

POLE JOINT USE

DOUBLE POLES AND DELAYED LINE TRANSFERS

Jim Campbell
Electric Safety Seminar
September 8, 2022



<https://www.puc.pa.gov/press-release/2020/puc-notes-pennsylvania-success-in-federal-broadband-auction>

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

CONTENTS

- Increased Demand for Communication
- Joint Use Definition & Purpose
- Allocated Zones on a Pole
- Clearances
- Make Ready Orders and Transfer Notifications
- PA PUC Pole Attachment Working Group

INCREASED DEMAND FOR COMMUNICATION

- Since the pandemic, more people are working from home
- People communicate more through emails than US mail
- The internet is a key advantage for school and learning
- Internet quality is poor or not available in some areas
- Internet service is becoming a necessity for some tasks
- Plans for internet expansion are in progress

POLE JOINT USE DEFINITION

Joint Use refers to the partnered use of utility and communication poles by utilities, cable and telecommunication companies, municipalities, and a growing number of other public and private organizations.



POLE JOINT USE PURPOSE

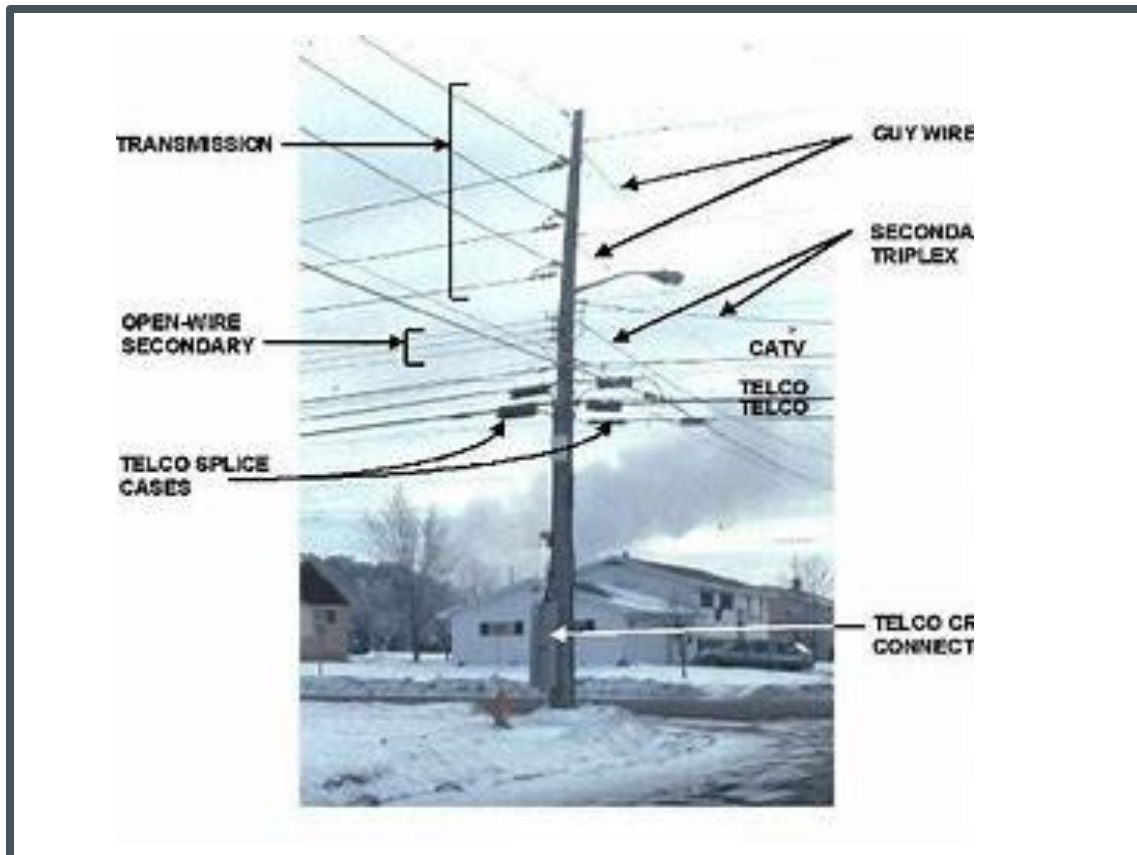
Joint Use is the ability to share invested infrastructure between service-deploying companies in a similar geographic area. Instead of one company owning a utility pole and using it for only their services, other providers in the same area can rent out the infrastructure for their facilities as well.

Joint use is governed by applicable pole agreements between the pole owners and the attachers. Additional lines are permitted on the poles upon review and approval of the pole owner.

Pole owners may refuse additional attachments if they don't meet minimum regulation requirements or create a safety risk to workers or the public.



ALLOCATED ZONES ON A JOINT USE POLE



MOST COMMONLY USED NESC CLEARANCE TABLES:

- 232-1 Vertical Clearance of wires, conductors, and cables above ground, roadway, rail, or water surfaces
- 234-1 Clearance of wires, conductors, cables, and unguarded rigid live parts adjacent but not attached to buildings and other installations except bridges
- 235-1 Horizontal clearance between wires, conductors, or cables at supports
- 235-5 Vertical clearance between conductors at supports

THE ONE TOUCH MAKE READY (OTMR) ORDER

On April 15, 2019, the FCC received OMBO (Office of Management and Budget) approval for the revised pole attachment access rules. The Federal Register published the announcement of OMB approval on April 19, 2019. As ordered in the *Third Wireline Infrastructure Order*, the rules take effect 30 days after announcement in the Federal Register of OMB approval (or six months after the release of the item, whichever is later). Therefore, the rules are effective as of **May 20, 2019**.

- Permit new attachers to elect an OTMR (One Touch Make Ready) process for simple make-ready for wireline attachments in the “communications space” on a pole.
- Establish safeguards in the OTMR process to promote coordination among the parties and ensure that new attachers perform work safely and reliably.
- Retain a multi-party process for other new attachments where safety and reliability risks are greater, while making some modifications to speed deployment.
- Codify the Commission’s existing precedent that permits attachers to “overlash” existing wires without first seeking the utility’s approval while allowing the utility to request reasonable advance notice of overlash.

ONE TOUCH MAKE READY (OTMR) POLICIES

A simple make-ready in the communications space performed by the new attaching utility using a utility approved contractor. OTMR does not include pole replacements. OTMR is a rules-based process where exceptions are not available.

One-Touch Make-Ready (OTMR) is "simple" communications space work. Simple communications space make-ready involves rearranging communication space cables where there is no reasonable expectation of a service outage or facility damage, no cable splicing and no antennas. If power space make-ready work or work above the communications space is required, OTMR does not apply.

OTMR NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS

SPANS: Spatially-enabled Permitting And Notification System, is an electronic web-based system of communicating between pole attachers and pole owners where proposals with corresponding data are issued, and approvals or rejections are communicated.

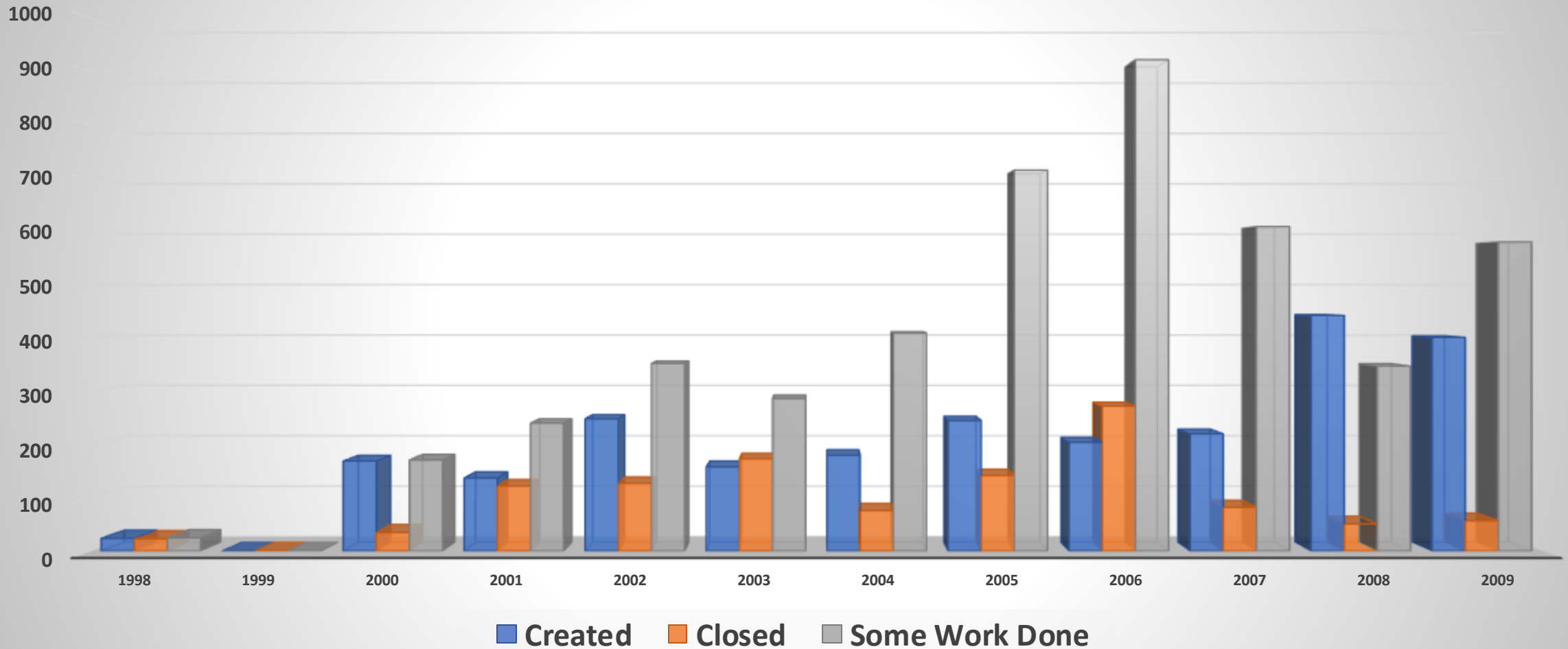
(Software subscriptions are necessary)

OTMR NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS

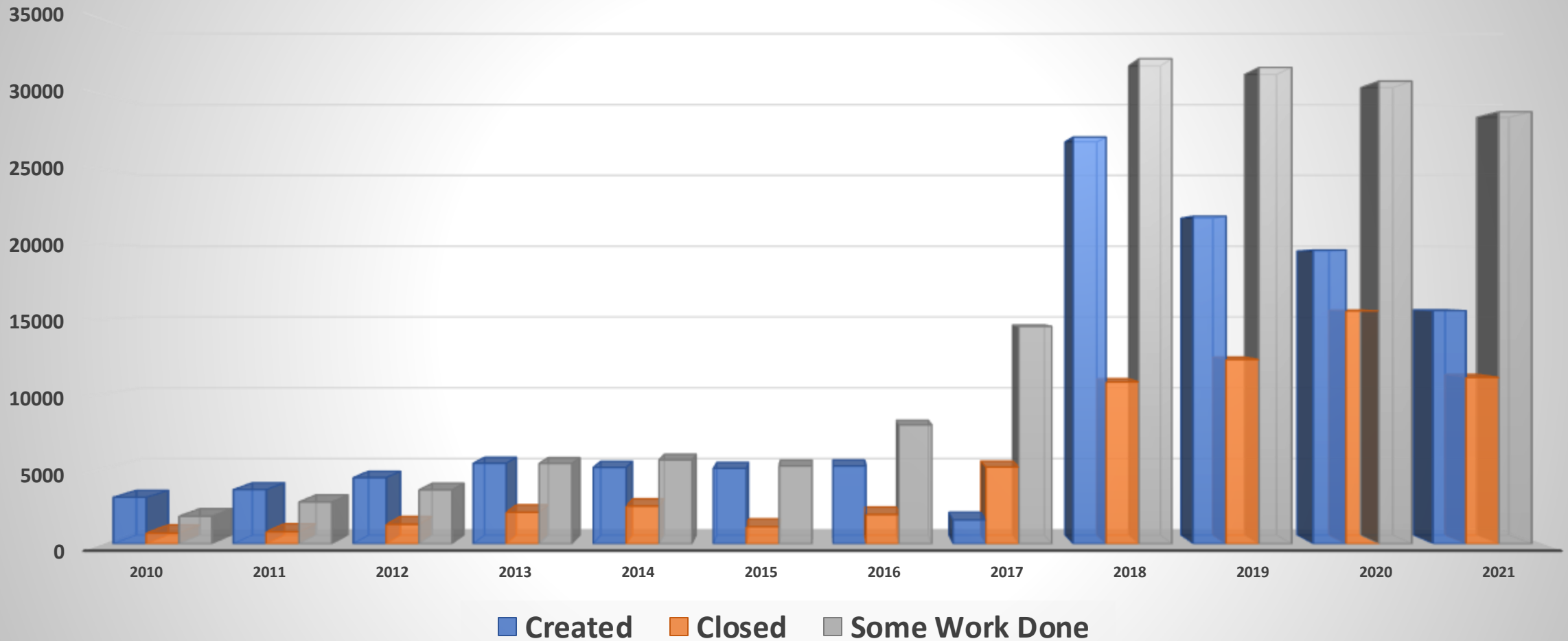
The **National Joint Utilities Notification System**, NJUNS, is a national organization of member utilities formed for the purpose of improving the coordination of joint ventures. The system offers utility companies a method of obtaining up-to-date information on a variety of shared concerns, including pole transfers, joint trenching and permits for new attachments to poles.

(Software subscriptions are necessary)

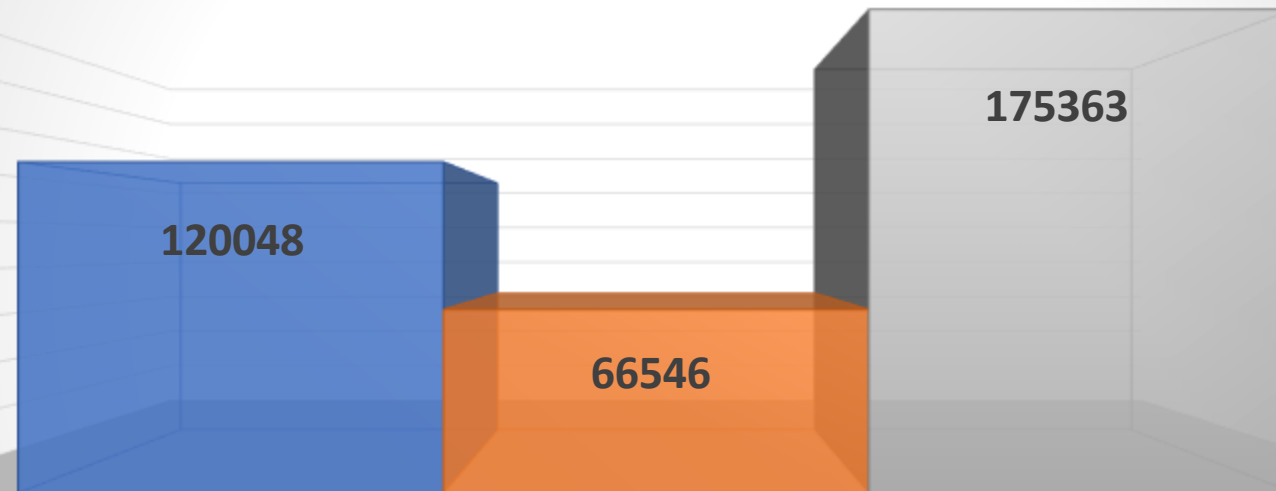
NJUNS TICKET STATISTICS



NJUNS TICKET STATISTICS



NJUNS TICKET TOTALS



■ Created ■ Closed ■ Some Work Done

OTMR TICKET RESULTS



OTMR TICKET RESULTS



COMMUNICATION LINE SPACING



PA PUC POLE ATTACHMENT WORKING GROUP

The Commission adopted the addition of 52 PA Code § Chapter 77 which will institute a pole attachment Working Group consisting of: industry, Commission staff, and the Statutory Advocates. The Law Bureau, in coordination with the Bureau of Technical Utility Services and the Office of Special Assistants, shall be responsible for convening a stakeholder working group that pole owners (including those exempt from commission regulation), attachers, the Statutory Advocates, and main interest groups will be invited to join.

PA PUC POLE ATTACHMENT WORKING GROUP

The Electric Safety Division (ESD) believes that an ongoing working group to discuss pole attachment concerns will ensure that the Commission remains apprised of industry concerns and will aid in resolving disputes efficiently and deploying broadband across the state while being mindful of electric safety and reliability.

[52 Pa. Code Chapter 77. Pole Attachments](#)