825 Rice Street
St. Paul, MN 55117

May 2018

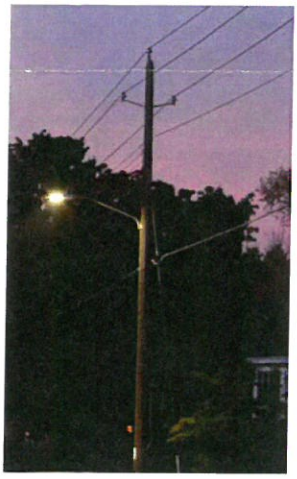
Dear Customer:

Creating a welcoming environment in your community with decorations is something we all appreciate and enjoy. As your electric energy provider, we have a responsibility to ensure decorations and other attachments on our poles are placed there safely. Items like holiday lighting, banners, flags and planters on utility poles can be a serious safety issue to community personnel, our employees and the public. They can cause equipment damage and widespread power outages, fires and electrical hazards including electrocution.

That's why we're making some changes. While ornamental attachments on our distribution poles aren't allowed, we will allow certain attachments on our streetlight poles if they don't create a safety concern. We've developed a process for communities to determine whether an attachment can safely exist on our poles.

We'd also like to help you understand the difference between the types of poles we're addressing in this effort.

Streetlight Pole



Distribution Pole

Streetlight poles
These poles support only streetlights and the wiring to energize them. If you have or want ornamental attachments on our streetlight poles, please contact us at phone number or email address listed below.

Distribution poles
These poles support distribution lines. In some cases, a streetlight may also be present. If you have attachments on distribution poles, please contact us (at the phone number or email below) to ensure they are removed safely by qualified workers. We will work with you to accommodate your schedule.

Thank you for your support, as we work together, to ensure a safe environment around our utility poles for you and your community. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Angela Adesoro
Outdoor Lighting Coordinator
Outdoorlighting@xcelenergy.com
651.229.2255

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CITY OF STACY

Cc: Colette Jurek, Community Relations Manager

Safety is our top concern – ornamental attachments on utility poles can be a serious safety issue to community personnel, our employees and the public. While attachments are not allowed on our distribution poles, we will allow certain attachments on our streetlight poles if we don't have safety concerns. Following are answers to some commonly asked questions. If you have additional questions or need more information, please contact Angela Adesoro at 651.229.2255 or your Xcel Energy community relations manager.

Q: Why is Xcel Energy addressing the issue of attachments on utility poles now?

A: While a utility pole may seem like a convenient place to post a sign or hang a flag, it simply isn't safe. Over the years, we have noticed more and more communities attaching items to our utility poles. To help ensure the safety of community personnel, our employees and the public, we are working with our communities to comply with the National Electric Safety Code and our company safety standards.

Q: How does attaching items like banners or flags on utility poles impact linemen?

A: Our line crews work in all types of weather conditions, and attaching items like banners and flags to utility poles can cause serious hazards because it impacts their ability to safely do their job. If a lineman needs to access overhead equipment for maintenance or to restore power during an outage, these items can become hazardous obstacles and could lead to injuries.

Q: How can these attachments be a safety issue for residents?

A: There are inherent risks associated with overhead power lines. It's important to stay at least 10 feet away. Having attachments on our poles can put people in the danger zone. For example, if a person gets too close to energized lines to attach an ornamental item, they could be exposed to thousands of volts of electricity. If that object is metal, other people could be put at risk for an electric shock. There also is the risk of an attachment, such as a hanging flower pot, falling and injuring people beneath.

Q: Are ornamental attachments allowed on distribution poles?

A: No, it's simply not safe to put ornamental attachments on distribution poles so they are not allowed.

Q: Are ornamental attachments allowed on Xcel Energy-owned streetlight poles?

A: If deemed safe, we will allow single-pole banners, flags, holiday decorations and/or street signs on streetlight poles.

Q: What is the difference between a distribution and a streetlight pole?

A: Distribution poles support power lines and possibly a streetlight. While streetlight poles support only streetlights and the wiring necessary for the light. It can be tricky to distinguish the two. We are available to assist you with that distinction.

Q: Are there any items that we can't put on streetlight poles?

A: Yes. For example, banners attached to two or more poles, flower baskets and speakers and wiring can't be placed on streetlight poles. We'll work with you to determine what can and can't go on the streetlight poles in your community.

Q: I understand that we will need to remove any unapproved attachments currently on Xcel Energy-owned poles, but do we also need to remove existing electric attachments, such as wiring, outlets and fusible disconnects?

A: All electric attachments on our distribution poles will need to be removed. However, to ensure safety, please contact your Outdoor Lighting representative as customer-owned electrical attachments require a licensed electrician and Xcel Energy lineman to disconnect from our poles.

Q: Are all the communities served by Xcel Energy impacted by this policy?

A: Yes, this is a corporate-wide policy. We will work with communities in all eight states we serve.

Q: What steps do I need to take to apply for approval to place attachments on Xcel Energy-owned streetlight poles?

A. Please follow these steps:

- Contact Xcel Energy Outdoor Lighting (612.229.2255 or outdoorlighting@xcelenergy.com) and request a "Customer Streetlight Attachment Application." This form can be sent to you via email.
- Complete the "Customer Streetlight Attachment Application" and email it to **outdoorlighting@xcelenergy.com** or send it in the mail to Xcel Energy Outdoor Lighting, 825 Rice St., St. Paul, MN 55117-5459.
- Wait while we process your application. In most cases, each streetlight pole will require an inspection by Xcel Energy personnel to validate that the pole is structurally sound to support the attachments. If your request is approved, we will send you a "License Agreement Regarding Streetlight Poles." If your request is not approved, we will let you know as soon as possible.
- Review, sign and return the "License Agreement Regarding Streetlight Poles."