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Block Island Power Company
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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

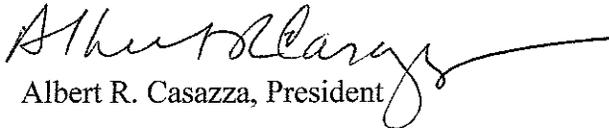
April 14, 2011

Ms. Amy D'Alessandro, Esq.
Rhode Island Public Utilities Division
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02888

Dear Attorney D'Alessandro;

Enclosed are the replies of the Block Island Power Co. to the First Set of Data Requests Directed to Block Island Power Company and the Pascoag Utility District relating to Stray and Contact Voltage.

Sincerely yours,


Albert R. Casazza, President

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE: COMMISSION INVESTIGATION
RELATING TO STRAY AND CONTACT
VOLTAGE

COMMISSION'S FIRST SET OF DATA REQUESTS
DIRECTED TO BLOCK ISLAND POWER COMPANY AND PASCOAG
UTILITY DISTRICT

April 8, 2011

1. For the non-engineers among us, please explain stray and contact voltage and their causes.

BIPCO Answer:

- Stray voltage has two generally accepted meanings and can be confused with the meaning of contact voltage. Technically speaking, Stray voltage describes the occurrence of voltage between two objects that should not have any voltage difference between them. These are small voltages that are often measured between two grounded objects in distant locations and are due to normal current flow in the power system. However, Stray Voltage or EMI is a major problem for Hospitals, Manufacturing Plants and Farms. Hospitals are concerned with the *Microshock Electrocution* hazard in addition to the problem that EMI can cause with sensitive electronics. Farms are a special case because the stray voltage level can become so high that people and animals can actually feel the electrical shock..
 - Contact voltage is not related to normal system operation and can exist at levels that may be hazardous. Contact voltage is caused by an abnormal or unintended flow of current as it flows through the impedance of available abnormal current pathways. Improper or faulty insulation of wires can be such a cause of contact voltage. Contact voltage can be dangerous to people and animals and was brought to light by the accidental electrocution of a woman in NYC who was walking her dog and stepped upon an electrified manhole cover. The attendant publicity about this incident led to using the term "stray voltage" instead of "contact voltage." Block Island the epitome of land conservation has very few manhole covers but vast areas of open space.
2. For each occurrence of stray and contact voltage which has occurred in the last 5 years in BIPCO/PUD territory, please provide:

BIPCO Answer:

- BIPCo has had no instance of stray or contact voltage within the last 5 years.
 - a. the date of the occurrence; **N/A**
 - b. the specific location of the occurrence; **N/A**
 - c. the specific object that was energized, i.e. light pole, sign post, manhole, etc; **N/A**
 - d. the amount or level of the stray or contact voltage measured in volts; **N/A**
 - e. how the company became aware of the occurrence, i.e. whether reported by a member of public, city/town, public works, fire, police or other public official or whether BIPCO discovered the incident, etc; **N/A**
 - f. the cause(s) of the stray or contact voltage; **N/A**
 - g. a description of any injuries to people, animals or property; **N/A**
 - h. whether any claims or lawsuits have been filed against BIPCO as a result of person injuries or property damages sustained as a result of stray or contact voltage; **N/A**
 - i. the amount of any monetary damages or settlement proceeds paid by BIPCO or its insurers as a result of personal injuries or property damage caused by the stray or contact voltage; **N/A**
 - j. any and all actions taken to remedy the condition or situation giving rise to the incident, either at the site of the incident or elsewhere. **N/A**
- 3. Please explain in detail any program(s) the BIPCO has in place to conduct surveys or to monitor or test for stray and contact voltage, and the amount of monies, if any, budgeted or set aside for this purpose. Please include in your response the following:

BIPCO Answer: BIPCo utilizes construction standards for Overhead and Underground utility work. We currently follow National Grid's Construction Standards dated July 2009 for all work pertaining to utility work. Additionally, BIPCo follows the National Electric Safety Code. These set of standards are guidelines which BIPCo follows and adheres to. They insure that we install a proper system and have integrity throughout. BIPCo's system carries voltage at 2400V delta.

- a. the specific method(s) or technologies, if any, used by BIPCO to monitor or test for stray and contact voltage;
BIPCO Answer: BIPCo installs grounds at each transformer and regulator.
- b. with regard to subsection (a), please rate the technology employed on a scale of 1 to 10, 10 being the most advanced;
BIPCO Answer: BIPCo grounds all fixtures according to the specs provided. All underground fixtures have added grounds to eliminate the possibility of failure.

- c. with regard to subsection (a), please state the lowest AC voltage that the technology employed is capable of detecting;

BIPCO Answer: BIPCo currently has multi-meters which can measure down to milli-volts if a situation arose.

- d. whether the individual(s) who conduct any such surveys, monitoring or tests are employees of BIPCO.

BIPCO Answer: Currently, if there were ever any cases at BIPCo, the lineman, who would be a BIPCO employee, would investigate and troubleshoot the situation.

- e. where the individuals in subsection (d) are employed, if not by BIPCO;

BIPCO Answer: N/A. They are employed by BIPCo.

- f. the frequency of any such surveys, monitoring or tests.

BIPCO Answer: They would be done on a case by case basis if a problem by one of the BIPCO employees or a member of the public indicated an issue.

- 4. Please provide the specific results of the most recent survey, monitoring or testing of stray or contact voltage performed by BIPCO or other person/entity acting on its behalf. Please provide in your response the following:

BIPCO Answer: BIPCo has never had evidence of a condition of stray voltage or contact voltage.

- a. the amount of stray or contact voltage detected; N/A
- b. the specific action(s), if any, that were taken to remedy the presence of stray or contact voltage detected. N/A

- 5. Please explain in detail any program(s) BIPCO has in place to mitigate occurrences of stray or contact voltage, and the amount of monies, if any, budgeted or set aside for this purpose.

BIPCO Answer: As explained above, BIPCo follows the strict standards and guidelines set forth in the National Electric Safety Code and the Construction Standards. We feel these standards and regulations have been set forth to eliminate the above mentioned conditions.

- 6. Please state whether any judgments have been entered against BIPCO, or whether BIPCO has paid any settlement proceeds, for injuries or damages resulting from stray or contact voltage, and if so, please provide the specific details of any such judgments.

BIPCO Answer: N/A