

1. **Q:** What is the difference between a Consent to Encroachment and a Release of Easement?
A: Consent to Encroachment is permission granted by CenterPoint Energy Houston to have a permanent structure located in an easement. A Release of Easement is when CenterPoint Energy Houston gives up its rights and interest to an easement.
2. **Q:** Can you release part of an easement?
A: The strict answer to the question is yes. However, CenterPoint Energy Houston's policy regarding the request for a release of part of an easement, or partial release, is to obtain a new easement covering the specific area in question and release the old easement in its entirety.
3. **Q:** What is an aerial easement?
A: An aerial easement is similar to an imaginary alphabet letter "T". The ground easement would be the area at the base of the "T" and the portion **above** the top of the "T" would be an area referred to as the aerial easement area. The aerial easement is designed to maintain a safe distance from the wires, which will move from side to side when the wind blows.
4. **Q:** When can an aerial easement be released?
A: An aerial easement can be released when there are no overhead facilities located in the easement and there are no future plans to build overhead facilities in the easement.
5. **Q:** Can I get a refund on the processing fee if I do not get the release of easement?
A: No, the processing fee is for the research necessary to determine if CenterPoint Energy Houston can release the easement.
6. **Q:** Can the language be changed in the Release of Easement instrument?
A: The language contained in CenterPoint Energy Houston's release of easement document has been developed and approved by CenterPoint Energy's law department for the specific purpose of releasing the Company's easement rights. Any deviation from the pre-approved format would cause long and costly delays in the issuance of a document. Therefore, changing the document language is not recommended.
7. **Q:** How long does it take to process a release of easement?
A: The processing time will vary due to a number of factors. When a Release of Easement application and check is received in our office:
 - 1) The request is sent to the Service Center Representative (SCR) who handles that area.
 - 2) The SCR will check to see if a new easement needs to be secured before the old one can be released.
 - 3) In some cases, the relocation of facilities might also need to be done before we can release the easement.Therefore, a definite time period cannot be quoted, however when no facilities exist in the easement to be released, the rate schedule applies.
8. **Q:** When can't the release of easement be granted?
A: There are a number of reasons why a release of easement cannot be granted:
 - 1) There are facilities that cannot be relocated in the easement.
 - 2) The release would create a non-standard easement.
 - 3) The release removes a portion within the easement, not at the end of the easement.
 - 4) The easement is to be used for a feeder tie.
9. **Q:** If I only want a release from one of the utilities, is the processing fee still the same?
A: Yes, when researching your request, we check for both gas and electric utilities, and will provide the release(s) based on the research.