

Telecommunication (Wifi and Microcell) equipment installed on municipal street facilities

We have received requests from telecommunication companies and municipalities to attach unmetered telecommunication equipment (such as Wifi, microcell, etc.) on municipality owned infrastructure (such as street lights, traffic signals, signs, and other similar facilities). These installations will allow the telecommunication companies to expand their wireless communication networks.

As this equipment will be connected to the municipality owned, secondary distribution system, we are unable to directly supply electricity to this equipment. Receiving electricity from BC Hydro through third party owned facilities is considered an indirect service connection. We don't allow indirect service connections because:

- We are unable to accommodate disconnections for the indirect service connections as the third party facilities will also be affected.
- We want to maintain a reliable service for our customers and we can't guarantee this in the case of indirect services as they are dependent on equipment not owned by BC Hydro. We have no control over the third party equipment and whether it is removed or altered in any way, impacting service to the downstream indirect connections.

As we will not accept indirect service connections, any requests for a BC Hydro account for this equipment must be requested by the municipality to us and:

- The municipality would be the owner and account holder of this service.
- The municipality will be responsible for the electricity used by the equipment.
- Any issues with the service or account will be dealt directly between BC Hydro and the municipality.
- The municipality will need to arrange directly with the telecommunication companies to recover costs for these accounts.

Note: A new account will be required for each individual piece of equipment connected downstream of municipal infrastructure. For example, if 4 Wifi units are slated to be installed on one street lighting circuit, the municipality will need to open 4 individual accounts.

Telecommunication companies may open an account directly with us if we provide a service connection directly to their equipment. If you would like to install telecommunication equipment on BC Hydro poles, or on facilities located on BC Hydro poles, you will need to contact us for review and approval. [Click here](#) for more information on attaching equipment to our poles.

To open an unmetered account, please fill out a [Telecommunications Equipment Request Form](#) and send it to telecom.equipment@bchydro.com.

Thank you.

BC Hydro Distribution Policy