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STAFF WORKSHOP
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JOINT USE OF POLES BY ELECTRIC, TELEPHONE, CABLE TV, AND OTHERS IN FLORIDA

Rule 25-6.0341 Location of the Utility's Electric Distribution Facilities

1. Regarding location of the utilities' electric distribution facilities, it is very difficult to respond to the request for cost impact on cable TV of the proposed rule #25-6.0341. For new overhead or underground lines, we prefer that they be constructed in accessible locations. For relocation of existing lines the total cost could be 1.5 to 2 times the cost of new lines. An approximate cost of overhead is $20,000 per mile and $125 to $150 per service drop. An approximate cost of underground is $35,000 to $40,000 per mile if constructed before subdivisions are established. Cost can be $100,000 to $125,000 per mile for underground systems in established subdivisions. Boring under roads and other obstacles costs $9 to $18 per foot. Input into electric construction projects is appreciated. We request that the opportunity for input be timely with respect to the evaluation of construction alternatives and our budgeting time deadlines. Funding of line relocation and conversion to underground projects remains a major concern.

Rule 25-6.0342 Third-Party Attachment Standards and Procedures

2. The implementation of Rule 25-6 0342, third-party attachment standards and procedures, could be very helpful to power and communications companies if the individual power companies adopt rules which recognize when it is prudent to exceed NESC requirements for joint pole use and when, as the pole fills up, the NESC requirements should govern. The application of extreme wind loading, if adopted and where it is applied geographically, will be as required by the Florida PSC. Thoughtful application of guying to help achieve required strength of pole lines can be very effective. The failure of guy wires, guy splices and guy anchors caused many pole failures during the hurricanes. Critical guys should be inspected and tested as thoroughly as wood poles are required to be. It is my understanding that the application of extreme wind loading is not to be applied state wide. We can not estimate the cost impact of extreme wind loading at this time.

3. Power lines, hardware for attaching lines to poles and power apparatus such as transformers, fused switches, lightning arrester assemblies, outdoor lights and many others usually account for most of the wind load on a pole. Wind load is a product of the surface area exposed to the wind multiplied times the force of the assumed wind and also multiplied times the pole height from the fixed point (often the ground line or the lowest guy wire) on the pole. What causes hurricane related pole failures is falling trees, flying building debris, soft soil, weak guy failure, rotten pole failure, and finally wind

force on poles, lines and attachments. Tornados within hurricanes have winds in excess of "extreme wind design speeds" which can and frequently do break poles which meet extreme wind criteria. Taking all these facts into consideration, it is unlikely that a broken pole failed because of a communication cable which would not have failed otherwise.

4. Rarely, multiple cable lines which are attached much lower than power facilities on poles do account for more wind load than very basic power lines with only two to four small wires with little or no electric apparatus attached.

5. Almost all power companies already have construction standards for power lines which specify power line and apparatus configurations for basic power pole assemblies. Examples are: one, two, or three primary voltage wires at the top of the pole with a neutral wire below; one, two, or three transformers on a pole; one or more electric service wires, both underground thru riser pipe or overhead thru the air; outdoor lighting fixtures and many other types of electric apparatus and wires.

6. Power Company construction standards do not contain drawings depicting the many combinations of power assembly units which are used in actual practice. Examples include adding transformers, underground service risers, outdoor light fixtures, secondary voltage cables, etc. to the various power line assembly configurations.

7. The RUS construction standards which are used by most Electric Cooperatives are available to the public and cable TV companies. Cable TV companies need access to the construction standards of all power companies with which they have attachment agreements. Without the standards it is impossible to determine what make ready work is appropriate to rearrange facilities on existing poles or make new attachments.

8. Many of the violations of the NESC separation requirements between power and communications facilities and many violations of the NESC pole loading limitations occur as a result of power facilities being added after the initial construction of power and communication lines.

9. The communications companies also have construction standards for attaching to poles, separation from power requirements, and pole loading limitations. The company which requires additional space or pole strength to accommodate its new attachment must pay the power company to rearrange facilities or install a new pole if necessary and pay the cost of other attachers to provide such space. This also applies to the power company when it needs additional space or strength for power facilities. The power company must bear the cost of additional space for its facilities. It may not take back space from a legal attacher or add facilities in violation of NESC rules.

10. *The National Electrical Safety Code (NESC)* is a performance standard which contains detailed rules for <u>what</u> must be accomplished for safety of power and communications lines. The NESC does not dictate <u>how</u> to accomplish <u>what</u> is required by the rules. Therefore, power and communications companies must have construction standards

which specify how they will accomplish what the NESC requires. For example they may use wood or concrete poles, build lines with tall poles spaced far apart or shorter poles spaced more closely etc.

11. It is accepted good practice to exceed many of the NESC requirements upon initial construction although it is not "necessary for safety." This practice allows enough pole strength and height to accommodate the addition of facilities by power companies, communications companies, and government agencies which often utilize poles for traffic signals, signal control circuit cables and other facilities.

12. Most power companies and telephone companies which own poles already have procedures for authorizing attachments by cable TV and others. They also have specifications for cable attachments, separation from power facilities and other cables, etc. Reliance on NESC requirements varies greatly among various companies. Compliance with NESC requirements is mandatory, as it should be. These procedures and attachment requirements are usually covered in existing joint use contracts or license to attach contracts.

13. The major problem with many of these existing contracts is that they contain provisions which are inconsistent with FCC rulings, and they contain some attachment rules which unreasonably exceed NESC requirements. Many of the attachment rules are not enforced by the pole owner in the field where workers often cooperate. When these type contracts and rules are used as the basis for a compliance audit they result in a very high alleged violation rate and erroneous assignment of responsibility. Many of these contracts give power companies "sole discretion" to specify attachment requirements and to change those requirements when they see fit. Pole attachment policies and procedures must be "just reasonable and non-discriminatory." Litigation involving one such contract has gone on for six years at the FCC and is still not resolved. We are concerned that power companies may simply submit those type of attachment rules and represent them as already agreed to by cable operators. One example of a power company requirement is 40 inches separation of cable TV below a power guy wire attachment. The NESC requires 6 inches. Therefore almost three feet of additional pole height is required for a pole with a power guy and a TV cable. Significantly, the addition of storm guying to distribution poles in certain areas is the most effective and economical way to greatly strengthen the lines. If this rule is enforced it could disrupt a very effective method of pole hardening. Great care by the commission staff and cooperation between utility representatives can identify such counterproductive rules which exceed NESC rules. One power company attachment rule requires 12 inches separation between communications drop attachment points on power poles. That is not an NESC requirement. It has nothing to do with safety or pole strength. Until recently it had never been enforced by the power company but now is mandatory, they say.

14. The common requirements for separation between cable TV and power, which exceed NESC requirements, are acceptable for new or existing poles with adequate height and strength capacity. In fact, more initial separation (up to 6 or 8 feet) between power and

cable is now required by some power cooperatives. For tall pole initial designs this is good planning. Facilities are routinely added to poles over time by power companies, communications companies and a growing number of others. As poles have more attachments added, the NESC rules must be applied as the final Standard for safety for separation of facilities and the strength of the poles.

15. Some power companies retain spacing requirements between cable and power which exceed NESC requirements even if they necessitate changing poles to taller poles. This practice is not necessary for safety, wasteful of resources, and unreasonable. NESC requirements (as modified by the FPSC) should be the final determination if an existing pole is required to be strengthened and/or made taller.

16. A significant number of poles in Florida contain violations of the separation requirements. Some of these violations have been caused by all of the various companies and agencies on the poles. Many of the NESC violations do not present serious safety hazards. Part 4 of the NESC contains safe work rules for electric and communications workers. Separate OSHA regulations also apply. Utility workers who are properly trained and equipped can perform their jobs safely even on non-standard or storm damaged pole lines.

17. Measures should be taken to correct serious safety hazards, correct practices by all electric, communications and other organizations which create NESC violations, and provide for orderly correction of existing violations. This should be done while incorporating whatever increased pole strength requirements are adopted in Florida. The NESC states in rule 214. "....defects....if not promptly corrected, shall be recorded;..." and ".....defects that could reasonably be expected to endanger life or property shall be promptly repaired, disconnected or isolated."

18. We appreciate the ability to have input into the revision of power company Attachment Standards and Procedures and will work to achieve good results.

Submitted by:

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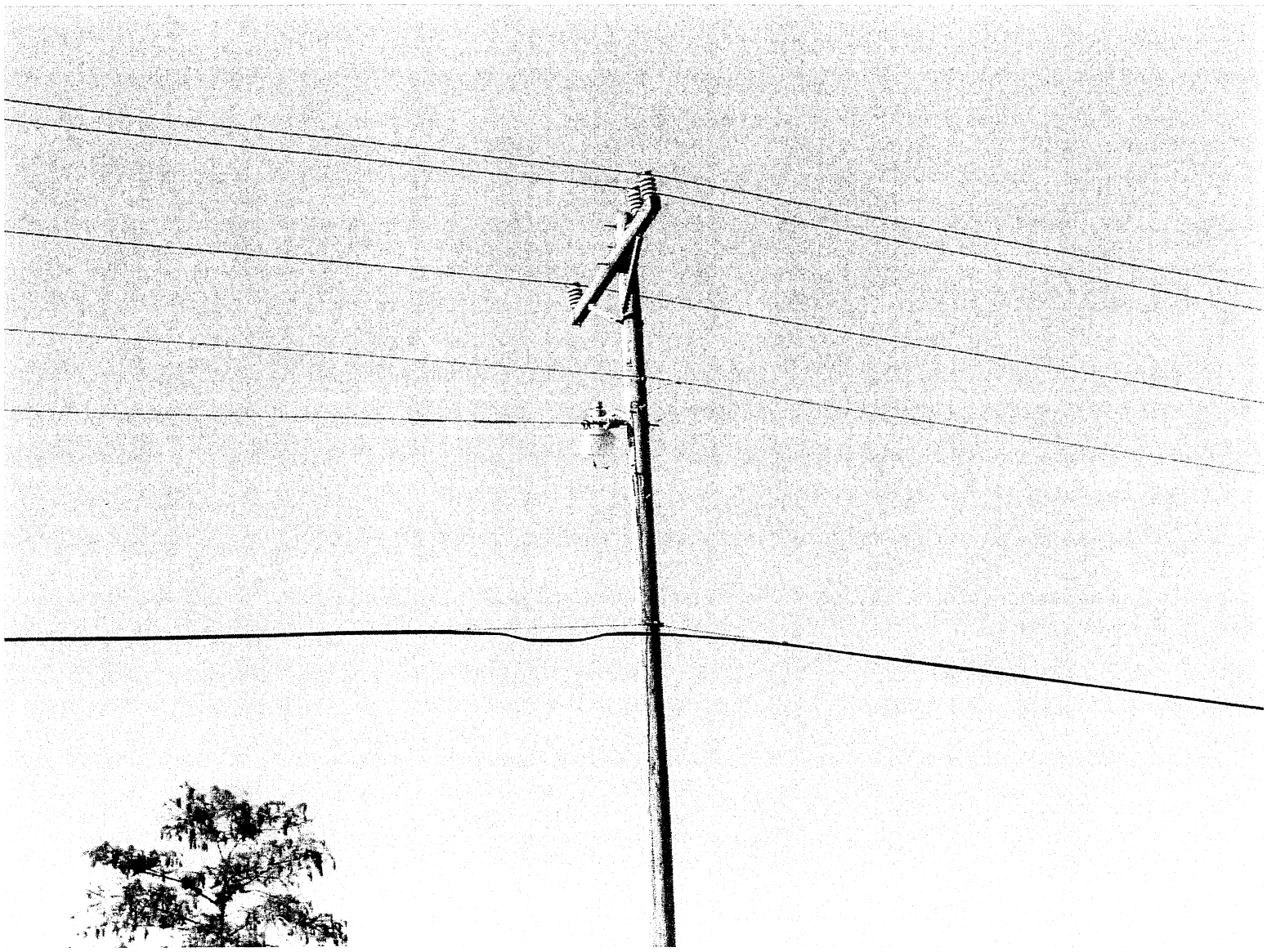
On behalf of the Florida Cable Telecommunications Association



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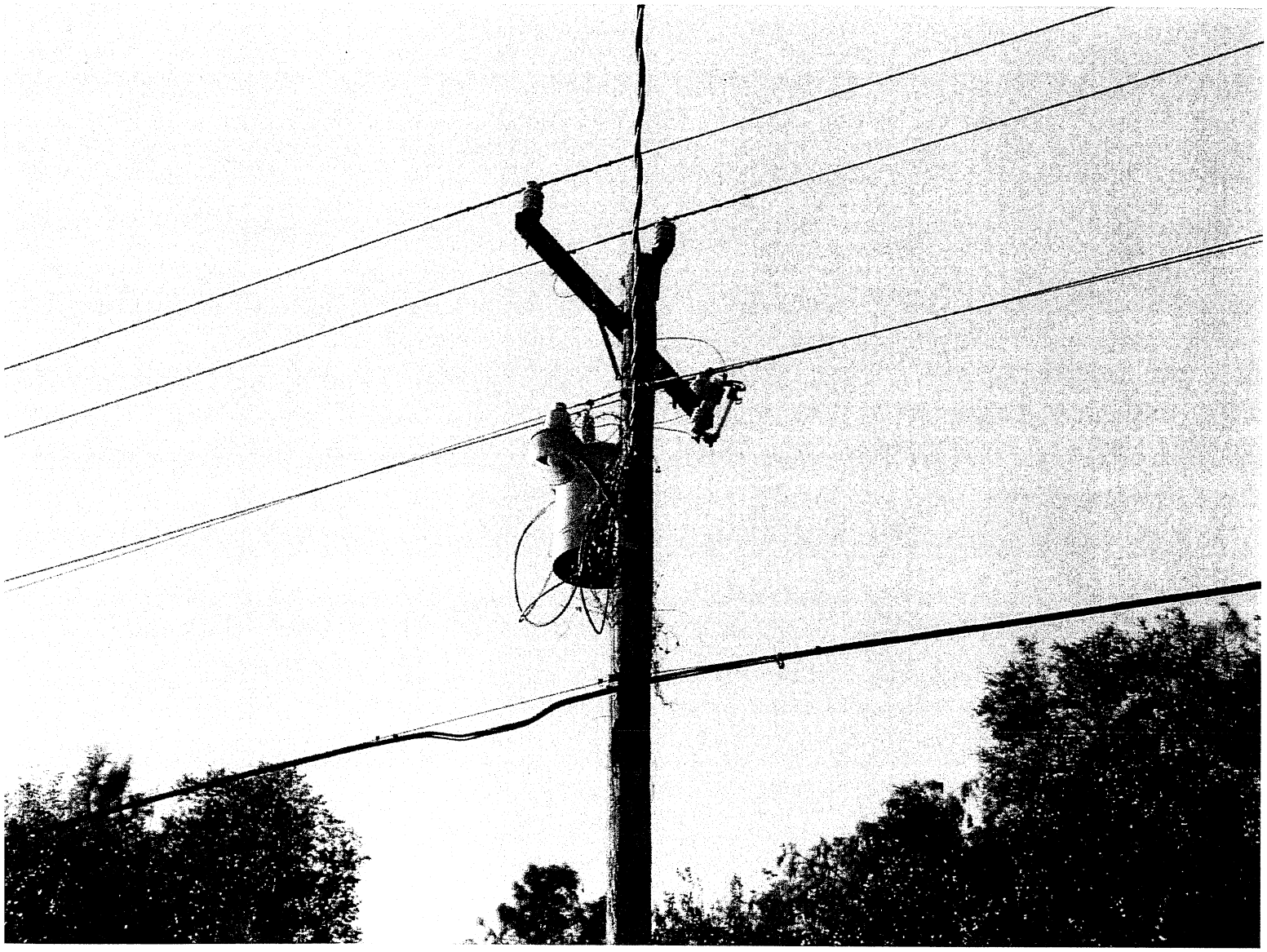

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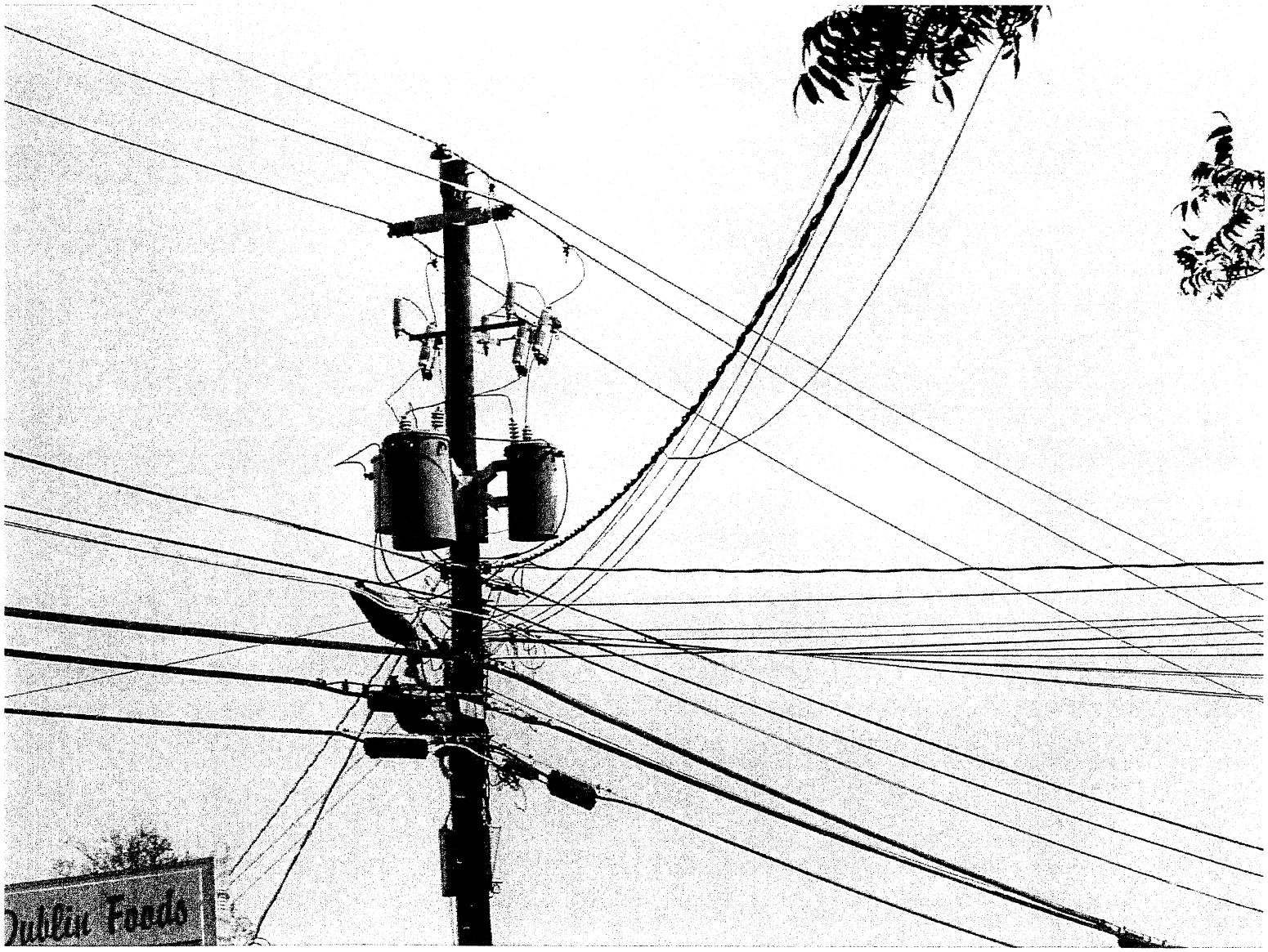

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