

Jersey Central Power & Light

A FirstEnergy Company

To safely maintain its facilities, provide reliable service and help obtain accurate meter readings, JCP&L asks that customers provide easy and unobstructed access to its electric meters. To assist with this, JCP&L is offering the following information regarding newly approved meter connection guidelines to customers who are rebuilding or elevating homes located in coastal areas identified as FEMA flood zones:

- Meter heights cannot exceed 60 inches above a horizontal surface. Acceptable surfaces include decks featuring permanent fixed stairs at least 36 inches wide.
- Minimum clearances for the meter socket for overhead and underground construction are 42 inches across, 48 inches in front and 15 inches on each side of the meter socket.
- Decks must be constructed to meet all applicable JCP&L standards, National Electrical Safety Code, National Electric Code (NEC), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and local building code requirements.
- JCP&L must review and approve the point of attachment prior to construction, and encourages customers to contact JCP&L prior to submitting plans to builders or municipal authorities.

Safety is a top priority for JCP&L and in order to protect its customers and facilities, the company requests that property owners contact them before any construction that involves utility lines. JCP&L can advise customers early in the process on minimum clearances that are required.

Please see the attached documents for detailed drawings of meter installation requirements and meter decks.

Guidance on Electrical Meter Placement in a Designated Flood Zone

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU), Department of Community Affairs (DCA), Jersey Central Power and Light Company (JCP&L), Public Service Gas and Electric Company (PSEG), and Atlantic City Electric Company (ACE) have been working together to provide guidance to homeowners whose residences are in a designated flood zone requiring that all electrical systems be installed above the base flood elevation (BFE).

Because there are challenges for line, meter service personnel and meter readers when an electrical meter is installed above the standard height, to ensure that utility line, meter readers and meter service personnel are able to access and maintain the meter safely, permanent, fixed stairs and a landing must be provided for any meter socket located greater than 6' above grade. To ensure that the meter readers and service personnel are able to work on the panel, an adequately sized work area must be provided. It has been determined that a work area that is a minimum of 42 inches wide by 48 inches deep centered on the meter meets this requirement.

To ease the impact of providing the stairs and a landing with the work area specified in this guidance, the electric meter will be allowed to be located where fixed outside stairs have been constructed, including stairs that lead to a landing on a porch or deck serving either a front or rear entrance of the dwelling, as determined by the homeowner and the utility company working together. If the homeowner, working with the utility representative, determines that the meter is to be installed on the side of the residence or on a part of the building that is not served by stairs, then stairs that comply with the requirements of the Uniform Construction Code (UCC) with a landing that meets the size of the work area designated in this guidance will be required to be constructed and maintained. The stairs and the landing, including the specified work area, must be maintained in good and sound condition and may not be removed. Either the removal of or failure to maintain the stairs, landing, and work area that provide access to the electrical meter could result in discontinuance of electrical service.

Building Requirements: The construction of the stairs and landing are subject to the UCC. The stairs and landing must comply with the International Residential Code (IRC), for detached one- and two-family dwellings and attached single-family townhouses and must conform to the International Building Code (IBC) for all other occupancies as follows:

If the landing is to be used only for meter access and does not exceed 42 inches by 48 inches, it may be supported by pier foundations. Piles are not required in Coastal A or V zones. In these circumstances, the deck may not be connected to the main structure; it must be free standing. The piers must extend below the frost line of the locality (typically 30 inches to 36 inches). All wood used in the support structure must be pressure preservative treated or naturally durable. All materials must be flood resistant.

For detached one- and two-family dwellings and attached single-family townhouses, the minimum tread depth is 9 inches and the maximum riser height is 8 inches. For all other buildings, the minimum tread depth is 11 inches and the maximum riser height is 7 inches.

When the landing is more than 30 inches from the adjoining grade, guardrails that are not less than 36 inches in height are required. The stair must have a handrail on at least one side and must be mounted between 30 and 38 inches in height. The stair must be a minimum of 36 inches in width.

Electrical Requirements: The installation is subject to the UCC and must comply with applicable requirements of the National Electrical Code (NEC), which is adopted as the electrical subcode.

There have been questions about whether an additional disconnect would be required when a meter is mounted so that a porch or platform provides the required work area. In the NEC, which is adopted as the electrical subcode of the UCC, Article 230.70(A)(1) allows a disconnect to be either outside or inside at the nearest point of entrance of the conductors. This means that if the existing service panel remains where it is and the meter is moved, the conductors from the meter to the panel would not require a disconnect switch if they are run on the outside of the structure.

If the homeowner should prefer that the cables not be visible, a disconnect switch would be required after the meter at a readily accessible location either outside or inside where the conductors enter the structure. This would allow the conductors to be run inside the dwelling; they could either be concealed or exposed to the existing panel. In addition, the bonding and grounding would be required to be updated or extended, because the existing service panel would become a subpanel, so that the new disconnect would become the main service disconnect.

Questions may be addressed to:

BPU: customer.assistance@bpu.state.nj.us or (800) 624-0241

DCA: Code Assistance Unit at codeassist@dca.nj.gov or (609) 984-7609

ACE: <https://www.atlanticcityelectric.com/forms/ace/other/contactus.aspx> or at (800) 642-3780

JCP&L: https://www.firstenergycorp.com/content/fecorp/corporate/contact_us.html or (800) 662-3115

Orange and Rockland: <http://www.oru.com/contactforms/customerassistance/index.html> or (800) 434-4100

PSEG: (800) 722-0256

JCP&L Guidance for New Construction or Rebuilding Homes above Historic Flood Levels

JCP&L customers should be aware of potential clearance and access issues to be addressed before beginning new construction or rebuilding efforts. This includes customers who may raise their homes above historic flood levels in compliance with new Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) standards.

Higher elevations of new or rebuilt homes can impinge on the required safe clearance distance between electric power lines and buildings. This can create serious safety concerns, including the risk of injury or death, and property damage.

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has issued guidance in the form of an *Elevation of Single Family Homes Notice and Guidance Document* to address these issues. This document is available at: http://www.state.nj.us/dca/divisions/codes/alerts/pdfs/Elevation%20prior%20approval%208_15.pdf

The DCA has alerted all Uniform Construction Code (UCC) users, including building owners, design professionals, and code enforcement officials of the need to obtain a letter from their local electric utility company stating that the local utility has informed the permit applicant of the required electrical safety area clearance distances so the elevation of the applicant's home can be planned or constructed in a way that doesn't impinge on these required clearances. The DCA guidance indicates that code enforcement officials will require this letter from permit applicants for all homes being elevated to meet the FEMA standards.

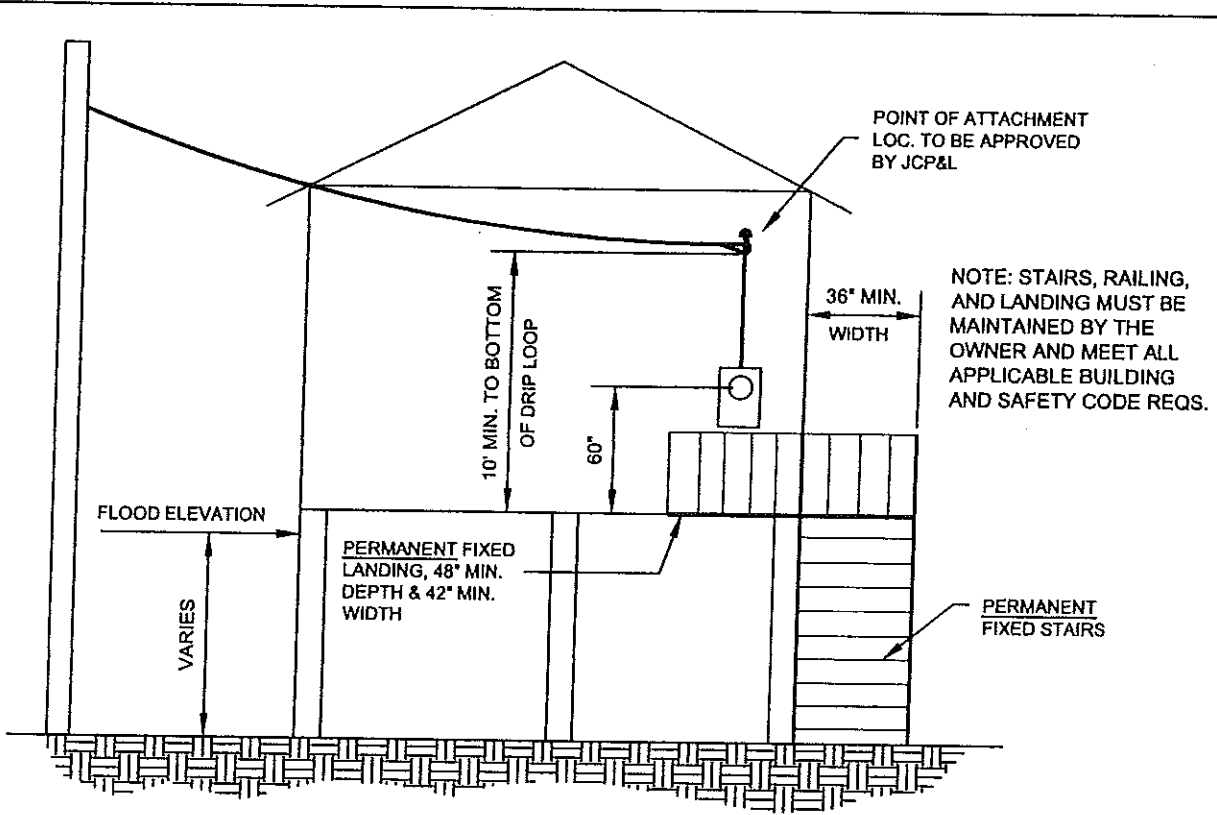
In order to obtain this letter from JCP&L, and to initiate service, if necessary, before issuance of a building permit, JCP&L customers may visit https://www.firstenergycorp.com/jersey_central_power_light.html or call 1-800-662-3115 to apply. Upon notification of your construction project, a JCP&L representative may request the following:

- ❶ A complete, clean and up-to-date site plan indicating the location of any JCP&L-owned electrical facilities on, or adjacent to, the property and in relationship to the proposed structure, including, if available, the proposal for the relocation of such facilities;
- ❷ Updated architectural drawings, including the proposed elevations, doors, windows, decks, and awnings of the structure;
- ❸ A copy of the current recorded deed for the site; and
- ❹ Written notice of any deed, homeowner or township restrictions that might impact the design and placement of electrical facilities.

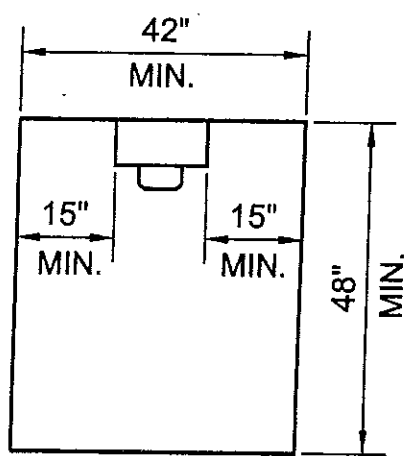
JCP&L requires a minimum of 30 days to review and process applications. The review process begins after all necessary documents have been received.

All construction activities should be conducted safely and in compliance with all applicable permits, laws and regulations governing such activity at the site. These include, but are not limited to, the National Electrical Code (NEC), National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) and the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA).

Please contact the local building department if you have any questions about applicable standards and requirements before commencing construction.

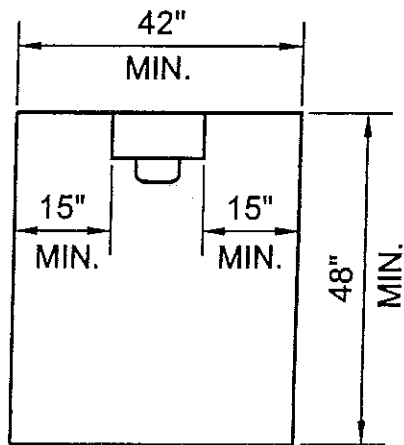
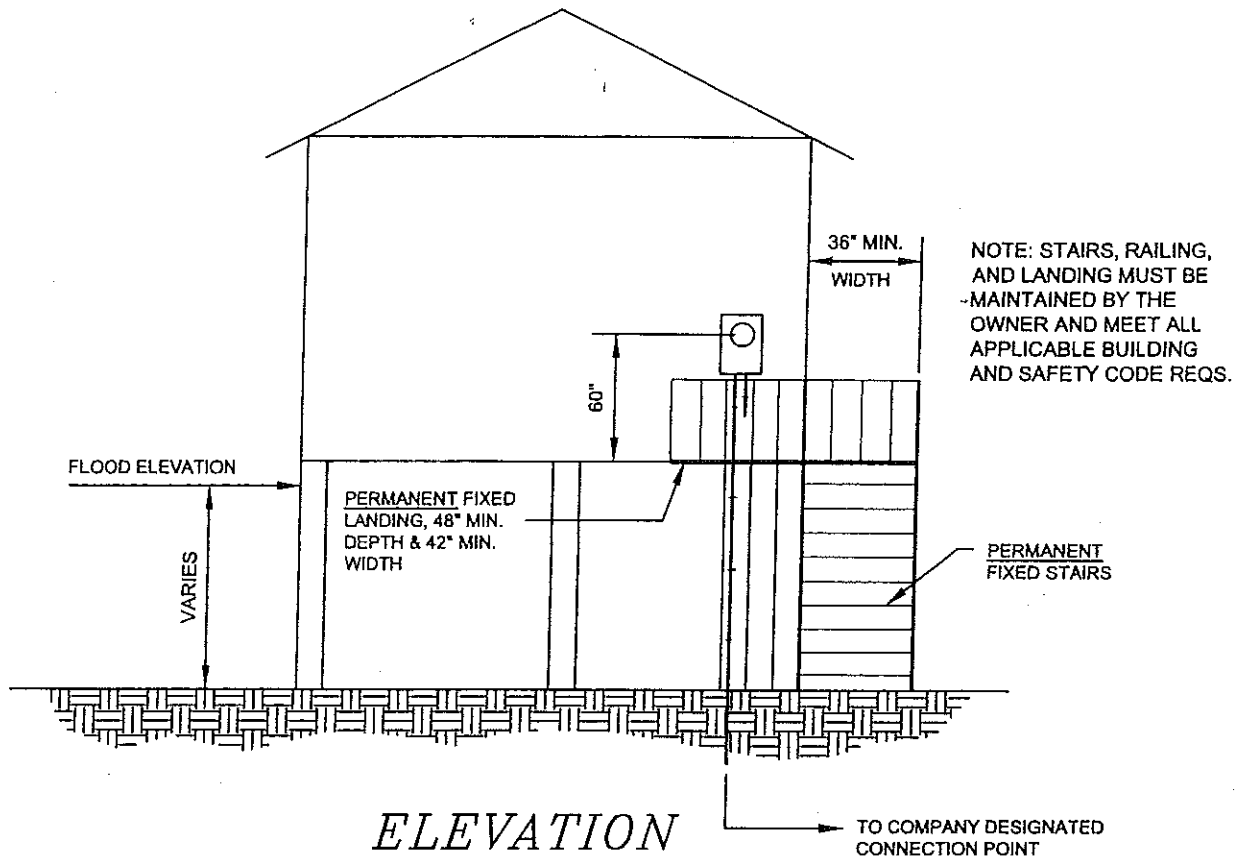


ELEVATION



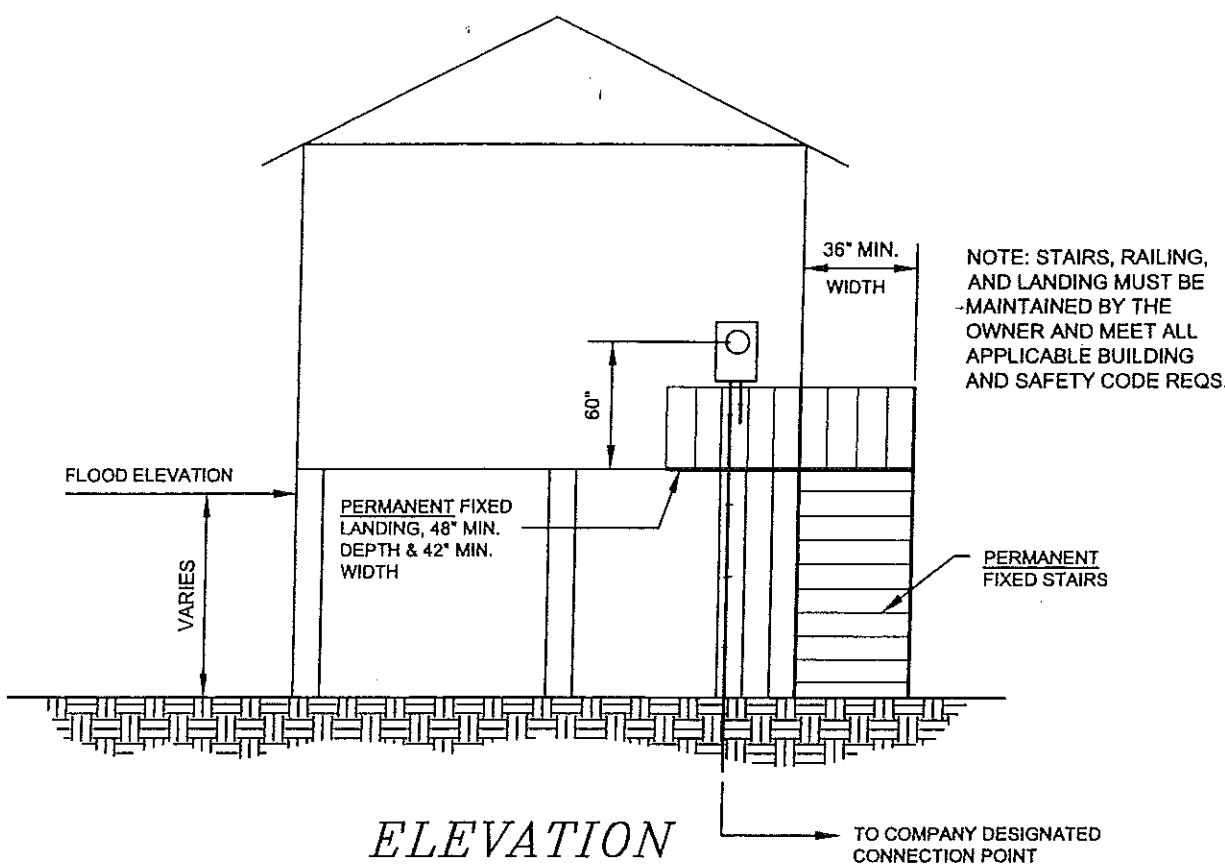
LANDING PLAN
(MINIMUM CLEARANCES)

Jersey Central Power & Light <i>A FirstEnergy Company</i>		Red Bank, NJ	
METER LANDING DETAIL FEMA FLOOD ZONES - NJ COASTAL AREAS OVERHEAD CONSTRUCTION			
DATE FCB	REVISION # 10/21/14	APPROVED	DATE 10/21/14
SCALE NTS	JOB NO. A97768-S SH.2 OF 2		

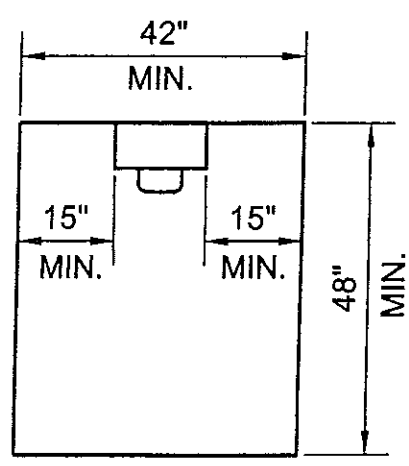


LANDING PLAN
(MINIMUM CLEARANCES)

Jersey Central Power & Light <i>A FirstEnergy Company</i>		Red Bank, NJ	
METER LANDING DETAIL FEMA FLOOD ZONES - NJ COASTAL AREAS UNDERGROUND CONSTRUCTION			
ISSUE FCB	REVISION 4 10/21/14	APPROVED	DATE 11/11/14
SCALE NTS		SHEET NO. A97768-S SH1.0fL2	

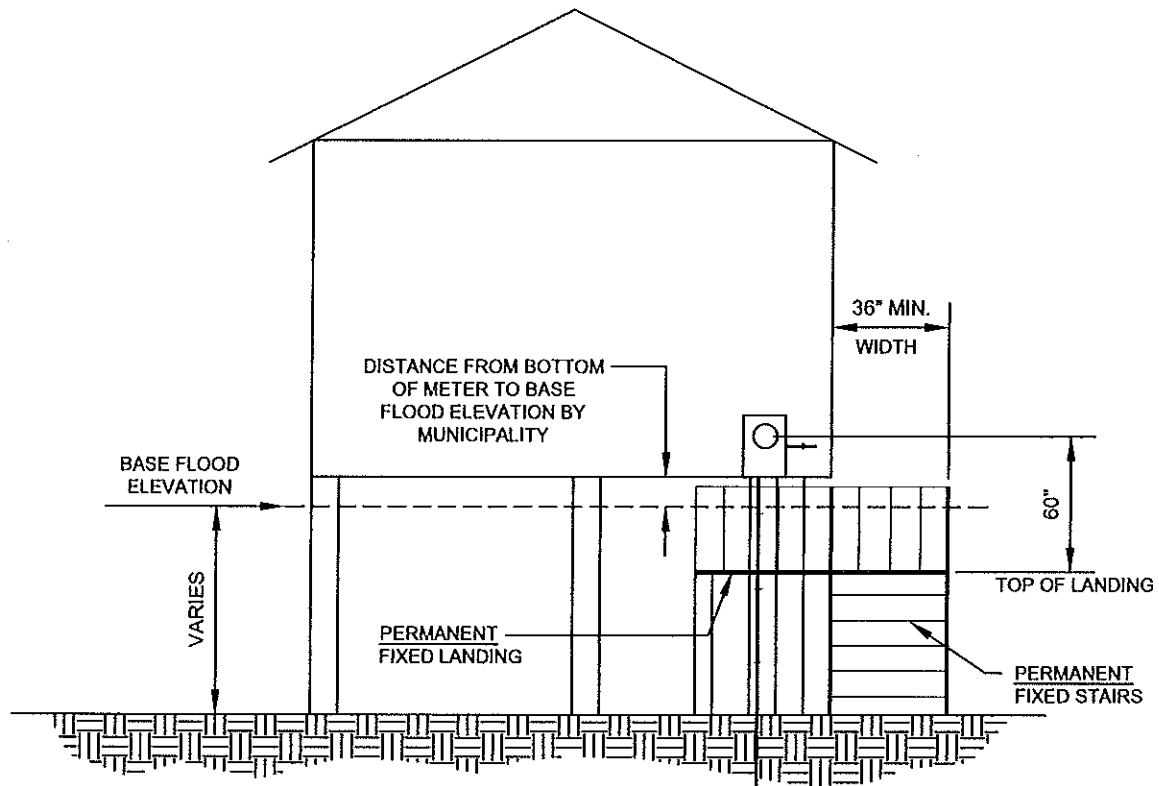


NOTE: STAIRS, RAILING, AND LANDING MUST BE MAINTAINED BY THE OWNER AND MEET ALL APPLICABLE BUILDING AND SAFETY CODE REQS.



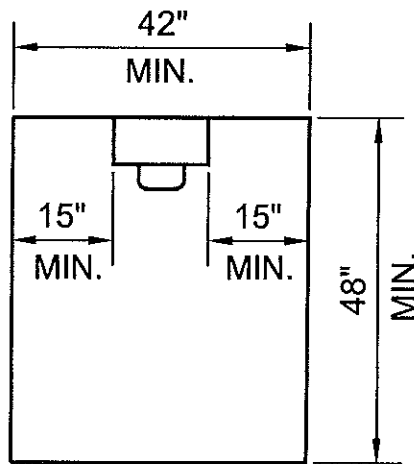
LANDING PLAN
(MINIMUM CLEARANCES)

Jersey Central Power & Light <i>A FirstEnergy Company</i>		Red Bank, NJ	
METER LANDING DETAIL FEMA FLOOD ZONES - NJ COASTAL AREAS UNDERGROUND CONSTRUCTION			
DATE FCB	REVISION # 10/21/14	APPROVED	SCALE
SCALE NTS		NO. A97768-S SH1.d.2	



ELEVATION

TO COMPANY DESIGNATED CONNECTION POINT



NOTE: STAIRS, RAILING, AND LANDING MUST BE MAINTAINED BY THE OWNER AND MEET ALL APPLICABLE BUILDING AND SAFETY CODE REQUIREMENTS.

LANDING PLAN
(MINIMUM CLEARANCES)

Jersey Central Power & Light <i>A FirstEnergy Company</i>		Red Bank, NJ	
METER LANDING DETAIL FEMA FLOOD ZONES - NJ COASTAL AREAS UNDERGROUND CONSTRUCTION			
DRAWN FCB	REVISION 3 06/01/15	APPROVED	DATE WORK ORDER NO.
SCALE NTS	DWG. NO. A97768-S		SH.1_of_2