

# Electricity Utility Rules

All electricity transmission activities affecting National Grid assets existing as at 14 June 2010 must comply with the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission Activities) Regulations 2009 (the Regulations). Except as provided for by the Regulations or the RMA, the following rules do not apply to such activities. National Grid is as defined in the Regulations.

## Permitted Activities

An activity is a permitted activity if it complies with all relevant any one of the following permitted activity rules:

PA.1. Lines for conveying electricity at a voltage up to and including 110kV with a capacity up to and including 100MVA where those lines are underground.

PA.2. Operation, upgrading, maintenance and replacement of existing utility infrastructure and equipment provided that the effects of such shall be the same or similar in character and scale to those which existed before upgrading, maintenance or replacement activities commenced.

This includes, but is not limited to, the following activities:

- the reconductoring or replacement of lines;
- the reconductoring of the line with higher capacity conductors;
- the resagging of conductors or lines;
- the addition of longer or more efficient insulators or mountings;
- the addition of earth wires (which may contain telecommunication lines), earthpeaks and lightning rods;
- the addition of extra lines to existing or permitted utility support structures;
- the addition of customer connections to existing infrastructure;
- the addition of circuits, conductors and electrical fittings;
- the replacement of existing cross arms with cross arms of an alternative design provided they are of the same or similar dimensions;
- the installation of pole mounted transformers and associated equipment;
- the substitution of low voltage (400 Volts) electricity distribution lines with Aerial Bundled Cable provided that the overall diameter of the bundle shall not exceed 40mm;
- the removal of utility infrastructure;
- an increase in the height of support structures to achieve compliance with the clearance distances specified in the New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distances NZECP 34:2001;
- an increase in the voltage of a line but only where the line was originally installed to operate at a higher voltage but has been operating at a reduced voltage;
- the replacement of any existing poles and support structures provided the replacement is in the same location as the original pole or support structure.

PA.3. Trimming, felling or removal of any tree (other than as listed in Part 15 Schedule of Notable Trees) or vegetation by a network utility operator when necessary for the ongoing management, operation, maintenance and upgrading of electricity supply, provided that the permitted activity standards for indigenous vegetation clearance in the relevant zone are met.

PA.4. The extension of existing overhead lines that involves no more than five poles in areas where services are already above ground provided that written consent from landowners within a 22m radius of new poles has been obtained.

PA.5. Replacement and/or relocation of existing pole/s, other than as provided for in PA.2., provided that the new location of the pole/s is within 5m of their existing location and that written consent from landowners within a 22m radius of the new location of each pole has been obtained.

PA.6. In the zones listed below, new electricity utility support structures and lines, including all required insulators and other fixtures, where these are not within 150m of Mean High Water Springs, where written consent from landowners within a 22m radius of the new location of each support structure has been obtained and where the following maximum height standards are met:

- Urban Character Area
  - Residential Zone: 12m
  - Scenically Sensitive Residential Zone: 10m
  - Industrial Zone: 15m
  - Port Zone: 20m
- Rural Character Area
  - Rural Zone: 20m
  - Rural Airport Zone: 1.2m

PA.7. In the Residential, Scenically Sensitive Residential, Industrial, Port, and Rural Zones, above-ground electricity utility infrastructure and equipment that:

- does not exceed 10m<sup>2</sup> in ground floor area;
- does not exceed 2m in height; and
- is not within 150m of Mean High Water Springs.

With regard to this rule, electricity utility infrastructure and equipment does not include buildings, depots or zone substations.

PA.8. The extension or upgrade of buildings associated with existing substations provided that:

- the permitted activity standards for buildings in the relevant zone are met; and
- that the activity onsite will comply with Part 7.8. Noise Standards following the extension or upgrade, or that the degree of any lawfully established non-compliance with these Standards will not be increased following the extension or upgrade.

### **Restricted Discretionary Activities**

RDA.1. Any electricity utility activity that is not a permitted activity and is not specified as a discretionary activity. These activities will not normally be publicly notified.

RDA.2. In relation to the replacement and/or relocation of existing poles and the extension of existing above-ground lines that are not permitted, the Council shall restrict its discretion to:

- whether surrounding sites have overhead or underground cables;
- if surrounding sites have overhead cables, the timeframe within which they are likely to be replaced with underground cables;
- any physical or technical difficulties with laying cables underground to the site;
- any adverse effects on the natural and visual character, landscape and amenity values of the area;
- any adverse effects on those matters set out in section 6 of the RMA;
- the effects of the activity on the health and safety of the community;
- the effects of the activity on the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of the community; and
- the benefits of the facility to the community;
- the functional, locational, technical and operational requirements of the activity.

RDA.3. For all other electricity utility activities that are restricted discretionary activities but are not covered by RDA.2, the Council will restrict its discretion to:

- the reasons for and any impacts caused by the proposed location, site or route;
- any adverse effects on the natural and visual character, landscape and amenity values of the area;
- any adverse effects on matters set out in section 6 of the RMA;
- the feasibility of co-siting or any other alternative arrangement;
- the effects of the activity on the health and safety of the community;
- the effects of the activity on the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of the community; and
- the benefits of the facility to the community;
- the functional, locational, technical and operational requirements of the activity.

### **Discretionary Activities**

DA.1. Any new lines and associated support structures for conveying electricity at a voltage exceeding 110kV and capacity exceeding 100MVA.

DA.2. Any new electricity utility building, depot or zone substation or any extension or upgrade of buildings associated with existing substations that contravenes the standards specified in PA.8