



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION


JOSH STEIN
GOVERNOR

DANIEL H. JOHNSON
SECRETARY

May 26, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Division Engineers, District Engineers, Utilities Unit

FROM: Keith Garry
State Utilities Manager 

SUBJECT: Encroachment Requirements Involving Direct Bury Utility Poles for Power and Telecommunication Applications

This memorandum is to clarify design requirements for encroachments involving **direct bury** utility poles installed by encroachment for the distribution of power and telecommunication facilities. These requirements involve utility poles with interconnecting conductor and/or cable attachments.

Direct bury utility poles (wood or other construction material) up to 60-feet in height above ground

For direct bury utility poles (wood or other construction material) up to 60-feet in height above ground, no additional information is needed beyond what is outlined in the Utilities Accommodations Manual (Sections 3.1.2.10; 3.3.1; 3.3.3; and 3.3.4).

Direct bury utility poles (wood or other construction material) 60-feet and greater in height above ground

For direct bury utility poles 60-feet and greater in height above ground, the following shall be required to be shown on submitted plans or in a separate submitted document for encroachments issued by NCDOT:

For each pole in NCDOT Right of Way, a signed attestation must be submitted by the pole owner [not the applicant] indicating all National Electric Safety Code (NESC) design requirements for Rule 250C (Extreme Wind Loading), Rule 250D (Extreme Ice with Concurrent Wind), and Rule 250B (standard District Loads) have been considered and achieved for all poles associated with the subject encroachment.

In these cases, when the attestation or specification is provided by the pole owner, additional geotechnical investigations, structural review and PE seals on plans are generally not necessary and should not be requested by NCDOT personnel to encroaching parties.

Non Direct bury poles

Besides pre-approved Small Cell monopoles on NCDOT's Approved Products List, all other types of poles and towers which are not direct bury poles (regardless of material type or height) must be submitted to NCDOT for review to the State Utilities Manager (see also Sections 2.4.16 and 3.3.6 in the Utilities Accommodations Manual). These other types of poles, towers and similar structures typically have concrete foundations and are subject to differing design criteria not covered in this memorandum.

If any questions, feel free to contact State Encroachments Engineer (ldsanders1@ncdot.gov), Assistant State Utilities Manager (kapleasant@ncdot.gov) or myself (ktgarry@ncdot.gov).

Mailing Address:
NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
UTILITIES UNIT
1555 MAIL SERVICE CENTER
RALEIGH NC 27699-1555

TELEPHONE: 919-707-6690
FAX: 919-250-4151
CUSTOMER SERVICE: 1-877-368-4968
WEBSITE: NCDOT.GOV

Location:
CENTURY CENTER COMPLEX
ENTRANCE A-1
1000 BIRCH RIDGE DRIVE
RALEIGH NC 27610

KTG/ljs
Attachment

Cc: Division Utility Engineers
Project Management Unit
Roadway Design Unit
Transportation Mobility & Safety Division- Traffic Safety Unit
Contract Standards Unit
Geotechnical Unit
Structures Management Unit