



What is the issue?

A number of service poles have recently failed or been found at risk of imminent failure due to extremely poor condition at ground line. These poles were recorded in our Ellipse and GIS databases as being owned by Telstra. These poles are known as 'Common Use' poles and the pole number preceded by a 'G' on GIS maps. 'Common Use/G-poles' are poles owned by a Telco that also support Endeavour Energy's overhead mains – generally a service road-crossing.

Being owned by another utility, these poles are not inspected/drilled below ground line (GLI) by Endeavour Energy's contracted Pole Inspectors as part of the routine pole inspection program. Only an overhead inspection (OLI) of Endeavour's conductor and related hardware is performed.

Until now the responsibility of the GLI inspection has been left to the utility owner. However, these recent incidents have highlighted a possible deficiency in the utility owner's inspection process and in the accuracy of the pole ownership data in Ellipse and GIS.

What has been done?

- A MySafe incident has been raised in relation to the most recent incident.
- Our Asset Standards & Design group have been notified and requested to follow up with the utility owner regarding their inspection processes and procedures, and to confirm the ownership and responsibility for all poles marked as Common Use/G-poles in Ellipse and GIS.
- The OLI/GLI group have notified our Pole Inspectors of the issue and informed them to not rely solely on the ownership of such poles as recorded in Ellipse or GIS maps, but to make a closer inspection of the onsite construction and record/report ownership and condition issues as found.
- An internal investigation has commenced.

What you need to do

Whilst the investigation is being undertaken, when work is required to be performed on poles marked as, or suspected to be, 'Common Use/G-poles' (see photos below to assist in identification):

- Do not climb the pole. Do not perform a 'ladder test' on the pole.
- Use an alternative method to access the pole such as using an EWP.
- No conductors are to be cut away, or tension otherwise changed, unless the pole is appropriately supported.
- Ensure any potential drop zones in the event of a pole failure are identified and kept clear of personnel.

- If staff are concerned about the condition of a pole, or suspect its ownership is incorrectly recorded – then contact the OLI/GLI group to arrange a Special Inspection.

NOTE: Endeavour Energy owned poles that also support Telco assets (sometimes referred to as 'Joint Use' poles) are not the subject of this Safety Bulletin. Normal pre-climbing inspection procedures continue to apply to these. See pictures below for an explanation of the difference between 'Joint Use' poles and 'Common Use' poles and how to tell the difference.

To request a Special Inspection:

OLI/GLI Network Defects, (02) 4252 2955,
oliqli.networkdefects@endeavourenergy.com.au

Figure 1 – Examples of ground line condition of failed poles





SAFETY BULLETIN

Potential Unsafe Ground line Condition of Telco
'Common Use / G-Poles'

Issued: 23 August 2018

| Number: 19 - 18

How to identify a 'Common Use/G-Pole'

'Common Use/G-Poles' owned by Telstra have a number of characteristics which can help you to identify them.

Pole Discs: Small round steel pole disc, various colours, generally appear alongside Endeavour pole number plates.



Pole Caps: 'Pie dish' shaped pole cap.



Old Insulator Holes: Multiple holes down the pole from the removal of old insulators.



