

The **Consumers Energy Maintenance Process** is required when the scope of fiber maintenance is greater than 2 miles and the following are true:

- Attachment is compliant with the National Electric Safety Code (NESC)
- Attachment previously permitted with Consumers Energy
- Scope of maintenance is a delash/relash of the existing fiber
- The loading characteristics and height will be substantially the same or better than the loading characteristics of the existing attachment.

Requirements of attaching party to submit to Consumers Energy for maintenance validation:

- Route map of maintenance to be performed
- Submit the specifications of the new fiber vs existing fiber

Consumers Energy Process Scope:

- Validate route
- Pole Evaluation (See Consumers Energy Evaluation Scope)
- Cost letter remedy (If needed)
- Payment
- Construction
- Approval to perform maintenance

Consumers Energy Evaluation Scope:

Visual inspection of the route provided on the map.

- Measure only the poles visually observed with egregious violations (such as):
 - 40" Safety zone violation, including safety zone spacing with streetlights
 - Midspan Comm to Power safety zone violation
 - Midspan ground clearance
 - Poles tagged for replacement/deteriorated poles

It is important for attaching parties to review their route for egregious NESC violations to understand the design work that may be required prior to performing the maintenance work in conjunction to their project timeline.

- D. An attaching party is allowed to maintain, repair, replace, or re-lash an existing attachment on a Consumers Energy Company pole without obtaining a new permit or making any payment to Consumers, provided that (1) the existing attachment is in compliance with the NESC and will remain so; (2) the existing attachment was either previously permitted or is shown on a map prepared in connection with one of Consumers Energy

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Company's pole attachment audits; and (3) the loading characteristics and height of the final attachment will be substantially the same as or better than the loading characteristics of the pre-existing attachment. An attaching party will provide Consumers with notice of any repair or maintenance construction activity for projects involving installation of more than two miles of cable.

- E. If any proposed maintenance, repair, replacement, or re-lashing of an existing attachment on a Consumers pole will result in a final attachment where the loading characteristics will not be substantially the same as or better than the loading characteristics of the pre-existing attachment, then the attaching party will provide advance notice to Consumers to enable Consumers to promptly evaluate whether any make-ready work will be necessary in order for the proposed new work to meet safety code requirements.
- F. If any make-ready work is required in order for the proposed new work to meet safety code requirements, then that make-ready work must be completed prior to commencement of the new work.
- G. All charges associated with safety evaluations and make-ready work must be reasonable, cost-based and allocated fairly among all responsible parties.