



TACOMA PUBLIC UTILITIES
3628 South 35th Street
Tacoma, Washington 98409-3192

May 14, 2015

Honorable Mayor Strickland and Council Members and
Chair Jones and Members of the Public Utility Board:

Recommendation: Tacoma Power recommends that the Public Utility Board and City Council approve amendments to the Tacoma Electrical Code by repealing and reenacting Tacoma Municipal Code Chapter 2.04. The amendments update definitions and clarify the terms, conditions, and fees for various types of permits and related inspection services.

Background: The proposed amendments to Chapter 2.04 of the Tacoma Municipal Code are part of Tacoma Power's on-going effort to improve the clarity, application, and enforcement of the Tacoma Electrical Code. Chapter 2.04 was updated in 2010 to reflect electrical provision changes found in the National Electrical Code (NEC), the Revised Code of Washington (RCW), the Washington Administrative Code (WAC), and to make other organizational and accuracy improvements. In 2013, language governing certain licensing requirements was updated to improve clarity

Due to recent updates to the NEC, WAC, and interpretative concerns raised by the Washington Department of Labor and Industries, amendments to the Tacoma Electrical Code are necessary. To promote customer understanding and compliance, updated definitions and clarification of terms and conditions for permits and related inspection fee services are also needed.

Adoption of amendments to the Tacoma Electrical Code will provide customers a greater understanding of their responsibilities related to purchasing electrical permits, including property owner and annual permits, and the fees applicable to inspections for all permit related services.

Stakeholders, including the Master Builders Association, National Electrical Contractors Association, RockTenn, Atlas Foundry, and over 400 electrical contractors that do business with Tacoma Power offered no negative feedback to the proposed amendments when solicited.

Summary: Adoption of the amendments to the Tacoma Electrical Code, as set forth in Chapter 2.04 of the Tacoma Municipal Code, will enhance Tacoma Power's ability to more effectively administer and enforce the NEC 2014 Edition, RCW Chapter 19.28, and WAC Chapter 296-46B and will update and improve the Affidavit signed by the owner seeking permit. Adoption of the amendments will also provide clarity and ease of use of the Code for customers that perform electrical work in Tacoma Power's jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

William A. Gaines
Director of Utilities/CEO

