

N.C.P.I.—CRIM 220.95  
INTERFERING WITH GAS, ELECTRIC, AND STEAM [APPLIANCES] [METERS].  
MISDEMEANOR, FELONY.  
GENERAL CRIMINAL VOLUME  
JUNE 2014  
N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-151.  
-----

220.95 INTERFERING WITH GAS, ELECTRIC, AND STEAM [APPLIANCES] [METERS].<sup>1</sup>

The defendant has been charged with interfering with gas<sup>2</sup>, electric, and steam [appliances] [meters]<sup>3</sup>.

For you to find the defendant guilty of this offense, the State must prove three things beyond a reasonable doubt.

First, that the defendant:

(1) [Connected a [tube] [pipe] [wire] [[instrument] [contrivance]] with a [pipe] [wire] used for [[conducting] [supplying]] [illuminating gas] [fuel] [natural gas] [electricity] in such a manner as to supply such [gas] [electricity] to a [burner] [orifice] [lamp] [motor] where the same is or can be [burned] [used] without passing through the [meter] [instrument] provided for registering the quantity consumed];

(2) [[Obstructed] [altered] [bypassed] [tampered] [injured] [prevented] the action of a [meter] [instrument] used to [measure]

---

1 Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to licensed contractors while performing usual and ordinary services in accordance with recognized customs and standards.

2 For the purposes of this section, the term "gas" shall mean all types and forms of gas, including, but not limited to, natural gas.

3 Any meter or service entrance facility found to have been altered, tampered with, or bypassed in a manner that would cause such meter to inaccurately measure and register the electricity, gas, or water consumed or which would cause the electricity, gas, or water to be diverted from the recording apparatus of the meter shall be prima facie evidence of intent to violate and the violation of this section by the person in whose name such meter is installed or the person(s) so using or receiving the benefits of such unmetered, unregistered, or diverted electricity, gas or water.

N.C.P.I.—CRIM 220.95  
INTERFERING WITH GAS, ELECTRIC, AND STEAM [APPLIANCES] [METERS].  
MISDEMEANOR, FELONY.  
GENERAL CRIMINAL VOLUME  
JUNE 2014  
N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-151.  
-----

[register] the quantity of illuminating [fuel] [natural gas] [water]  
[electricity] passing through such meter<sup>4</sup>;

(3) [[Extended] [altered] a [service] [pipe] [wire] [attachment],  
[[connected with] [through]] which [[natural] [artificial]] [gas] [electricity]  
is furnished from the gas [mains] [pipes] of a person, without procuring  
from that person written permission to make such [change] [extension]  
[alterations]]];

(4) [[Made a [connection] [reconnection] with the [gas mains] [water  
pipes] [service pipes] [wires] of a person, furnishing to consumers [[natural]  
[artificial] gas] [water] [electricity]], [[turned [on] [off]] [interfered with]  
any [valve] [stopcock] [appliance] that belonged to such person, [and  
connected with his [service pipes] [pipes] [wires]] [enlarged orifices of  
mixers] [used natural gas for heating purposes except through [mixers]  
[electricity] for any purpose without first procuring from such person a  
written permission [to turn [on] [off] such [stopcock] [valve]] [to make  
[connections] [reconnections]] [to enlarge the orifice of mixers] [to use for  
heating purposes without mixers] [to interfere with the [valves] [stopcocks]  
[wires] [appliances]]];

---

<sup>4</sup> It would be a defense to this action that the person was an employee of the company owning or supplying any gas, water, or electric meter, who willfully shall detach or disconnect such meter, or make or report any test of, or examine for the purpose of testing any meter so detached or disconnected.

N.C.P.I.—CRIM 220.95

INTERFERING WITH GAS, ELECTRIC, AND STEAM [APPLIANCES] [METERS].  
MISDEMEANOR, FELONY.

GENERAL CRIMINAL VOLUME

JUNE 2014

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-151.

-----  
(5) [[[Retained possession of] [refused to] deliver a [mixer] [meter] [lamp] [appliance] which may be [leased] [rented by a person, for the purposes of furnishing [gas] [water] [electricity] [power] through the same], [sold] [lent] [disposed of] the same to a person other than such person entitled to the possession of the same];

(6) [[Set on fire gas escaping from [wells] [[broken] [leaking]] [mains] [pipes] [valves] [appliances] used by a person who conveyed gas to consumers] [interfered in any manner with the [wells] [pipes] [mains] [gateboxes] [valves] [stopcocks] [wires] [cables] [conduits] or any other [appliances] [machinery] [property] of a person engaged in furnishing as to consumers]<sup>5</sup>;

(7) [[[Opened] [caused to be open]] [reconnected] [caused to be reconnected] a valve lawfully [closed] [disconnected] by a district steam corporation];

(8) [[[Turned on] [caused to turn on] steam] [Reentered premises when the same has been lawfully stopped from entering such premises]];

(9) [[Reconnected [electricity] [gas] [water] connections] [turned back on one or more [electricity] [gas] [water] connections when they have been lawfully [disconnected] [turned off] by the provider of the utility]];

---

<sup>5</sup> It would be a defense if the person was employed by or acting under the authority and direction of such person.

N.C.P.I.—CRIM 220.95  
INTERFERING WITH GAS, ELECTRIC, AND STEAM [APPLIANCES] [METERS].  
MISDEMEANOR, FELONY.  
GENERAL CRIMINAL VOLUME  
JUNE 2014  
N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-151.  
-----

(10) [[Altered] [bypassed] [interfered with] [cut off] load management [device] [equipment] [system] which has been installed by the electricity supplier for the purpose of limiting the use of electricity at peak=load periods.]<sup>6</sup>

Second, that the defendant acted willfully.

Third, that the defendant intended to [injure] [defraud].

If you find beyond a reasonable doubt that on or about the alleged date the defendant willfully and with the intent to [defraud] [injure]

(1) [Connected a [tube] [pipe] [wire] [[instrument] [contrivance]] with a [pipe] [wire] used for [[conducting] [supplying]] [illuminating gas] [fuel] [natural gas] [electricity] in such a manner as to supply such [gas] [electricity] to a [burner] [orifice] [lamp] [motor] where the same is or can be [burned] [used] without passing through the [meter] [instrument] provided for registering the quantity consumed];

(2) [[Obstructed] [altered] [bypassed] [tampered] [injured] [prevented] the action of a [meter] [instrument] used to [measure] [register] the quantity of illuminating [fuel] [natural gas] [water] [electricity] passing through such meter];

---

<sup>6</sup> There will not be a violation of this subsection if there has been a written request to remove the load management device, equipment, or system to the electric supplier and the electric supplier has not removed the device within two working days.

N.C.P.I.—CRIM 220.95  
INTERFERING WITH GAS, ELECTRIC, AND STEAM [APPLIANCES] [METERS].  
MISDEMEANOR, FELONY.  
GENERAL CRIMINAL VOLUME  
JUNE 2014  
N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-151.  
-----

(3) [[Extended] [altered] a [service] [pipe] [wire] [attachment],  
[[connected with] [through]] which [[natural] [artificial]] [gas] [electricity]  
is furnished from the gas [mains] [pipes] of a person, without procuring  
from that person written permission to make such [change] [extension]  
[alterations]];

(4) [[Made a [connection] [reconnection] with the [gas mains] [water  
pipes] [service pipes] [wires] of a person, furnishing to consumers [[natural]  
[artificial] gas] [water] [electricity]], [[turned [on] [off]] [interfered with]  
any [valve] [stopcock] [appliance] that belonged to such person, [and  
connected with his [service pipes] [pipes] [wires]] [enlarged orifices of  
mixers] [used natural gas for heating purposes except through [mixers]  
[electricity] for any purpose without first procuring from such person a  
written permission [to turn [on] [off] such [stopcock] [valve]] [to make  
[connections] [reconnections]] [to enlarge the orifice of mixers] [to use for  
heating purposes without mixers] [to interfere with the [valves] [stopcocks]  
[wires] [appliances]]];

(5) [[[Retained possession of] [refused to] deliver a [mixer] [meter]  
[lamp] [appliance] which may be [leased] [rented by a person, for the  
purposes of furnishing [gas] [water] [electricity] [power] through the same],  
[sold] [lent] [disposed of] the same to a person other than such person  
entitled to the possession of the same];

N.C.P.I.—CRIM 220.95

INTERFERING WITH GAS, ELECTRIC, AND STEAM [APPLIANCES] [METERS].  
MISDEMEANOR, FELONY.

GENERAL CRIMINAL VOLUME

JUNE 2014

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-151.

-----  
(6) [[Set on fire gas escaping from [wells] [[broken] [leaking]]  
[mains] [pipes] [valves] [appliances] used by a person who conveyed gas to  
consumers] [interfered in any manner with the [wells] [pipes] [mains]  
[gateboxes] [valves] [stopcocks] [wires] [cables] [conduits] or any other  
[appliances] [machinery] [property] of a person engaged in furnishing as to  
consumers];

(7) [[[Opened] [caused to be open]] [reconnected] [caused to be  
reconnected] a valve lawfully [closed] [disconnected] by a district steam  
corporation];

(8) [[[Turned on] [caused to turn on] steam] [Reentered premises  
when the same has been lawfully stopped from entering such premises]];

(9) [[Reconnected [electricity] [gas] [water] connections] [turned back  
on one or more [electricity] [gas] [water] connections when they have been  
lawfully [disconnected] [turned off] by the provider of the utility]];

(10) [[Altered] [bypassed] [interfered with] [cut off] load management  
[device] [equipment] [system] which has been installed by the electricity  
supplier for the purpose of limiting the use of electricity at peak-load  
periods],

it would be your duty to return a verdict of guilty. If you do not so find  
or have a reasonable doubt as to one or more of these things, then it would  
be your duty to return a verdict of not guilty.