



Cowlitz PUD

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Guidelines for New Residential Electrical Service

This list of guidelines provides you with the general requirements necessary to obtain electrical service for your new residential building. Additional information will be provided by your PUD Engineering Planner at an on-site meeting. Please call to schedule an appointment after completing your residential electrical service application and requirements.

Electrical Inspections

- Permits must be obtained from one of the agencies below before inspections can take place. Cowlitz PUD cannot install the meter or energize the electric service until the electrical inspector from the appropriate agency notifies the PUD with an approval. If your new electric service is within the city limits of Longview, please contact the City of Longview. All other areas of the county are under the jurisdiction of the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries.

**City of Longview: Permits and Inspections (360) 442-5086
1525 Broadway, Longview, WA 98632**

**Department of Labor & Industries: Permits and Inspections (360) 575-6900
711 Vine Street, Kelso, WA 98626**

Please note that state electrical inspectors are available to answer code questions 8:00-8:30am

- Inspection and approval by the electrical inspector is required before facilities can be energized.

Temporary Power

- If temporary power is needed for construction indicate on the application for service. Temporary services may be served overhead or underground. For any installation other than a service drop, the customer will pay the PUD cost of installing and removing temporary facilities. The customer shall provide the temporary meter pole, meter base, and if power is available from an underground source, supply the underground secondary.

Meter Base

- The customer shall provide, install, and maintain the service entrance and meter base at a location approved by the PUD prior to installation. The size and type of the meter base will depend on the type of service installation and will be specified by the PUD.
- The meter base must be on an outside wall or on the customer's service pole and centered at a height of 5½ feet plus or minus 6 inches above established final grade (except prewired pedestals) where it is readily accessible to PUD personnel. CT enclosures must be located on an outside wall near the meter base (no basement installations). All locations are subject to PUD approval and backyard locations are discouraged due to access requirements.
- The PUD service crew can install the service conductor in the meter base prior to an electrical inspection but it cannot be energized until approved and all trenches are backfilled.
- Above ground conduit riser for the meter base may be Schedule 40 PVC electrical conduit. The 200 amp meter base, 320 amp meter base and CT enclosure require 3 inch conduit. Schedule 40 PVC electrical conduit may be used below ground.

Trench

- All trenching, backfilling, and conduit installation on private property is the customer's responsibility and must be done in accordance with PUD specifications. Trench spoils must not be placed on the road surface preventing PUD service truck access.
- **Underground utility locates must be requested before digging: Call 1-800-424-5555.** There is no charge for this service and existing underground facilities (except customer owned) will be located and marked to avoid damage. Allow two full business days following the day of the call for completion of locates.

Guidelines for New Residential Electrical Service (Continued)

- **Depth** - The primary trench (PUD side of the transformer) must be 3 feet below final grade and the secondary trench (customer side of the transformer) must be 2 feet below final grade.
- **Location** - Primary trenches must follow a road or driveway for maintenance access. Secondary trenches may cross the property.
- Electrical conduit is required for all new underground installations. Primary conductor requires 2 inch schedule 40 PVC conduit. Service conductors require 3 inch conduit for 200 amp service and 3 inch conduit as required for 320 amp and CT metering.
- All conduit runs require mule tape 2500 lb. test. Conduit runs must not have more than 270 degrees of long radius factory bends.
- Notify your PUD Engineering Planner to have your open trenches and conduit inspected and again when trenches are backfilled.

Transformer Site

- Provide a graded area 4 feet x 4 feet that is level compacted soil, or gravel to PUD specifications if soil conditions are unstable. The transformer site shall be within 100 feet of the meter base depending on load requirements and 15 feet minimum and 25 feet maximum from edge of road/driveway for vehicle traffic clearance and transformer maintenance purposes. The transformer site should be chosen carefully to ensure a suitable location with easy access and away from traffic as the cost of relocating the transformer in the future is the customer’s responsibility. The transformer site should not be installed at a grade higher than that of the meter base or lower than the surrounding grade in order to prevent water intrusion.

Roads/Driveways

- All roads/driveways must have a minimum base rock thickness capable of supporting heavy trucks with a minimum of 10 feet in width to the transformer site described above. PUD service trucks will not be driven on dirt roads. Trench spoils must not be placed on the road surface preventing PUD service truck access.

Easements

- Easement documents, if required, will be prepared by the PUD and all necessary signatures will be the responsibility of the customer. All easement documents must be signed, notarized, and returned to the PUD before the installation of the new service.

Job Costs

- A Request for Payment will be prepared based on the job and sent to the customer. The total job cost for your new service is required to be paid prior to the installation of PUD facilities.

When all requirements have been met and all inspections passed, your PUD Engineering Planner will release your new service job for construction. Please allow 3-5 days normal construction time.

Note: Any deviation from the electrical design, once established, may result in incurring additional costs for redesign and construction may be delayed. It is the customer’s responsibility to provide all the necessary PUD requirements and specifications to subcontractors.

Received By: _____

Date: _____

Service Address: _____

Thank you for closely following these steps to help ensure that your electrical service is installed in a safe, timely manner.