



Customer Requirements Clearances to Electrical Facilities Adjacent to Buildings/Structures

December 13, 2023

C-OH-9020

Application

This standard describes the required clearances to new or modified buildings/structures near existing overhead electrical power circuits/equipment owned and operated by Tacoma Power. These clearances are based on Tacoma Power's interpretation of the Worker Safety Rules in the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 296-24-960 and WAC 296-155-428.

These clearances and requirements shall be applied to the permitting and design of new or modified buildings/structures for the buildings/structures to be safely constructed and maintained over time.

Clearance Requirements to Buildings/Structures

The following table lists the **required** clearances for a new or modified building/structure (not located within public right-of-way) to existing electrical power circuits/equipment owned and operated by Tacoma Power. All measurements are from the conductor and/or energized electrical equipment. Transitional clearances between horizontal and vertical shall meet applicable WAC and National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) (ANSI-C2) requirements.

Voltage/Description of Electric Facilities	Horizontal Clearance Requirements (min.) ^[1]	Vertical Clearance Requirements (min.) ^[2]
750 Volts to 50 kV	14 ft.	17 ft.
115 kV	15 ft.	18 ft.
230 kV	17 ft.	20 ft.

^[1] Tacoma Power Construction Standards prohibit building/structure construction within 4 ft. of existing poles.

^[2] Tacoma Power Customer Service Policy prohibits construction of structures beneath overhead primary electrical lines.

If these clearances cannot be met, the customer must work with Tacoma Power to move, remove, change, or re-arrange Tacoma Power-owned facilities at the customer's expense. Typically, this will require the conversion from overhead to underground of facilities at 50 kV and below. Alley arms shall not be used to achieve clearance to a new or modified building/structure. Please contact New Services Engineering at 253-502-8436 with any questions, clarifications and estimates.



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Employer Responsible for Worker Safety

The employers/supervisors of **Unqualified Persons** on a building/structure for construction or maintenance are responsible to ensure that the safety rules of WAC 296-24-960 and 296-155-428 are met. **Qualified Persons** are those capable of working safely on energized high voltage circuits and must be familiar with the proper use of special precautionary techniques, personal protective equipment, insulating and shielding materials, and insulated tools.

Tacoma Power takes no responsibility for the safety of persons that are not employed by or under the direction of Tacoma Power.

The Washington State Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) is the final authority concerning the application of worker safety rules. It is recommended that employers contact the consultation office of L&I for additional guidance.

Crane Safety

Safety rules related to crane operation near power lines are found within WAC 296-155-53408.

Before crane operations begin near any Tacoma Power electric power lines/equipment, the person responsible for the job is required to contact Tacoma Power Line Desk at 253-502-8232.
