

## Maintenance of Conductors & Division of Responsibility

This chapter distinguishes Seattle City Light's (SCL's) responsibility for equipment and maintenance from that of the customer. The customer is responsible for:

- All masts, brackets, conduits, and other service entrance equipment
- Conduit and trenching to SCL's designated point of connection to the system
- All equipment on the load side of the meter
- Any other equipment for which the customer is assigned responsibility in written agreements between us.

### Primary Underground Service

#### Division of Responsibility

For each installation of primary underground service, SCL will establish the point where SCL's responsibility ends and the customer's responsibility begins. All facilities on the customer's side of this point will be furnished, installed, operated, and maintained by the customer unless other arrangements are agreed to in writing. The customer is also responsible for conduit and trenching to SCL's designated point of connection to the system.

#### Extensions of Primary Underground

**ADDITIONAL PADS OR VAULTS** Any extensions of primary service conductors to additional transformer vaults or pads will be made by SCL and will remain our property. The customer, however, must furnish and install the primary conduit, vault or pad as required and must pay the cost of the extension.

**EXTENSIONS BEYOND A PRIMARY METER** Extensions beyond a primary meter are the customer's responsibility.

#### Transformers

Transformers connected to our primary distribution system will be furnished, installed, and maintained by SCL. The customer will be responsible for removing any transformer that SCL determines it cannot remove. Transformers on the customer's side of the meter are the customer's responsibility to furnish, install and maintain unless otherwise agreed to in writing.

#### Poles

SCL will maintain all their own installed poles and anchors. Customer-owned poles installed by SCL will be maintained by SCL at the customer's expense.

#### Metering Equipment

SCL will maintain all meters, instrument transformers, and related equipment. See also Chapter 11, "Metering."

## Maintenance of Underground Conductors

Underground conductors will be maintained by SCL in the following manner:

**SERVICES IN CONDUIT** SCL will provide new service wire if the existing conductors fail. SCL's crew will pull out the old wire and install new service wire provided they are able to remove the old conductors. If the conduit has been damaged or rusted, the wires may not be able to be removed. The conduit housing the service is the customer's property and responsibility. If the wires cannot be pulled from the conduit, the customer will be responsible for trenching and installing new conduit from the meter base to a point designated by SCL. Then SCL will furnish and install the new service wire.

**SERVICES WITHOUT CONDUIT** In situations where the service wire is buried in the ground without conduit and the service fails, SCL will locate the fault, excavate, repair the cable, and backfill the excavated material. The customer is responsible for all surface restoration, e.g., grass, shrubbery, concrete.

This procedure applies only if there is a single fault or break in the run of wire. Often when direct burial conductors age they will fail in more than one location. This indicates the entire service run needs to be replaced. If the crew has exposed and repaired one fault, and the service has more faulted areas, the customer will be required to trench and provide a conduit run from the meter base to a point designated by SCL. Then SCL will furnish and install the service conductors in the newly installed conduit.

**CHARGES FOR MAINTENANCE** There will be no charges for installing underground service conductors on existing services for replacement due to failure. The exceptions are as follows:

- a. The service was not installed by SCL but by a private contractor within five (5) years of the date of the failure. In this case the wire is to be replaced by the installer according to the SCL specifications.
- b. The conductors have faulted as a result of some action on the customer's part; e.g. wire damaged by digging; post or retaining wall installation damaging conduit and wire; improper backfill. If the cause of the fault is related to such or other actions, the customer will be charged for the repair work.

**TEMPORARY RESTORATION OF SERVICE** SCL may restore service on a temporary basis until the customer completes the necessary work so SCL can replace the service conductors. If SCL is unable to install an electrical meter during this time, the customer will receive an estimated bill for the period their electrical usage is unmetered.

The temporary service will be granted for a maximum of two (2) weeks. The connection will not be maintained beyond this period.