SEATTLE CITY LIGHT

CONSTRUCTION GUIDELINE

NCI-180 STANDARD NUMBER: PAGE: 1 of 1 SUPERSEDING:

October 24, 1968 EFFECTIVE DATE: April 20, 2007

CABLE END SEALING

Lead Cables

Eves or seals damaged during pulling shall be repaired unless splicing follows immediately. All sealed ends shall be racked high. When a cable is cut, unless splicing is to be done immediately, the ends shall be properly sealed.

To make a seal, hold the cable end in a vertical position. Melt solder from a stick with a torch allowing it to drop on the upturned end of the cable fast enough to form a solid cap. When the solder covers the end, it is quickly sealed to the lead sheath with a torch and a small finishing cloth. See figure 1.



figure 1

An end seal which serves two purposes is called a pulling seal because solder is formed over the lead sheath and conductors. It is designed to permit the use of a cable grip in heavy pulls, but it also offers protection to the insulation from moisture. The heavy mass of solder at the end not only prevents crushing of the seal by the grip but it transfers some of the pulling tension from the lead sheath to the copper conductors. See figure 2.

