

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. 11-OCT02

CODE: 2009 IBC

SECTION: Section 105.2.3

QUESTION: Our local PUD will be adding to the existing facilities at a sub-station located in the city. The utility has indicated they are designing to the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) instead of the IBC. They cite Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 296-45-045.

IBC Section 105.2.3, Public service agencies, states: "A permit shall not be required for the installation, alteration or repair of generation, transmission, distribution or metering or related equipment that is under the ownership and control of public service agencies by established right."

Does this exemption apply to a CMU Control structure of 282 sq. ft. that will house control equipment supporting the sub-station?

ANSWER: No, the exemption does not apply to a structure. The local jurisdiction may require a building permit for a site built control building located within a substation or switching station. The exception in section 105.2.3 applies to equipment. WAC 296-45, Safety standards for electrical workers, pertains to worker safety.

SUPERSEDES: None

REQUESTED BY: City of Shelton