

Your Energy Connection



June 2015

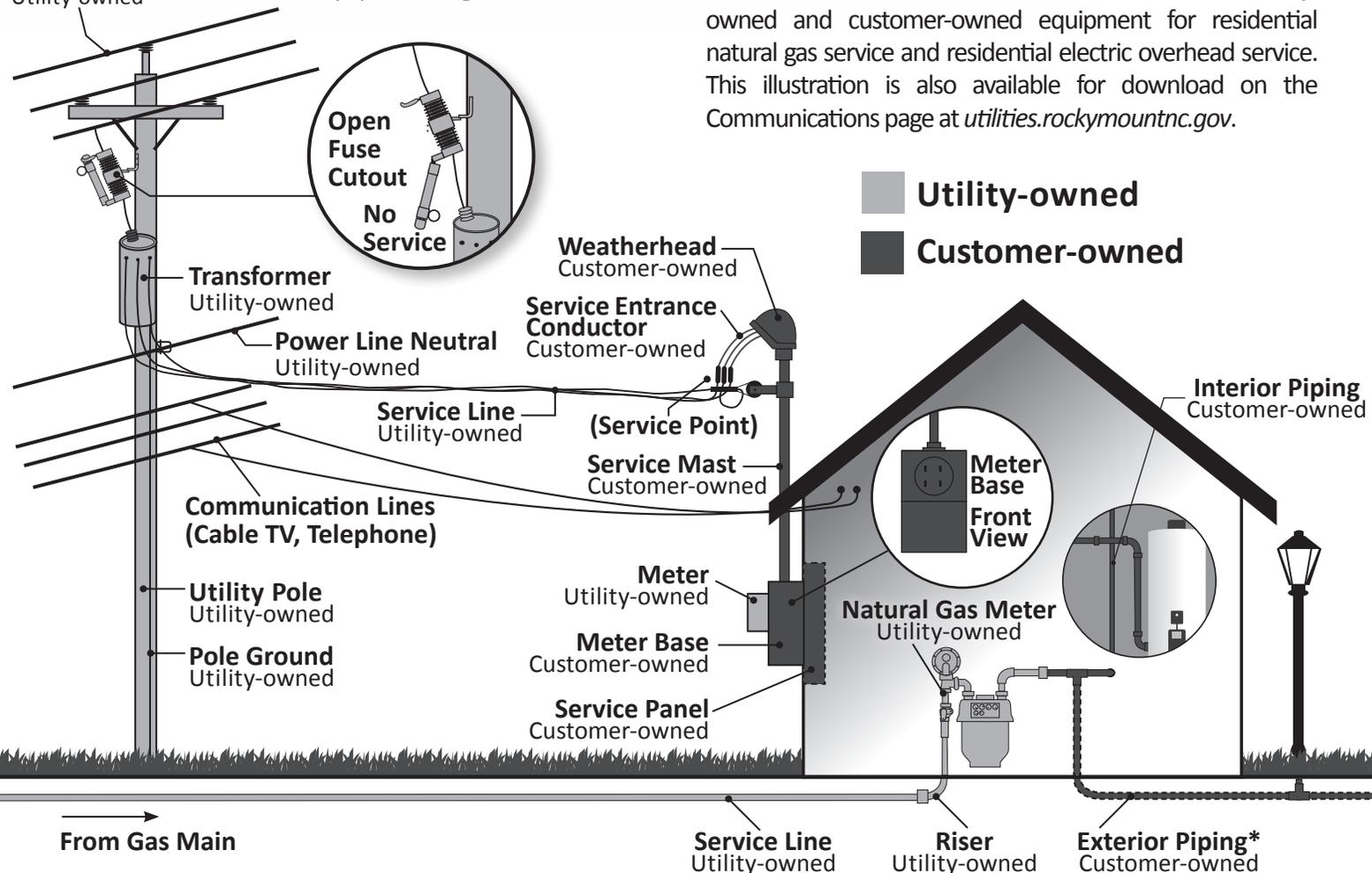
Utility-Owned and Customer-Owned Equipment

If your electric or natural gas service equipment needs repairing, do you know which equipment belongs to you and which equipment belongs to the City of Rocky Mount? Whether you have overhead or underground electric service and/or natural gas service, it's important to know where the utility-owned equipment ends and the customer-owned equipment begins.

For example, if you lose power due to faulty customer-owned equipment (e.g. damaged weatherhead), then you must have the equipment repaired by a licensed electrician before power may be restored. If your natural gas service is turned off due to a damaged customer-owned line, then it must be repaired by a licensed HVAC contractor before the gas can be turned back on.

The illustration below shows the difference between utility-owned and customer-owned equipment for residential natural gas service and residential electric overhead service. This illustration is also available for download on the Communications page at utilities.rockymountnc.gov.

High Voltage Power Distribution Lines
Utility-owned



*Exterior piping only applies to customers with outdoor natural gas appliances such as: grills, fire pits, patio heaters, pool and spa heaters, light fixtures, and heated exterior buildings

Renewable Energy Policy for Residential Customers

The City established the Renewable Energy Policy as a plan for purchasing power from customers who wish to generate their own power from renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and biomass. The City will pay the customer for electricity generated from their renewable energy source through a bilateral metering process. New construction and retrofit projects for residential electric customers are eligible.

New and existing electric customers can install up to 10 kilowatts (KW) for residential projects.



For more information about the Renewable Energy Policy, please visit www.rockymountnc.gov/utilities/programs.html#rep.

“Do’s and Don’ts” for Planting Near and Around Transformers

- DO NOT place obstructions (e.g. fencing, shrubs, trees, plants, flowers) around the transformer that hinder the ability of the City to service, repair or inspect the transformer.
- DO NOT place pine straw or compost around the base of the transformer as this could promote corrosion and cause the transformer to leak.
- DO NOT plant any variety of running vine or shrubs or bushes that bear thorns or sharp protrusions around the transformer.
- DO ensure that the top and front of the transformer are clearly visible.
- DO ensure that a 5’ clearance is maintained when placing plantings or fencing around the sides and back of the transformer. Trees planted within 15’ of the transformer may eventually require removal if tree roots or foliage hinder service or maintenance of the transformer.

Customers are encouraged to contact the City before planting. **Obstructions found by repair or inspection crews will be removed without notice to the resident.**

Visit www.rockymountnc.gov/utilities/trees.html to see examples of correct and incorrect landscaping around transformers.

For more information contact Allen Richardson, City of Rocky Mount forester, at (252) 467-4856.

Save on Energy Costs this Summer!

You can save money on your utility bill this summer by saving energy. Start saving today by following these energy-saving tips:

- Keep drapes, curtains, shades and blinds closed during the day to block the heat from the sun.
- Set the thermostat to 78°F or the highest comfortable setting during summer months.
- Replace air filters monthly.



*Cooking outdoors
creates less heat in
the house and uses
less energy.*

- Set the water heater thermostat to 120°F for maximum efficiency and comfort.
- Keep the fireplace damper closed to prevent conditioned air from escaping.
- Cook outdoors when possible. If cooking indoors, use a microwave or toaster oven. Small appliances use less energy than a large stove or full-sized oven.
- Use ceiling fans to circulate cool air throughout the home.

For more energy-saving tips for the home, visit www.rockymountnc.gov/utilities.

Earn Credits on Your Electric Bill through Load Management!

Sign up today! Load Management helps lower the cost of electricity citywide and allows customers to earn the following monthly credits on their bills:

- Electric Water Heater: \$2.00 credit per month
- Electric Heat Strips: \$15.00 credit per month during three months of winter
- Central Air Conditioner: \$20.00 credit per month during three months of summer

For more information or to sign up for the Load Management Program, call (252) 467-4803 or visit www.rockymountnc.gov/utilities/loadmanagement.html.

