

Overhead Distribution Line Clearance Rule Change

Briefing to the Electric Utility Commission

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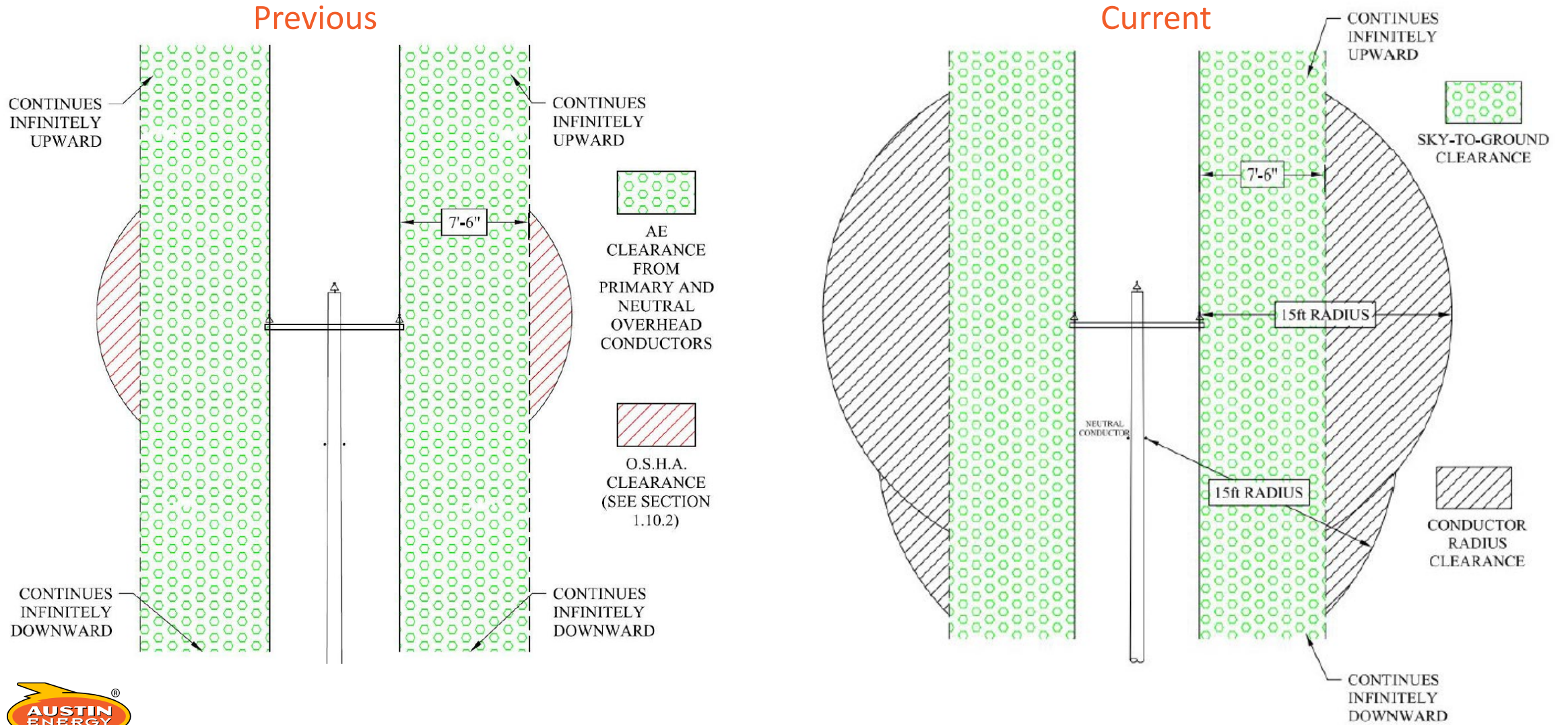


Agenda

- New & Previous Clearance Requirements
- Drivers of Change & Examples
- Benchmarked Clearances
- Rule Making & Appeal Processes



Previous Clearance Envelope Compared to Current



Minimum Industry Standards

- NESC provides “minimum” clearance distances
 - 7.5’ horizontal for 750V to 22kV
 - 12.5’ to 18.5’ vertical (depending on accessibility by pedestrians, vehicles, trucks)
- OSHA 1910.333 provides minimum radial distance for unqualified workers (non electric utility workers) to perform work adjacent to energized conductors
 - 10’ for 12.5 kV



Drivers of Clearance Change

- Buildings built 7.5' from 12,470 volts do not allow for unqualified workers to perform the construction or maintenance of that building
- After developer/contractor completes construction, electrical hazard may exist to (un-informed) owner when performing maintenance
- Austin Energy's new 15' Radial Clearance Rule was developed from:
 - 10' OSHA Unqualified Worker Clearance
 - This includes the 7.5' NESC Minimum Distance
 - 5' Allowance for Scaffolding, Material Handling
- Past history of non-compliant construction including fatality of non-qualified worker
 - >70 Notice of Electrical Hazard issued since 2017
- Zoning changes have led to a proliferation of ADUs which have significantly reduced workspace and access to lines & poles for Austin Energy linemen



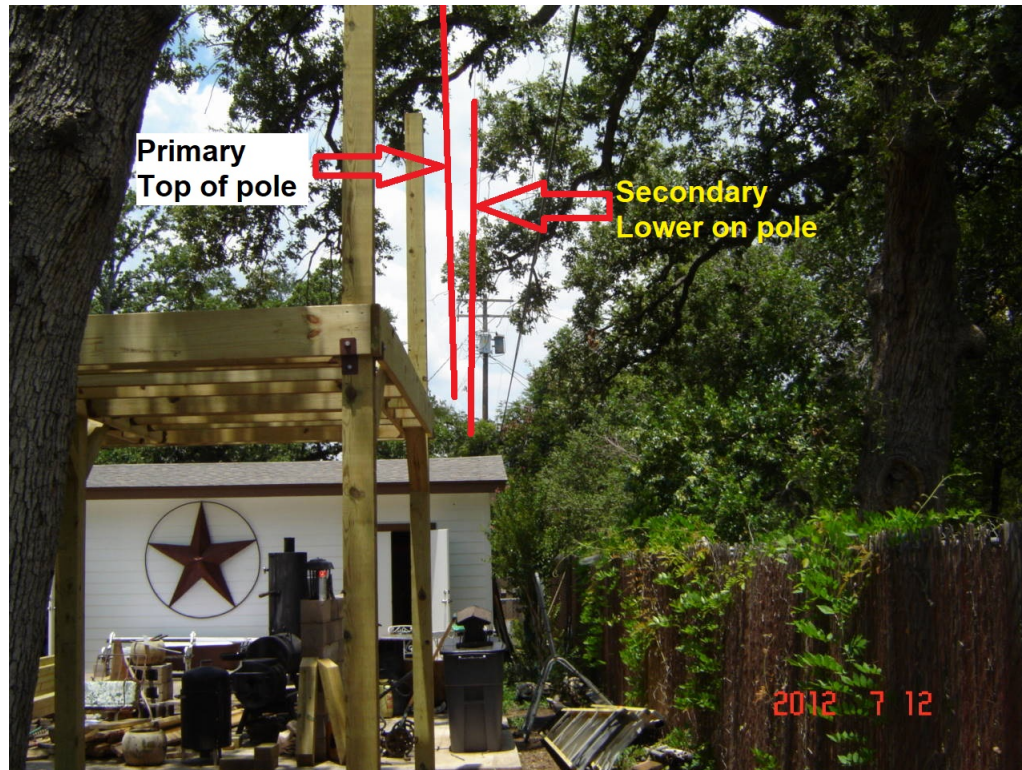
Overhead Electric Distribution Clearance Violations

Building meets 7.5' AE clearance requirement but scaffolding erected within 10' OSHA clearance & 5' from energized primary



Overhead Electric Distribution Clearance Violations

New structure built within the 7'6" horizontal clearance of primary and neutral conductors.



Overhead Electric Distribution Clearance Violations

Encroachment into the 10' radial clearance during construction.



Overhead Electric Distribution Clearance Violations

Scaffolding erected by contractors using 2x4's to push the primary out of the way. Customer's contractors worked within the minimum approach distance which resulted in an electrocution fatality.



Other Utility Clearance Requirements

(Clearance from buildings @ 750V to 22kV)

Austin Energy (City Owned)

CPS (City Owned)

Bluebonnet (Cooperative)

PEC (Cooperative)

7.5' horizontal (NESC 234)	10.5' horizontal from conductor	15' from pole (no buildings or other sky to ground)	10' horizontal for 1 phase line, 15' horizontal for 3 phase lines
No building within 7.5' vertical (sky to ground)	13.5 to 19.5 vertical (depending on accessibility by pedestrians, vehicles, trucks)	May require 20' from pole for 3 phase	
15' radius around primary and neutral		No published clearance tables	20' easement on 1phase lines (no building within easement)
20' easement on 3ph lines		30' easement (No building within easement)	30' easement on 3phase lines (No building within easement)



Rules Adoption Timeline

FY2020-21 Rule Adoption Calendar

for Land Development Related Departments

Please contact Chris Johnson at 512-974-2769 or email at christopher.johnson@austintexas.gov if you have any questions.



AE Development & Stakeholder Notices

Other City Departments Review

30 day public comment period

30 day public appeal period

Documents	Phase - Description	1 st Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter
	1 – Develop Rules Initiating Dept prepares new rule by working with law department, other City of Austin departments that may be affected by the new rule, and conducting external stakeholder meetings to allow for input.		20 Weeks - update requests <i>Set by each department</i> 1/8/21 - Internal AE Stakeholder Review		
A-G (Electronic Files Only)	2 - Interdepartmental Review Initiating Dept SPOC submits required documents to Rule Manager (RM) for publishing in RPPS which notifies all SPOCs and begins the interdepartmental review process	11/3/20 (by 10 am)	2/2/21 (by 10 am)	5/4/21 (by 10 am)	8/3/21 (by 10 am)
	All SPOCs submit comments in RPPS (10 business days)	11/18/20 (by 5 pm)	2/17/21 (by 5 pm)	5/18/21 (by 5 pm)	8/17/21 (by 5 pm)
	All SPOC approvals must be entered in RPPS, else rule will not move forward (15 business days)	12/14/20 (by 5 pm)	3/10/21 (by 5 pm)	6/09/21 (by 5 pm)	9/8/21 (by 5 pm)
G, H	Send director-signed hard copy to Law Dept for Signature 3 - Notice of Proposed Rule Initiating Dept SPOC submits required documents to RM for Official Posting with City Clerk (This date must be used on the Notice of Proposed Rule)	12/30/20 1/14/21 (by 10 am)	3/25/21 4/8/21 (by 10 am)	6/23/21 7/8/21 (by 10 am)	9/22/21 10/6/21 (by 10 am)
G, I	Send director signed hard copy to Law Dept for Signature 4 - Notice of Rule Adoption Initiating Dept SPOC submits required documents to RM for Official Posting with City Clerk (32 – 70 days after posting) (Notice of Rule Adoption must use exact adoption date)	By Appointment Not before 2/15/21, & not after 3/25/21 (by 10 am)	4/30/21 2 weeks before adoption By Appointment 5/14/21 per Law request & not after 6/17/21 (by 10 am)	By Appointment Not before 8/9/21, & not after 9/16/21 (by 10 am)	By Appointment Not before 11/7/21, & not after 12/15/21 (by 10 am)
	5 – Public Appeal Period		Ends 30 days after Adoption		
	6 - Publishing		Allow approximately 2 weeks for review & approval		

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- A – Assistant City Manager/Director Verification Form - pdf
- B – Copy of email notifying law department of rule and code reference - pdf
- C – Stakeholder email/letter with recipient list - pdf
- D – Stakeholder meeting agenda - pdf

- E – Stakeholder meeting Sign-in Sheet - pdf
- F – Notice of Proposed Rule – Word doc
- G – Criteria Manual Edits (Word doc illustrating changes)
- H – Notice of Proposed Rule – Signed hard copy
- I – Notice of Rule Adoption – Signed hard copy

Stakeholder Outreach for 2Q Process:

- 1/12/21 - Customers notified and invited to DCM proposed changes meeting
- 1/22/21 - Customer meeting and discussion of DCM proposed changes
- 2/8/21 - AGC Meeting – presented upcoming clearance update to attendees
- 5/3/21 - Received and replied to customer review comments



Appeal Process

- Appeal made in writing within 30 days of posting
- City Clerk provides appeal to:
 - City Manager
 - Director of the Department adopting the rule
 - Each City Council member
- Appealed rule may not be enforced until City Manager's decision
- City Manager may affirm, amend or withdraw the appealed rule
- City Manager has 60 days for decision; if no decision, then the rule is withdrawn





**Customer Driven.
Community Focused.**

