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March 25, 2019

Attn: Builders, Developers and Home Owners

Re: New Residential Construction & Accessibility of Electric Utility Meter

To Whom It May Concern,

Due to the flooding experienced during Hurricane Florence, Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation (BEMC) has received many inquiries regarding the placement of electric utility meters in relation to the Base Flood Elevation (BFE). This letter and the accompanying policy are intended to address any questions you may have regarding this topic.

In February 2017, FEMA published a document entitled *Protecting Building Utility Systems from Flood Damage*, in which they suggest placing the meter, service disconnect and main service panel (if separate from the service disconnect) above the BFE. However, BEMC's Service Rules and Regulations state that "the meter location must be easily accessible to Cooperative personnel or agents." The primary reason for this regulation is to create a safe working environment for BEMC employees who are periodically required to access the metering equipment.

This dilemma is addressed in section 4.2.2.1 of the FEMA document, where it recommends that owners, developers, or local authorities interested in elevating a meter coordinate with their local utility to ensure they meet the utility's access criteria. Therefore, BEMC has created the accompanying policy to outline our access requirements at locations where the meter is located greater than six feet above grade.

If you have any questions, please call (910) 754-4391 and ask to speak with Lisa Danford.

Sincerely,

Lewis Shaw, PE
VP Engineering & Operations