

CHAPTER 5 ELECTRIC SERVICE

Authority

N.J.S.A. 48:2-12, 13, 16, 25, 42 and 52; and 48:3-96.

Source and Effective Date

R.2008 d.57, effective February 14, 2008.
See: 39 N.J.R. 3716(a), 40 N.J.R. 1684(a).

Chapter Expiration Date

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-5.1b, Chapter 5, Electric Service, expires on February 14, 2015. See: 43 N.J.R. 1203(a).

Chapter Historical Note

Chapter 5, Electric, was filed and became effective prior to September 1, 1969. Subchapter 4, Regulation for Residential Electric Underground Extensions, was adopted as R.1971 d.183, effective December 31, 1971. See: 1 N.J.R. 9(a), 3 N.J.R. 227(c). Subchapter 7, was adopted as R.1973 d.106, effective April 19, 1973. See: 4 N.J.R. 134(c), 5 N.J.R. 167(a). Subsequent revisions to Subchapter 7 were filed and became effective January 21, 1975, as R.1975 d.12. See: 5 N.J.R. 353(a), 7 N.J.R. 62(b). Subchapter 7 was repealed by R.1977 d.37, effective February 17, 1977. See: 9 N.J.R. 139(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Subchapter 3 expired on April 23, 1984.

A new Subchapter 3, Meters, was adopted as R.1985 d.625 effective December 16, 1985. See: 17 N.J.R. 2237(a), 17 N.J.R. 2998(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 5, Electric, expired on December 16, 1990.

Chapter 5, Electric Service, was adopted as new rules by R.1991 d.583, effective December 2, 1991. See: 23 N.J.R. 1519(a), 23 N.J.R. 3652(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 5, Electric Service, expired on December 2, 1996.

Chapter 5, Electric Service, was adopted as new rules by R.1997 d.99, effective March 3, 1997. See: 28 N.J.R. 4080(a), 29 N.J.R. 786(b).

Subchapter 7, Interim Electric Distribution Service Reliability and Quality Standards, was adopted as R.2001 d.3, effective January 2, 2001. See: 32 N.J.R. 2980(a), 33 N.J.R. 123(a).

Chapter 5, Electric Service, was readopted as R.2002 d.314, effective August 21, 2002. See: 34 N.J.R. 1390(a), 34 N.J.R. 3234(a).

Subchapter 4, Regulation for Residential Electric Underground Extensions, was repealed and Subchapter 4, Extension of Electric Service, was adopted as new rules by R.2004 d.462, effective December 20, 2004. See: 36 N.J.R. 276(a), 36 N.J.R. 5928(a).

Subchapter 8, Vegetation Management (Tree Trimming) Standards, was adopted as new rules by R.2006 d.434, effective December 18, 2006. See: 37 N.J.R. 4385(a), 38 N.J.R. 5396(a).

Chapter 5, Electric Service, was readopted as R.2008 d.57, effective February 14, 2008. As part of R.2008 d.57, Subchapter 1, Scope and Applicability, was adopted as new rules; former Subchapter 1, Plant, was recodified to Subchapter 2; former Subchapter 2, Service, was recodified to Subchapter 3; former Subchapter 3, Meters, was recodified to Subchapter 4; former Subchapter 4, Extension of Electric Service, was recodified to Subchapter 5; former Subchapter 5, Uniform System of Accounts for Classes A and B Electric Utilities, was recodified to Subchapter 6; former Subchapter 6, Electric Transmission Lines, was recodified to Subchapter 7; former Subchapter 7, Interim Electric Distribution Service Reliability and Quality Standards, was recodified to Subchapter 8 and renamed Electric Distribution Service Reliability and Quality Standards; and former Subchapter 8, Vegetation Management

(Tree Trimming) Standards, was recodified to Subchapter 9 and renamed Vegetation Management, effective March 17, 2008. See: Source and Effective Date. See, also, section annotations.

Subchapter 9, Vegetation Management, was renamed Electrical Utility Line Vegetation Management by R.2010 d.018, effective January 19, 2010. See: 41 N.J.R. 2084(a), 42 N.J.R. 508(a).

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lighting (dusk-to-dawn lighting, municipal street lighting, traffic lights) and sales to other electric utilities.

“Unscheduled interruption” means any interruption of electric service that is not an “interruption, scheduled,” as defined in this section.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 14:5-7.2 and amended by R.2008 d.57, effective March 17, 2008.

See: 39 N.J.R. 3716(a), 40 N.J.R. 1684(a).

Rewrote the introductory paragraph; added definitions “Annual System Performance Report”, “Board”, “IEEE”, “Smart Grid” and “Unscheduled interruption”; in definition “Benchmark”, substituted “five-year” for “10-year” and “(2002-2006)” for “(1990-1999)”; substituted definition “‘Electric distribution company’ or ‘EDC’ ” for definition “EDC”; in definition “Interruption, scheduled”, inserted “service” following “power”, inserted “, the preservation of the system or supply interruptions due to the scheduled unavailability of transmission import capability”, and substituted a comma for “or” following “repair”; in definition “Major event”, substituted “areas” for “area(s)” and “areas(s)” and inserted a comma following “that EDC” in 1, inserted a comma following “event” in 3 and substituted “or” for “and” at the end of 3, and updated the N.J.A.C. reference in the last paragraph; in definition “Minimum reliability level”, substituted “means” for “is defined as” and updated the N.J.A.C. reference; in definition “Outage”, deleted 1 and deleted designation 2; and in definition “Total number of customers served”, inserted “calendar”.

Former N.J.A.C. 14:5-1.2, Separation and protection of conductors buried in earth, recodified to N.J.A.C. 14:5-2.2.

14:5-1.3 (Reserved)

Recodified to N.J.A.C. 14:5-2.3 by R.2008 d.57, effective March 17, 2008.

See: 39 N.J.R. 3716(a), 40 N.J.R. 1684(a).

Section was “Protection at crossing of cables”.

14:5-1.4 (Reserved)

Recodified to N.J.A.C. 14:5-2.4 by R.2008 d.57, effective March 17, 2008.

See: 39 N.J.R. 3716(a), 40 N.J.R. 1684(a).

Section was “Protection of cables installed parallel”.

14:5-1.5 (Reserved)

Recodified to N.J.A.C. 14:5-2.5 by R.2008 d.57, effective March 17, 2008.

See: 39 N.J.R. 3716(a), 40 N.J.R. 1684(a).

Section was “Fault protection”.

14:5-1.6 (Reserved)

Recodified to N.J.A.C. 14:5-2.6 by R.2008 d.57, effective March 17, 2008.

See: 39 N.J.R. 3716(a), 40 N.J.R. 1684(a).

Section was “Identification of conductors”.

14:5-1.7 (Reserved)

Recodified to N.J.A.C. 14:5-2.7 by R.2008 d.57, effective March 17, 2008.

See: 39 N.J.R. 3716(a), 40 N.J.R. 1684(a).

Section was “Ground protection”.

14:5-1.8 (Reserved)

Recodified to N.J.A.C. 14:5-2.8 by R.2008 d.57, effective March 17, 2008.

See: 39 N.J.R. 3716(a), 40 N.J.R. 1684(a).
Section was “Depth of buried cables”.

14:5-1.9 (Reserved)

Recodified to N.J.A.C. 14:5-2.9 by R.2008 d.57, effective March 17, 2008.

See: 39 N.J.R. 3716(a), 40 N.J.R. 1684(a).

Section was “Inspection of property”.

SUBCHAPTER 2. PLANT

14:5-2.1 Plant construction

(a) The construction and installation of plant and facilities of EDCs must be in accordance with all of the following, as they applied at the time of construction:

1. N.J.A.C. 14:3-2.1, except with respect to the protection and separation of conductors buried in earth, which is addressed in N.J.A.C. 14:5-2.2;
2. The requirements of the National Electrical Code (NFPA 70), which is available at www.nfpa.org and;
3. The 2007 National Electrical Safety Code, which is available at <http://standards.ieee.org/nesc/>.

(b) All codes and standards referenced in (a) above are incorporated herein by reference including amendments and supplements thereto.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 14:5-1.1 and amended by R.2008 d.57, effective March 17, 2008.

See: 39 N.J.R. 3716(a), 40 N.J.R. 1684(a).

Rewrote the section.

Former N.J.A.C. 14:5-2.1, Polyphase service, recodified to N.J.A.C. 14:5-3.1.

Case Notes

Electric utility practiced prudent field management in choosing site for proposed distribution substation. Matter of Appeal of Atlantic City Elec. Co., 93 N.J.A.R.2d (BRC) 75.

14:5-2.2 Separation and protection of conductors buried in earth

(a) The separation between buried communication and buried supply conductors or cables shall consist of not less than 12 inches of well-tamped earth, four inches of brick or three inches of concrete.

(b) Exceptions to (a) above are as follows:

1. This separation and protection is not required where supply circuits having a potential of 550 volts or less between conductors and having a total transmitted power of not in excess of 3,200 watts are laid adjacent to communication cables, if all cables are used exclusively for the operation of a railway signal or supply system and are maintained by the same company.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 14:5-3.2 and amended by R.2008 d.57, effective March 17, 2008.

See: 39 N.J.R. 3716(a), 40 N.J.R. 1684(a).

In (c)1, inserted "shall be tested at the following intervals".

14:5-4.3 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.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 14:5-3.3 and amended by R.2008 d.57, effective March 17, 2008.

See: 39 N.J.R. 3716(a), 40 N.J.R. 1684(a).

In the second sentence of (b), substituted "no load," for "no load," and "no load." for "no load".

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.

14:5-4.4 Outdoor meters

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

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 14:5-3.4 by R.2008 d.57, effective March 17, 2008.

See: 39 N.J.R. 3716(a), 40 N.J.R. 1684(a).

14:5-4.5 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.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 14:5-3.5 by R.2008 d.57, effective March 17, 2008.

See: 39 N.J.R. 3716(a), 40 N.J.R. 1684(a).

SUBCHAPTER 5. EXTENSION OF ELECTRIC SERVICE

14:5-5.1 Extensions

All extensions of electric service, including service connections, shall be governed by the provisions for extensions set forth at N.J.A.C. 14:3-8.

Administrative correction.

See: 38 N.J.R. 1225(a).

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 14:5-4.1 by R.2008 d.57, effective March 17, 2008.

See: 39 N.J.R. 3716(a), 40 N.J.R. 1684(a).

Former N.J.A.C. 14:5-5.1, Adoption by reference of the Uniform System of Accounts, recodified to N.J.A.C. 14:5-6.1.

14:5-5.2 (Reserved)

R.1972 d.181, effective September 18, 1972.

See: 4 N.J.R. 241(b).

Public Notice: Change of address.

See: 19 N.J.R. 890(a).

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.

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

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

Changed name of Board and added reference to modifications to the rules.

Amended by R.2002 d.314, effective September 16, 2002.

See: 34 N.J.R. 1390(a), 34 N.J.R. 3234(a).

Rewrote (c).

Repealed by R.2008 d.57, effective March 17, 2008.

See: 39 N.J.R. 3716(a), 40 N.J.R. 1684(a).

Section was "Adoption by reference of rules concerning preservation of records; electric utilities".

SUBCHAPTER 6. UNIFORM SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTS FOR CLASSES A AND B ELECTRIC UTILITIES

14:5-6.1 Adoption by reference of the Uniform System of Accounts

The Board adopts by reference the Uniform System of Accounts (USOA) for Classes A and B Electric Utilities that have been promulgated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, as well as all present and subsequent amendments, revisions, deletions and corrections, which the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission may adopt, insofar as they relate to EDCs subject to the jurisdiction of the Board and are in accordance with the Board's policies and procedures. Information about the (USOA) may be obtained at <http://www.ferc.gov/legal/acct-matts/usofa.asp>.

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.

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 14:5-5.1 and amended by R.2008 d.57, effective March 17, 2008.

See: 39 N.J.R. 3716(a), 40 N.J.R. 1684(a).

Inserted commas following "Commission", "corrections" and "adopt", substituted "EDCs" for "electric utilities" and inserted the last sentence.

Former N.J.A.C. 14:5-6.1, Requirements for electric transmission lines, recodified to N.J.A.C. 14:5-7.1.

14:5-6.2 Adoption by reference of rules concerning preservation of records

(a) Each EDC shall keep records as required by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' 1985 "Regulations to Govern the Preservation of Records of Electric, Gas and Water Utilities," incorporated herein by reference, as amended or supplemented, and available from the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, 1101 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20005, or at www.naruc.org.

New Rule, R.2008 d.57, effective March 17, 2008

See: 39 N.J.R. 3716(a), 40 N.J.R. 1684(a).

SUBCHAPTER 7. ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINES

14:5-7.1 Requirements for electric transmission lines

(a) Whenever an EDC constructs an overhead transmission line, it shall:

1. Make use of available railroad or other rights-of-way whenever practicable, feasible and with safety, subject to agreement with the owners;

2. Locate towers whenever practicable and feasible in accordance with the topography so as to minimize their appearance; and

3. Establish a program of painting towers initially and periodically in order to camouflage their appearance as much as possible and to the extent consistent with the need for protection.

(b) An entity that conducts vegetation management under an overhead transmission line shall comply with the standards for vegetation management set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:5-8.

R.1972 d.236, effective November 28, 1972.

See: 4 N.J.R. 224(b), 5 N.J.R. 19(a).

Amended by R.2002 d.314, effective September 16, 2002.

See: 34 N.J.R. 1390(a), 34 N.J.R. 3234(a).

In (a)3, inserted "and to the extent consistent with the need for protection" following "possible".

Amended by R.2006 d.434, effective December 18, 2006.

See: 37 N.J.R. 4385(a), 38 N.J.R. 5396(a).

In (a)2, inserted "and" at the end; in (a)3, substituted a period for a semicolon at the end; deleted (a)4 through (a)7; and added (b).

Recodified from N.J.A.C. 14:5-6.1 and amended by R.2008 d.57, effective March 17, 2008.

See: 39 N.J.R. 3716(a), 40 N.J.R. 1684(a).

In the introductory paragraph of (a), substituted "EDC" for "electric company".

Former N.J.A.C. 14:5-7.1, Purpose and scope, recodified to N.J.A.C. 14:5-8.1.

Case Notes

Action to enjoin tree removal on easement by utility within jurisdiction of Board of Public Utilities for Resolution as a contested case. *Boss v. Rockland Electric Co.*, 95 N.J. 33, 468 A.2d 1055 (1983).

Homeowner failed to prove that electromagnetic field allegedly created by nearby power lines posed health risk. *Karvounis v. Atlantic Electric*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (BRC) 42.

Public utility, after showing that distribution supply lines are necessary for service, convenience, or welfare of public, need not comply with township's zoning and land use ordinances. In the Matter of the Petition of the Atlantic City Electric Company, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (BRC) 6.

Electric utility did not improperly trim blue spruce tree on property owners' land. *Orlandi v. Jersey Central Power and Light Co.*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (BRC) 134.

14:5-7.2 (Reserved)

Recodified to N.J.A.C. 14:5-1.2 by R.2008 d.57, effective March 17, 2008.

See: 39 N.J.R. 3716(a), 40 N.J.R. 1684(a).

Section was "Definitions".

14:5-7.3 (Reserved)

Recodified to N.J.A.C. 14:5-8.2 by R.2008 d.57, effective March 17, 2008.

See: 39 N.J.R. 3716(a), 40 N.J.R. 1684(a).

Section was "Reliability performance levels".

14:5-7.4 (Reserved)

Recodified to N.J.A.C. 14:5-8.3 by R.2008 d.57, effective March 17, 2008.

See: 39 N.J.R. 3716(a), 40 N.J.R. 1684(a).

Section was "Service reliability".

14:5-7.5 (Reserved)

Recodified to N.J.A.C. 14:5-8.4 by R.2008 d.57, effective March 17, 2008.

See: 39 N.J.R. 3716(a), 40 N.J.R. 1684(a).

Section was "Power quality".

14:5-7.6 (Reserved)

Recodified to N.J.A.C. 14:5-8.5 by R.2008 d.57, effective March 17, 2008.

See: 39 N.J.R. 3716(a), 40 N.J.R. 1684(a).

Section was "Individual circuit reliability performance".

14:5-7.7 (Reserved)

Recodified to N.J.A.C. 14:5-8.6 by R.2008 d.57, effective March 17, 2008.

See: 39 N.J.R. 3716(a), 40 N.J.R. 1684(a).

Section was "Inspection and maintenance programs".

14:5-7.8 (Reserved)

Recodified to N.J.A.C. 14:5-8.7 by R.2008 d.57, effective March 17, 2008.

See: 39 N.J.R. 3716(a), 40 N.J.R. 1684(a).

Section was "Annual System Performance Report".