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§ 126.1 Definitions

(a) Power line structures. Power line structures as used in this Part shall include both poles and lattice metal towers which support electric lines at 4,000 volts (phase to phase) or higher.

(b) Populated areas. Populated areas as used in this Part shall mean:

(1) all cities, villages and towns in which the population density is greater than 199 persons per square mile; or

(2) all areas within one quarter mile of any school, playground sanctioned by municipal authorities or recognized recreational bodies, or residential housing; or

(3) all public parks except Adirondack and Catskill State parks.

(c) Authorized officials. Authorized officials as used in this Part shall mean the chief executive officer of the local governmental unit or the chief administrator of a school.

§ 126.2 Structure markings

Power line lattice metal towers in populated areas shall be plainly marked with a warning sign visible from two opposite faces of the tower. Warning signs shall be located at a height that makes them clearly visible to persons on the ground approaching the tower. Warning signs will not be required on poles.

§ 126.3 Structure access

(a) Electric utilities shall use fences, barbed wire, or other anti-climbing shields to limit access to lattice tower power line structures adjacent to school property or playgrounds sanctioned by municipal authorities or recognized recreational bodies.

(b) Electric utilities may place anti-climbing shields on lattice tower power line structures not adjacent to school property or designated playgrounds whenever such shields would eliminate a significant hazard or at the request of an authorized official. Any authorized official may petition the commissioner to order an electric utility to place such shields if his request is refused.

(c) No ladder, step, or other intended climbing device shall be allowed less than eight feet above the ground on any power line structure except for those placed on wooden poles prior to July 1, 1977.

§ 126.4 Safety programs

(a) Electric utilities shall urge school systems within their service territories to conduct electrical safety education programs and shall cooperate with school officials to develop and present such programs. As a minimum, this shall include the annual transmittal of a notice to all school districts operating in the utilities' franchise areas that speakers and/or films are available from the utilities for the schools' use.

(b) Electric utilities shall distribute a description of the dangers of electric power lines in safety reminders which shall be distributed annually as customer bill inserts.