

## A Cooperative Response to the Preprint Proposals for the 2028 Edition of the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC®)

### Key Highlights

- The National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) was first established in 1913 by the National Bureau of Standards to provide “the practical safeguarding of persons during the installation and maintenance of electric supply and communication facilities, under specified conditions.” Nearly all co-ops actively use NESC, making it critical among grid standards.
- The NESC undergoes review in a five-year cycle, and the final phase for the current cycle is underway.
- It is essential that the NESC reflects then needs and concerns of the electric co-op community, and NRECA encourages all co-ops to participate in the review process. **Deadline for input to the proposed NESC is March 24, 2026, and instructions on how co-ops can submit input can be found on IEEE’s website: <https://standards.ieee.org/products-programs/nesc/comment-submission/>**
- In addition to co-ops having the opportunity to provide comments directly to the NESC process, NRECA is crafting a ‘cooperative response.’ **Input from co-ops is requested by March 13, 2026 to David Farmer at: [David.Farmer@nreca.coop](mailto:David.Farmer@nreca.coop).**

### Overview and History of the National Electrical Safety Code

The NESC was first initiated by the National Bureau of Standards in 1913 upon request of the United States Congress. The purpose of the NESC is “the practical safeguarding of persons during the installation and maintenance of electric supply and communication facilities, under specified conditions.” In 1972, the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) assumed the role of NESC Secretary, overseeing the technical committees responsible for revising and maintaining the Code. For more information, refer to the NESC document, IEEE C2 2023, Section 1, pp. 1–6.

The NESC provides the standard for safe design, installation, operation and maintenance practices, and work rules associated with overhead and underground power and communications infrastructure, as well as substations and generating facilities. Change Proposals (CPs) are submitted and comprehensively reviewed every five years by industry experts through an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited process to ensure that the Code meets the needs of the public, utilities and other users. The final phase for the current cycle is underway.

Nearly all co-ops actively use NESC, making it critical among grid standards. It is essential that the proposed changes reflect the perspective and needs of rural America and the electric co-op

community. Comments provided by electric co-ops on changes being considered help to ensure that the needs of co-ops and their members are properly considered.

## NESC Technical Subcommittee Structure

The NESC technical subcommittees are organized by the NESC Parts and Sections. The Main Committee serves as the top governing body and is responsible for the overall direction, content, and governance of the NESC. In addition, the Main Committee provides oversight and supervises the activities of the technical subcommittees. As a national trade association, NRECA has a seat on the NESC Main Committee. David Farmer, NRECA Senior Principal of Distribution Grid, currently represents NRECA on the Main Committee.

The technical subcommittees (SCs) are as follows. Subcommittee 1 membership consists of the chairs and vice chairs of the other technical subcommittees.

Subcommittee	NESC Interest Category
1	Overview, Sections 1, 2, & 3
2	Section 9: Grounding Methods
3	Part 1: Electric Supply Stations (generation moving to new Part 5)
4	Part 2 Sections 20 – 23: Overhead Lines -- Clearances
5	Part 2 Sections 24 – 27: Overhead Lines -- Strength and Loading
7	Part 3: Underground Lines
8	Part 4: Work Rules
9	Part 5: Electric Generating Stations (new)

To ensure broad industry representation, each subcommittee member falls under one of several “categories of interest.” Electric co-ops and NRECA, municipal public power utilities and APPA are considered “EPU-Electric Public Sector.” No single interest category can exceed 1/3 (33%) of the total subcommittee membership. There is room on most technical subcommittees for additional co-op representation. Anyone with a vested interest in the NESC is encouraged to join the [NESC Community](#) to stay informed of related changes and events.

### Join a NESC Technical Committee

**As a group, electric co-ops and the EPU interest category are underrepresented on most of the technical subcommittees.** If you are interested in joining a technical subcommittee, please contact NRECA’s David Farmer at: [David.Farmer@nreca.coop](mailto:David.Farmer@nreca.coop).

## 2028 NESC Revision Cycle and Schedule

The revision schedule for the 2028 NESC is as follows, showing a very busy year for 2026. **The next critical deadline is March 24, 2026**, when comments on the subcommittee recommendations itemized in the 2028 NESC Preprint are due.



Deadline	Item
May 15, 2024	Final date to receive change proposals (CPs) from the public for revision of the 2023 NESC, preparatory to the publication of the 2028 NESC.
August—September 2024	NESC Subcommittees consider CPs and prepare their recommendations
July 1, 2025	<b>Preprint of CPs for incorporation into the 2028 Edition are published for distribution to the NESC Committee and other interested parties. This opens the comment period on the submitted CPs and subcommittee recommendations.</b>
<b>March 24, 2026</b>	<b>Final date to submit comments on the submitted CPs and subcommittee recommendations. All comments and recommendations are due to the Secretary of the NESC Committee.</b>
August—October 2026	<b>NESC Subcommittees and Working Groups reconsider all recommendations concerning the proposed amendments and prepare a final report.</b>
January 15, 2027	Proposed revision submitted to the NESC Committee for letter ballot and to ANSI for concurrent public review.
May 14, 2027	NESC Committee approved revisions submitted to ANSI for recognition as an ANSI standard
August 1, 2027	Publication of the 2028 Edition of the NESC

## The Importance of Co-op Participation in the NESC Code Review Cycle

The 2023 National Electric Safety Code (NESC<sup>®</sup>) is entering the final phase of its 5-year revision cycle. The Preprint Proposals for the 2028 Edition of the National Electrical Safety Code was issued last July for review, and **public comments are due by March 24, 2026**.

Included on the following pages are instructions on how to submit comments and a template with the content required for comments submitted to NESC, to help facilitate comments submission. In addition to any individual response, NRECA will be crafting a “cooperative response.” This will be done by consensus, and all NRECA voting members are encouraged to participate.

## NRECA's Cooperative Engineering Standards Interest Group Focus on NESC

The Cooperative Engineering Standards Interest Group ([CESIG](#)) was formed by NRECA in 2025 to represent the co-op community across the standards development process. The NESC is a key component of the CESIG interest categories. To keep abreast of the NESC revision process and other standards development activity affecting electric co-ops, join CESIG using the [CESIG Signup Link](#). We meet virtually each quarter with additional subgroup meetings as needed. No travel commitment is associated with this group. Information on how to respond to the NESC process through CESIG is explained in the next section of this advisory.

### Recap of NESC Preprint Review to Date

During the proposal review period in 2024, subcommittees addressed nearly 710 proposed changes. Their recommendations can be summarized as follows:

- 373 were identified as “Accept” or “Accepted as Modified”
  - 94 typos, formatting, etc.
  - 61 related to the new Part 5, mostly moving text from Part 1 related to generation facilities and limiting Part 1 to electric substations
  - 29 clarifications of a rule (no significant change)
- 36 were “Accepted in Principle,” usually duplicate proposals
- 24 proposals were considered by two different subcommittees
- 139 were rejected
- 138 were withdrawn by the submitter

With the assistance of Hi Line Engineering, 496 change proposals were identified as not warranting comment by NRECA. There were 28 important changes identified, but not necessarily warranting comment. Of the 710 total, approximately 63 change proposals were identified that NRECA should consider responding to. The final numbers are somewhat fluid, as additional change proposals may be identified as warranting a response prior to the March 24 submission deadline. Any NRECA member interested in reviewing the key change proposals and our proposed response, please email David Farmer at [David.Farmer@nreca.coop](mailto:David.Farmer@nreca.coop).

## Responding to the Preprint Proposals for the 2028 Edition of the NESC

### Individual Response

Anyone is welcome to submit comments to change proposals individually. The process of responding as an individual is described in the NESC Preprint and summarized on the IEEE Standards Association website: <https://standards.ieee.org/products-programs/nesc/comment-submission/>. A copy of the response form is provided as example in Appendix A of this advisory.

## NRECA Cooperative Response through CESIG

To help with this process, CESIG's NESC Subgroup, led by Eric Weaver of Clay Electric and with the assistance of our outside consultant Kevin Mara of Hi Line Engineering, will be coordinating a co-op response on behalf of NRECA.

If you have comments regarding our proposed response, or if you have additional concerns, please contact the following:

**David Farmer**, NRECA Liaison, CESIG  
Senior Principal, Distribution Grid  
NRECA  
[david.farmer@nreca.coop](mailto:david.farmer@nreca.coop)  
M: (919) 815-8999

**Eric Weaver**, NESC Subgroup Chair, CESIG  
Reliability/Standards Engineer  
Clay Electric Cooperative  
[eweaver@clayelectric.com](mailto:eweaver@clayelectric.com)  
O: (352) 473-8000 Ext 8574

**Co-op input for the NRECA Cooperative Response is requested by March 13, 2026.**

## Submitting Change Proposals for Future Revision Cycles

Change proposals can be submitted by any interested person, organization, members of the NESC committees or technical subcommittees, or other stakeholders. CPs are submitted to the NESC Secretary using a template that can be found on the [NESC website](#). Cooperative employees with a vested interest in the NESC are encouraged to submit change proposals.

Each proposed change must be submitted separately and include:

- Exact rule change language, using NESC format:
- Deleted text must be struck through.
- New text must be underlined.
- Include your name and organization.
- Supporting comments explaining why the change is needed.
- Must comply with all formatting requirements, or it may be returned by the NESC Secretary for correction.

Following the submission deadline, the NESC secretary will organize the CPs by category and assign to the various technical subcommittees for review.

Since the submission deadline for the 2028 NESC revision has passed, we will endeavor to submit CPs for the 2033 revision as a co-op community through CESIG. This process will begin in February of 2029 following the release of the 2028 Edition, with submission deadline likely in May of 2029. NRECA will provide further information on how co-ops can participate closer to that date.

## Contact for Questions

David Farmer, CESIG Liaison, NRECA Senior Principal – Distribution Grid: [David.Farmer@nreca.coop](mailto:David.Farmer@nreca.coop)

