

EVERSOURCE

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 **Unitil**

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**DPU 25-10 Technical Session
Topic 8: Pole-Mounted EVSE**





Summary

- **The EDCs are interested in supporting communities and EVSE operators in pursuing technologies and deployment options that best meet their needs.**
- **The EDCs are not interested in owning and operating EVSE. Ownership and operation of EVSE should continue to remain within the competitive market.**
- **EVSE owners/operators must do their due diligence to understand the benefits and limitations of different EVSE siting/mounting options.**
- **The EDCs are not promoting or encouraging utility pole-mounted EVSE over other options.**
- **ROW charging allows for additional flexibility for installation without on-going utility engagement and operational costs that are required with third-party pole attachments.**

In your company's experience, discuss the current state of the competitive market for pole-mounted/ROW EVSE in Massachusetts and whether and how EDC ownership of pole-mounted/ROW EVSE would impact the competitive market.

- The market for pole-mounted/ROW EVSE is still nascent with limited projects or examples in MA today (especially utility-pole mounted).
- There is only one utility-pole mounted project that the EDCs are aware of in MA (Melrose, pictured here).
- The EDCs support customers in pursuing the options for EVSE that meet their needs.
- EDCs are not promoting or encouraging pole-mounted EVSE over other options.
- It is up to the customer to do their due diligence to assess the pros and cons of different options in the context of their unique situations.
- New options are on the market that allow for ROW charging without the complexities of utility pole-mounted EVSEs.



The EDCs are interested in supporting communities and EVSE operators in pursuing options that meet their needs without interfering with the competitive market.

Ownership and operation of EVSE should continue to remain within the competitive market.

Summarize and expand upon your company's concerns with pole-mounted EVSE.

Customer-related Concerns:

Operation of utility pole-mounted chargers requires additional costs and engagement that differs from ground-mounted chargers. Municipalities or any operator of utility pole-mounted EVSE need to be fully aware of the responsibility and costs associated with this option.

These consideration include:

- Potentially higher longer-term costs compared to ground-mounted EVSE (such as insurance, attachment fees, and higher maintenance costs due to the necessity of specialized technicians who can work on poles).
- Fewer models of chargers are available that can be installed on utility poles. The EDCs are only aware of one model of EVSE available for sale in MA that can be deployed as a utility pole-mounted charger.
- Limited flexibility for siting locations, given the constraints that existing utility poles have, such as limited pole space for an EVSE (incl. required hardware, mounting bracket, meter, etc.), and their often-misaligned placement in respect to usable parking spaces.
- Additional down time with the EVSE, given the need to turn off the chargers any time the poles need to be replaced or there are issues with other third-party attachments.

EVSE owners/operators must do their due diligence to understand the benefits and limitations of different EVSE siting/mounting options.



Summarize and expand upon your company's concerns with pole-mounted EVSE.

EDC-specific Concerns:

- Potential increased impacts to grid operations, service reliability, double poles
 - Safety and structural integrity of poles
 - Maintenance and access issues
 - Liability
- National Grid has an EVSE pole attachment agreement and has developed an engineering standard.
- Eversource has not yet adopted a pole attachment agreement for EVSEs and currently does not allow them after internal engineering reviews.
 - While not currently pursuing pole-mounted EVSE, Eversource remains open to revisiting the issue as technology and standards evolve.
- Unitil does not have a pole attachment agreement for EVSEs currently in place, however, the company will review any attachment requests on a case-by-case basis.

Given the complexity, time, and risks associated with utility pole-mounted EVSE, the EDCs believe that there are other options for customers that may be better suited for their needs.

Identify conditions, if any, under which your company would support the installation of pole-mounted EVSE on sole- versus jointly-owned poles.

- All of the issues identified on the previous slides apply both to sole and jointly-owned poles.
- These issues are magnified on jointly-owned poles.

Are other wiring solutions from the pole possible, such as a riser conduit supplying a separate nearby ground-mounted EVSE?

- Yes, other installation options exist and may be easier for the customer to deploy.
- Narberth, PA and Flo (the EVSE manufacturer) partnered to install ROW chargers, some of which took advantage of adject capacity, pulling the service from adjacent poles.



Narberth, PA



Are the EDCs' concerns with insurance requirements for pole-mounted EVSE related to the ownership structure of the EVSE?


- Insurance requirement is an additional barrier to pole-mounted EVSE deployment for the EVSE owner.

What steps can be taken to address the EDCs' concerns with pole-mounted EVSE on EDC-owned poles?

- While many of the challenges covered previously cannot be solved due to the fundamental nature of third-party attachments (and the associated risks and challenges that come with mounting to utility poles), the EDCs recommend that best practices and lessons learned be shared as communities or EVSE operators deploy ROW charging (such as Melrose or the communities that will deploy in the MassCEC Curbside Charging Pilot Program).

Discuss whether your company would support any other ownership models. For instance, explain whether EVSE-ownership models other than EDC EVSE ownership would alleviate any company concerns about pole-mounted EVSE on EDC-owned poles.

- In select use cases, pole-mounted EVSE could be a viable solution for utility pole-mounted EVSE, but given the complexity, time, and risks associated with utility pole-mounted EVSE, the EDCs believe that there are other options for customers that may be better suited and more scalable for their needs.



Explain any concerns your company may have with ROW EVSE. If applicable, describe those concerns, and explain how those concerns can be addressed. Further, discuss whether enhanced utility EV infrastructure program incentives for ROW EVSE could generate increased interest in deploying these types of chargers.

- No, the EDCs do not have direct concerns. The EDCs do not believe that enhanced incentives should be offered for utility pole-mounted EVSE compared to other ROW options. Continued EDC incentives for public charging (ROW included) will be needed to support future customer deployments in the near term.

Identify and discuss whether different barriers to deployment of pole-mounted/ROW EVSE exist in cities versus more rural communities. If such barriers exist, describe the barriers specific to each setting, and identify any steps that EDCs, Verizon, municipalities, or other entities could take to reduce those barriers.

- The EDCs are not aware of any difference that arise due to geography. Suitability of EVSE deployment should be assessed on a case-by-case basis, regardless of whether being sited in a rural or urban area.