

## Mains Maintenance Instruction

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# Sharing of poles with other electrical utilities

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## Mains Maintenance Instruction

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**MMI 0031      Sharing of poles with other electrical utilities**

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## 1.0 PURPOSE

To outline maintenance responsibilities for poles on or near franchise boundaries, that are shared between Endeavour Energy and an adjoining electrical utility.

## 2.0 SCOPE

This instruction covers all aspects of maintenance relating to poles shared between electrical utilities. The shared poles are to be maintained and managed in accordance with a formal agreement, and this agreement is to be attached to this instruction as an annexure.

This instruction includes the following agreement:

- Shared pole agreement between Endeavour Energy (formerly known as Integral Energy) and AusGrid (formerly known as Energy Australia)

This Standard does not cover any agreement with Essential Energy as there are currently no shared poles between Endeavour Energy and Essential Energy.

## 3.0 REFERENCES

- Company Policy 9.9.1 - Network Asset Maintenance
- Mains Construction Instruction MCI 0005 - Overhead distribution construction standards manual
- Mains Design Instruction MDI 0024 - Attachment of non-Network items to poles and streetlight columns
- Mains Design Instruction MDI 0031 - Overhead distribution design standards manual
- Mains Maintenance Instruction MMI 0001 - Routine above and below ground pole and line inspection and treatment procedures
- Network Management Plan December 2013 Review
- Annexure 1: Shared pole agreement between Endeavour Energy and AusGrid
- ENA National Electricity Network Safety Code (Doc 001-2008)

## 4.0 DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

### Maintaining party

The party responsible for maintaining a shared pole.

### Shared pole

A pole in common use by adjoining electrical utilities.

## 5.0 ACTIONS

### 5.1 Maintenance

The maintenance of poles shared between Endeavour Energy and an adjoining electrical utility shall be in accordance with a specific shared pole agreement unique to the adjoining electrical utility (refer Annexure 1 - Shared pole agreement between Endeavour Energy and AusGrid).

Where Endeavour Energy is deemed to be the maintaining party, the material specifications and the installation requirements for poles shall be in accordance with Endeavour Energy's design and construction standards.

### 5.2 Agreement responsibilities

Any pole sharing agreement entered into between Endeavour Energy and an adjoining electrical utility must, as a minimum, address the following:

- Pole maintenance.
- Pole replacement.
- Line inspection.

- Vegetation management.
- Interconnection.
- Redundant lines.
- Provision of services.
- Pole attachments.
- Pole numbering.
- Maintenance costs.
- Planned system outages.
- Agreement termination.
- Clearances:
  - o Between power lines and attachments;
  - o Between power lines and utilities communication cables;
  - o Between power lines and communication providers' assets; and,
  - o Safe approach distances to communication assets (if applicable).

### 5.3 Pole identification

All poles shared between Endeavour Energy and an adjoining electrical utility, and forming part of a formal agreement, will be assigned a unique pole identifier in accordance with Mains Maintenance Instruction MMI 0001 - Routine above and below ground pole and line inspection and treatment procedures.

The identifier will be a prefix to the number attached to the pole and the following sets out the agreed prefix identifiers to be used:

- K Shared pole with AusGrid

## 6.0 AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

**Chief Engineer** has the authority and responsibility for approving this Standard.

**Manager Primary Systems** has the authority and responsibility for keeping this Standard up to date.

**Regional Managers** have the authority and responsibility for keeping all Endeavour Energy employees aware of and in compliance with the requirements of this instruction.

**Maintaining party** has the authority and responsibility for maintaining shared poles in accordance with this instruction.

## 7.0 DOCUMENT CONTROL

**Document content coordinator:** Network Maintenance Manager Primary Systems

**Document process coordinator:** Standards Process Coordinator

## Annexure 1: Shared Pole Agreement Between Endeavour Energy and AusGrid

## SHARED POLE AGREEMENT

This Agreement is made the 23 day of March 2000

## PARTIES

Energy Australia of 570 George Street, Sydney, N.S.W.

Integral Energy of 51 Huntingwood Drive, Huntingwood, N.S.W

## BACKGROUND

- A. Energy Australia and Integral Energy each own a number of poles, on or near each other's franchise boundaries, that are used in common by both parties (*the Shared Poles*).
- B. In consideration of the reciprocal undertakings contained in this agreement, the parties have agreed to maintain and manage the Shared Poles in accordance with this agreement.

## 1. Definitions

- 1.1 *Pole Maintenance* includes regular inspection and treatment, reinforcement and/or replacement in accordance with industry standards but does not include maintenance of switches at points of interconnection.
- 1.2 *Maintaining Party* means the party responsible for maintaining a Shared Pole.
- 1.3 *Design voltage* refers to the nominal design voltage of the circuit. Some circuits may be operated at voltages below the design voltage.

## 2. Responsibility for Pole Maintenance

- 2.1 Regardless of geographic location and asset ownership, if only one party uses a pole, that party is the Maintaining Party.
- 2.2 The party with the highest design voltage conductors attached to a Shared Pole is the Maintaining Party.
- 2.3 Where the highest design voltage conductors on a pole are a dual circuit or form an open point between circuits, with one circuit owned by each party, the party in whose franchise area the pole stands is the Maintaining Party.



**3. Pole Replacement**

- 3.1 The Maintaining Party is responsible for pole replacement.
- 3.2 Each party is responsible for changing over its assets to the new pole and each agrees to cooperate with the Maintaining Party in doing so.
- 3.3 The Maintaining Party will coordinate the assets changeover.

**4. Line Inspection**

- 4.1 Each party will inspect its own powerlines to its standard.
- 4.2 During inspections and at all other times, each party will take note of problems with the other party's powerlines.
- 4.3 Problems identified in accordance with clause 4.2 are to be referred to the other party for appropriate action.
- 4.4 All notification of problems are to be in writing – by email, facsimile etc.

**5. Vegetation Management**

- 5.1 Vegetation management is the responsibility of the owner of the conductors mounted lowest on each Shared Pole. This party will ensure that, from the pole to the next conductor support, clearances are maintained for all conductors of each power circuit attached to the pole in accordance with their appropriate standards.
- 5.2 During emergencies either party may clear trees in line with legislative obligations.

**6. Interconnections**

Pole mounted switches and links at points of interconnection between Energy Australia circuits and Integral Energy circuits will be maintained by the party responsible for the pole maintenance.

**7. Redundant Lines**

For the purpose of this agreement the issue of whether a line is energised or not is irrelevant. A line is assumed to be operating at the design voltage until it is removed. If the party with the redundant line removes the asset, maintenance and inspections will be carried out by the party with the highest design voltage conductors remaining on the pole. Written notice shall be given to the other party when redundant assets are removed.

**8. Provision of Services**

- 8.1 Without the consent of the other, either party may enter into a commercial arrangement with third parties to carry out its obligations under this agreement.
- 8.2 The parties will employ only competent and qualified service providers.
- 8.3 Each party will ensure that the work under this agreement will be performed to applicable standards and where there is no applicable standard, to standards sufficient to ensure safety and reliability.

**9. Pole Attachments**

Third party agreements with telecommunication companies such as Optus and Telstra for pole attachments and the income derived from them are unaffected by this agreement.

**10. Pole Numbering**

Each party commits to identify all shared poles and agree on the identity of the maintaining party for each shared pole within three months from the date this agreement is made. As part of this process, Energy Australia will number all shared poles outside its franchise area to enable tracking of future Energy Australia maintenance activities such as line inspection and vegetation management.

**11. Maintenance Costs**

The parties agree that the costs incurred as a result of this agreement will be absorbed by the Maintaining Party. The parties also agree that neither party will seek to recover monies from the other in relation to works done as Maintaining Party.

**12. Planned System Outages**

- 12.1 Reliability of supply is a key performance indicator for any network business and as such all steps must be taken to minimise the customer impact of planned outages.
- 12.2 Both parties to this agreement endorse the use of live line techniques wherever economically justified to eliminate the need for a planned outage to the network. Each party must give advance notification to the other party before performing live line work on or near the other party's high voltage mains and equipment, and comply with the other party's normal system control procedures during the performance of live line work.

- 12.3 The maintaining party will be responsible for coordinating all planned outages required to perform the works. The costs associated with planned outages are to be borne by each respective party as a sign of joint cooperation.

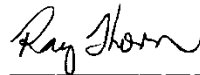
### 13. Termination

- 13.1 Either party may terminate this agreement by giving three months written notice to the other.
- 13.2 Either party may request the other party to renegotiate the agreement.
- 13.3 If a request is made to renegotiate the agreement, the parties will conduct the negotiations in good faith.

Signed on the day written above



M. Davies  
General Manager – Network  
Energy Australia



R. Thorn  
General Manager – Network  
Integral Energy