

## Guide for the Application of Clearance Requirements on Joint-Use Poles

### Key Highlights

- The Guide for the Application of the Clearance Requirements on Joint-Use Poles was developed by the Transmission & Distribution Engineering Committee (TDEC) Distribution Committee Overhead Work Group.
- This user-friendly guide is meant to aid cooperative engineers, cooperative joint use coordinators, and the telecommunication companies.
- This guide will assist in the understanding of how to attach to cooperatives' poles and to understand the proper spacings and clearances for conductors and equipment on joint-use poles as required by the National Electric Safety Code (NESC) and OSHA.

### What has changed?

There continues to be an expectation that electric utility infrastructure is available for communication cables and/or antennas not owned by the electric utility. Once the decision is made to allow these facilities in the supply space, it is important for the utility to address safety concerns and clearance/spacing requirements of this equipment.

### What is the impact on cooperatives?

Utility joint use designs and clearances are crucial for ensuring the safe, reliable, and efficient operation of shared utility infrastructure. The Guide for the Application of the Clearance Requirements on Joint-Use Poles was developed by the Transmission & Distribution Engineering Committee (TDEC) Distribution Committee Overhead Work Group. This guide addresses the safety concerns such as radio frequency (RF) exposure and NESC spacing requirements. In addition, it addresses only common RUS distribution assemblies and does not cover clearances to transmission lines, trolley lines, or spacer cables.



### What do cooperatives need to know or do about it?

Throughout this guide are references to rules and select data contained specifically in the 2023 Edition of the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC). At the time this guide was written, the 2023 Edition was the latest edition of the NESC. Users of this guide are strongly advised to reference the appropriate rules for

complete wording and other possible exceptions not mentioned herein. The NESC is updated and revised, typically on a 5-year cycle. As such, the user should reference the actual wording of the rules as they may be revised and renumbered from the current edition of the NESC.

## **Additional Resources**

- [Pole Attachment Resources Website](#)
- [Pole Attachment Toolkit](#)
- [Transmission Distribution Engineering Committee](#)

## **Contact for Questions**

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