Poles & Conduit
In a Converging Utility Landscape

NARUC, November, 2017

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It’s About Infrastructure

- **Railroads** – end of 19th century, birth of CPUC

- **New Concept of Infrastructure**
  - **Telephone line** includes conduits, ducts, poles, wires, cables ... to facilitate communication ... with or without transmission wires.
    - Cable, fiber, microwave, CMRS
  - **Energy “signal wires”**... include telephone ...and other wires”; smart grid; telemetry (also for water and gas).
  - **Energy IOUs** entering the telecom market
In 2016, the Commission revisited its deregulatory decisions 10 years before.

Decision 16–12–025 (“competition decision”) – Physical network & economic market: two sides of the same coin.

→ Poles & Conduits – bottlenecks, constricting competition. … Pressures:

• Time to make ‘96 Telco Act competition real – new facilities-based providers, FTTH models
• 5G & backhaul
• Safety
CPUC Decisions/Initiatives re Poles & Conduit

- Decision 16–01–046 – CMRS on poles
- Decision 16–12–025: “poles are where safety and competition meet.”
- Rulemaking17–03–009 – WIA Petition – CLEC access to poles – turnkey backhaul solutions
- March 2017 Pole & Conduit Database & Software Workshop:
  - Asset management; Work Tracking
- Investigation 17–06–027 – Census/Database?
- Rulemaking 17–06–028 – Access Reform?
Safety

- Unauthorized or Unknown facilities
- Irregular inspection & maintenance tracking (lashig wires, rotten poles, etc)
- Urban–rural interface; extreme weather; vegetation management
Competition

- FTTH
- 5G – when, how big?
- Fiber backhaul
- How much capacity on utility poles, municipal structures?
Shared Database?

• Pro:
  • Route planning
  • Facilitate one touch make ready?
  • Safety oversight – track inspections, rogue attachments, load calcs
  • Facilitate billing?

• Contra:
  • Effort and Cost
    • Efficiencies of Big Data?
  • Security
Data delivery by Branches

- Energy providers: 43%
- Municipalities: 32%
- Telecommunications: 19%
- Water providers: 3%
- Other: 2%
- Transportation: 1%

Total data submission until 25 April 2016: 1,070 data records
Access Reform

- Timelines (for Competitive Attachments)
- Competitors access to digital maps & information
- Make-Ready (One Touch? Right Touch?)
- Potential Integration of State & Local Roles re Planning and Safety
Questions?

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