

Pre-Authorization of Multiple Electrical Service Connections Information Sheet

Overview

The general requirement is for a building or structure to be supplied by only one service. Under some conditions, a single service may not be adequate, and the installation of additional services may be permitted as specified in conditions covered by 2017 NEC Section 230.2(A) through (D).

This information sheet provides instructions on L&I pre-authorization of multiple electrical service connections, frequently required for a PECO Electrical Service application. L&I may only issue a formal determination in response to an Electrical Permit application, or a Preliminary Plan Review application as outlined in this information sheet. If you are not yet ready to submit an Electrical Permit application, you may file a Preliminary Plan Review application.

Application Submission Requirements

The application materials will depend on the classification request listed under 2017 NEC section 230.2 (A) through (D). In addition, the Philadelphia Fire Department Fire Code Unit (215-686-1399) must acknowledge the condition of multiple services and identify any additional operational requirements.

Condition 1: Special Conditions

Completely separate services to the system and equipment covered by 2017 NEC Section 230.2 (A) increases the overall reliability of the power supply to those systems by negating the impact of a disruption of the main building service. The following additional services shall be permitted by the Department:

Additional Service Types	Application and Submission Requirements
Fire Pump	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Electrical Permit application or a Preliminary Plan Review application.
Emergency Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Include a note in the work description that says approval of multiple services is being requested with details of which exception is being met.
Optional Standby Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Standard Electrical Permit submission requirements apply to an Electrical Permit application.
Legally required Standby Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Standard Preliminary Plan Review submission requirements apply to a Preliminary Plan Review application.
Parallel Power Production System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Philadelphia Fire Department Letter of Acknowledgement of multiple services.
Systems designed for connection to multiple sources of supply for the purpose of enhanced reliability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philadelphia Fire Department Letter of Acknowledgement of multiple services.

Condition 2: Special Occupancies

The Department is authorized to approve additional conditions where it may be impractical or impossible to install one service in a multiple use location with sufficient capacity for any and all future loads. By special permission from the Department, the application for additional services shall be evaluated and considered on a case-by-case basis for the following:

Building Type	Conditions	Application and Submission Requirements	
Multiple Occupancy Buildings where there is no available space for service equipment accessible to all occupants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occupancies may have service entrance conductors extend to each occupancy but can only have one set of service entrance conductors in each occupancy. Each tenant must have access to the service equipment serving their space unless a multi-occupancy building has management supervisory personnel on-site on a continuous basis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Details specific to the equipment room must be provided demonstrating the inability to achieve dimensional requirements outlined in the NEC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Electrical Permit application or a Preliminary Plan Review application. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include a note in the work description that says approval of multiple services is being requested with details of which exception is being met. Standard Electrical Permit submission requirements apply to an Electrical Permit application. Standard Preliminary Plan Review submission requirements apply to a Preliminary Plan Review application. Philadelphia Fire Department Letter of Acknowledgement of multiple services.
Single Building or Other Structure that is sufficiently large to make two or more services necessary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondary services must enter the structure through separate exterior walls. Equipment rooms must not be located within 50 feet of travel distance of each other. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate that the need for additional service is substantial. A floor plan showing the farthest point of the room to the equipment, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The distance from the point of service conductor entrance to each equipment room. The travel distance between the two equipment rooms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philadelphia Fire Department Letter of Acknowledgement of multiple services.

Condition 3: Capacity Requirements

The following additional services shall be permitted by the Department.

Additional Service Types	Conditions	Application and Submission Requirements	
Supply Voltage Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The capacity requirements are in excess of 2000 amperes at a supply voltage of 1000 volts or less. <p>Note: It is not a requirement that each service be rated 2000 ampere. A building with a calculated load of 2300 ampere could have two-1200 ampere services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A letter from the Engineer confirming conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Electrical Permit application or a Preliminary Plan Review application. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include a note in the work description that says approval of multiple services is being requested with details of which exception is being met. Standard Electrical Permit submission requirements apply to an Electrical Permit application. Standard Preliminary Plan Review submission requirements apply to a Preliminary Plan Review application. Philadelphia Fire Department Letter of Acknowledgement of multiple services.
Single-Phase Load	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The load requirements of a single-phase installation are greater than the serving agency normally supplies through one service. 		
Freestanding EV-Charging equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not include parcels with residential occupancies 		
Additions to existing structures with no through penetrations.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must have a Building Permit <p>Note: When a preliminary plan review application is submitted and a Building Permit has yet to be obtained, the applicant must describe the intended construction.</p>	

Condition 4: Different Characteristics

The following additional services shall be permitted by the Department:

Additional Service Types	Submission Requirements and Application
Different Voltages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Electrical Permit application or a Preliminary Plan Review application. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Include a note in the work description that says approval of multiple services is being requested with details of which exception is being met. ○ Standard Electrical Permit submission requirements apply to an Electrical Permit application. ○ Standard Preliminary Plan Review submission requirements apply to a Preliminary Plan Review application. • A letter from the Engineer confirming conditions. • Philadelphia Fire Department Letter of Acknowledgement of multiple services.
Different Uses	
Different Frequency	
Different Rate Schedules	
Different Phases	

Note: All other conditions will result in a refusal under the Electrical Code.

How to Submit for Pre-authorization

Applications and supplemental documentation can be submitted online via [eCLIPSE](#) or in-person at the Permit and License Center. You must [make an appointment](#) to visit the Permit and License Center.

Fees

Refer to the [L&I permit fee schedule](#) for applicable fees.

Paper submissions will incur a \$4 per page imaging fee. Surcharges of \$7.50 will apply.

Final Decision

The applicant will receive L&I's final decision within 20 business days. If the application is approved for multiple electrical service connections, the applicant will receive a Permit or Preliminary Plan Approval. The Permit or Preliminary Plan Approval shall serve as written notice by the Department.-

If the application is denied, the applicant may seek a variance from the [Board of Building Standards](#).