

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How many quadrants have to remain open for climbing? Some said they were told that 2 quadrants have to remain open but according to Paul only 1 quadrant needs to remain open. There was also a question as to whether a cable TV / phone drop is considered a riser for the purposes of keeping quadrants open. **After a review of the attachment agreements and standards it was found that poles can have a maximum of three (3) U Guards in two (2) adjacent quadrants. The reason for this is to maintain climbing space for linemen to maintain the poles. It was also verified that cable/phone service drops are considered to be risers. In cases where the maximum number of drops or U Guards are already on the pole and another is requested it is possible to work with other communication companies to consolidate several drops into a single U Guard.**

From TYPICAL Agreement

13.5.2 The placing of risers for power and communication systems on the same pole should be avoided. If it is necessary to use the same pole for risers of both systems, they shall be on adjacent quadrants of the pole and be separated by at least two inches. In no case shall more than two quadrants of the pole be occupied by risers (excluding grounding conductors).

2. If an attacher is recommending that a pole be replaced how should it be shown on the pole profile sheet? During the meeting we talked about the need to have the existing condition shown on the pole profile sheet but possibly a good way to do it would be to have a second pole profile sheet showing the new pole. **This can be done in several ways. The first way is to depict the existing condition on the pole profile sheet and note the future conditions in the comments. The other popular way to do it is to put together two pole profile sheets, one showing the existing condition and the other showing the future condition. Both are acceptable. The goal should always be to show this in a way that is most understandable for the situation.**
3. What is the definition of a “water crossing”? Is it a navigable waterway or can it be just a ditch. Some complained that drainage ditches between parking lots were considered to be waterways. **Our Standards Engineers will come up with a definition of water crossing that can be used to determine when Class B construction is required.**
4. Can we share O-Calc library files? WPS has a legacy O-Calc database but it would not contain the correct tensions for We Energies conductors. It’s also unclear if the old O-Calc database could be uploaded into the new O-Calc Pro. **We have an informal library that was produced by engineers and used internally. We will share this information however there will be no guarantee or warranty on the files we share.**

5. Is it true that we no longer will approve a communication line slack span? **Yes, for the most part. Due to recent FCC changes in overloading rules we cannot control where overloading occurs. Slack spans are engineered carefully because of the unique pole loading. Small amounts of additional weight on communication lines can affect poles significantly. We have been allowing a few as an exception generally when the span is 60 feet or less. In all cases slack spans can only be allowed in situations where the line was originally built to support a slack span. Each request for an attachment on a slack span pole will be considered and carefully reviewed however it is likely it will not be allowed.**

6. 15.5 foot clearance to ground is going to be a huge issue. What are we going to do in all the old legacy We Energies areas where the bottom lines are already lower than this? **This clearance requirement will continue to be enforced in most instances as discussed in the presentation. We Energies has had too many instances where landowners change how they use their land and the lower clearances cause problems with the change.**
 - a. This brings extension arms into the discussion and how we will get consistent on when we allow these. **We Energies Standards Engineers have recently approved a 2 foot extension that can be used to achieve horizontal clearance requirements. These extensions will not be allowed to gain vertical clearance. The placement and type of these extensions will be controlled carefully to ensure that they don't pose any new safety issues for Linemen who may have to climb the pole.**
 - b. According to the attachers if we continue with this 15.5' requirement they cannot go down any alley. **It is true that alley attachments are difficult but this new requirement is not new to alleys. The vertical clearance in alleys have always been 15.5 feet due to all the driveways that are located beneath wires in alleys.**

7. Is it true that we require a 6 inch clearance at midspan between communication wires? Code says 4 inch. **Historically we have required a 12 inch clearance at the midspan between two communication wires. This has recently been reduced to 6 inches. We have taken a conservative approach to this due to complaints we have received from communication attachers who claim that they cannot use overloading equipment when there is only 4 inches of clearance between wires.**

8. Consultants want copies of all the Standards. What can be released to external groups? **We will try to figure out which standards communication attachers may need to help them with their work and find a way for them to link to these standards on line.**

9. How can we determine if we need a private property easement? **This is often a difficult thing to do. Sometimes it is clear that the poles are in public ROW, sometimes it is not so easy.**

Surveyors, court house records, and permitting agencies will need to be consulted to find out whether a pole is truly in ROW or on private property. We have maps that are a good indicator but real estate documents have to be reviewed to find out for sure. It is the responsibility of the attacher to ensure that they have the proper rights, whether those are permit or easement rights, to attach.

10. Who owns the ADSS facilities that are located 1' below the neutral? **All ADSS facilities within the power zone are owned by WEC.**
 - a. What is the minimum clearance requirement to the neutral from the fiber? **The minimum clearance is 12 inches.**
 - b. Is moving it up a possibility? (Paul said no less than what our fiber standard calls for) **If the ADSS can be moved up and still maintain the 12 inch clearance it is possible. The attacher will have to work directly with TCG-ATTLS or the WEC communication group to arrange this.**
 - c. What is the minimum clearance from the fiber to communications below? **At the pole there must be 30 inches of clearance and at least 12 inches in span loaded.**
 - d. Is a sag table available for the ADSS fiber? **We have a generic one, it is generally 3.5% where you multiply the span length by the percentage to get the max sag. (e.g. 200 foot span x 0.035 = 7 foot sag).**

11. WEC recently purchased the Pole View add on to SPANS. It was installed and is now ready to use. This product will allow an attacher to graphically pick poles to submit in the proposal. **Training is being planned and will be offered to you when it is scheduled. This enhancement will show WEC mapping that should provide all the information you will need.**