

(d) All portable watt-hour meters (rotating standards) of the commutator type shall be compared with reference standards at least once each week. Every portable watt-hour meter (rotating standard) shall at all times be accompanied by a certificate giving the date when it was certified, the corrections to be applied at various loads, and signed by the proper authority. These certificates, when superseded, shall be kept on file in the office of the utility at least one year.

(e) All portable, indicating electrical testing instruments, such as, voltmeters, ammeters and watt-meters, when in regular use for testing purposes, shall be checked against reference standards at least once a week when continuing in use.

(f) Instruments and standards may be tested and certified by any standardizing laboratory whose instruments and methods are approved by the Board.

#### 14:5-3.2 Periodic testing of electric meters

(a) All direct current meters installed upon customers' premises shall be periodically tested in accordance with the following schedule:

1. Up to and including six kilowatts—at least once in 3½ years;
2. Over six kilowatts, up to and including 100 kilowatts—at least once in 1½ years;
3. Over 100 kilowatts—at least once in one year.

(b) The kilowatt rating of a direct current meter is the product of the rated voltage and the rated current.

(c) All types of alternating current watt-hour meters installed upon customers' premises shall be tested as follows:

1. Self-contained polyphase meters and transformer rated meters:
  - i. Meters without demand register—at least once in 16 years;
  - ii. Meters with block-interval demand registers—at least once in 12 years;
  - iii. Meters with lagged demand registers—at least once in eight years.
2. Self-contained single-phase meters and three-wire network meters—at least once in eight years or by a variable interval or statistical sampling technique approved by the Board.

As amended R.1979 d.374, effective September 5, 1979.  
 See: 11 N.J.R. 402(c), 11 N.J.R. 585(c).  
 Amended by R.1991 d.583, effective December 2, 1991.  
 See: 23 N.J.R. 1519(a), 23 N.J.R. 3652(a).  
 Editorial or stylistic change only.

#### 14:5-3.3 Determination of electric meter accuracy

(a) No meter that has an error in registration of more than plus or minus two percent shall be placed in service or allowed to remain in service without adjustment.

(b) No meter which registers upon "no load" shall be placed in service or allowed to remain in service. To determine that a meter is registering upon "no load", all load wires shall be removed, and if the meter disk then rotates at the rate of one revolution in five minutes or less it shall be considered as registering on "no load".

(c) For periodic testing, the accuracy shall be determined by taking the average of the percentage registration at light load and heavy load. In periodic testing where the average accuracy shows the meter to be in error by more than two percent, the complaint testing method as stated below shall be used to determine the final accuracy of the meter.

(d) As used in this section, light load shall be approximately five to ten percent of rated current and heavy load shall be not less than 60 percent nor more than 150 percent of rated current.

(e) For complaint testing, the accuracy shall be determined by taking the average of the percentage registration at light load and at heavy load, giving the heavy load registration a weight of four.

#### Case Notes

Minor error in electric meter readings did not exceed permissible margin of error. *Gross v. PSE&G*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (BRC) 13.

Utility correctly billed customer for unmetered electrical service over a span of 11 years. *Licciardello v. Public Service Electric and Gas*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (BRC) 35.

#### 14:5-3.4 Outdoor meters

All new electric meters installed outdoors shall be compensated for temperature variations.

#### 14:5-3.5 Readjustment of electric meters

Each meter after being tested shall be adjusted to record within a tolerance of plus 0.3 percent and minus one percent at both light and heavy loads. These tolerances are specified to allow for necessary variations and meters must be adjusted to within the allowable tolerances as nearly as practicable to zero error. Meters removed from service are to be tested and adjusted in the meter room before being put in service again. Each electric meter shall be tested for accuracy before installation or within 30 days after being set.

### SUBCHAPTER 4. REGULATION FOR RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIC UNDERGROUND EXTENSIONS

#### 14:5-4.1 Applicability

(a) Extension of electric distribution lines necessary to furnish an electric system to new residential subdivisions

having three or more building lots, or to new multiple-occupancy buildings, shall be made underground.

(b) Such extensions of service shall be made by the utility in accordance with the provisions in this subchapter.

As amended, R.1973 d.335, effective December 3, 1973.  
See: 6 N.J.R. 22(b).

As amended, R.1975 d.243, effective August 14, 1975.

See: 7 N.J.R. 29(a), 7 N.J.R. 437(b).

Amended by R.1997 d.99, effective March 3, 1997.

See: 28 N.J.R. 4080(a), 29 N.J.R. 786(b).

Substituted "subchapter" for "regulation" and deleted reference to date of subchapter applicability.

#### Case Notes

General powers given to municipalities to regulate and inspect erection, alteration or repair of structures preempted by State with respect to installation and inspection of private home electrical wiring; ordinance mandating copper wiring use invalid as contravening legislative plan for regulation of electrical industry by Public Utilities Commission (citing former N.J.A.C. 14:5-7.5 and 7.9). *Warren Park Estates, Inc. v. Twp. Committee, East Windsor Twp.*, 136 N.J.Super. 180, 345 A.2d 346 (App.Div.1975).

#### 14:5-4.2 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

"Applicant" means the subdivider, developer, builder or owner applying for the construction of an electric distribution system in a subdivision.

"Board" means Board of Public Utilities.

"Building" means a permanent structure enclosed within exterior walls or fire walls, built, erected and framed of component structural parts and designed for single-family or duplex-family occupancy.

1. A duplex family building may consist of either a duplex apartment with rooms on two floors and a private interstairway, or a duplex house with two separate family units side by side.

"Cost" means actual expense incurred for materials and labor employed in the installation of an underground residential distribution system, including overheads directly attributable to the field work, but excluding overrides or loading factors, such as for back-up personnel, mapping, records, clerical, superintendence or general office.

"Existing street" means a public street, road or highway, traversing or abutting the applicant's subdivision, that was in existence and utilized prior to the approval and establishment of the subdivision.

"Extension" means an extension of facilities located on streets, highways, and/or rights of way acquired by the utility for common distribution.

"Mobile home" means a dwelling unit constructed for permanent occupancy which is designed for moving along roads and highways by towing with a truck or tractor and which is installed on a permanent foundation.

"Multiple-occupancy building" means a permanent structure enclosed or with exterior walls or fire walls, built, erected and framed of component structural parts and designed to contain three or more individual dwelling units and consisting of not more than four stories.

"New street" means a public street, road or highway, traversing or abutting the applicant's subdivision, that was or will be constructed subsequent to the approval and establishment of the subdivision.

"Subdivision" means the tract of land which is divided into lots as approved by the appropriate authorities for the construction of new residential buildings or the placement of mobile homes, or the land on which new multiple-occupancy buildings are to be erected.

"Utility" means an "electric company" as defined in N.J.S.A. 48:2-13.

As amended, R.1973 d.335, effective December 3, 1973.

See: 6 N.J.R. 22(b).

As amended, R.1975 d.243, effective August 14, 1975.

See: 7 N.J.R. 29(a), 7 N.J.R. 437(b).

Amended by R.1991 d.583, effective December 2, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 1519(a), 23 N.J.R. 3652(a).

Board designated as Board of Regulatory Commissioners pursuant to Reorganization Plan No. 002-1991.

Amended by R.1997 d.99, effective March 3, 1997.

See: 28 N.J.R. 4080(a), 29 N.J.R. 786(b).

Amended definition of "Board".

#### 14:5-4.3 Rights-of-way and easements

(a) Within the applicant's subdivision the utility shall construct, own, operate and maintain underground distribution lines only along public streets, roads and highways which the utility has the legal right to occupy, and on public lands and private property across which rights-of-way and easements satisfactory to the utility both as to location and legal sufficiency are provided without cost to or condemnation by the utility.

(b) Rights-of-way and easements suitable to the utility must be furnished by the applicant in sufficient time to meet service requirements and at no cost to the utility. The rights-of-way or easements so granted must be cleared of trees, tree stumps and other obstructions above or below grade at no charge to the utility to a width sufficient to permit the use of machinery and equipment, and must be graded to within six inches of final grade by the applicant before the utility will commence construction. Such clearance and grading must be maintained by the applicant during construction by the utility.