Before starting construction on a new home, remodeling, commercial building or other project that will need an electric service connection within Seattle City Light’s service territory, contractors should familiarize themselves with the utility’s Requirements for Electric Service Manual. It outlines your responsibilities and City Light’s role in supporting your project while also providing guidelines for when certain steps should be taken to keep your project on schedule. The manual is available online at seattle.gov/light/engineerstd/docs/Requirements_for_Electrical_Service_Connection.pdf. Below are answers to some frequently asked questions:

**Does Seattle City Light need to know if I’m expanding my home or business or adding facilities that will use more electricity?**

Yes. City Light needs to know how much electricity your building might use in order to have the correct equipment in place to reliably deliver power. When you add load to your service, you must notify us. (SMC 21.49 (S) and WAC 480.100.148 (1))

**How much lead time does Seattle City Light need to install service for my home, business or building?**

It depends. Schedules for completing installations will vary. Large projects might require up to 18 months to allow us to acquire the transformers, equipment and materials we would need. And any changes to the terms outlined in your contract must be made well in advance of your estimated connection date if you want to avoid delays.

**Do I need any special permits for my project?**

If you will be trenching in a public right of way, you must obtain a permit from your local permitting authority. In Seattle, contact the Seattle Department of Transportation. If you are outside the city, contact your local jurisdiction.

**What safety measures do I need to be aware of for my construction project?**

To keep yourself and your workers safe, there are several steps you might need to take. If you’re going to be digging, call the Utilities Underground Location Center at 1 (800) 424-5555 at least two business days in advance to locate and mark underground utilities. This is a requirement of state law. (RCW 19.122) If you’re going to be digging near Seattle City Light facilities, including utility poles, vaults and hand holes, you will need to comply with state code requirements on Excavation, Trenching and Shoring. (WAC 296-155, Part N)

All construction workers, their tools, machinery, temporary structures, equipment and materials must stay at least 10 feet away from many types of power lines. (WAC 296-24-960) High voltage transmission lines require even more distance. If your project requires work that is close to power lines, contact us in advance so we can de-energize and ground the lines or relocate them temporarily. Such work would be done at your expense and must be paid in advance.
Before starting construction on a new home, remodeling, commercial building or other project that will need an electric service connection within Seattle City Light’s service territory, contractors should familiarize themselves with the utility’s Requirements for Electric Service Manual. It outlines your responsibilities and City Light’s role in supporting your project while also providing guidelines for when certain steps should be taken to keep your project on schedule. The manual is available online at seattle.gov/light/engineerstd/docs/Requirements_for_Electrical_Service_Connection.pdf. Below are answers to some frequently asked questions:

**Does Seattle City Light need to know if I’m expanding my home or business or adding facilities that will use more electricity?**

Yes. City Light needs to know how much electricity your building might use in order to have the correct equipment in place to reliably deliver power. When you add load to your service, you must notify us. (SMC 21.49 (S) and WAC 480.100.148 (1))

**How much lead time does Seattle City Light need to install service for my home, business or building?**

It depends. Schedules for completing installations will vary. Large projects might require up to 18 months to allow us to acquire the transformers, equipment and materials we would need. And any changes to the terms outlined in your contract must be made well in advance of your estimated connection date if you want to avoid delays.

**Do I need any special permits for my project?**

If you will be trenching in a public right of way, you must obtain a permit from your local permitting authority. In Seattle, contact the Seattle Department of Transportation. If you are outside the city, contact your local jurisdiction.

**What safety measures do I need to be aware of for my construction project?**

To keep yourself and your workers safe, there are several steps you might need to take. If you’re going to be digging, call the Utilities Underground Location Center at 1 (800) 424-5555 at least two business days in advance to locate and mark underground utilities. This is a requirement of state law. (RCW 19.122)

If you’re going to be digging near Seattle City Light facilities, including utility poles, vaults and hand holes, you will need to comply with state code requirements on Excavation, Trenching and Shoring. (WAC 296-155, Part N)

All construction workers, their tools, machinery, temporary structures, equipment and materials must stay at least 10 feet away from many types of power lines. (WAC 296-24-960) High voltage transmission lines require even more distance. If your project requires work that is close to power lines, contact us in advance so we can de-energize and ground the lines or relocate them temporarily. Such work would be done at your expense and must be paid for in advance.

Permanent structures have to maintain minimum clearances from high-voltage power lines. Those clearances can be found in Seattle City Light Construction Standards D2-3 and 0214.00. You will be responsible for the cost of any changes to City Light’s system that must be made to maintain those clearances. Such work must be paid for in advance.

**When can I get my project inspected?**

Please contact your electric service representative five business days before pouring pad and vault structures, and before you backfill trenches, to schedule a City Light inspector to observe construction and complete the inspection.

**Who is responsible for any water that enters the building through an electrical conduit or other penetration?**

It is your responsibility to prevent water from entering your service equipment or building. Seattle City Light’s design, review and inspection does not ensure that this requirement has been met.