



**Power and Communications Contractors Association  
One-Touch Make-Ready Policy  
February 2018**

**Background**

The Power & Communication Contractors Association (PCCA) represents construction contractors, manufacturers, and suppliers that build and repair America's power and communications infrastructure, including broadband, electric transmission, distribution, and substation facilities, telephone, and cable television systems. PCCA members provide the manpower and expertise needed to install the infrastructure for significant broadband deployment across America. While not appropriate for all projects, one-touch make-ready (OTMR) can expedite the broadband deployment process by allowing one contractor or a set of contractors to coordinate and complete all work related to new attachments on utility poles. PCCA contractors perform OTMR work safely and efficiently.

**OTMR Performed Safely by Contractors**

OTMR allows attachers and pole owners to use one contractor or set of contractors, approved by pole owners, to coordinate and do all work related to a new attachment in lieu of several crews performing sequential make-ready work on a given pole. OTMR contractors perform surveys, make-ready estimates, and make-ready work in a coordinated timeframe, which avoids multiple truck rolls, expedites the attachment process, and can reduce disruptions to consumers.

PCCA takes issue with false allegations made by certain carriers regarding the safety of work performed by contract personnel, claiming that damage to broadband facilities would likely result from the work of new attachers because their contractors are not generally familiar with existing attachers' networks and service quality standards. These carriers have also alleged that new attachers are likely to be competitors of the existing attachers and contractors will have little economic incentive to work safely around existing equipment on utility poles.

The vast majority of broadband construction is contracted out, and PCCA represents 85 percent of the construction companies performing this work. Safety is paramount, and PCCA contractors perform quality work for all carriers large and small, urban and rural. The real debate about OTMR seems to be based on timing and efficiency, not safety, and attacks on contractor performance seem to be veiled attempts by existing attachers to obstruct access to poles that include their facilities. It is clear that in some cases, existing attachers use delaying tactics to keep out the competition. OTMR is already performed safely and efficiently in the field. In fact, OTMR work could be considered safer in some cases when a limited number of experienced contract personnel perform the work.

PCCA continues to encourage use of fiber-based infrastructure rather than repairing antiquated copper systems, and our members work tirelessly to deploy broadband systems across the country while performing high-quality work. Shortsighted comments questioning contractor performance is unwarranted and unsubstantiated. If conducted properly, OTMR can provide quality construction of new broadband and power attachments safely, more efficiently, and more expeditiously than traditional processes by avoiding multiple crews and bureaucratic hurdles. While some circumstances will require more than a single contractor to perform all make-ready work, using a pre-approved set of contractors authorized to do the work can be much more effective than waiting on multiple crews to work on sequential projects.