



ORDINANCE NO. 29026

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to the Department of Public Utilities, Light Division;
2 amending Chapters 12.01 and 12.06A of the Tacoma Municipal Code,
3 relating to Utility Charges and Electrical Code, by revising various
4 inspection, permitting, disconnection, and reconnection fees to recover
5 increased operating and labor costs, effective April 7, 2025.

6 WHEREAS on October 23, 2024, the Public Utility Board ("PUB") approved
7 Resolution No. U-11483, which updated the disconnection/reconnection fees in
8 Tacoma Municipal Code ("TMC") 12.01, as well as the inspection and permitting
9 fees in TMC 12.06A, and

10 WHEREAS on December 3, 2024, the City Council approved the fee
11 updates in Ordinance No. 28995, and

12 WHEREAS these fees were raised to cover the increased cost of providing
13 the services due to general inflation, vehicle costs, and the need to hire a full-time
14 inspector to provide swifter resolution of inspection requests, and the updated fees
15 were scheduled to take effect on April 1, 2025, and

16 WHEREAS the Department of Public Utilities, Power Division ("Tacoma
17 Power") is proposing an update to the inspection and permitting fees to include
18 increases in labor costs and additional operating costs associated with taxes
19 incurred by Tacoma Power specific to those fees, and

20 WHEREAS the labor costs to provide these services increased significantly
21 with market volatility since the fee update last year, and this second update will
22 supersede the fees approved in 2024, and
23
24
25
26



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

WHEREAS although Tacoma Power has been paying state Business and Occupation taxes on the revenue from inspection and permitting fees, the utility has not been recovering these additional operating costs in its associated fees, and

WHEREAS recent changes to TMC 6A.100.040 have also increased operating costs associated with those fees and these changes enable Tacoma Power to recover such operating costs, and

WHEREAS these modifications are consistent with the cost-causation principle in ratemaking, and if these fees are not updated, the additional expense associated with these services will be paid by retail customers; Now, Therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TACOMA:

Section 1. That the City Council hereby adopts the Recitals of this Ordinance as its formal legislative findings.

Section 2. That Chapters 12.01 and 12.06A of the Tacoma Municipal Code ("TMC"), relating to Utility Charges and Electrical Code, are hereby amended, by revising inspection, permitting, disconnection, and reconnection fees to recover increased operating and labor costs, effective April 7, 2025, as more fully set forth in the attached Exhibits "A" and "B."



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

Section 3. That the City Clerk, in consultation with the City Attorney's Office, is authorized to make necessary corrections to this ordinance and the affected sections in Chapters 12.01 and 12.06A of the TMC, including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener's/clerical errors, references, ordinance numbering, section/subsection numbers, and any references thereto.

Passed _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Chief Deputy City Attorney

EXHIBIT “A”
CHAPTER 12.01
UTILITY CHARGES

* * *

12.01.010 Utility services establishment.

* * *

B. Adjustments/Fees.

A service charge shall be paid by each utility customer if a field call is required to adjust service to a new or different type of service or rate, or for turn-off or turn-on of service. For purposes of this chapter, normal City business hours means 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except City recognized holidays. The service charge shall be the sum of the following applicable fees:

1. \$10.00 for collection or disconnection for nonpayment.
2. \$12.00 for service connection during normal City business hours.
3. \$60.00 for turn-on or turn-off during all other hours.
4. Plus an additional ~~\$176.50~~ 194.50 for a pole or underground reconnection during normal City business hours and ~~\$239.50~~ 264.00 for a pole or underground reconnection during all other hours.
5. \$6.00 for failure to appear for utility turn-on.
6. ~~\$125.00~~ 137.50 for self cut-in investigation.
7. \$5.00 for verification of meter reading at the customer's request after second reading within 12 consecutive months.
8. \$5.00 for lock-out during a reasonable attempt to read a meter.
9. \$5.00 for service provided to prepare information for collection on accounts closed over 30 days.
10. \$10.00 for service provided to prepare information for bankruptcy administration.

Effective January 1, 2021, a \$15.00 recurring billing cycle fee shall be charged for service provided for Opt Out of Advanced Metering Infrastructure. The low-income senior and/or disabled discount rate percentage, as specified in subsection 12.06.165.C, shall be applied to the Opt-Out fee for qualified eligible customers as determined by subsection 12.06.165.

There will not be a disconnection or connection fee charged if the action may ordinarily be performed remotely. Such adjustment charges will be allocated to and recorded as revenue for City tax purposes by each utility providing service.

C. Reconnection fees resulting from delinquency cut-offs shall be as follows:

1. \$12.00 during normal City business hours and \$60.00 during all other hours.
2. ~~\$176.50~~ 194.50 for a pole or underground reconnection during normal City business hours and ~~\$239.50~~ 264.00 for a pole or underground reconnection during all other hours.

There will not be a reconnection fee charged if the action may ordinarily be performed remotely. Such reconnection fees will be allocated to and recorded as revenue for City tax purposes by each utility providing service.

The disconnection, reconnection, or collection fees set forth in subsections 12.01.010.B.1 and 12.01.010.B.2, subsection 12.01.010.C.1, and subsection 12.01.020 will not be charged if the fees are due to non-payment between March 17, 2020, and May 31, 2024, and the non-payment is connected to an extended payment arrangement for balances incurred by the utility customer prior to March 31, 2022.

The outside of normal business hours disconnection or reconnection fees set forth in subsections 12.01.010.B.3 and 12.01.010.C.1 will be waived one time per customer if the fees are due to non-payment between March 17, 2020, and May 31, 2024, and the non-payment is connected to an extended payment arrangement for balances incurred by the utility customer prior to March 31, 2022.

* * *

* * *

EXHIBIT “B”
CHAPTER 12.06A
ELECTRICAL CODE

12.06A.250 Permit fees.

Current standard fees for connecting electrical services to the Tacoma Power system, as well as the Permit fees and any penalties previously assessed, must be paid before an Electrical Permit will be issued. The Permit applicant is responsible to arrange for payment. Permit applications for which insufficient or no payment has been received will not be issued. Unpaid Permit submittals will be discarded by Tacoma Power if payment has not been received within 10 business days of receipt of application. Unless otherwise noted, when multiple inspections are required, the Permit fee shall not be less than \$5577 per 1/2 hour of inspection time. No inspection will be performed until the Permit application process is completed. Current standard fees for Electrical Permits and inspections by Tacoma Power are as follows:

A. Residential.

1. Table A. Single-family dwelling and mobile home services, service changes, and service upgrades, fees are set forth in Table A below, and include branch circuit wiring from the service(s) or feeder(s). All wiring by the same Permit Holder on single family dwellings of 400 amps/4000 sq. ft. or less is included under the fees from Table A unless otherwise noted below.

TABLE A			
Service/Feeder Ampacity and Square Footage	Permit Fees		
	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
	Overhead Service - up to 2 inspections	Underground to Pole and Underground Service with underground wiring - up to 4 inspections	Feeder Only up to 2 inspections
1-200A and up to 2500 sq. ft.	\$126 153	\$252 306	\$103 125
Up to 400A or up to 4000 sq. ft.	\$189 230	\$315 382	\$115 140
Over 400A or over 4000 sq. ft.	Use TABLE B		

2. Branch circuit alterations and repairs. The fee for 1 to 4 new circuits, circuit extensions, or alterations where the service or feeder is not modified, increased, relocated, or replaced ~~\$73~~89

Use Table A if service or feeder work is included.

Each additional circuit ~~\$8~~10

Fee includes two inspections.

3. Service alterations and repairs. Minor alterations and repairs to an electrical service, including, but not limited to, the repair or replacement of one of the following: service panel, service mast, service entrance conductors, weather head, service attachment bracket, meter socket, main breaker, or utility disconnect ~~\$63~~77

If more than one item listed above is altered or replaced.....~~\$126~~153

Fee includes one inspection.

4. Hardwired low voltage.

Single-family Dwellings—Fees for low voltage control panels and devices, such as fire alarm systems, data systems, intrusion alarms, HVAC systems, thermostats, and similar systems..... ~~\$63~~77

Fee includes one inspection.

5. Temporary services 1-200 amps single phase..... ~~\$63~~77

Fee includes one inspection.

Temporary services over 200 amps or three phase and systems with feeders..... Table B

Temporary services are permitted for use up to 90 days or the duration of a permitted construction project.

6. Residential swimming pool (In addition to any other fees listed)..... ~~\$189~~230

Fee includes three inspections.

7. Generator transfer panel and equipment ~~\$86~~105

Fee includes one inspection.

8. PV systems.....~~\$126~~153

Fee includes two inspections.

B. Commercial and industrial.

1. Table B. The Permit fee for all commercial and industrial work, multifamily dwelling installations, and single family dwellings exceeding 400 amps or 4000 square feet shall be derived from Table B. Proof of electrical work value must be submitted at the time of application. Proof may be established by presenting a signed contract or a priced itemization of the work to be performed. The electrical work value shall be the reasonably documented value of all labor, material, fittings, apparatus, and the like, whether actually paid for or not, supplied by the Permit Holder and/or installed by the Permit Holder as a part of, or in connection with, a complete electrical system, but which does not include the cost of utilizing equipment connected to the electrical system. If a signed contract or other substantial proof of value is not submitted at the time of Permit application, the value may be established by Tacoma Power’s Electrical Inspection Office using modern construction cost-estimating techniques. If the reported work value is determined by Tacoma Power’s electrical inspection office to be significantly less than what was reported at the time the Permit was purchased, the Permit fee amount will be increased to reflect the corrected actual value and a charge for the time to determine such value will be assessed to the Permit fee. A fee adjustment shall be made for all change orders and field changes that increase the value. All fees must be paid before final electrical inspection approval of the project.

TABLE B	
Value of Electrical Construction	Permit Fees
\$0-\$1,000	\$110 <u>133</u> for the first \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
\$1,001-\$5,000	\$110 <u>133</u> for the first \$1,000 plus \$4.40 <u>5.35</u> for each additional \$100 or fraction thereof.
\$5,001-\$50,000	\$286 <u>347</u> for the first \$5,000 plus \$2.20 <u>2.70</u> for each additional \$100 or fraction thereof.
\$50,001-\$100,000	\$1,276 <u>1,562</u> for the first \$50,000 plus \$1.65 <u>2</u> for each additional \$100 or fraction thereof.
\$100,001-\$250,000	\$2,101 <u>2,562</u> for the first \$100,000 plus \$9.90 <u>12</u> for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
\$250,001-\$500,000	\$3,586 <u>4,362</u> for the first \$250,000 plus \$8.80 <u>10.70</u> for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
\$500,001-\$750,000	\$5,786 <u>7,037</u> for the first \$500,000 plus \$7.70 <u>9.40</u> for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
\$750,001-\$1,000,000	\$7,711 <u>9,387</u> for the first \$750,000 plus \$6.60 <u>8</u> for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
\$1,000,001-\$2,000,000	\$9,361 <u>11,387</u> for the first \$1,000,000 plus \$6.05 <u>7.35</u> for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
\$2,000,001-\$3,000,000	\$15,411 <u>18,737</u> for the first \$2,000,000 plus \$5.50 <u>6.65</u> for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
\$3,000,001-\$4,000,000	\$20,911 <u>25,387</u> for the first \$3,000,000 plus \$4.95 <u>6</u> for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
\$4,000,001-\$5,000,000	\$25,861 <u>31,387</u> for the first \$4,000,000 plus \$4.40 <u>5.35</u> for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
\$5,000,001-\$50,000,000	\$30,261 <u>36,737</u> for the first \$5,000,000 plus \$3.85 <u>4.65</u> for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
\$50,000,001-\$100,000,000	\$203,511 <u>245,987</u> for the first \$50,000,000 plus \$3.30 <u>4</u> for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.
\$100,000,001 and up	\$368,511 <u>445,987</u> for the first \$100,000,000 plus \$2.75 <u>3.35</u> for each additional \$1,000 or fraction thereof.

2. Lighting retrofit projects limited to the exchange of fixtures and/or ballasts.

Minimum fee per 5,000 sq. ft. of Building ~~\$126~~153

Each additional 1,000 sq. ft. or fraction of..... ~~\$13~~16

3. Traffic signals.

Traffic signal and street lighting service only

(If street lighting is inspected by authorized cities or WSDOT) ~~\$126~~153

All others Table B

4. Signs.

Each sign or first field installed neon transformer ~~\$63~~77

Each additional sign or field installed neon transformer..... ~~\$23~~28

Fee includes one inspection.

5. Carnival, circus, fair, trade shows, or similar events.

First ten of rides, generators, concessions, gaming shows, displays, or booths ~~\$149~~181

Each additional ~~\$8~~10

C. Hardwired low voltage – Commercial/Industrial.

Fees for low voltage control panels and devices, such as fire alarm systems, data systems, intrusion alarms, HVAC systems, thermostats, communication systems, emergency control systems, and similar systems are as follows:

Minimum fee per 10,000 sq. ft. of Building ~~\$126~~153

Each additional 1,000 sq. ft. or fraction of..... ~~\$13~~16

D. Overtime:

Overtime inspections including, but not limited to, call outs, weekend inspections, and after hours work must be scheduled with Tacoma Power’s Electrical Inspection Office a minimum of three business days in advance. In addition to the regular Permit fee, a fee for an overtime inspection is required as follows:

1. **Unscheduled:** Outside of an electrical inspector’s regular working hours, the minimum fee for an inspection shall be \$660 for the first two hours, portal to portal, plus \$220 for each hour thereafter. The fee must be paid the next business day.
2. **Scheduled:** Outside of an electrical inspector’s regular working hours, the minimum fee for an inspection shall be \$440 for the first two hours, portal to portal, plus \$220 for each hour thereafter. The fee of \$440 must be paid 48 hours in advance of the scheduled inspection, and any remaining fee must be paid the next business day.
3. Requested inspections that extend beyond the electrical inspector’s regular working hours shall be at the minimum rate of \$220 per hour, portal to portal.

E. Annual Permit.

Pursuant to section 12.06A.350, annual Permits are available to commercial and industrial customers employing their own electrical maintenance staff. An annual Permit may be purchased in lieu of individual Permits for maintenance on each job performed. Annual Permits may be purchased by an electrical contractor to perform maintenance work at a commercial and industrial location if, at the time of application, a valid copy of the electrical contractor’s yearly maintenance contract with the customer is submitted to Tacoma Power and the term and nature of work under such contract is consistent, as determined in the sole discretion of Tacoma Power, with the term and purpose of the annual Permit. Applications for annual Permits submitted without proof of required employment status or a valid maintenance contract will not be accepted. Work performed under an annual Permit is limited to the installation of not more than two new feeders or circuits rated 100 amps or less, and the maintenance, repair, retrofit, or replacement of conductors and equipment. Annual Permits do not include the installation of new, exchanged, or upgraded service equipment, electrical work installed as part of new or added square footage, facility expansion, remodel, or where, except as noted above, load is increased. The annual Permit fee is calculated per Table C.

TABLE C	
Number of one-hour Inspection units	Fee
12	\$1,512 <u>1,833</u>
13-24	\$2,818 <u>3,666</u>
25-36	\$4,536 <u>5,499</u>
37-52	\$6,552 <u>7,942</u>

F. Miscellaneous fees.

1. Wrong meter address or location.

A Permit is required to correct or inspect incorrect meter addressing by the Owner or Owner's agent.....\$63.77 per 1/2 hour

Overtime rates may apply.

2. Miscellaneous inspection (other)\$63.77 per 1/2 hour

3. Variance.

A processing fee for granting an electrical installation as outlined in Section 12.06A.155 of this chapter \$160.177

4. Required inspection on services off for one year or more \$63.77

Fee includes one inspection.

An additional Permit, fees, and inspections may be required if electrical deficiencies exist on the Premises.

12.06A.260 Penalty fees and fee adjustments.

The following-described penalties may be assessed, or the described fee adjustments may be determined appropriate, by order of the Chief Electrical Inspector:

- A. Trip fee (per trip) when permit holder notifies Electrical Inspections Office that work is ready for inspection when it is not,..... \$63.77
- B. The Permit Holder gives an incorrect inspection site address..... \$63.77
- C. Inspections required as a result of carelessness, neglect, faulty workmanship, or materials..... \$63.77
- D. Failing to complete corrections within 15 days as required by this chapter \$63.77
- E. Removal of Stop Work Order \$63.77
- F. Tampering with Stop Work Order penalty fee \$63.77
- G. Occupying a Building, living unit, or business space without final electrical approval \$315.348
- H. Work performed without a Permit.....4X regular Permit fee

This provision does not pertain to emergency work where a permit is purchased the next business day.

- I. Failure to provide or arrange access for requested inspection..... \$63.77
- J. Late charge for nonpayment of penalty fees \$29.32
- K. Permit cancellation administrative process fee..... \$63.77

12.06A.270 Penalty and adjustment fee appeals.

Penalty and Permit adjustment fees are due at the time of assessment unless the assessed party makes an appeal to the Chief Electrical Inspector within 15 business days pursuant to Section 12.06A.360. If payment or appeal is not made within the 15 days, an additional \$25.32 late fee will be assessed and inspection activity will be stopped until the fee and late charges are paid.

* * *

* * *