

USE: Assist customer when designing project to help maintain safe clearance from electrical facilities.

ELECTRICAL CLEARANCE CONSIDERATIONS



The Company utilizes the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) when designing the placement of electrical facilities. The code considers the closest approach of the conductors under all operating conditions, this includes conductor movement due to wind, the sag of the conductor, temperatures and mechanical operation of other devices. The code also considers activities occurring in or around electrical facilities when establishing required clearances. For example, if oversized vehicles might pass under electrical lines, the code provides clearance that take the size of the vehicle into account.



The Company requires engineers and Customers to use OSHA requirements when designing or updating projects that are near the Company's electrical facilities. OSHA requires a minimum clearance of 10 feet for non-utility personnel and their equipment working in close proximity to electric power lines energized up to 50kV (OSHA rule: 1910.333(c)(3)(i)). The Company also requires that any non-utility personnel contact the Company for overhead protection for overhead lines and have all underground lines bluestaked prior to commencing work.

When planning projects, Customers should adequately prepare for construction activities that will bring personnel and their equipment within close proximity of Company facilities, in order to maintain the 10 foot OSHA clearance. This is especially important to consider when building multi-story projects near overhead lines. Overhead protection must be called and scheduled before beginning any work near the Company facilities. Customers shall contact a Design Services representative during the planning phase to help with clearance considerations.

There may be times when the proper OSHA and NESC clearances can not be maintained due to new or updated construction. Under those circumstances, the Company, at its discretion, may relocate the company owned facilities at the Customer's expense. There are many factors involved in this relocation, including easements, required outages, permitting, etc. that will need to be determined before the Company can consider relocating the facilities.

Disclaimer: The recommendations and statements provided above are for informational purposes only and do not constitute a binding agreement, obligation, or legal responsibility on the part of the Company. Nothing in this document shall be construed as creating a contract, warranty, or guarantee of any kind. Furthermore, the requirements described here are not intended to and do not alter any safety obligations imposed under applicable law, including but not limited to OSHA and the High Voltage Power Lines and Safety Restrictions Act (A.R.S. 40-360.41, et seq. All non-utility personnel operating near electrical facilities are responsible for researching and establishing safety requirements for the work they are performing.

Note: For more information about overhead and excavation, go to <https://www.tep.com/overhead-excavation/>.

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