

**NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
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Public Utility Buildings

Code: Building Code
Section: 101.2

Date: March 21, 2019

Question:

Are unmanned public utility buildings that are used solely for housing power generating or distribution equipment or telephone switching equipment and located on land owned by that same utility company exempt from building permits under NC Building Code, Section 101.2, exemption #4?

Answer:

Yes, such buildings are exempt if the building and property are owned by a public utility company as defined by NCGC62-3. As unmanned buildings they pose little or no threat to human life or safety. The intent of the note under Section 101.2, exception #4 is to address life/safety of manned buildings. Unmanned buildings are expected to be regulated by the NC Public Utility Commission.

Keywords:

energy, electricity, electrical, generation, telephony, gear