

Categorical Permission Alteration Description – 23. Utility Poles

The categorical permission covers the installation, modification, and replacement of utility poles that meet certain terms and conditions. A maximum of 1 acre of permanent disturbance may be associated with utility poles/towers within the project easement. When there is no alternative to placing a pole within the levee embankment and/or foundation, requesters must submit a seepage and stability analysis for USACE review that supports the request. The analysis should include boring logs of the area adjacent to the proposed pole location identifying the stratigraphy.

In order to avoid vibration that can cause cracking, new poles within the levee embankment and within 15 feet of the levee toe must be installed in pre-drilled holes. After installation, the entire hole should be filled with a cement-bentonite grout slurry. The slurry should fill the hole to the surrounding ground surface. When poles are removed the holes must be backfilled with concrete or CLSM. Alternatively, the upper 2 feet may be compacted soil. Soil should be mounded immediately adjacent to the pole to direct the water away from the pole. Guy wires should be anchored with concrete. Exceptions and alternate pole installation techniques may be approved by USACE under some circumstances, but only after appropriate engineering review.

In general, 25 feet is the minimum clearance allowed between the levee crown and the lowest point of the proposed utility wire crossing.

During regular levee maintenance, ensure that:

- Poles near the levee do not deteriorate and create holes in the impervious layer.
- Poles near the levee do not lean or fall over and cause utility lines or poles to interfere with levee inspections, operations, maintenance, or flood-fighting.
- The bases of the poles are kept clear of debris.
- Any necessary supports or anchors are maintained to prevent overturning by wind or water.

Needed repairs are completed as soon as possible.

Categorical Permission Alteration Checklist – 23. Utility Poles

Please note, the following checklist is intended for planning purposes only and reflects information that USACE reviewers will look for when considering a Section 408 request for utility poles under the Categorical Permission. To be reviewed under the Categorical Permission, the proposed project must adhere to all requirements of the Categorical Permission, including the full alteration description (see previous page). The plans and narrative project description should reflect this information.

Installation Modification Replacement

Clear span of federal project? Yes No

Maximum of 1 acre of permanent disturbance:

Utility pole placed within levee embankment or foundation? Yes No

If yes, seepage and stability analysis submitted includes boring logs of the area adjacent to the proposed pole location identifying the stratigraphy:

New poles within levee embankment or within 15 feet of the levee toe to be installed in pre-drilled holes: Yes NA

Following installation of a pole within the levee embankment or within 15 feet of the levee toe, the entire hole will be filled with a cement-bentonite grout slurry, which will fill the hole to the surrounding ground surface: Yes NA

When poles are removed, the hole will be back-filled with: Concrete Controlled low strength material Upper two feet of compacted soil NA

Exceptions or alternate pole installation techniques requested? Yes No

25 foot minimum clearance between levee crown and the lowest point of the proposed utility wire crossing: Yes NA

Any work occurring >3 feet into the levee crown? Yes No

Any work on the levee slope or within 15 feet of the levee toe? Yes No

Hydraulic blockage calculation $\geq 1\%$? Yes No

Hydraulic model used for hydraulic analysis? Yes No