 6. Changed interval for Routine Inspections for NH/EMA to 10Y. 7. Added interval for Routine Inspection for CT/WMA to 15Y. 8. Added reference to EMP 5.78, American Wood Protection Association Standard U1, and Bulletin 1730B-121. 9. Updated document name to Distribution and Sub-Transmission Wood Poles. 10. Removed reference to NESC DER-07-01. 11. Updated Failure Findings section to reflect current reporting process.	July 21, 2023
3	1. Changed names of the Owner, SME, and Approvers on the Signature page, as required. 2. Incorporated the following global replacements: • NU Maintenance Manual replaced by Eversource Maintenance Program • CL&P replaced by Eversource Connecticut • WMECO replaced by Eversource Western Massachusetts • PSNH replaced by Eversource New Hampshire • NSTAR replaced by Eversource Eastern Massachusetts • NUMM replaced by EMP 3. Incorporated the following global replacements: • NU Safety Manual replaced by Eversource Employee Safety Manual	July 1, 2015
2	1. Increased the period from 5 days to 10 days in which a priority reject pole must be made safe.	January 2, 2015
1	1. Moved inspection activities to Instructions 6.61. Moved Restoration activities to Instructions 6.61A. Added references to TD 953, and Instructions 6.61.	July 15, 2011
0	1. Original Document	---

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 This document applies to all wood distribution and sub-transmission poles within the custodianship or the maintenance responsibility of Eversource. It shall include push braces and guying stub poles as well as line poles scheduled for the given year.

1.2 See **EMP 5.78** - Transmission Overhead for information on maintenance intervals for transmission wood poles.

2.0 Reference Documents

WMS 08.15	Distribution Wood Pole Inspection, Testing and Restoration
EMP 5.78	Transmission Overhead
TD861	Reporting Distribution Equipment Failures and Defects
TD953	Inspection, Treatment, Restoration and Replacement Guidelines for Distribution System Wood Poles
AWPA U1	Use Category System: User Specification for Treated Wood
1730B-121	United States Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service Bulletin

3.0 Definitions

3.1 The abbreviations used for the intervals are:

3.1.1 **Y** = Year, i.e. 2Y = 2 Years

3.1.2 **A/R** = As Required

4.0 Inspection and Maintenance Intervals

Table 1 – Distribution and Sub-Transmission Wood Pole Maintenance Intervals

Distribution and Sub-Transmission Wood Pole Maintenance Schedule	Interval
Time-Directed	
Routine Inspection	10Y
Condition-Based	
Priority Reject Poles	(Note 1)
Schedule Repairs or Replacement	A/R (Note 2)

NOTE: 1. Field supervision shall check the pole within forty eight (48) hours from identification as a “priority reject” to assess the conditions and verify there is no immediate danger to the public. The pole must be made safe within 10 calendar days or less from its identification as a “priority reject” wood pole.

2. Complete the repair or replacement within one year of determination of need, following inspection.

5.0 Maintenance Categories

Table 2 – Distribution and Sub-Transmission Wood Pole Maintenance Schedule by Type

Type	Inspection Type
Time-Directed	Routine Inspection (see **WMS 08.15**)
Condition-Based	Priority Reject Poles (see **WMS 08.15**)
	Normal Reject Poles (see **WMS 08.15**)

6.0 Evaluation of Restorable Poles

6.1 The evaluation activities for restorable poles are detailed in **WMS 08.15**.

7.0 Failure Findings

7.1 Failures of devices shall be documented in the failure reporting system used by your region and appropriate for the asset class.

7.1.1 Distribution equipment failures shall be reported using EFRS. See **TD861** for additional information.

7.1.2 Distribution asset failures shall be documented using Maximo.

8.0 Distribution and Sub-Transmission Wood Pole Maintenance Basis Documentation

8.1 The maintenance activities and their schedules are based on industry experience, manufacturer's recommendations, and feedback from contracted service technicians.

Table 3 – Distribution and Sub-Transmission Wood Pole Maintenance Basis Documentation

Requirement	Basis
Routine Inspection – 10Y	Inspection required by the NESC, the National Electrical Safety Code, requires that poles are inspected as often as experience shows it necessary to maintain the strength required for the pole to remain in service. According to charts developed by Osmose on national averages, the percentage of reject poles starts to rise between ten and fifteen years. Eversource is in a Moderate Deterioration zone (National Wood Preservers Association Standard U1). United States Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service bulletin 1730B-121 suggests 10 year inspection intervals for poles located in a Moderate Deterioration zone. Eversource's experience finds that a ten-year inspection and treating program keeps the reject rate reasonable. NOTE: Eversource's line mechanics are taught to visually inspect and sound any pole before climbing it.