



RESOLUTION NO. U-11355

1 A RESOLUTION related to revising Chapters 12.01 and 12.06A of the Tacoma
2 Municipal Code.

3 WHEREAS, the City of Tacoma, Department of Public Utilities, Light
4 Division (d/b/a "Tacoma Power") is requesting revisions to Chapter 12.01 "Utility
5 Charges" and Chapter 12.06A "Electrical Code" of the Tacoma Municipal Code
6 ("TMC"), and

7 WHEREAS TMC 12.06A.250, sets forth certain fees for inspections and
8 permits related to the connection of electrical service under various
9 circumstances and for different types of customers, and

10 WHEREAS TMC 12.06A.260, sets forth certain penalty fees and fee
11 adjustments under various circumstances related to the connection and
12 provision of electrical service, and

13 WHEREAS the fees set forth in TMC 12.06A.250 and TMC 12.06A.260
14 have not been updated since 2005 and Tacoma Power is proposing to update
15 the fees to more accurately reflect the current cost of providing service, and

16 WHEREAS Tacoma Power also proposes a change to pole connection
17 fees in TMC 12.01.010 which result from delinquency cut-offs, to more
18 accurately reflect actual costs, as the pole connection fees have not been
19 updated since 1985, and

20 WHEREAS additional revisions are proposed to improve current
21 practices: deletion of TMC 12.06A.135, since the requirements of that section
22 are covered in Tacoma Public Utilities standard C-MR-0005; modifications to
23 the language in TMC 12.06A.230, to remove a hurdle for permit applications
24
25
26



and to revise language that requires an owner to submit an affidavit; deletion of
a sentence in TMC 12.06A.380, that requires 200 ampere service capacity to
allow customers to utilize smaller services when allowed by the National
Electric Code and prevent customers from having to oversize their service
capacity, Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

That the Public Utility Board approves the requested revisions to
Chapters 12.01 and 12.06A of the Tacoma Municipal Code and the Council of
the City of Tacoma is requested to pass an ordinance approving the revisions
by amending Chapters 12.01 and 12.06A of the Tacoma Municipal Code,
substantially in the form as set forth in the documents on file with the Clerk of
the Board, and in final form to be approved by the City Attorney.

Clerk Approved as to form:

Chair

/s/

Chief Deputy City Attorney

Secretary

Adopted

Clerk



Board Action Memorandum

TO: Jackie Flowers, Director of Utilities
COPY: Charleen Jacobs, Director and Board Offices
FROM: Chris Robinson, Tacoma Power Superintendent
Ying Hall, Power Section Manager
MEETING DATE: October 26, 2022
DATE: October 7, 2022

STRATEGIC DIRECTIVE ALIGNMENT (select as many that apply):

Please indicate which of the Public Utility Board's Strategic Directives is supported by this action.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SD1 – Equity & Inclusion | <input type="checkbox"/> SD8 – Telecom |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SD2 – Financial Sustainability | <input type="checkbox"/> SD9 – Economic Development |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SD3 – Rates | <input type="checkbox"/> SD10 – Government Relations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SD4 – Stakeholder Engagement | <input type="checkbox"/> SD11 – Decarbonization/Electric Vehicles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SD5 – Environmental Leadership | <input type="checkbox"/> SD12 – Employee Relations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SD6 – Innovation | <input type="checkbox"/> SD13 – Customer Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SD7 – Reliability & Resiliency | <input type="checkbox"/> SD14 – Resource Planning |

SUMMARY:

Tacoma Power requests approval by the Public Utility Board to revise Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) Chapters 12.01 and 12.06A Electrical Code.

BACKGROUND:

TMC Chapter 12.06A covers Tacoma Power's rates, terms, and conditions on electric installation, inspection, and permits. TMC 12.06A.250 specifies fees for inspections and permits under various circumstances for different types of customers. TMC 12.06A.260 outlines penalty fees and fee adjustments under various circumstances. Those fees have not been updated since 2005. Tacoma Power proposes to update the fees to accurately reflect the current cost of providing the services. Tacoma Power also proposes a change to pole reconnection fees resulting from delinquency cut-offs in TMC 12.01.010 to reflect the actual cost. The pole reconnection fees have not been updated since 1985.

The proposed revision includes other minor adjustments to ordinance language to reflect the current practice. Tacoma Power proposes to delete TMC 12.06A.135 Metering Installations and Labeling because all the requirements are already covered in the Tacoma Public Utilities' standard C-MR-0005. Tacoma Power proposes to make minor modifications to the language in TMC 12.06A.230 Permit to owner - conditions to remove an unnecessary hurdle for permit application. The revised language will no longer require an owner to submit an affidavit and therefore will not need a notary witness. In addition, Tacoma Power proposes to strike out a sentence in TMC 12.06A.380 Classification of occupancies and wiring methods to remove the minimum requirement of 200 ampere service capacity. This allows customers to utilize smaller services when allowed by the National Electric Code. It will prevent customers from having to oversize their service capacity and reduce their costs.



Board Action Memorandum

ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? Yes

IF THE EXPENSE IS NOT BUDGETED, PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW IT IS TO BE COVERED.

Both the expense of and the revenue from the inspection, permitting, and reconnection activities are included in this biennium's budget. This update to these fees will result in a better match of revenues and expenses. When fees are out-of-date, the general retail customer base absorbs the difference between the collected fee revenue and the actual cost of providing the service. This update to fees will minimize cross-subsidization.

IF THE ACTION REQUESTED IS APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT, INCLUDE LANGUAGE IN RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING \$200,000 INCREASE IN ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY TO DIRECTOR? No

ATTACHMENTS: List any attachments (contracts, policies, agreements, etc.).
Proposed Amendments to Chapters 12.01 and 12.06A of the Tacoma Municipal Code

CONTACT:

Primary Contact: Ying Hall, Power Section Manager

Supervisor's Name: Chris Robinson, Tacoma Power Superintendent

Presenter (if different from primary contact): Chad Edinger, Power Section Assistant Manager

Additional staff requiring a Zoom presentation link: John Martinson, Power Supervisor



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Jackie Flowers, Director of Utilities, Tacoma Public Utilities
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Proposed Rate Ordinance –revise TMC Chapters 12.01 and 12.06A regarding electric inspection, permitting and pole reconnection fees.
DATE: November 15, 2022

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

Tacoma Power requests approval by the City Council to revise Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) Chapters 12.01 Utility Charges and 12.06A Electrical Code.

BACKGROUND:

This Department's Recommendation is Based On: TMC Chapter 12.06A covers Tacoma Power's rates, terms, and conditions on electric installation, inspection, and permits. TMC 12.06A.250 specifies fees for inspections and permits under various circumstances for different types of customers. TMC 12.06A.260 outlines penalty fees and fee adjustments under various circumstances. Those fees have not been updated since 2005. Tacoma Power proposes to update the fees to accurately reflect the current cost of providing the services, as well as to make minor adjustments to ordinance language. Tacoma Power also proposes a change to pole reconnection fees resulting from delinquency cut-offs in TMC 12.01.010 to reflect the actual cost. The pole reconnection fees have not been updated since 1985.

The proposed revision includes other minor adjustments to ordinance language. Tacoma Power proposes to delete TMC 12.06A.135 Metering Installations and Labeling because all the requirements are already covered by the Tacoma Public Utilities' (TPU) standard C-MR-0005. Tacoma Power proposes to make minor modifications to the language in TMC 12.06A.230 Permit to owner – conditions to remove an unnecessary hurdle for permit application. The revised language will no longer require an owner to submit an affidavit and therefore will not need a notary witness. In addition, Tacoma Power proposes to strike out a sentence in TMC 12.06A.380 Classification of occupancies and wiring methods to remove the minimum requirement of 200 ampere service capacity. This allows customers to utilize smaller services when allowed by the National Electric Code. It will prevent customers from having to oversize their service capacity and reduce their costs.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

The updated fees will be published on the Tacoma Power Rates Schedule website and in the Tacoma Municipal Code.

Tacoma Power has informed the Master Builders Association of Tacoma and Pierce County.



2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility: *(Mandatory)*

The updated fees will increase equity by removing the uncovered cost of inspections from general retail rates. When fees are out-of-date, the general retail customer base absorbs the difference between the collected fee revenue and the actual cost of providing the service. This update to fees will minimize cross-subsidization and reduce general upward pressure on rates.

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s).

Most inspection and permitting activities are requested from homeowners remodeling their houses, commercial developers, or commercial and industrial customers who want to modify their electric systems. The fee increases are not expected to cause financial hardship on those customers. However, if fees are not raised, regular residential and small commercial customers will bear the cost of these activities. Similarly, the updated fee for a pole or underground reconnection from delinquency cut-offs should reflect the actual cost of the service. It will prevent such costs from having to be absorbed by general customers.

The other two minor modifications to ordinance languages intend to remove redundant requirements and remove obstacles in permit applications.

ALTERNATIVES:

Presumably, your recommendation is not the only potential course of action; please discuss other alternatives or actions that City Council or staff could take. Please use table below.

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
1. Continue the current inspection, permitting, and reconnection fees.	No action is needed.	Electric customers who do not use the services will end up subsidizing customers who use the services.
2. Do not change language in TMC 12.06A.135		The requirements are redundant to TPU standard.
3. Do not change language in TMC 12.06A.230		Applicants will need to go through an additional step to apply for permit.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

Tacoma Power will continue to evaluate the cost of providing the specific inspection and permitting activities. The updated cost evaluation will be incorporated in the next rate-setting process.

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Tacoma Power requests approval by the City Council to revise Tacoma Municipal Code Chapters 12.01 Utility Charges and 12.06A Electrical Code.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Tacoma Power will receive increased revenue of approximately \$500,000 annually from inspection and permitting activities.



Fund Number & Name		COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	Cost Element	Total Amount
1.	4700-Power			\$500,000
2.				
TOTAL				\$500,000

What Funding is being used to support the expense?

N/A

Are the expenditures and revenues planned and budgeted in this biennium's current budget?

YES

Both the expense of and the revenue from inspection, permitting and reconnection services are included in this biennium's budget. This update of fees will result in a better match of revenue and expense.

Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?

YES

The existing inspection, permitting and reconnection fees have not been updated in over a decade. If the new legislation is not implemented, general customers who do not incur the service costs would subsidize customers who use the services.

Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?

YES

If adopted, the legislation will establish higher fees to properly offset incurred costs.

Will the legislation change the City's FTE/personnel counts?

NO

No additional personnel needed.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Proposed Amendments to TMC Chapters 12.01 and 12.06A

CHAPTER 12.01 UTILITY CHARGES

Sections:

- 12.01.010 Utility services establishment. Effective April 1, 2023
- 12.01.020 Utility field collection call.
- 12.01.030 Invoicing and late payment fee.
- 12.01.040 Residential conservation loan program charges – Light Division.
- 12.01.050 Waiver of utility connection and inspection charges during declared emergency.

12.01.010 Utility services establishment.

A utility service establishment charge shall be imposed for each customer's service order for all utilities provided by the City of Tacoma as set forth below:

A. A utility service establishment charge shall be paid by each utility customer at the time of the service request. The charge includes turn-on and turn-off services if required. The establishment charge shall be as indicated in the table below for each service:

Power (metered)	\$10.50
Water (metered)	\$6.10
Solid Waste	\$3.00
Wastewater	\$1.00
Surface Water	\$1.00

Such utility service establishment charge will be allocated to, and recorded as revenue for City tax purposes by each utility providing service.

Such utility service establishment charge will be allocated to, and recorded as revenue for City tax purposes by each utility providing service.

B. Adjustments/Fees.

A service charge shall be paid by each utility customer if a field call is required to adjust service to a new or different type of service or rate, or for turn-off or turn-on of service. For purposes of this chapter, normal City business hours means 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except City recognized holidays. The service charge shall be the sum of the following applicable fees:

1. \$10.00 for collection or disconnection for nonpayment.
2. \$12.00 for service connection during normal City business hours.
3. \$60.00 for turn-on or turn-off during all other hours.
4. Plus an additional \$35.00 if a pole or vault cut-in or termination is necessary.
5. \$6.00 for failure to appear for utility turn-on.
6. \$20.00 for self cut-in.
7. \$5.00 for verification of meter reading at the customer's request after second reading within 12 consecutive months.
8. \$5.00 for lock-out during a reasonable attempt to read a meter.
9. \$5.00 for service provided to prepare information for collection on accounts closed over 30 days.
10. \$10.00 for service provided to prepare information for bankruptcy administration.

Effective January 1, 2021, a \$15.00 recurring billing cycle fee shall be charged for service provided for Opt Out of Advanced Metering Infrastructure. The low-income senior and/or disabled discount rate percentage, as specified in subsection 12.06.165.C, shall be applied to the Opt-Out fee for qualified eligible customers as determined by subsection 12.06.165.

There will not be a disconnection or connection fee charged if the action may ordinarily be performed remotely. Such adjustment charges will be allocated to and recorded as revenue for City tax purposes by each utility providing service.

Tacoma Municipal Code

C. Reconnection fees resulting from delinquency cut-offs shall be as follows:

1. \$12.00 during normal City business hours and \$60.00 during all other hours.
2. ~~\$40.00~~\$07.00 for a pole ~~or underground~~ reconnection during normal City business hours and ~~\$65.00~~\$43.00 for a pole ~~or underground~~ reconnection during all other hours.
3. ~~\$75.00 for a URD reconnection during normal City business hours.~~
4. ~~No URD reconnection after normal City business hours.~~

There will not be a reconnection fee charged if the action may ordinarily be performed remotely. Such reconnection fees will be allocated to and recorded as revenue for City tax purposes by each utility providing service.

The disconnection, reconnection, or collection fees set forth in subsections 12.01.010.B.1 and 12.01.010.B.2, subsection 12.01.010.C.1, and subsection 12.01.020 will not be charged if the fees are due to non-payment between March 17, 2020, and May 31, 2024, and the non-payment is connected to an extended payment arrangement for balances incurred by the utility customer prior to March 31, 2022.¹

The outside of normal business hours disconnection or reconnection fees set forth in subsections 12.01.010.B.3 and 12.01.010.C.1 will be waived one time per customer if the fees are due to non-payment between March 17, 2020, and May 31, 2024, and the non-payment is connected to an extended payment arrangement for balances incurred by the utility customer prior to March 31, 2022.²

(Ord. 28812 Ex. A; passed Apr. 26, 2022; Ord. 28726 Ex. A; passed Dec. 15, 2020; Ord. 27137 § 1; passed Sep. 9, 2003; Ord. 27025 § 1; passed Dec. 10, 2002; Ord. 26076 § 1; passed Jun. 3, 1997; Ord. 24965 § 1; passed Aug. 27, 1991; Ord. 23337 § 6; passed Sept. 10, 1985)

12.01.020 Utility field collection call.

A charge of \$10.00 shall be imposed on the customer when a field call is necessary to collect or results from a delinquent utility bill, not-sufficient fund check, deposit, dishonored credit card, debit card, or Automated Clearing House (ACH) payment request and/or a delinquent residential energy conservation loan payment. The utility field collection call charge will be allocated to, and recorded as revenue for City tax purposes by, each utility providing service in the same ratio as Department credit and collection costs.

(Ord. 27025 § 2; passed Dec. 10, 2002; Ord. 24965 § 2; passed Aug. 27, 1991; Ord. 23337 § 6; passed Sept. 10, 1985)

12.01.030 Invoicing and late payment fee.

A. Invoices for City utility services may be issued by mail and/or electronic means. Any invoice shall be deemed issued on the date it is deposited in the United States Post Office with postage paid and/or electronically made available by Customer Services for customer review, and such methods of issuance shall be evidence of receipt of the invoice by a customer.

B. A late payment fee will be assessed for delinquent utility account invoices(s) for City residential utility customers, the late payment fee will be assessed on each invoice that is not paid in full within 30 days from the date issued. For all other City utility customers the late payment fee will be assessed on each invoice that is not paid in full within 24 days from the date the invoice is issued. The late payment fee shall be as follows:

Utility Amount Balance	Late Payment Fee
\$0 - \$9.99	\$0
\$10.00 and over	1% of balance with a \$3.00 minimum

After the initial delinquency and failure to pay, the late payment fee shall compound on a monthly basis at the above-stated rate or 1 percent per month, whichever is more. The fee will be assessed on the past due balance, and each utility will receive the portion assessed for its past due balance.

The late payment fee will be allocated to, and recorded as revenue for City tax purposes by each utility providing service.

C. Notwithstanding TMC 1.06.226, and except as otherwise provided in this Code or applicable state law, utility service charges or fees due and owing the City may be waived or adjusted by the Director of Utilities, or by the Director of

¹ Code Reviser's note: The temporary, two-year waiver of certain disconnection and reconnection service fees is in effect through May 31, 2024 (Ord. 28812).

² Code Reviser's note: The temporary, two-year waiver of certain disconnection and reconnection service fees is in effect through May 31, 2024 (Ord. 28812).

Tacoma Municipal Code

Environmental Services Department as the case may be, or their respective designees by express delegation. Such waiver or adjustment authority may only be exercised under the following circumstances:

1. Amounts billed to an eligible residential utility customer, pursuant to TMC 12.06.165, 12.08.360, 12.09.090 and/or 12.10.400 who (1) qualifies as low income, (2) receives supplemental security income, or (3) is disabled and receives federal or state funds;
2. Late payment fees billed to a customer that is a public agency or Indian Tribe and that, due to governmental or similar processing delays, has substantial difficulty in paying accounts within 30 days;
3. Amounts billed in error or in cases where written evidence has been presented demonstrating such irregularity that waiver or reasonable adjustment is necessary to avoid substantial injustice to the Customer; or
4. Pursuant to written procedures promulgated by the Director of Finance and approved by the Director of Utility and the Director of Environmental Services Department.

D. Notwithstanding TMC 1.06.226, and except as otherwise provided in this Code or applicable state law, the Director of Utilities, with regard to power, water and rail services, and the Director of Environmental Services Department, with regard to wastewater, stormwater and solid waste services, and their designees, are authorized to approve a credit or refund to any utility customer for amounts paid and received and determined by the Director, or designee, to have been billed in error by the City and that are in excess of the true amount due and owing. The Directors are further authorized to establish policies and procedures governing the approval of any such refund or credit.

(Ord. 28778 Ex. A; passed Sept. 21, 2021; Ord. 28415 Ex. A; passed Mar. 21, 2017; Ord. 28160 Ex. A; passed July 9, 2013; Ord. 27025 § 3; passed Dec. 10, 2002; Ord. 24965 § 3; passed Aug. 27, 1991; Ord. 23337 § 6; passed Sept. 10, 1985)

12.01.040 Residential conservation loan program charges – Light Division.

A. Late Payment Charge.

A customer who fails to make full payment of any scheduled payment due for his or her Light Division (d.b.a. Tacoma Power) residential weatherization loan within 48 hours of delivery of a Disconnect Notice shall be assessed a late payment charge of \$25.00 for each such late payment. This late payment charge shall be in addition to and not mutually exclusive of any other City loan collection remedies including, but not limited to, termination of utility service and/or acceleration of the entire outstanding loan balance.

For City tax purposes, the late payment charge will be allocated to and recorded as revenue of the Department of Public Utilities, Light Division.

B. Document Recording Charge.

City Light Division residential weatherization loans shall be secured by a lien against the real estate benefited, and a charge shall be imposed for the costs of recording said lien and/or for recording formal releases of such liens, which charge shall be included in the total repayment amount for the loan. These recording charges shall be equal to the amount established in RCW 36.18.010 currently in effect on the date of loan approval or payoff, as appropriate.

C. Subordination Agreements.

In the event the City is requested to subordinate a previously recorded real estate lien securing a customer's Light Division residential weatherization loan, the following prepayments shall be required as consideration for approval of such request(s):

1. For a customer's first subordination request, and provided the City's lien position remains the same, a prepayment amount of \$250.00 shall be collected and accounted toward the outstanding balance of such customer's weatherization loan balance at the time of subordination. If the City's lien position is adversely affected by such subordination, an additional prepayment of \$100.00 shall be required;
2. For a customer's second or further request for lien subordination, a prepayment of \$250.00 or 25 percent of the outstanding balance of such customer's residential weatherization loan balance shall be collected at the time of subordination, whichever amount is greater, regardless of a change in the City's lien position. This amount shall be credited toward the customer's weatherization loan balance.

In the event that a customer's residential weatherization loan or electric utility bill payment history is marginal or poor, as determined by the Light Division Superintendent or his or her designee, the City may deny any lien subordination request in its sole discretion and nothing herein shall be construed to mandate approval of such subordination request(s).

(Ord. 27025 § 4; passed Dec. 10, 2002)

Tacoma Municipal Code

12.01.050 Waiver of utility connection and inspection charges during declared emergency.

Pursuant to Washington State Constitution Article VIII, section 7, and RCW 35.92.380, upon request, the Director of Utilities is authorized to waive all electric and water connection and inspection fees for cities (including the City of Tacoma) within Tacoma Power and Tacoma Water service territories that are providing facilities for sheltering low-income and/or infirm persons. Such authority is contingent upon the city passing an ordinance declaring a state of public health emergency. This section shall sunset pursuant to the requirements of Ordinance No. 28637, passed by the City Council on November 17, 2019.

(Ord. 28642 Ex. A; passed Dec. 17, 2019; Ord. 28577 Ex. A; passed Mar. 26, 2019; Extended by Ord. 28487 Ex A; passed Feb. 6, 2018; Expired Oct. 9, 2017; Ord. 28440 Ex. A; passed Jul. 18, 2017)

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Tacoma Municipal Code

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**CHAPTER 12.06A
ELECTRICAL CODE**

Sections:

- 12.06A.010 Title.
- 12.06A.020 Purpose.
- 12.06A.030 Scope of chapter.
- 12.06A.035 Adoption.
- 12.06A.040 Standards for installations.
- 12.06A.050 Severability.
- 12.06A.060 Enforcement of chapter.
- 12.06A.070 Definitions.
- 12.06A.080 Duties of Chief Electrical Inspector.
- 12.06A.090 Effective date of chapter.
- 12.06A.100 Inspection of new electrical installations.
- 12.06A.110 Inspection of existing electrical installations.
- 12.06A.120 Final inspection and service approval.
- 12.06A.130 Temporary wiring.
- 12.06A.135 Metering installations and labeling. *Repealed, effective April 1, 2023*
- 12.06A.140 New electrical installations.
- 12.06A.145 Overhead service drops.
- 12.06A.150 Unlawful to alter existing wiring.
- 12.06A.155 Variance from Code requirements.
- 12.06A.160 Move-on housing.
- 12.06A.170 Fusing and equipment protection.
- 12.06A.180 Explanation of chapter requirements.
- 12.06A.190 Right of entry.
- 12.06A.200 Non-liability of City for damages.
- 12.06A.210 Permits required.
- 12.06A.220 Permits and inspections.
- 12.06A.230 Permit to owner – conditions and affidavit. *Effective April 1, 2023*
- 12.06A.240 Filing of drawings and specifications.
- 12.06A.250 Permit fees. *Effective April 1, 2023*
- 12.06A.260 Penalty fees and fee adjustments. *Effective April 1, 2023*
- 12.06A.270 Penalty and adjustment fee appeals.
- 12.06A.300 Protection of electrical workers.
- 12.06A.350 License requirements.
- 12.06A.360 Appeal process.
- 12.06A.370 Additional rules may be made by Director.
- 12.06A.380 Classification of occupancies and wiring methods. *Effective April 1, 2023*
- 12.06A.400 Violations – Notification – Penalties.

12.06A.010 Title.

This Chapter shall be known as the Electrical Code of the City of Tacoma or alternatively the Tacoma Electrical Code.

(Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

12.06A.020 Purpose.

The purpose of this Code is the practical safeguarding of persons and property from electrical hazards arising from the use of electricity. This Code contains provisions that are considered necessary for safety. Compliance with this chapter and proper maintenance will result in an installation that is reasonably free from hazard, but not necessarily the most efficient, convenient, or adequate for good service or future expansion of electrical use. Additional guidance for efficient and convenient future expansion of electrical use and systems is found in the National Electric Code ("NEC").

(Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

12.06A.030 Scope of chapter.

The provisions of this chapter shall apply to all electrical conductors and equipment installed, used, rented, offered for sale, or distributed for use in areas served by the City, by and through its Department of Public Utilities, Light Division, and its franchised entities, except as shown in Article 90.2(B) of the 2020 Edition of the NEC and as such exemptions for installations under the exclusive control of an electric utility may be identified in future published editions of the NEC.

(Ord. 28689 Ex. A; passed Sept. 1, 2020; Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

12.06A.035 Adoption.

A. RCW and WAC adoption and incorporation by reference. Except as otherwise specified in this chapter, the City hereby adopts and incorporates into this chapter, the Tacoma Electrical Code, those provisions of the Revised Code of Washington ("RCW") contained in Chapter 19.28, and the Washington Administrative Code ("WAC"), Chapter 296 46B, that relate to electrical installations including, but not limited to, methods of construction, repair, maintenance, use of materials, and approval of such installations intended to insure the safety of life and property.

B. NEC adoption. Except as otherwise stated herein the City hereby adopts and incorporates into this chapter, the Tacoma Electrical Code, the provisions of the then current edition of the NEC in its entirety. Enforcement of the most current edition of the NEC shall begin June 1st of the year in which the latest edition is published.

C. In the event any NEC, RCW or WAC provision adopted pursuant to this section is hereafter amended, said amended provision shall be deemed adopted and incorporated into this chapter as of the effective date of such amendment unless the amended provision establishes standards of electrical installations that are not equal to, higher, or better than that required by any other NEC, RCW or WAC provision then in effect. It is the intent of this section that, except as otherwise expressly required or provided under this chapter, the highest standard of electrical installations specified in the NEC, RCW and/or WAC is adopted and shall be enforced per the Tacoma Electrical Code.

(Ord. 28689 Ex. A; passed Sept. 1, 2020; Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

12.06A.040 Standards for installations.

A. All electrical installations shall be in conformity with the provisions of this Code and with approved electrical standards for safety to life and property. Where no specific standards are prescribed by this Code, conformity with the requirements or rules set forth in the current edition of the NEC, as amended by the WAC, shall be prima facie evidence of conformity with approved standards for safety to life and property. If any requirements or rules in this chapter are found to be not at an equal, higher, or better standard of materials, devices, appliances, and equipment than of those of the WAC, the requirements of the WAC will prevail. The current edition of the NEC shall mean the current edition of the NEC, as adopted by the City in Section 12.06A.035.

B. Additional City requirements applicable to the provisions of this Code are stated in the:

1. Tacoma Power Customer Service Policies, as promulgated or revised from time to time, on file with the Clerk of the Public Utility Board,
2. Tacoma Power Electric Service Handbook, as the same may be amended from time to time by the Light Division Superintendent or his/her designee, on file with Tacoma Power's Electrical Inspection Office, and
3. Tacoma Power Transmission and Distribution Construction Standards, as the same may be amended from time to time by the Light Division Superintendent or his/her designee, on file with Tacoma Power's Electrical Inspection Office.

(Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

12.06A.050 Severability.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this chapter is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this chapter. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed this chapter and each section, sentence, clause, or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase be declared unconstitutional.

(Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

12.06A.060 Enforcement of chapter.

The Chief Electrical Inspector of the Light Division of the Department of Public Utilities, hereinafter called the Chief Electrical Inspector, shall be responsible for the enforcement of this chapter.

(Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

12.06A.070 Definitions.

"Building" means the structure, of any type or designation, at which work under the Electrical Permit will be performed and which is located at the Premises identified by site address on the application for the Permit.

"City" means the City of Tacoma, Department of Public Utilities, Light Division, doing business as Tacoma Power.

"Code" means this chapter of the Tacoma Municipal Code.

"Contractor" means the person, firm, or corporation performing the installation of electrical work pursuant to an Electrical Permit and licensed by the State of Washington. Also referred to herein as electrical contractor.

"Electrical Inspection Office" means the office within Tacoma Power charged with administration and enforcement of this Code under the immediate supervision of the Chief Electrical Inspector.

"Electrical Permit" or "Permit" means a fully paid, and neither expired nor terminated permit issued by Tacoma Power.

"Occupying" means moving furnishings, material, merchandise, or persons into a Building or Premises.

"Owner" means the legal owner of the Premises on which electrical work is installed or is to be installed.

"Permit Holder" means the person or entity that applies for and is issued an Electrical Permit. The Permit Holder shall be responsible for full compliance with the requirements of this chapter. When the Permit Holder is not the Owner of the Premises identified in the Permit application, but performs electrical work at the Premises for such Owner, the Permit Holder shall be deemed to be the authorized agent of the Owner for purposes of enforcement of this chapter and, therefore, such Owner shall be responsible for the acts or omissions of the Permit Holder including, but not limited to, correction of Code violations and the payment of fees or penalties arising under the Permit.

"Premises" means real property and all Buildings and other improvements located thereon.

"Service Point" means the point where the customer's service conductors are connected to Tacoma Power's service utility conductors.

"Stop Work Order" means a written notice posted by the electrical inspector ordering the electrical work to be suspended until the electrical inspector removes the notice.

(Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

12.06A.080 Duties of Chief Electrical Inspector.

It shall be the duty of the Chief Electrical Inspector to see that the provisions of this chapter are enforced. The Chief Electrical Inspector shall, upon application, issue Permits for the installation or alteration of electrical wiring, devices, appliances, and equipment, and shall make inspections of electrical installations as provided in this chapter. The Chief Electrical Inspector may delegate appropriate inspection and enforcement duties prescribed by this chapter to electrical inspectors, assistants, and other persons duly qualified and regularly employed by the City.

(Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

12.06A.090 Effective date of chapter.

Any electrical work for which a Permit was obtained before the date on which this chapter becomes effective may be installed and completed in accordance with the laws and regulations which were in effect at the time of issuance of any such Permit.

(Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

12.06A.100 Inspection of new electrical installations.

A. Rough-in wiring or installation of electrical equipment not listed for use in wet locations shall only be installed in a structure or area of a structure that is completely free of exposure to the elements.

Tacoma Municipal Code

B. Requests for inspection must be made by the Permit Holder that installed electrical equipment no later than three business days after completion of the electrical/telecommunication installation or one business day after any part of the installation has been energized, whichever occurs first.

C. Electrical wiring shall not be covered or concealed until such wiring has been approved by Tacoma Power's Electrical Inspection Office. Where an electrical installation is covered or concealed before approval, it shall be exposed for inspection. The City shall bear no liability for damages or costs resulting from exposing the electrical installation.

(Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

12.06A.110 Inspection of existing electrical installations.

A. The Chief Electrical Inspector is hereby empowered to inspect all existing wiring, appliances, devices, and equipment coming within the scope of this chapter. When the installation of any such wiring, appliance, device, or equipment is determined to be in a dangerous or unsafe condition, the person, firm, or corporation owning, using, or operating the same shall be notified and shall make the necessary repairs or changes required to place such wiring, appliances, devices, or equipment in a safe condition, and have such work completed within 48 hours after notification thereof, or within such further reasonable time as may be allowed by Tacoma Power upon request.

B. The Chief Electrical Inspector is hereby empowered to disconnect or order the discontinuance of electrical service to such conductors or apparatus found to be in a dangerous or unsafe condition, or to have been installed without a Permit. He or she shall thereupon attach a notice, which states that such conductors or apparatus have been disconnected due to violation of the provisions of this chapter. It shall be unlawful to remove a notice of disconnect or to reconnect electrical equipment to an electrical power source without authorization from the Chief Electrical Inspector. Any person removing the notice, or reconnecting the equipment or wiring before approval to do so has been given, will be subject to the penalties outlined in this chapter.

C. Abandoned conductors, conduits, and electrical equipment shall be removed from structures unless it is de energized, supported, capped, and enclosed or terminated by an acceptable method and tagged "For Future Use" at every accessible location.

(Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

12.06A.120 Final inspection and service approval.

A. Final inspections are required on all Buildings before occupancy. Each unit of a multiple occupancy Building or complex must have a separate final electrical inspection approval before it is occupied. The Permit Holder is required to request a final inspection at the time the electrical installation is completed. A Permit Holder not complying with the requirements of this section shall be subject to the penalties outlined in this chapter.

B. Final approval will not be given until all fees owed on the project or Permit(s) are paid. When all fees are paid, and the electrical installation is complete and in compliance with this chapter the electrical inspector will sign and/or post a final inspection approval notice. Building permits requiring an electrical inspector's signed approval shall be posted in a conspicuous location.

C. The Chief Electrical Inspector is hereby authorized to disconnect any electrical installation or equipment which has been connected before the approval for service has been given. He or she shall thereupon attach a notice which shall state that the wiring or apparatus has been disconnected due to violation of the provisions of this chapter. Any person removing the notice, or reconnecting the equipment or wiring before approval to do so has been given, will be subject to the penalties outlined in this chapter.

(Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

12.06A.130 Temporary wiring.

Limited use of electricity for emergency or construction purposes may be granted. An Electrical Permit must be purchased and inspection approval must be given before energizing the electrical installation, except as provided in this chapter. Emergency installations shall be limited to a 30-day period. Temporary wiring for construction use is limited to the duration of construction. All use of electricity shall be metered.

(Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

12.06A.135 Metering installations and labeling. *Repealed*

~~A. Meter height. No meter shall be installed at a height greater than six feet from the front working surface or grade to the mid-point of the meter glass and no lower than five feet from the front working surface or grade to the mid-point of meter glass, except as stated in subsections 1-4 below and as provided in the Tacoma Power Electric Service Handbook and in the Tacoma Power Transmission and Distribution Construction Standards shall apply to all electric meter installations.~~

~~1. Commercial multi-metering installed in a vertical configuration shall not be installed below 36 inches from the front working surface or grade to the mid-point of the meter.~~

~~2. Residential multi-metering installed in a vertical configuration shall not be installed below 28 inches from the front working surface or grade to the mid-point of the meter.~~

~~3. Listed service pedestals and packages containing integral meter sockets, installed according to the manufacturer's instructions, are allowed to be at the height for which they are designed.~~

~~4. Special permission is granted by the Chief Electrical Inspector.~~

~~B. All meters in a multiple-occupancy building shall be accurately marked to identify the units they serve. Labels must be of sufficient durability to withstand removal from rubbing, fading, or environmental exposure. Label characters must be a minimum 1/2 inch tall and of a contrasting color or shade from the surface to which they are affixed so that they are easily readable.~~

~~C. No customer meter sockets will be placed on a pole owned and maintained by Tacoma Power. Meters shall be located on the first customer-owned structure which will be the Service Point from Tacoma Power as further specified in the customer requirements found in the Tacoma Power Electric Service Handbook and Tacoma Power Transmission & Distribution Construction Standards.~~

~~D. The meter location shall not be concealed by materials, structures or vegetation of any kind and must be readily accessible. A level workspace, measuring no less than 3 feet by 3 feet, must be maintained in front of the meter location at all times. Failure to meet these requirements may result in termination of service.~~

(Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

12.06A.140 New electrical installations.

All new or altered services, feeders, circuits, circuit extensions, and installations must meet requirements of this chapter.

(Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

12.06A.145 Overhead service drops.

Overhead service drop clearances are the Owner's responsibility. These clearances must be free of any vegetation obstructions as further specified in the Tacoma Power Electric Service Handbook.

(Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

12.06A.150 Unlawful to alter existing wiring.

It shall be unlawful for any person to alter in any way any electrical wiring, or to permit such electrical wiring to be altered, unless done in conformity with the provisions of this chapter.

(Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

12.06A.155 Variance from Code requirements.

A variance from the electrical installation requirements of this chapter may be granted by the Chief Electrical Inspector when it is assured that equivalent objectives can be achieved by establishing and maintaining effective safety. The variance request must be made in writing by the Permit Holder or designer, using a form provided by Tacoma Power's Electrical Inspection Office. A variance which has been granted shall be for a specific site and time and will not be considered as a precedent for other installations. All variances must be granted in writing.

(Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

Tacoma Municipal Code

12.06A.160 Move-on housing.

In addition to the requirements of WAC 296 46B-010, any structure which has been moved shall have its service upgraded to meet the requirements of this chapter and the NEC. Kitchen, bath, and laundry circuits shall comply with the NEC. AFCI protection, in compliance with the NEC, will be required, on all bedroom circuits.

(Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

12.06A.170 Fusing and equipment protection.

Fusing and equipment protection shall be in compliance with NEC Article 240.

(Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

12.06A.180 Explanation of chapter requirements.

A Tacoma Power electrical inspector may answer relevant questions concerning interpretation or application of adopted regulations and rules outlined in this Code. No electrical inspector shall lay out work or act in the capacity of an electrical installation consultant.

(Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

12.06A.190 Right of entry.

A Tacoma Power electrical inspector shall have the right to enter any and all Buildings and Premises which contain electrical wiring or apparatus, at any reasonable hour, for the purpose of inspecting or testing the installation of electrical wiring, electrical devices, and/or electric materials to determine Code compliance. Consent to such entry and inspection is a condition of continued electrical service.

(Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

12.06A.200 Non-liability of City for damages.

This chapter shall not be construed to alter the responsibility or liability of any person owning, designing, operating, controlling, or installing any electrical wires, appliances, apparatus, construction, or equipment for damages to persons or property caused by a defect therein, nor shall the City, or any employee or agent thereof, be held as assuming any such liability by reason of the inspection or other examination authorized herein or the notice of approval issued by the electrical inspector.

(Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

12.06A.210 Permits required.

An Electrical Permit shall be applied for and purchased before electrical equipment may be installed, altered, or repaired. An Electrical Permit is required for the installation, alteration, or maintenance of all electrical systems or equipment, including, but not limited to, when removal of a Tacoma Power owned electric meter is necessary to perform any electrical work.

Exceptions:

- A. Like-in-kind replacement of a contactor, relay, timer, starter, electronic circuit board, or similar control component, household appliance, circuit breaker, fuse, residential luminaire, lamp, snap switch, dimmer, receptacle outlet, thermostat, heating element, luminaire ballast with an exact same ballast, component(s) of electric signs, outline lighting, skeleton lighting or skeleton neon tubing where the electrical system is not modified, 10 horsepower or smaller motor;
- B. Induction detection loops described in WAC 296-46B-300(2) and used to control gate access devices;
- C. Heat cable repair; and
- D. Embedding pre-manufactured heat mats in tile grout where the mat is listed by an approved testing laboratory and comes from the manufacturer with pre-connected lead-in conductors. All listing marks and lead-in conductor labels must be left intact and visible for evaluation and inspection by the installing electrician and the electrical inspector.

(Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

Tacoma Municipal Code

12.06A.220 Permits and inspections.

A. An Electrical Permit application shall be filled in completely and accurately before it will be accepted by Tacoma Power's Electrical Inspection Office. An application for an Electrical Permit signed by an electrical contractor or its representative shall serve as a certification by the electrical contractor, made under penalty of perjury, that said Contractor is the duly authorized agent of the Premises Owner where the electrical work is to be performed.

B. Electrical Permits shall expire one year after the date of issue or one year after the most recent inspection, whichever is later. The re-issuance of a Permit, if granted, may require additional fees.

C. The scheduling and timing of inspections shall be according to provisions set forth in the Tacoma Power Electric Service Handbook.

D. The Permit Holder is responsible for providing or arranging access to the work to be inspected.

E. The inspection site address shall be clearly visible from the street.

F. Electrical Code violations identified by the electrical inspector shall be posted at the work location. Violations shall be corrected within 15 days of notification unless a written request for extension is granted by the Chief Electrical Inspector.

G. Electrical Permits shall be required for each Building at which electrical work will be performed.

H. Electrical Permits are transferable, provided the original scope of work for the Permit has not changed and there has been no electrical work or inspection activity. The Permit transferee must present a statement and authorizing signature of approval from the Permit transferor. The transfer must take place at Tacoma Power's Electrical Inspection Office within one year of the original Permit issuance.

I. Electrical Permits may be canceled by the Permit Holder. Upon such cancellation, Permit Holder shall be refunded the Electrical Permit fee prorated based on prior inspection activity, and less an administrative process fee. Tacoma Power may cancel an Electrical Permit if it determines the Permit Holder is not qualified to perform the Permitted work.

(Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

12.06A.230 Permit to owner – conditions and affidavit.

A. Electrical permits to perform electrical work on a new or existing Building owned by the Permit applicant and not intended for rent, sale, or lease may be issued to the applicant, provided that:

1. The applicant provides documentation that he or she is the Owner of the Building where electrical work is to be performed, such as a copy of a deed, along with evidence of identity;

2. The applicant signs an affidavit under penalty of perjury ~~the permit application~~ affirming the Building where the electrical work is to be performed is not for rent, sale or lease at the time of Permit application and that he or she does not intend to rent, sell or lease all or any part of the Building for at least twenty-four months after the final electrical inspection;

3. If the Building where the electrical work is to be performed is used as a residence by any person other than the applicant at the time of Permit application, or will be so used at any time during the twenty-four months following final electrical inspection, the applicant's affidavit must further affirm ~~the~~ his or her applicant's residence at such Building and his or her intent to reside therein for at least two years after final inspection; and

4. The electrical work shall be done by the applicant and he or she, as well as any person(s) who gave assistance with the electrical installation, must be present during all inspections.

B. If it is apparent from the character of electrical work performed by or with the knowledge of the Owner, whether performed prior to or after Permit issuance, that the Owner and/or person assisting the Owner are not qualified to do the work under the Permit applied for or issued, an electrical inspector may require the work that is in violation of this chapter be changed, altered, or repaired by a licensed electrical contractor.

(Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

12.06A.240 Filing of drawings and specifications.

A. A completed plan review application shall be submitted with information required to complete the review process including, but not limited to, documentation specified in the Plan Review Application Instructions. Submitted plans for projects identified in subsection (B)(1) and (2) of this Section shall be in accordance with WAC 296 46B 900 and must be stamped by a Professional Electrical Engineer registered with the State of Washington.

Tacoma Municipal Code

B. Electrical Permit applicants are required to submit electrical plans, load calculations, and specifications for work to be performed on:

1. Schools, hospitals, institutions, and other projects as specified in the WAC;
2. All systems that have emergency generators (NEC Articles 517, 700, 701);
3. Downtown network services and feeders over 200 amps;
4. Systems operating over 600 volts;
5. Commercial and industrial services greater than 400 amps;
6. Commercial projects with a scope that covers more than 2,500 square feet; or
7. Residential services and feeders over 400 amps;

C. Electrical plans must be submitted to Tacoma Power's Electrical Inspection Office for review, giving sufficient time to complete the review prior to beginning electrical construction. A Tacoma Power approved set of drawings must be on the job site for the electrical inspector's use. No inspection will be performed unless the approved plans are on the job site or special written permission is granted by the Chief Electrical Inspector or his designee. Where inspections are performed by Tacoma Power prior to plan approval, electrical materials or equipment may be required to be re-installed to meet the requirements of this chapter once plan review is complete. Electrical service will not be provided unless approved plans are on site and the electrical service equipment installation is approved.

D. Plan review fees are included in the commercial Permit fees. When no Permit has been purchased and the project has been canceled, or excessive time is required to review plans submitted with incomplete information or extensive errors, a fee of \$80 per hour will be charged. Shipping and handling fees of \$25 will be charged on all plans requested to be mailed back to the submitter.

(Ord. 28689 Ex. A: passed Sept. 1, 2020: Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

12.06A.250 Permit fees.

Current standard fees for connecting electrical services to the Tacoma Power system, as well as the Permit fees and any penalties previously assessed, must be paid before an Electrical Permit application will be processed. The Permit applicant is responsible to arrange for payment. Permit applications for which insufficient or no payment has been received will not be processed. Unpaid Permit applications will be discarded by Tacoma Power if payment has not been received within 10 business days of receipt of application. Unless otherwise noted, when multiple inspections are required, the Permit fee shall not be less than \$40~~55~~ per 1/2 hour of inspection time. No inspection will be performed until the Permit application process is completed.

Current standard fees for Electrical Permits and inspections by Tacoma Power are as follows:

A. Residential.

1. Table A. Single-family dwelling and mobile home services, service changes, service upgrades, and solar photovoltaic (PV) system fees are set forth in Table A below, and include branch circuit wiring from the service(s) or feeder(s). All wiring by the same Permit Holder on single family dwellings of 400 amps/4000 sq. ft. or less is included under the fees from Table A unless otherwise noted below.

TABLE A			
Service/PV System/Feeder Ampacity and Square Footage	Permit Fees		
	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
	Overhead Service or PV installation - up to 2 trips	Underground to Pole and Underground Service or PV installations with underground wiring - up to 4 trips	Feeder Only up to 2 trips
1-200A and up to 2500 sq. ft.	\$80110	\$160220	\$6090
Up to 400A or up to 4000 sq. ft.	\$120165	\$200275	\$70100
Over 400A or over 4000 sq. ft.	Use TABLE B		

2. Branch circuit alterations and repairs. The fee for 1 to 4 new circuits, circuit extensions, or alterations where the service or feeder is not modified, increased, relocated, or replaced\$50~~65~~

Use Table A if service or feeder work is included.

Tacoma Municipal Code

Each additional circuit..... \$57

Fee includes two inspections.

3. Service and PV system alterations and repairs. Minor alterations and repairs to an electrical service or PV system, including, but not limited to, the repair or replacement of one of the following: service mast, service entrance conductors, weather head, service attachment bracket, meter socket, main breaker, PV array, production meter socket, or other service/PV system components..... \$4055

Use Table A Column 1 if more than one item listed above is altered or replaced, or if service panel, PV AC disconnect, or utility disconnect is repaired or replaced in combination with any of the above listed items.

Use Table A Column 2 if underground work is part of the repair or replacement work described above.

Fee includes one inspection.

4. Hardwired low voltage.

Single-family Dwellings—Fees for low voltage control panels and devices, such as fire alarm systems, data systems, intrusion alarms, HVAC systems, thermostats, and similar systems..... \$4055

Fee includes one inspection.

5. Temporary services 1-200 amps single phase \$4055

Fee includes one inspection.

Temporary services over 200 amps or three phase and systems with feeders Table B

Temporary services are permitted for use up to 90 days or the duration of a permitted construction project.

6. Residential swimming pool (In addition to any other fees listed). \$120165

Fee includes three inspections.

7. Generator transfer panel and equipment..... \$6075

Fee includes one inspection.

B. Commercial and industrial.

1. Table B. The Permit fee for all commercial and industrial work, multifamily dwelling installations, and single family dwellings exceeding 400 amps or 4000 square feet shall be derived from Table B. Proof of electrical work value must be submitted at the time of application. Proof may be established by presenting a signed contract or a priced itemization of the work to be performed. The electrical work value shall be the reasonably documented value of all labor, material, fittings, apparatus, and the like, whether actually paid for or not, supplied by the Permit Holder and/or installed by the Permit Holder as a part of, or in connection with, a complete electrical system, but which does not include the cost of utilizing equipment connected to the electrical system. If a signed contract or other substantial proof of value is not submitted at the time of Permit application, the value may be established by Tacoma Power's Electrical Inspection Office using modern construction cost-estimating techniques. If the reported work value is determined by Tacoma Power's electrical inspection office to be significantly less than what was reported at the time the Permit was purchased, the Permit fee amount will be increased to reflect the corrected actual value and a charge for the time to determine such value will be assessed to the Permit fee. A fee adjustment shall be made for all change orders and field changes that increase the value. All fees must be paid before final electrical inspection approval of the project.

Tacoma Municipal Code

TABLE B

Value of Electrical Construction	Permit Fees
\$0-\$1,000	\$100.05 for the first \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
\$1,001-\$5,000	\$100.05 for the first \$1,000 plus \$44.20 for each additional \$100 or fraction thereof.
\$5,001-\$50,000	\$260.273 for the first \$5,000 plus \$22.10 for each additional \$100 or fraction thereof.
\$50,001-\$100,000	\$1,160.218 for the first \$50,000 plus \$150.55 for each additional \$100 or fraction thereof.
\$100,001-\$250,000	\$1,940.993 for the first \$100,000 plus \$99.45 for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
\$250,001-\$500,000	\$3,260.410.50 for the first \$250,000 plus \$88.40 for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
\$500,001-\$750,000	\$5,260.510.50 for the first \$500,000 plus \$77.35 for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
\$750,001-\$1,000,000	\$7,040.7348 for the first \$750,000 plus \$66.30 for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
\$1,000,001-\$2,000,000	\$8,540.8.923 for the first \$1,000,000 plus \$550.75 for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
\$2,000,001-\$3,000,000	\$14,040.14.673 for the first \$2,000,000 plus \$55.25 for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
\$3,000,001-\$4,000,000	\$19,040.19.923 for the first \$3,000,000 plus \$450.70 for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
\$4,000,001-\$5,000,000	\$23,540.24.623 for the first \$4,000,000 plus \$44.20 for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
\$5,000,001-\$50,000,000	\$27,540.28.823 for the first \$5,000,000 plus \$350.65 for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
\$50,000,001-\$100,000,000	\$185.040.193.073 for the first \$50,000,000 plus \$33.15 for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
\$100,000,001 and up	\$335.040.350.573 for the first \$100,000,000 plus \$250.60 for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.

2. Lighting retrofit projects limited to the exchange of fixtures and/or ballasts.

Minimum fee per 5,000 sq. ft. of Building.....	\$80.110
Each additional 1,000 sq. ft. or fraction of	\$8.11

3. Traffic signals.

Traffic signal and street lighting service only

(If street lighting is inspected by authorized cities or WSDOT)	\$80.110
All others.....	Table B

4. Signs.

Each sign or first field installed neon transformer.....	\$40.55
Each additional sign or field installed neon transformer	\$15.20

Fee includes one inspection.

5. Carnival, circus, fair, trade shows, or similar events.

First ten of rides, generators, concessions, gaming shows, displays, or booths	\$400.130
Each additional	\$57

C. Hardwired low voltage – Commercial/Industrial.

Fees for low voltage control panels and devices, such as fire alarm systems, data systems, intrusion alarms, HVAC systems, thermostats, communication systems, emergency control systems, and similar systems are as follows:

Tacoma Municipal Code

Minimum fee per 10,000 sq. ft. of Building \$80110
 Each additional 1,000 sq. ft. or fraction of \$811

D. Overtime:

Overtime inspections including, but not limited to, call outs, weekend inspections, and after hours work must be scheduled with Tacoma Power's Electrical Inspection Office a minimum of three business days in advance. In addition to the regular Permit fee, a fee for an overtime inspection is required as follows:

1. **Unscheduled:** Outside of an electrical inspector's regular working hours, the minimum fee for an inspection shall be \$480660 for the first two hours, portal to portal, plus \$460220 for each hour thereafter. The fee must be paid the next business day.
2. **Scheduled:** Outside of an electrical inspector's regular working hours, the minimum fee for an inspection shall be \$320440 for the first two hours, portal to portal, plus \$460220 for each hour thereafter. The fee of \$320440 must be paid 48 hours in advance of the scheduled inspection, and any remaining fee must be paid the next business day.
3. Requested inspections that extend beyond the electrical inspector's regular working hours shall be at the minimum rate of \$160 per hour, portal to portal.

E. Annual Permit.

Pursuant to section 12.06A.350, annual Permits are available to commercial and industrial customers employing their own electrical maintenance staff. An annual Permit may be purchased in lieu of individual Permits for maintenance on each job performed. Annual Permits may be purchased by an electrical contractor to perform maintenance work at a commercial and industrial location if, at the time of application, a valid copy of the electrical contractor's yearly maintenance contract with the customer is submitted to Tacoma Power and the term and nature of work under such contract is consistent, as determined in the sole discretion of Tacoma Power, with the term and purpose of the annual Permit. Applications for annual Permits submitted without proof of required employment status or a valid maintenance contract will not be accepted. Work performed under an annual Permit is limited to the installation of not more than two new feeders or circuits rated 100 amps or less, and the maintenance, repair, retrofit, or replacement of conductors and equipment. Annual Permits do not include the installation of new, exchanged, or upgraded service equipment, electrical work installed as part of new or added square footage, facility expansion, remodel, or where, except as noted above, load is increased. The annual Permit fee is calculated per Table C.

TABLE C	
Number of one-hour Inspection units	Fee
12	<u>\$9601,320</u>
13-24	<u>\$1,9202,460</u>
25-36	<u>\$2,8803,960</u>
37-52	<u>\$4,1605,720</u>

F. Miscellaneous fees.

1. Wrong meter address or location.

A Permit is required to correct or inspect incorrect meter addressing by the Owner or Owner's agent \$4055 per 1/2 hour

Overtime rates may apply.

2. Miscellaneous inspection (other) \$4055 per 1/2 hour

3. Variance.

A processing fee for granting an electrical installation as outlined in Section 12.06A.155 of this chapter \$140

4. Required inspection on services off for one year or more \$4055

Fee includes one inspection.

An additional Permit, fees, and inspections may be required if electrical deficiencies exist on the Premises.

(Ord. 28689 Ex. A: passed Sept. 1, 2020; Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

Tacoma Municipal Code

12.06A.260 Penalty fees and fee adjustments.

The following-described penalties may be assessed, or the described fee adjustments may be determined appropriate, by order of the Chief Electrical Inspector:

A. Trip fee (per trip) when permit holder notifies Electrical Inspections Office that work is ready for inspection when it is not,	\$4055
B. The Permit Holder gives an incorrect inspection site address	\$4055
C. Inspections required as a result of carelessness, neglect, faulty workmanship, or materials	\$4055
D. Failing to complete corrections within 15 days as required by this chapter.....	\$4055
E. Removal of Stop Work Order.....	\$4055
F. Tampering with Stop Work Order penalty fee.....	\$4055
G. Occupying a Building, living unit, or business space without final electrical approval	\$275
H. Work performed without a Permit.....	4X regular Permit fee
This provision does not pertain to emergency work where a permit is purchased the next business day.	
I. Failure to provide or arrange access for requested inspection.....	\$4055
J. Late charge for nonpayment of penalty fees	\$25
K. Permit cancellation administrative process fee.....	\$4055

(Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

12.06A.270 Penalty and adjustment fee appeals.

Penalty and Permit adjustment fees are due at the time of assessment unless the assessed party makes an appeal to the Chief Electrical Inspector within 15 business days pursuant to Section 12.06A.360. If payment or appeal is not made within the 15 days, an additional \$25 late fee will be assessed and inspection activity will be stopped until the fee and late charges are paid.

(Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

12.06A.300 Protection of electrical workers.

All clearances per the State of Washington rules contained in WAC 296-155-428 must be maintained while working around overhead electrical lines.

(Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

12.06A.350 License requirements.

A. Subject to subsections B and C, and except as otherwise provided in RCW 19.28.091 or in section 12.06A.230, no person or entity shall in any manner undertake to perform any electrical work involving the installation, maintenance, alteration, or repair of any electrical wiring, devices, appliances, or equipment for which a Permit is required by this chapter unless such person or entity has an unrevoked, unsuspended, and unexpired electrical contractors license issued by the State of Washington.

B. Employers with employee(s) that perform electrical work are exempt from the license requirements of this section, provided that:

1. The work performed is on the employer's Premises or other property; and
2. The work is not on the construction or remodel of a Building or other property intended for rent, sale, or lease.

C. Employees performing electrical work on the Premises or other property of their employer are exempt from the license requirements of this section, provided that:

1. The work is not on the construction or remodel of a Building or property intended for rent, sale, or lease; and
2. The employee performing the work is a regular, full time employee of the Owner of such Building or property.

Tacoma Municipal Code

D. A licensed electrical contractor will be required to perform any electrical work for, or on behalf of, any person or entity that does not satisfy the licensing requirements of this section. If it is apparent from the character of the work performed that the person or entity performing work under any exemption in this section is not qualified to do the work under the Permit issued, or that the work is otherwise in violation of this chapter, an electrical inspector may require the work to be changed, altered, or repaired by a licensed electrical contractor.

(Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

12.06A.360 Appeal process.

A. Any decision of an electrical inspector regarding the requirements of, or fees and penalties imposed under this chapter, may be appealed in writing to the Chief Electrical Inspector. The appeal must be made within 15 business days of the initial decision. The Chief Electrical Inspector shall respond in writing within ten business days.

B. Any decision of the Chief Electrical Inspector may be appealed to the Light Division Superintendent or his/her designee. The appeal must be made in writing and within ten business days of the Chief Electrical Inspector's decision. The Light Division Superintendent or his/her designee shall make a decision on the appeal request within a reasonable time, which decision shall be in writing. Except for criminal and civil penalties imposed pursuant to section 12.06A.400 of this chapter, the written decision of the Light Division Superintendent or his/her designee is final and conclusive unless appropriate legal action is filed with the Pierce County Superior Court within 30 days of the issuance of said decision.

(Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

12.06A.370 Additional rules may be made by Director.

The Director of Utilities may make such rules and regulations governing the operation of this chapter as are not inconsistent with its provisions. The Director may grant reasonable minor adjustments in cases where the terms of this chapter place an injustice upon a customer if after written evidence has been presented to the Director it is shown that irregular circumstances of the customer's load, service and/or other conditions warrant such adjustment.

(Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

12.06A.380 Classification of occupancies and wiring methods.

A. ~~200-ampere service capacity shall be required for all new single-family and duplex residential units of 500 square feet or more.~~ An entire service upgrade shall not be required when only replacing a meter base, or mast, or panel, unless the load requirement is greater than the rating of the existing service and/or specific electrical safety concerns associated with said equipment are detected.

B. Service entrance conductors for commercial occupancies shall have an ampacity not less than the rating of the service equipment they supply. For multiple-dwelling occupancies, the minimum service conductor ampacity shall not be less than the calculated service load.

C. Commissioning of all new Emergency Legally Required Standby, and/or Health Care systems fed by a 150 kw or larger generator shall be in compliance with NEC Sections 700, 701 and 517, respectively. A copy of the commissioning report shall be presented to the electrical inspector prior to the final electrical inspection.

D. Customer-owned systems that are metered at 12.5 kV or higher, known as primary metered systems, shall be installed as outlined in NEC 215.2(B)(3) and Tacoma Power's Transmission & Distribution Construction Standards. Such systems must be designed and certified by a Washington State Registered Electrical Engineer and reviewed by Tacoma Power's Electrical Inspection Office. These systems must be tested per manufacturers' published instructions and certified as free of short circuits and ground faults prior to approval for energizing.

E. Each newly constructed or remodeled dwelling unit, as defined in NEC 100, shall be independently metered by Tacoma Power.

(Ord. 28689 Ex. A; passed Sept. 1, 2020; Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

12.06A.400 Violations – Notification – Penalties.

A. Any person, firm, or corporation that violates, disobeys, neglects, or refuses to comply with or resists or opposes the enforcement of any of the provisions of this chapter, or who persists in Occupying any building or structure, and/or maintaining operation of any equipment or appliances, in which the electrical wiring has been declared to be in violation of this chapter, after having been notified of such violation, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof, shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000, together with the cost of prosecution, or by imprisonment of not more than 90

Tacoma Municipal Code

days, or by both such fine and imprisonment. Each day such violation, disobedience, neglect, or refusal continues after notification of violation shall be deemed a separate offense and shall be subject to the penalty of this section. Such person, firm, or corporation shall be deemed to have been duly notified by posting of notification on the premises, equipment, or appliances by the electrical inspector or by the sealing out of the service, of circuits, of equipment, and/or of appliances by the electrical inspector, or by notification in writing by the electrical inspector, mailed to the Owner and/or occupant at the Premises involved.

B. At the option of the City, in lieu of proceeding with criminal sanctions, violations of this chapter may result in a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 for each violation. A civil penalty may be imposed by written notice issued by the Chief Electrical Inspector or his or her designated assistant. The civil penalty shall be paid prior to final approval of the premises involved. Appeals of the civil penalty may be made by a party or firm adversely affected by filing a notice of appeal with the City Hearing Examiner within ten days of receipt of the notice of civil penalty. The decision of the Hearing Examiner is final and conclusive, and is only subject to review by the Pierce County Superior Court by filing appropriate legal action within 30 days of the issuance of the Hearing Examiner's final decision. If such fine or civil penalty remains unpaid more than 60 days after said amount has been imposed and all appeals thereof have been exhausted, or the time has expired for an appeal, then said amount may be transferred to the electric utility bill account for said person or firm, and the remedies for collection for electric utility shall apply.

(Ord. 28443 Ex. A; passed Aug. 1, 2017)

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Tacoma Municipal Code