

**ACCOMMODATION OF UTILITIES  
ON  
COUNTY HIGHWAY  
RIGHT-OF-WAY**

**EDMUNDS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT  
210 2<sup>ND</sup> AVE P.O. BOX 38  
IPSWICH, SD 57451**

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## I. POLICY

Transportation, communications, and utility networks are growing in complexity. Such networks include highways, railways, and waterways at the surface; subways, pipelines, and cables below the surface; communication lines and transmission lines above the surface; and wireless communication systems. The possibility of two or more networks occupying a common right-of-way or intersecting increases as the networks grow. As a result, problems arise due to the construction, maintenance, and operations of one network affecting the others.

It is in the public interest for utility facilities to be accommodated on highway right-of-way when such use and occupancy do not adversely affect highway safety, construction, maintenance, or operations. In this respect, guidelines outlining safe and rational practices for accommodating utilities within highway right-of-way are of valuable assistance to transportation agencies. The guidelines herein are provided in the interest of developing and preserving safe highway operations and roadsides.

It is policy of Minnehaha County to permit installation and maintenance of certain utility facilities on highway right-of-way under the jurisdiction of Edmunds County and/or the Edmunds County Highway Department (ECHD), subject to the following conditions:

- A. Such use and occupancy of the right-of-way does not interfere with the free and safe flow of traffic.
- B. Such occupancy does not interfere with existing, planned, or future use of the right-of-way for highway purposes.
- C. Such occupancy of the right-of-way does not impair the existing highway or its scenic appearance.
- D. Installation and maintenance of utility facilities on the right-of-way are performed in accordance with the following state laws, federal regulations, and guidance:
  - South Dakota Codified Laws
  - SDDOT Administrative Rules
  - The American Association of Highway and Transportation Officials publications titled *A Guide for Accommodating Utilities within Highway Right-of-Way*, current issue.