

September 20, 2024

Re: Changes to National Grid Post-Construction Inspection Program

Audience: All Third Party Attachers to National Grid Utility Poles

Subject: Post-Construction Inspections

On July 22, 2024, the New York State Public Service Commission issued an updated Order adopting modifications to the 2004 Policy Statement on Pole Attachments and Related Proceedings. Among those modifications included changes to Post-Construction Inspections, with the Commission determining that *“Effective 60 days after the issuance of this Order, mandatory post-construction inspections shall be conducted on all attachments for which an attacher applies after that date.”* The Order also reaffirms that post-construction inspections will continue to be funded by third party attachers.

To comply with the Order, all applications for attachment submitted to National Grid after September 20th, 2024, will require mandatory post-construction inspections.

The purpose of these inspections is to ensure that the attachments installed on utility poles comply with the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) and National Grid standards. Post-construction inspections will help us maintain the safety and reliability of our network, while also ensuring that all attachments are properly installed and meet necessary safety requirements.

Key points regarding the post construction inspections are as follows:

1. **Inspection Requirement:** All applications for attachment submitted after **September 20th, 2024**, will be subject to a post construction inspection.
2. **Billable Inspections:** The cost of the inspections will be billed to the applicant. The fees associated with the inspections will be communicated separately and billed as part of the application process.
3. **Inspection Process:** Inspections will include a thorough examination of installed attachments to verify their compliance with the NESC and National Grid standards. This will encompass NESC standards (including, but not limited to at pole and midspan clearances, bonding, guying and verification of complete electric make ready), and National Grid standards (including, but not limited to labelling, attaching at directed height, and identification of unauthorized attachments). The inspections will also verify completion of any required moves of existing communication cables necessitated by the attachments.
4. **Licensing:** Receipt of a final license for attachment will be contingent on payment of all application and inspection fees, completion of a post-construction inspection, and remediation of any / all violations identified on a post-construction inspection.

We kindly request your cooperation in ensuring that all installed attachments comply with the necessary standards. This will help expedite the application and inspection process and minimize the need for rework, redesign, incremental make ready or additional inspections necessitated by non-compliance.

Please note that failure to comply with the inspection requirement may result in delays in the application process or receipt of final license.

If you have any questions or require further clarification regarding this new requirement, please do not hesitate to contact the National Grid Telecommunications Attachment Group (TAG) via email at nmnytele@nationalgrid.com.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to working together to maintain a safe and reliable network for all our workers and customers.