



Seattle City Light

# REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRIC SERVICE CONNECTION January 2025 Edition



# Requirements for Electric Service Connection

Welcome to the January 2025 edition of the Seattle City Light *Requirements for Electric Service Connection (RESC)*. This handbook is designed for use by Seattle City Light (City Light) customers, contractors, and electricians to explain utility requirements for a variety of electric service installations.

The RESC serves as a guide to the process of obtaining new electric service. The information presented herein is not intended to be all-inclusive; customers are required to review and adhere to the requirements of all standards referenced in this document relevant to their project.

A companion document, the Standards for Electric Service (SES), is a collection of all the standards referenced in the RESC and in Service Construction Letter attachments.



R. Craig Smith, Chief Customer Officer

**Seattle City Light**  
**Requirements for Electric Service Connection January 2025 Edition**

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# Table of Contents

<b>Preface: Significant Changes Since Last Publication .....</b>	<b>vi</b>
<b>1. Getting Started: Applying for Electric Service.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1. Introduction.....	1
1.3. Connection Timeline.....	1
1.4. Service Connection.....	2
1.5. Charges .....	2
1.6. Application Process for New or Enlarged Services .....	3
1.6.1. Pre-Application Consultation.....	3
1.6.2. Application for Electric Service.....	3
1.7. Permitting and Inspections .....	4
1.8. Easements .....	4
1.9. Location of, and Excavation Near, Underground Utilities.....	4
1.10. Clearance Between 26 kV Overhead Distribution Conductors and Buildings.....	5
1.11. Notification of Added Load.....	5
1.12. Balanced Load .....	5
1.13. Voltage Surge Protection.....	5
1.14. Electromagnetic Interference .....	6
1.15. Available Fault Current.....	6
1.16. Online Resources.....	6
1.17. Installation of Facilities for Other Utilities .....	6
<b>2. Temporary Services.....</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1. Introduction.....	7
2.2. Requirements, General.....	7
2.3. Time Limit.....	7
2.4. Electrical Permits and Inspections .....	7
2.5. Charges .....	7
2.6. Engineering Requirements for Large Services .....	7
2.7. Temporary Overhead Service .....	7
2.8. Temporary Underground Service .....	9
<b>3. Looped Radial Service.....</b>	<b>10</b>
3.1. Introduction.....	10
3.2. Availability of Service.....	10
3.3. Modifications to Existing Electric Service .....	11
3.4. Available Service Voltages and Maximum Secondary Service Entrance Ratings.....	12
3.5. Clearances .....	13
3.6. Water Entry Prevention.....	13
3.7. Secondary Service .....	13
3.7.1. Secondary Overhead Services .....	14
3.7.2. Secondary Underground Services.....	20



3.8.	Primary Service.....	21
3.8.1.	Water Entry Prevention .....	22
3.8.2.	Vault Access.....	23
3.9.	Fire Clearance .....	23
3.10.	Vibration and Noise Levels.....	24
3.11.	Elevators.....	24
3.12.	Special Services .....	24
3.12.1.	Mobile Home Parks .....	24
3.12.2.	Mobile Homes on Individual Owner Lots .....	24
3.12.3.	Houseboat Piers.....	24
3.12.4.	Boat Moorages.....	24
3.12.5.	Unit Lot Subdivisions .....	24
<b>4.</b>	<b>Network Services .....</b>	<b>26</b>
4.1.	Introduction.....	26
4.2.	Availability of Service.....	26
4.3.	Clearances Between SCL Underground Structures and Other Structures .....	27
4.4.	Permitting and Inspections .....	27
4.5.	Service Notes, General .....	27
4.6.	Vault Construction .....	28
4.7.	Water Entry Prevention.....	28
4.8.	Vault Access.....	28
4.9.	Fire Clearance .....	29
4.10.	Vibration and Noise Levels.....	29
4.11.	Elevators.....	29
4.12.	NEC-Sized Service Entrances in Network Areas.....	29
4.13.	Secondary Service .....	30
4.14.	Primary Service.....	30
4.15.	Fault Current Limiters .....	31
<b>5.</b>	<b>Distributed Energy Resources.....</b>	<b>32</b>
5.1.	Introduction.....	32
5.2.	Overview of the Interconnection Process.....	32
5.3.	Utility Programs for Distributed Energy Resources .....	35
5.4.	Engineering Review .....	35
5.5.	Safety Disconnect Switches.....	36
5.6.	Compliance with Metering Requirements.....	36
5.7.	Line Side Taps.....	36
5.8.	Interconnection within Network Service Areas .....	37
<b>6.</b>	<b>Metering .....</b>	<b>38</b>
6.1.	Introduction.....	38
6.2.	Requirements, General.....	38
6.2.1.	Electric Utility Service Equipment Requirements Committee (EUSERC) Material and Equipment Requirements.....	38
6.2.2.	Service Entrance Conductors for Metered Loads .....	38
6.2.3.	Conductor Connections .....	39
6.3.	Voltages .....	39
6.4.	Meter Sockets.....	39

6.5.	Location, Access, and Protection of Metering Equipment.....	40
6.5.1.	Location.....	40
6.5.2.	Access to Metering Equipment.....	41
6.5.3.	Physical Protection of Metering Equipment.....	42
6.6.	Meter Height, Working Space, and Clearance Requirements.....	42
6.7.	Service Entrance Equipment Sequencing.....	42
6.7.1.	Single Self-Contained Meter Installation.....	42
6.7.2.	Multi-Unit Self-Contained Meter Installations.....	42
6.8.	Metering Requirements for Multi-Unit Buildings.....	43
6.9.	Current Transformers.....	44
6.9.1.	Current Transformer-Rated Metering.....	44
6.9.2.	Landing Pads and Enclosures.....	45
6.9.3.	Secondary Wiring.....	46
6.10.	Switchgear.....	46
6.10.1.	General.....	46
6.10.2.	Switchgear Operating at Voltages Up to and Including 480 V.....	47
6.10.3.	Switchgear Operating at Voltages Greater Than 480 V.....	47
6.11.	Master Metering.....	47
6.12.	Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) for Meter Rooms.....	47
6.13.	Communications Provisions for Large Metered Loads.....	48
6.15.	Net Metering.....	49
<b>7.</b>	<b>Motors and Special Loads .....</b>	<b>50</b>
7.1.	Introduction.....	50
7.2.	Motor-Starting Limits and Interference.....	50
7.3.	Voltage Flicker.....	50
7.4.	Starting Limitations on Single-Phase Motors.....	51
7.5.	Starting Limitations on Polyphase Motors for Secondary Services.....	51
7.6.	Electric Power Regeneration Due to Motor Drive/Control.....	51
7.7.	Maximum Switched Load.....	52
7.8.	Welding Equipment.....	52
7.9.	Minimum Power-Factor Limitations.....	52
7.9.1.	Lighting.....	52
7.9.2.	85% Minimum Power Factor.....	52
7.9.3.	Capacitor Control.....	52
<b>8.</b>	<b>Emergency Backup: Generators and Energy Storage Systems.....</b>	<b>53</b>
8.1.	Introduction.....	53
8.2.	Inverter-Based Emergency Backup Systems.....	53
8.3.	Transfer Switches.....	53
<b>9.</b>	<b>Maintenance of Equipment and Facilities.....</b>	<b>54</b>
9.1.	Introduction.....	54
9.2.	Charges.....	55
9.3.	Temporary Restoration of Service.....	55
	<b>Glossary.....</b>	<b>56</b>
	<b>Appendix: Multi-Unit Metering Pre-Job Checklist.....</b>	<b>63</b>

# Significant Changes Since Last Publication

2024 Edition Section	January 2025 Edition Section	Title	Description
1	1	<b>Getting Started: Applying for Electric Service</b>	
1.3	1.3	<b>Connection Timeline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In first paragraph, changed the term “application” to “electric service.”</li> <li>▪ Added three bullets to the list that follows the statement, “Projects that often require engineering services include, but are not limited to:” as follows:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Services not directly served by a transformer pole</li> <li>▪ Electric vehicle chargers</li> <li>▪ Energy management systems (smart panels)</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ In Table 1.3, changed “Engineering” heading to “Service Design” and revised all turnaround times in that column.</li> <li>▪ Added a note below Table 1.3 as follows:                Note: Table 1.3 does not cover projects over 1 MW, institutional, or Key Account customers. The timelines do not include work needed by the City Light Representative, electrical reviewer, the customer’s contractors, the Authority Having Jurisdiction inspection process, or any corrections or other work that may be related to the project.</li> </ul>
1.4	1.4	<b>Service Connection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Added language to end of second bullet, “...including payment for services.”</li> </ul>
1.5	1.5	<b>Charges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Added four paragraphs to the section as follows:                Charges will be sent to the Responsible Billing Party identified on the Application for Electric Service.                Payments not received within 60 days of the billing date may be added to the respective electric service account and/or may be subject to collection activity.                Once an Engineer is assigned to and begins working on the design of a project, the responsible billing party (as identified on the application for electric service) will be responsible for the Engineer fees regardless of whether you move forward with the project design.                All services require connections to be made permanent and meters to be sealed by City Light, which shall result in trip fees.</li> </ul>

<b>2024 Edition Section</b>	<b>January 2025 Edition Section</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>1.6.2</b>	<b>1.6.2</b>	<b>Application for Electric Service</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In the fourth paragraph, changed the second sentence from “The City Light Representative assigned to your project will advise customers of any additional documents required” to “A City Light Representative will advise customers of any additional documents required.”</li> <li>▪ Added a new paragraph as follows: “Applications will be processed once all requested supporting documentation is received.”</li> </ul>
<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>Permitting and Inspections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Added sentence to end of third paragraph as follows: “These activities are not included in the estimated turnaround times provided in Table 1.3.”</li> <li>▪ Added a new sentence to end of section as follows: “Service Construction Letters and customer drawings are valid for one year from the issue date and may be extended at City Light’s discretion.”</li> </ul>
<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>Easements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Added sentence to end of paragraph as follows: “Projects that require City Light to secure an easement may take additional time beyond the estimates given in Table 1.3.”</li> </ul>
<b>1.9</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>Location of, and Excavation Near, Underground Utilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Added a paragraph to end of section as follows: “Contractors that are required by the WAC to perform a pole analysis may request pole and line information from City Light.</li> <li>▪ Added a call-out box referencing SCL Work Practice 0101.75, “Excavating Near SCL Poles.”</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Temporary Services</b>	
<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>Time Limit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Second sentence of paragraph deleted and replaced with the following: It is the responsibility of the customer to request an extension, which may be granted at City Light’s discretion.</li> </ul>
<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>Temporary Underground Service</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Second paragraph added as follows: “Existing direct-buried conductor may be used for temporary service connection.”</li> <li>▪ Revised label in Figure 2.8 from ‘RIGID STEEL CONDUIT’ to “RIGID CONDUIT.”</li> </ul>



2024 Edition Section	January 2025 Edition Section	Title	Description
<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Looped Radial Service</b>	
<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>Availability of Service</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In first paragraph, revised first sentence from “Individual structures must typically be serviced by a single service drop” to “Service entrance conductors must be combined in such a way that all structures on the development site can be served from one service drop or service lateral directly from the City Light distribution system. This includes cases where new construction buildings are added to sites that have existing buildings.” Relocated the remainder of paragraph to a separate paragraph at the end of this section.</li> <li>▪ Added a new paragraph to the end of the section as follows: “Developments with <b>four or more</b> residential units must connect through a secondary underground service. This requirement will go into effect for Applications for Electric Service received later than February 9, 2025. See Section 3.7.2.” This change was implemented to safely meet expected load growth from vehicle electrification demands and electric heating/cooling systems adoption within new, larger, energy-intensive developments.</li> </ul>
<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>Modifications to Existing Electric Service</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In the first sentence, the term “electric service” was changed to “service entrance equipment”.</li> <li>▪ In the third bullet of the list, the term “capacity of the service” changed to “service entrance capacity” and the statement within the parentheses changed from “e.g., panel upgrade, service entrance/feeder conductor size, etc.” to “e.g., increase in panel ampacity and/or service entrance/feeder conductor size, etc.”</li> <li>▪ Last bullet in list (Legal dwelling units) deleted.</li> <li>▪ The word “any” deleted from the beginning of the last paragraph.</li> </ul>
<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>Available Service Voltages and Maximum Secondary Service Entrance Ratings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Revised first sentence in the third note below Table 3.4 from “If service ampacity exceeds 600 A, City Light may require an underground service” to “City Light may require an underground service if the nearby poles and/or overhead conductors are not able to accommodate the requested load.” The second sentence in the third note is now a separate note.</li> <li>▪ In the paragraph below Table 3.4 that begins with “Services to larger buildings...”, “Table 3.3” revised cite to “Table 3.4” and “Section 3.7” revised cite to “Section 3.8.”</li> </ul>

<b>2024 Edition Section</b>	<b>January 2025 Edition Section</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>3.7.1</b>	<b>3.7.1</b>	<b>Secondary Overhead Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Paragraph that begins with “Service conductors must be free of trespass...” changed to “Service conductors must not cross property lines of neighboring properties.”</li> <li>▪ New paragraph following the one above added as follows: “Bridles are typically limited to overhead service of 400 A or less when utilized to prevent an overhead service from crossing property lines.”</li> </ul>
<b>3.7.1.1</b>	<b>3.7.1.1</b>	<b>Service Mast Installation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Paragraph that begins with “A back guy or a stiff-leg set...” changed to “A back guy or a stiff-leg set is required if any of the following applies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The mast extends more than 26 inches above the roof</li> <li>▪ The service drop exceeds 100 feet (see figures 3.7.1.1c and 3.7.1.1d)</li> <li>▪ The service mast has an offset bend or horizontal mast</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Two figures added, 3.7.1.1g and 3.7.1.1h, illustrating offset bend and horizontal mast.</li> <li>▪ Paragraph added after paragraph that reads, “Roof brackets are not allowed,” as follows: “Any conduit couplings must be below the top wall attachment.”</li> <li>▪ Revised the last paragraph to add “Stiff-leg sets, back guys, and” to the beginning.</li> </ul>
<b>3.7.1.3</b>	<b>3.7.1.3</b>	<b>Service Poles and Guys</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In the first paragraph, second bullet, replaced the phrase “without trespass” with the phrase “that does not cross property lines.”</li> </ul>
<b>3.7.2</b>	<b>3.7.2</b>	<b>Secondary Underground Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In the third paragraph, added the phrase “open or” before the word “enter.”</li> </ul>
<b>3.8.2</b>	<b>3.8.2</b>	<b>Vault Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The second paragraph was rewritten for clarity as follows: “An ETA is required for all properties with an in-building vault, and for properties where below- grade vaults and transformer pads are located such that the customer cannot meet the requirements spelled out above. The City Light Equipment Transportation Agreement (ETA) must be signed by the property owner.”</li> </ul>
<b>3.12.5</b>	<b>3.12.5</b>	<b>Unit Lot Subdivisions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In the second paragraph, the phrase “may need revision” revised to “will need.”</li> </ul>

<b>2024 Edition Section</b>	<b>January 2025 Edition Section</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Network Services</b>	
<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In the first paragraph, changed the second sentence for clarity as follows: "Special rules apply for customer generation in the Network service area."</li> </ul>
<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>Vault Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The second paragraph was rewritten for clarity as follows: "An ETA is required for all properties with an in-building vault, and for properties where below-grade vaults and transformer pads are located such that the customer cannot meet the requirements spelled out above. The City Light Equipment Transportation Agreement (ETA) must be signed by the property owner."</li> </ul>
<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Distributed Energy Resources</b>	
<b>5</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Added a call-out box at beginning of chapter as follows: "As of July 1, 2025, all content in this chapter will be superseded by a new publication, the <a href="#">Seattle City Light Distribution Interconnection Handbook</a>."</li> <li>▪ Renumbered this chapter with the first section as Section 1, Introduction.</li> </ul>
<b>5.1</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>Overview of the Interconnection Process</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In the first sentence of the first paragraph, removed the word "and" before "sign" and added "receive a Permission to Operate (PTO) Letter from City Light" before the words "prior to".</li> <li>▪ Revised Step 5 as follows: "City Light sends a Permission to Construct (PTC) Letter to the customer."</li> <li>▪ In Step 10, revised the first sentence as follows: "The customer can connect the DER to the City Light electric grid when it reaches this step and receives a PTO Letter from City Light, but not before."</li> <li>▪ Replaced Figure 5.1 with revised figure to reflect revisions in Steps; renumbered figure to 5.2.</li> </ul>

2024 Edition Section	January 2025 Edition Section	Title	Description
5.2	5.3	<b>Utility Programs for Distributed Energy Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="805 327 1471 449">▪ In the first paragraph, revised the beginning of the first sentence as follows: “City Light offers two main programs that establish eligibility, participation, and compensation requirements for electricity...”</li> <li data-bbox="805 466 1471 743">▪ In the second paragraph, revised the second and third paragraphs as follows: “These credits are generated between April 1st and March 31st and are valued at the customer’s retail rate of electricity. Credit balances are cleared out on March 31st in accordance with RCW 80.60.030 governing the net metering program. For this program, DER nameplate capacity cannot exceed 100 kW, except under certain conditions specified in Seattle Municipal Code 21.49.082 and 21.49.083.”</li> <li data-bbox="805 760 1471 940">▪ Revised the third paragraph as follows: “Under the large solar program, solar DERs with nameplate capacity above 100 kW and not exceeding 2,000 kW, and which are not participating in the net metering program, may participate in this program. The program’s monetary credits are described in Seattle Municipal Code 21.49.083.”</li> </ul>
5.4	5.5	<b>Safety Disconnect Switches</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="805 961 1425 987">▪ Revised title of section to “Safety Disconnect Switches.</li> <li data-bbox="805 1003 1471 1184">▪ Revised sentence beginning, “All DERs with a nameplate capacity of 25 kW...” to “All DERs must include a safety disconnect switch capable of fully disconnecting the DER from the City Light electrical grid. The safety disconnect switch shall meet the requirements specified in SCL 0097.03.”</li> <li data-bbox="805 1201 1471 1289">▪ Deleted the paragraph that begins with, “For three-phase interconnections...” (this requirement is stated in SCL 0097.03).</li> <li data-bbox="805 1306 1471 1394">▪ Deleted the paragraph that begins with, “Customers with a DER having a nameplate capacity less than 25 kW and served through a self-contained meter base....”</li> <li data-bbox="805 1411 1471 1566">▪ Added a call-out box to read as follows: “For more information on safety disconnect switch requirements, see City Light Construction Standard 0097.93, “Installation of Solar Generation Facilities” in the Standards for Electric Service.”</li> </ul>

<b>2024 Edition Section</b>	<b>January 2025 Edition Section</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>5.7</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>Interconnection within Network Service Areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In the second bullet, added to the end of the sentence, "...and will not create adverse operational scenarios on the City Light electrical grid."</li> <li>▪ Added a bullet to follow the "closed transition transfer switches" bullet as follows: "A proposed DER associated with customer electrical loads must "break" existing connection to the City Light electrical grid before the DER can "make connection with the customer's load."</li> <li>▪ Revised last bullet as follows: "The proposed DER must install a reverse power flow relay to protect City Light from inadvertent power export from the DER to the City Light electrical grid. All DERs must follow the requirements for protective relays as specified in SCL 0097.03. Additional or alternative protective function schemes or other equipment to prevent power export to the City Light electrical grid may be installed on a case-by-case basis only upon review and approval by City Light's Network Engineering Group. All protection relays or other equipment required by City Light for interconnection of DERs on Network service areas must be installed at the customer's expense."</li> <li>▪ Added a call-out box that reads, ""For more information on protection relay requirements, see City Light Construction Standard 0097.93, "Installation of Solar Generation Facilities" in the Standards for Electric Service."</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Metering</b>	
<b>6.1</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph added as follows: "City Light does not allow any non-Utility devices or equipment to be located between the meter socket and the meter. This is considered to be utility space and under the control of the utility and is to be treated the same as any other unmetered wire or bus. SCL will, however, allow devices or equipment to be mounted on the load side of the meter adjacent to the meter enclosure for customer monitoring of their systems for quality and generation purposes."</li> </ul>

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<b>6.2.2</b>	<b>6.2.2</b>	<b>Service Entrance Conductors for Metered Loads</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ First paragraph changed from, “For single meter installations, metered service conductors must not pass through any junction box, conduit, or fitting, or have any other point of access, regardless of lockable function” to “For single-meter installations, unmetered service conductors (i.e., before meter) must not pass through any junction box, conduit, or fitting, or have any other point of access, regardless of lockable function.”</li> <li>▪ Fourth paragraph changed from “Unmetered service conductors and metered load conductors must be run in separate conduit, raceway, or wire trough” to “Unmetered service conductors and metered load conductors are not allowed in the same conduit, raceway, or wire trough and must be run separately.”</li> </ul>
<b>6.4</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>Meter Sockets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Changed paragraph (near middle of section) from “Sockets must be plumb and securely fastened to the supporting structure” to “Meter sockets and equipment enclosures must be plumb and securely fastened to the supporting structure.”</li> <li>▪ Deleted paragraph that begins with “Flush-mounted meter sockets” as these types of meter sockets are not allowed.</li> <li>▪ Deleted the exception statement following the second-to-last paragraph. This was done because City Light no longer supports or installs production meters and has not done so for years.</li> </ul>
<b>6.5.1</b>	<b>6.5.1</b>	<b>Location</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ First paragraph changed from, “Single-meter sockets must be installed in an accessible location outside the building. Multiple socket installations may be located outside or inside the building” to Residential sockets must be installed in an accessible location outside the building. Commercial and multi-use socket installations may be located outside or inside the building. The working space must be accessible at all times and must be maintained for the duration that the service exists.”</li> </ul>
<b>6.5.2</b>	<b>6.5.2</b>	<b>Access to Metering Equipment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New first paragraph added as follows: “Access to electric service must be provided at all times, not just for the duration of construction.”</li> <li>▪ In the paragraph that begins with “Access must not be blocked...” added a sentence, “This includes the path to the meter and the meter working space.”</li> <li>▪ In second-to-last paragraph, changed first sentence from “All metering equipment covers must be readily accessible” to “All metering covers must be functional and readily accessible.”</li> </ul>



<b>2024 Edition Section</b>	<b>January 2025 Edition Section</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>6.5.3</b>	<b>6.5.3</b>	<b>Physical Protection of Metering Equipment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ First paragraph changed from “Where damage of metering equipment has or is likely to occur from vandalism, vehicles or other causes, City Light may require the customer to install protective devices such as bollards, barriers, or enclosures at the customer’s expense” to “Where damage of metering equipment has or is likely to occur from vandalism, vehicles or other causes, it is recommended that the customer to install protective devices such as bollards, barriers, or enclosures to protect the equipment from damage. Protective devices must not encroach the meter working space.”</li> <li>▪ Third paragraph text changed from “Pedestal metering equipment must be sturdy enough...” to “Pedestal metering must be installed as outlined in SCL 1561.05. Sentence deleted at the end of the paragraph that stated, “Contact your City Light Representative for requirements.” Remainder of sentence separated into a new sentence that reads, “Pedestal metering equipment must be sturdy enough for reasonable installation or removal of a meter without damage to the pedestal.”</li> <li>▪ The word “failure” added after the word “temperature” at the end of the third paragraph.</li> <li>▪ Call-out box added referencing SCL 1561.05, “Underground Residential Service Entrances.”</li> </ul>
<b>6.8</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>Metering Requirements for Multi-Unit Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Section retitled from “Metering Requirements for Multi-Unit Buildings” to “Metering Requirements for Multi-Unit Services.”</li> <li>▪ In the paragraph following the Figure 6.8 note, added the term “weather-resistant” before the word “temporary.”</li> <li>▪ In the second-to-last paragraph, changed the term “load determination” to “service capacity determination.”</li> </ul>
<b>6.9.3</b>	<b>6.9.3</b>	<b>Secondary Wiring</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sentence added to the end of the first paragraph as follows: “Conduit shall be on the hinged side of the enclosure.”</li> <li>▪ In the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, after the word “wire” added the text “(from the top front edge of the enclosure door on the hinged side).”</li> </ul>
<b>6.13</b>	<b>6.13</b>	<b>Communications Provisions for Large Metered Loads</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In the first paragraph, the word “analog” added before the word “phone” in two places.</li> </ul>

<b>2024 Edition Section</b>	<b>January 2025 Edition Section</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Maintenance of Equipment and Facilities</b>	
<b>9.1</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In Table 9.1, added language to the end of the bullet that begins with “Any other equipment for which the customer is assigned responsibility...” that states, “including transformer vaults, pads, fences, bollards, and related structures and equipment</li> <li>▪ In Table 9.1, in the City Light section, revised the 2<sup>nd</sup> bullet from “All City Light-installed poles and anchors...” to “All City Light-owned and installed...”</li> <li>▪ In Table 9.1, in the City Light section, relocated the 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet that begins with “Customer-owned poles” to the Customer section.</li> </ul>
<b>Glossary</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In the entry for AUTHORITY HAVING JURISDICTION, “Department of Planning and Development (DPD)” updated to “Seattle Department of Construction and Inspection (SDCI).”</li> <li>▪ New entry added as follows: “DEVELOPMENT SITE: A piece of land to which all the development standards for land use, building, and electrical systems are applied.”</li> <li>▪ In the entry for THREE-PHASE, FOUR-WIRE SERVICE, deleted the final sentence, “It is used in industrial areas and in large buildings.” Three-phase service is not limited to large or industrial buildings only. It can occur occasionally in residential.</li> <li>▪ In the entry for WEATHERHEAD, deleted the phrase at the end of the sentence, “where the service drop is attached to the service entrance equipment.”</li> </ul>
<b>Appendix</b>		<b>Multi-Unit Metering Pre-Job Checklist</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In step 1, removed the phrase “...with CD Crew chief...”</li> </ul>

# 1. Getting Started: Applying for Electric Service

## 1.1. Introduction

This chapter outlines the process for applying for service and securing all permits and inspections, as well as provides a timeline of average City Light turnaround times to complete the [electric service](#) process.

The *Standards for Electric Service*, an annual publication consisting of construction and material standards related to electric service, can be found [HERE](#).

For questions or comments concerning the RESC, please contact [Standards.Pub@seattle.gov](mailto:Standards.Pub@seattle.gov).

## 1.2. Service Areas

[Customers](#) will be assigned a City Light Representative based on the location and complexity of the project. Visit the [Apply for New or Upgraded Electric Service](#) page and click on the link (projects up to 1 MW or projects over 1 MW) to determine your correct City Light contact for your project.

City Light has two categories of distribution: Looped Radial and Network. Network areas include Downtown Seattle, South Lake Union, First Hill, and parts of the University District. Requirements related to the Looped Radial system are discussed in Chapter 3, and requirements related to our Network areas are discussed in Chapter 4.

## 1.3. Connection Timeline

Table 1.3 shows estimated times required by City Light for each phase of the [electric service](#) process.

Projects requiring special transformation or line extensions depend in part on equipment availability.

It is essential that contractors notify City Light well in advance of designing their buildings, as the requirements for a [primary service](#) may alter the building design. For instance, City Light may require space not only for the vault, but for a primary switchgear room as well.

Projects that often require engineering services include, but are not limited to:

- 120/240 volts (V), single-phase services above 200 [amperes](#) (A)
- Services feeding more than one building, residential lot, or unit-lot
- Three-phase services
- Underground services
- Services inside the Network service area
- Services adding or including Distributed Energy Resources (DERs)
- No existing distribution on street and/or the proposed service pole is in an alley
- Services not directly served by a [transformer](#) pole.
- Electric vehicle chargers
- Energy management systems (smart panels)

**TABLE 1.3. ESTIMATED TURNAROUND TIMES PER PHASE OF APPLICATION PROCESS, LOOPED RADIAL**

Service Type	Application Processing	Service Design	Service Connections
Service removal – simple (single-phase, 400 A or less)	2 weeks	Not applicable	6 weeks
Service removal – complex (three-phase and/or underground)	2 weeks	16 weeks	8 weeks
Temporary power – simple (single-phase, overhead, 400 A or less)	2 weeks	Not applicable	6 weeks
Temporary power – complex (three-phase and/or underground)	2 weeks	16 weeks	8 weeks
Service upgrade – simple (single-phase, overhead, 200 A or less)	2 weeks	16 weeks	10 weeks
Service upgrade – complex (three-phase and/or underground)	2 weeks	20 weeks	10 weeks
New service – simple (single-phase, overhead, 400 A or less)	2 weeks	20 weeks	10 weeks
New service – complex (three-phase and/or underground)	2 weeks	20 weeks	16 weeks*
Line extensions, plat development	2 weeks	20 weeks	16 weeks*

\* Add up to five weeks for non-arterial street permitting, and fifteen weeks for arterial permitting.

**Note:** Table 1.3 does not cover projects over 1 MW, institutional or Key Account customers. The timelines do not include work needed by the City Light Representative, electrical reviewer, the customer's contractors, [the Authority Having Jurisdiction \(AHJ\)](#), inspection process, or any corrections or other work that may be related to the project.

#### 1.4. Service Connection

City Light will make service [connections](#) only when:

- All applicable City Light requirements have been met.
- The [customer's](#) responsibilities, as delineated herein, in a Service Construction Letter, in a contract, or via an in-field conversation with a City Light Representative have been fulfilled, including payment for services.
- All City Light inspections have been completed and the project approved.

#### 1.5. Charges

City Light will determine charges for service work based on the size of the service, the service location, and the work required to connect it to our system. Charges must be paid prior to the work being done, either at an SCL Payment Counter or by mail. Field representatives are not allowed to accept payments.

Charges will be sent to the Responsible Billing Party identified on the Application for Electric Service.

Payments not received within 60 days of the billing date may be added to the respective electric service account and/or may be subject to collection activity.

Once an Engineer is assigned to and begins working on the design of a project, the responsible billing party (as identified on the application for electric service) will be responsible for the Engineer fees regardless of whether you move forward with the project design.

All services require [connections](#) to be made permanent and meters to be sealed by City Light, which shall result in trip fees.

See [City Light Departmental Policy and Procedure \(DPP\) 417, Service Installation](#) for service installation charges. Click on "Accounts and Charges" and scroll down list to locate.

## 1.6. Application Process for New or Enlarged Services

### 1.6.1. Pre-Application Consultation

City Light provides general engineering and service advice prior to application to determine project feasibility and considerations.

[Customers](#) are strongly advised to contact City Light during the planning phase of their project to verify the available service point and requirements in order to avoid costly mistakes and service delays. See [Seattle Electrical Code 230.1\(B\)](#) and [Seattle Municipal Code 21.49.110\(D\)](#).

Contact information:

#### **Small/Medium Projects**

(206) 233-APPS (2777)

Email: [SCL\\_serviceapplications@seattle.gov](mailto:SCL_serviceapplications@seattle.gov)

#### **Large Commercial and Industrial Projects** (1 MW [demand](#) and greater)

(206) 684-3186

Email: [SCL\\_serviceapplications@seattle.gov](mailto:SCL_serviceapplications@seattle.gov)

### 1.6.2. Application for Electric Service

[Customers](#) can apply for [electric service](#) using the online [Application for Electric Service](#).

Based on the application's criteria, customers will need to submit a plan package for City Light review and comment.

A typical plan package, provided for both permanent and temporary construction, consists of the following elements:

- Legal Site Plan
- Electrical Site Plan
- Building Elevation Plan
- Riser Diagram
- Load Calculations

Additional documents, such as [easements](#), in-building vault details, street improvement plans, and [short plat/unit lot subdivision](#) information may be required to complete the project. A City Light Representative will advise customers of any additional documents required.

Applications will be processed once all requested supporting documentation is received

## 1.7. Permitting and Inspections

**For projects located in the [public right-of-way](#) in incorporated King County**, which includes Burien, Lake Forest Park, Normandy Park Renton, SeaTac, Seattle, Shoreline, and Tukwila, [customers](#) can do all civil construction work. The customer is responsible for securing all required permits and inspections.

**For projects located in the [public right-of-way](#) in unincorporated King County**, which includes Skyway and White Center, City Light is required to do all civil construction work. City Light will acquire the civil construction permits, perform the work, and bill the customer for all related costs including labor, materials, permits, and inspections.

Customers will be responsible for acquiring all local jurisdictional permits and passing required inspections, and for verifying permit requirements with their local jurisdiction. The customer must pay all permit and inspection fees. City Light will not connect to the customer's [service conductors](#) until the proper code authority has inspected and approved the service for [connection](#). These activities are not included in the estimated turnaround times provided in Table 1.3.

**Note:** Electrical permits can only be obtained by customers if they are doing the work themselves. If the work is being performed by an electrician, the electrician is required to obtain the permit.

Projects requiring engineering services will receive a Service Construction Letter. This letter will contain customer drawings and references to all applicable City Light standards for the project, as well as instructions for arranging City Light inspections.

The requirements stated in the Service Construction Letter will be part of the City Light inspection criteria. The customer is also required to meet all applicable building codes for the city and county jurisdictions in the City Light service area.

Service Construction Letters and customer drawings are valid for one year from the issue date and may be extended at City Light's discretion.

## 1.8. Easements

City Light will secure an [easement](#) whenever City Light equipment such as poles, vaults, [handholes](#), [conductors](#), etc. are located on [private property](#) in order to serve multiple properties. Projects that require City Light to secure an easement may take additional time beyond the estimates given in Table 1.3.

## 1.9. Location of, and Excavation Near, Underground Utilities

Before digging, please contact the Utilities Underground Location Center ("One-Call") at 811 or 1-800-424-5555 at least two business days in advance to locate and mark underground utilities, per state law (RCW 19.122).

All excavations adjacent to City Light poles or other facilities (vaults, [handholes](#), etc.) must comply with [WAC 296-155](#), Part N, Excavation, Trenching and Shoring. Pole protection/supporting systems used while excavating must comply with [WAC 296-155-655](#), General Protection Requirements, item (9) and must not affect the structural integrity of poles while the systems are in place or after the systems have been removed.



Contractors that are required by the [WAC](#) to perform a pole analysis may request pole and line information from City Light.

For more information on requesting and obtaining pole and line data from City Light, see *City Light Work Practice 0101.75, "Excavating Near SCL Poles"* in the [Standards for Electric Service](#).

### **1.10. Clearance Between 26 kV Overhead Distribution Conductors and Buildings**

The clearance between SCL 26 kV overhead distribution [conductors](#) and buildings shall be a minimum of 14 feet.

The 14-ft clearance allows for:

- A safer work environment when performing maintenance.
- Building work to occur without the need to request a line outage from City Light.
- The performance of routine building maintenance by individuals other than qualified electrical workers.
- Scaffolding to be erected, and other exterior maintenance to occur, while meeting the 10-ft clearance rules as described in [WAC 296-155-428](#).

City Light transmission lines require even greater clearance. If a project requires work in proximity to any energized lines, City Light may de-energize and ground the lines or relocate the lines temporarily. This work will be done at the [customer's](#) expense.

For more information, see *City Light Construction Standard SCL 0100.04, Radial Clearance Between 26 kV Overhead Distribution Conductors and Buildings* in the [Standards for Electric Service](#).

### **1.11. Notification of Added Load**

[Customers](#) who wish to add load to existing service must notify City Light per [Seattle Municipal Code 21.49](#) (S) and [WAC 480.100.148](#) (1).

### **1.12. Balanced Load**

The [customer's](#) three-phase electrical load must be [balanced](#) between phases. For open-delta services, the customer is required to connect all single-phase loads across the grounded phase.

### **1.13. Voltage Surge Protection**

City Light recommends that [customers](#) install voltage surge protective devices that provide protection from surges generated within the customer's premises and from the City Light system. It is the customer's responsibility to take the steps as provided by City Ordinance ([Seattle Municipal Code 21.49.110](#)) (G) and (Q).

City Light personnel are available to provide information regarding such problems. However, such consultations are not a substitute for professional advice from the customer's contractors and their own professional electrical engineers.

#### **1.14. Electromagnetic Interference**

City Light personnel are available to provide information regarding such problems. However, such consultations are not a substitute for professional advice from the [customer](#)'s contractors and their own professional electrical engineers.

#### **1.15. Available Fault Current**

City Light will provide [customers](#) with the available [fault current](#) upon request. It is the customer's responsibility to provide service entrance equipment designed to handle the available fault current.

#### **1.16. Online Resources**

The following City of Seattle resources may be viewed on the Internet:

- [City Light New Construction Website](#)
- [City Light Engineering Standards Library](#)

#### **1.17. Installation of Facilities for Other Utilities**

The specifications referenced in this manual do not include facilities for other utilities serving this project.

## 2. Temporary Services

### 2.1. Introduction

This chapter provides information on all considerations related to obtaining [temporary services](#), including time limits, permitting and inspections, charges, required equipment, location of service [connection](#), and requirements specific to overhead and underground service.

### 2.2. Requirements, General

Temporary service locations must be approved by City Light.

The [customer](#) must provide temporary service entrance equipment.

### 2.3. Time Limit

Temporary service installations are limited to a period of one year. It is the responsibility of the [customer](#) to request an extension, which may be granted at City Light's discretion..

### 2.4. Electrical Permits and Inspections

See Section 1.7.

### 2.5. Charges

See Section 1.5.

### 2.6. Engineering Requirements for Large Services

Three-phase temporary services and single-phase services greater than 400 A may require City Light engineering design services.

### 2.7. Temporary Overhead Service

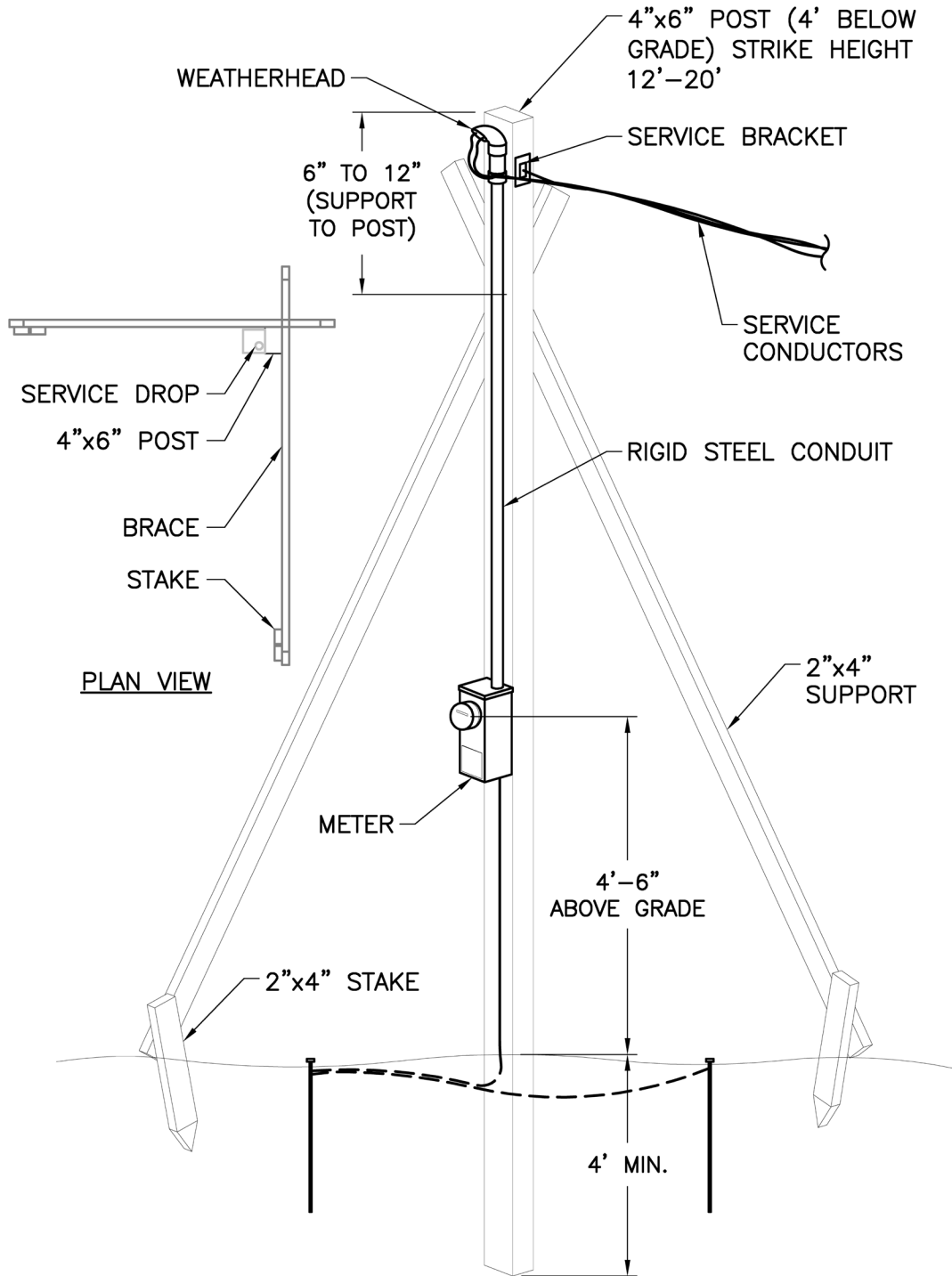
The service attachment must be able to withstand the strain of the service drop. Specifications for temporary posts are shown in Figure 2.7.

The neutral wire must be identified with white tape.

For three-phase, open-delta service, the [high leg](#) must be identified with orange tape.

A total of 18 inches of [conductor](#) must extend out of the weatherhead.

Figure 2.7. Typical Overhead Temporary Service Pole

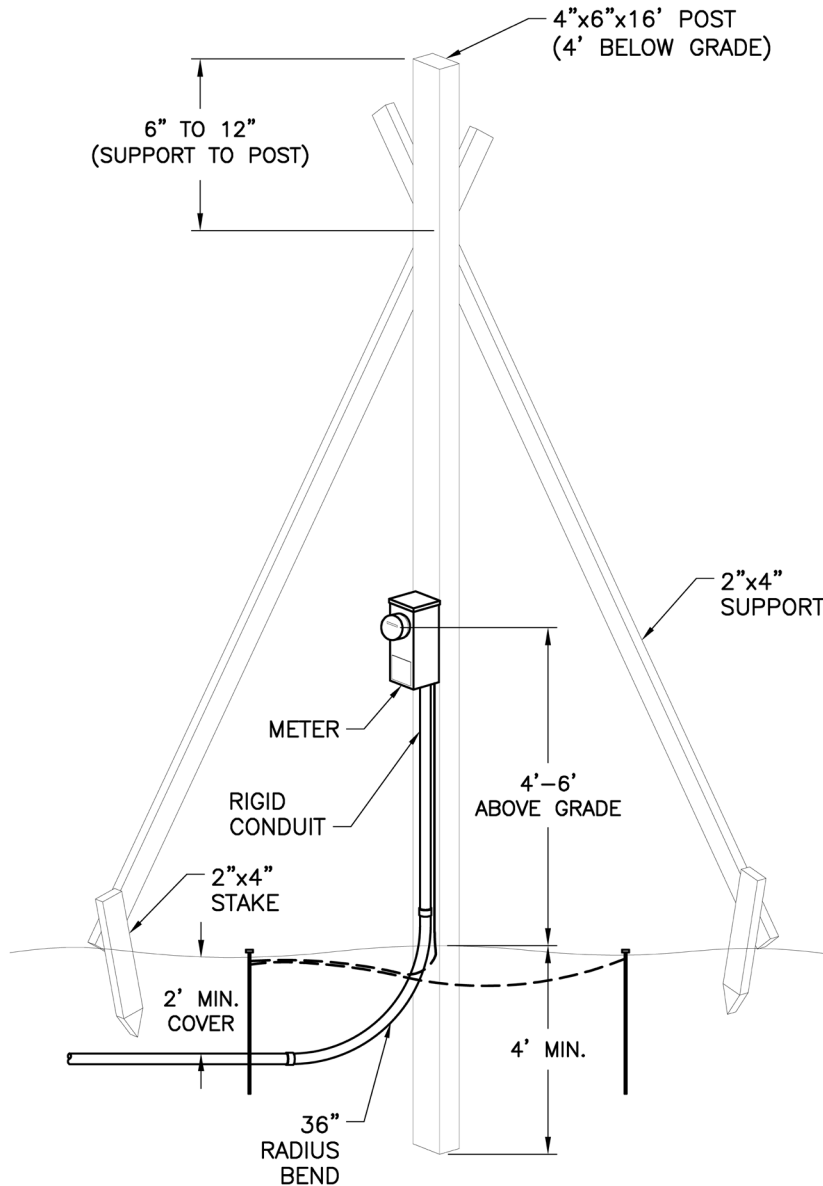


## 2.8. Temporary Underground Service

The [customer](#) must install a conduit riser at the temporary panel location and trench to the City Light-designated [service stub](#), [handhole](#), vault, or service pole. Figure 2.8 shows the basic pole and trench specifications.

Existing [direct-buried conductor](#) may be used for temporary service [connection](#).

**Figure 2.8. Typical Underground Temporary Service Pole**



For more information on underground service on private property, see *City Light Construction Standard 0224.01, Customer Requirements for Underground Secondary Service, Looped Radial System* and *City Light Construction Standard 0224.07, Requirements for Secondary Conduit Installation* in the [Standards for Electric Service](#).

## 3. Looped Radial Service

### 3.1. Introduction

“Looped Radial” refers to the City Light distribution system that comprises the entire service territory outside of the Network areas. It has underground service and underground areas (such as business districts and certain residential areas), but the primary source of wires that feed these customers are from overhead distribution poles.

### 3.2. Availability of Service

Service entrance [conductors](#) must be combined in such a way that all structures on the [development site](#) can be served from one service drop or service lateral directly from the City Light distribution system. This includes cases where new construction buildings are added to sites that have existing buildings.

City Light may provide additional [secondary services](#) to development sites in some circumstances, for example:

- To allow for an additional secondary voltage to serve the same site if a pole or underground facility is available to accommodate the necessary equipment. If City Light needs to add equipment to the distribution system to provide a second service, the [customer](#) will be billed the full cost of that addition, including the equipment.
- If site has need for physically separated point of service not intended to serve its main structure(s) or operation.

Additional service drops must not be attached to, or feed equipment in, buildings with existing electrical service, and must not be bridled. (See Glossary.)

For an additional primary feed with a different voltage on an existing site, the customer must install a load break vault with the second primary run feeding a separate vault or padmount transformer [cabinet](#).

City Light may require a utility [easement](#) for placement of equipment that will be owned and maintained by the utility. It is the customer’s responsibility to provide legal description(s) and a professional approved surveyed drawing of the property. City Light will secure the easement at the customer’s expense. See Section 1.6.8 for more information.

If the customer requires additional amperage to an existing structure, the customer must upgrade the existing service. If the customer requires a different voltage, they may provide the transformation from the voltage provided by City Light. Please see Table 3.3, “Available Service Voltages and Maximum Secondary Service Entrance Ratings” for more information.

Developments with **four or more** residential units must connect through a secondary underground service. This requirement will go into effect for Applications for Electric Service received later than February 9, 2025. See Section 3.7.2.



### 3.3. Modifications to Existing Electric Service

Certain elective modifications made to a [customer](#)'s service entrance equipment will require the customer to bring the entire [electric service](#) (this means all existing service equipment) up to current City Light construction standards.

Examples include:

- New meter base
- Change of meter location
- Any increase to the [service entrance capacity](#) of the service (e.g., increase in panel [ampacity](#) and/or service entrance/feeder [conductor](#) size, etc.)
- Additional meter(s)

Modifications to underground-fed services that have existing [direct-buried](#) cable will require the installation of a new [conduit](#) run in accordance with SCL 1561.05. City Light will provide a drawing specifying the route of the conduit required for the installation. All work associated with trenching, backfill, and restoration must be completed by, and at the expense of, the customer. See Section 1.7.

For information on charges related to modifications, see Section 1.5.

### 3.4. Available Service Voltages and Maximum Secondary Service Entrance Ratings

Table 3.4 shows the available service voltages and corresponding maximum [secondary service entrance ratings for service](#) in the Looped Radial system.

TABLE 3.4. AVAILABLE SERVICE VOLTAGES AND MAXIMUM SECONDARY SERVICE ENTRANCE RATINGS		
Single-Phase Service Voltage (V)	Service	Maximum Secondary Service Rating (A) <sup>b</sup>
120/240	Primary and Secondary	600
240/480	Primary and Secondary	300
Three-Phase Service Voltage (V)		
120/208Y	Primary and Secondary	1000
120/240 Open Delta <sup>a</sup>	Primary and Secondary	600
277/480Y	Primary and Secondary	600
240/480 Open Delta <sup>a</sup>	Primary and Secondary	300
2400/4160Y	Primary only	Not applicable
7960/13,800Y	Primary only	Not applicable
15,420/26,400Y	Primary only	Not applicable

**Notes:**

<sup>a</sup> The maximum allowable secondary service ampacities indicated in the table represent the total single-phase and three-phase loads combined. The customer will be required to connect all single-phase loads across the grounded phase, unless otherwise agreed to by City Light.

<sup>b</sup> Primary service does not have maximum service ratings.

City Light may require an underground service if the nearby poles and/or overhead conductors are not able to accommodate the requested load.

At City Light's option, an exception to the maximum service [amperes](#) may be granted for 120/208Y service in buildings that are exclusively for residential occupancy. This exception will be in writing.

Single-phase, three-wire and [three-phase, four-wire service](#) can be provided. Three-phase, three-wire service is not available at any voltages.

The service rating must be determined by the nameplate ampere rating of the main service disconnect. In the absence of a single main service disconnect, City Light will determine the service rating by the nameplate rating of the main service [bus](#) or the rating of the main busing in the service entrance panel, whichever applies.

In buildings where multiple services are connected from one service drop or service lateral, the service rating for the building will be the aggregate of the individual service ratings.

Services to larger buildings, commercial office buildings and apartment buildings may have large electrical services where the aggregate [service entrance capacity](#) exceeds the allowed maximum secondary service size listed in Table 3.4. For these services, the [customer](#) must provide a vault or pad on [private property](#) for City Light [transformer\(s\)](#) and associated service equipment. See Section 3.8, Primary Service.

Transformers connected to the City Light distribution system will be furnished, installed and maintained by City Light.

If the customer requires a voltage other than the stated standard voltages, the customer must supply the equipment required. All special transformation equipment must be installed on the load side of the meter, unless otherwise agreed to in writing.

Vaults, pads, and termination facilities must be furnished by the customer in accordance with City Light standards and other codes pertaining to the corresponding [Authority Having Jurisdiction \(AHJ\)](#).

### 3.5. Clearances

All projects must meet the requirements for clearances from utility equipment as specified in SCL 0100.02, SCL 0100.03, SCL 0100.04, SCL 0100.05, and SCL 0214.00.

For more information on clearances, see *City Light Construction Standard 0100.02, Clearances Between SCL Overhead Distribution Assets and Ground Surfaces*; *City Light Construction Standard 0100.03, Clearances Between SCL Overhead Distribution Assets and Non-SCL Structures, Except Bridges*; *City Light Construction Standard 0100.04, Radial Clearance Between 26 kV Overhead Distribution Conductors and Buildings*; *City Light Construction Standard 0100.05, Clearances Between SCL Overhead Distribution Assets and Bridges*; and *City Light Construction Standard 0214.00; Clearances Between SCL Underground Assets and Non-SCL Structures and Objects* in the [Standards for Electric Service](#).

### 3.6. Water Entry Prevention

The [customer](#) is responsible for the following measures to avoid water entry into buildings and service equipment:

- System design that considers elevation differences and other factors that would cause a problem. The design should prevent water from entering the building or electrical equipment to prevent electrical hazard or property damage. A City Light Representative can advise the customer in this concern.
- Watertight grouting of [conduit](#) where it enters the building, the vault, or the [handhole](#).
- Watertight conduit sealing for customer/contractor-installed [conductors](#) to prevent water from entering the service conduits. The vault interior must remain dry. The customer must prevent water from entering the vault.

### 3.7. Secondary Service

[Secondary service](#) is defined as service that can be served from a [transformer](#) located in the [public right-of-way](#) on a pole, on a pad, or in a vault.

Secondary service can be either overhead or underground, single-phase or three-phase.

Most single-family residential service in the City Light system is single-phase; however, there are instances where three-phase service is available.

Some local jurisdictions regulate the type of services allowed within their boundaries (overhead vs. underground). The [customer](#) must contact the [Authority Having Jurisdiction \(AHJ\)](#) to verify allowable types of service.

### 3.7.1. Secondary Overhead Services

Types of secondary overhead service include [service mast](#) with and without supporting wires, and wall-mounted.

Neutral must be identified with white tape, [high leg](#) identified with orange tape, and three-phase circuits identified appropriately.

The distance between [weatherheads](#) served from the same service drop must not exceed 24 inches.

Service entrance [conductor](#) sets must have a minimum of 18 inches of wire extending from the weatherhead. If multiple service masts are installed, a minimum of 30 inches of wire must be extended from the weatherhead.

The [customer](#) must establish a 3-ft radius of clear space along the path between the utility pole and the strike point on the building.

[Service conductors](#) must be free of trespass of neighboring properties.

The [point of attachment](#) must be between 12 and 20 feet above grade, with the [drip loop](#) a minimum of 11 feet above grade.

For more information on service drop clearances, see *City Light Construction Standard 0130.30, Secondary Service Drops* in the [Standards for Electric Service](#).

#### 3.7.1.1 Service Mast Installation

[Service mast](#) installation for overhead service entrances may be surface-mounted or flush-mounted.

The [customer](#) must provide all the equipment shown in figures 3.7.1.1a and 3.7.1.1b except the City Light-provided meter, which plugs into the customer's meter socket.

Flush mounted meter sockets require a cover inspection by a City Light Representative. See Figure 3.7.1.1b.

A back guy or a stiff-leg set is required if any of the following applies:

- The mast extends more than 26 inches above the roof
- The service drop exceeds 100 feet (see figures 3.7.1.1c and 3.7.1.1d.)
- The service mast has an offset bend or horizontal mast (see figures 3.7.1.1g and 3.7.1.1h)

City Light-approved [service brackets](#) must be furnished and installed by the customer. Brackets and their attachments need to be capable of withstanding the tension of the service wires. The [point of attachment](#) must be between 12 and 20 feet above grade. See Figure 3.7.1.1e.

For service masts where the bracket is attached to the mast, rigid steel [conduit](#) with two points of attachment is required. Single-phase services must have a minimum 2-inch conduit, three-phase services must have a minimum 3-inch conduit. The service mast must be within 3 feet of the roof edge.

The service bracket must be a minimum of 18 inches above the roofline, and no closer than 8 inches from the [weatherhead](#).

Roof brackets are not allowed.

Any conduit couplings must be below the top wall attachment.

Service masts must be attached to the structure at two points at least 2 feet apart.

Attachment methods may include the following:

- Kindorf brackets on the exterior of the building.
- U-bolts into a 2 in x 6 in board mounted to studs.

See Figure 3.7.1.1f.

Stiff-leg sets, back guys, and roof penetrations (e.g., eaves, fascia, etc.) must not be used as an attachment point.

Figure 3.7.1.1a. Surface-Mounted Service Mast Installation

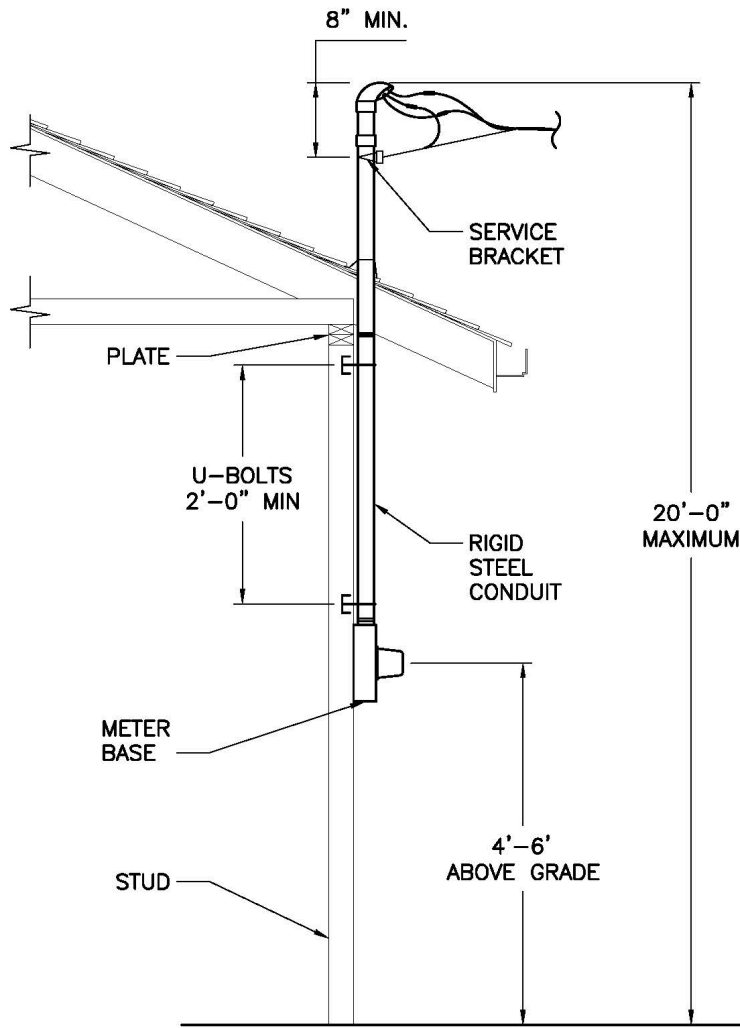
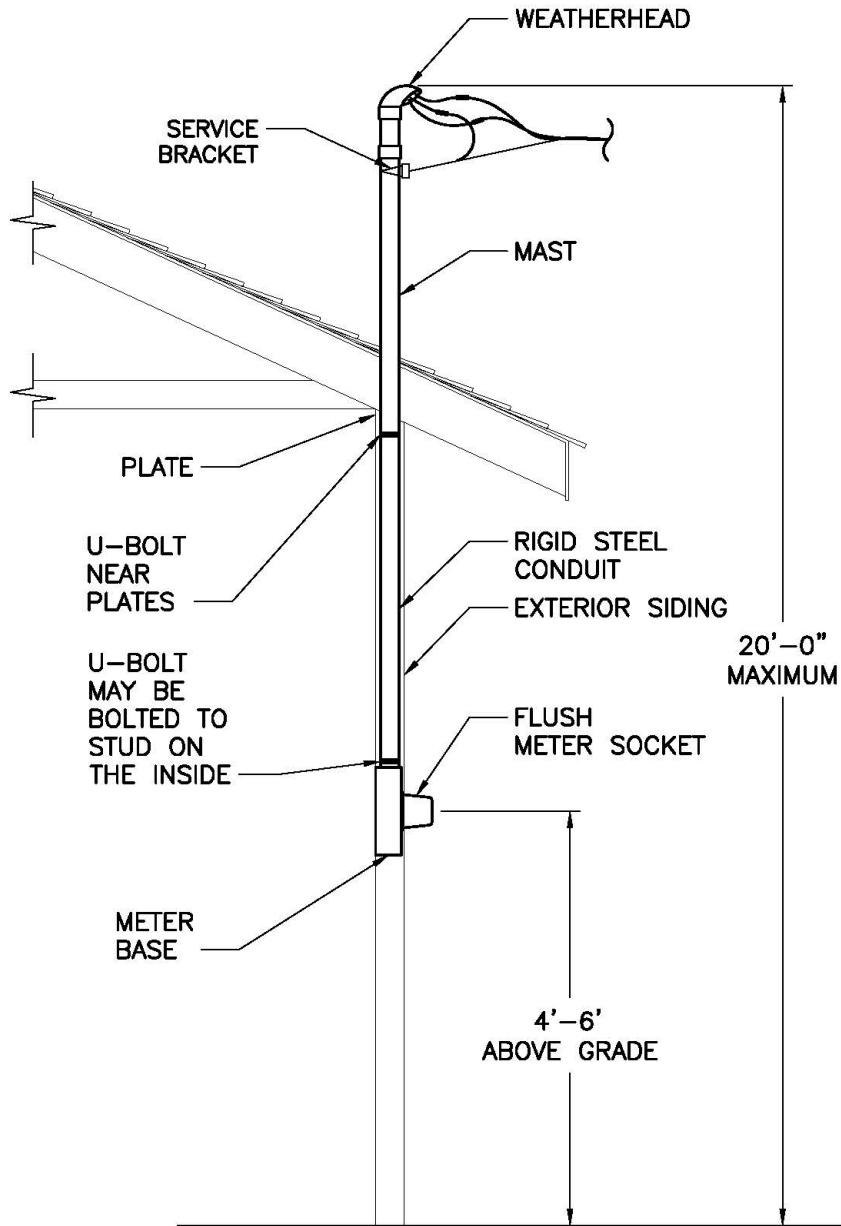




Figure 3.7.1.1b. Flush-Mounted Service Mast Installation



**Figure 3.7.1.1c. Back Guy**



**Figure 3.7.1.1d. Stiff Leg Set**



**Figure 3.7.1.1.e. Service Bracket**



**Figure 3.7.1.1f. Kindorf Bracket Attachment**



**Figure 3.7.1.1g. Horizontal Mast with a Stiff-Leg Set**



**Figure 3.7.1.1h. Offset Bend without a Stiff-Leg Set or Back Guy**



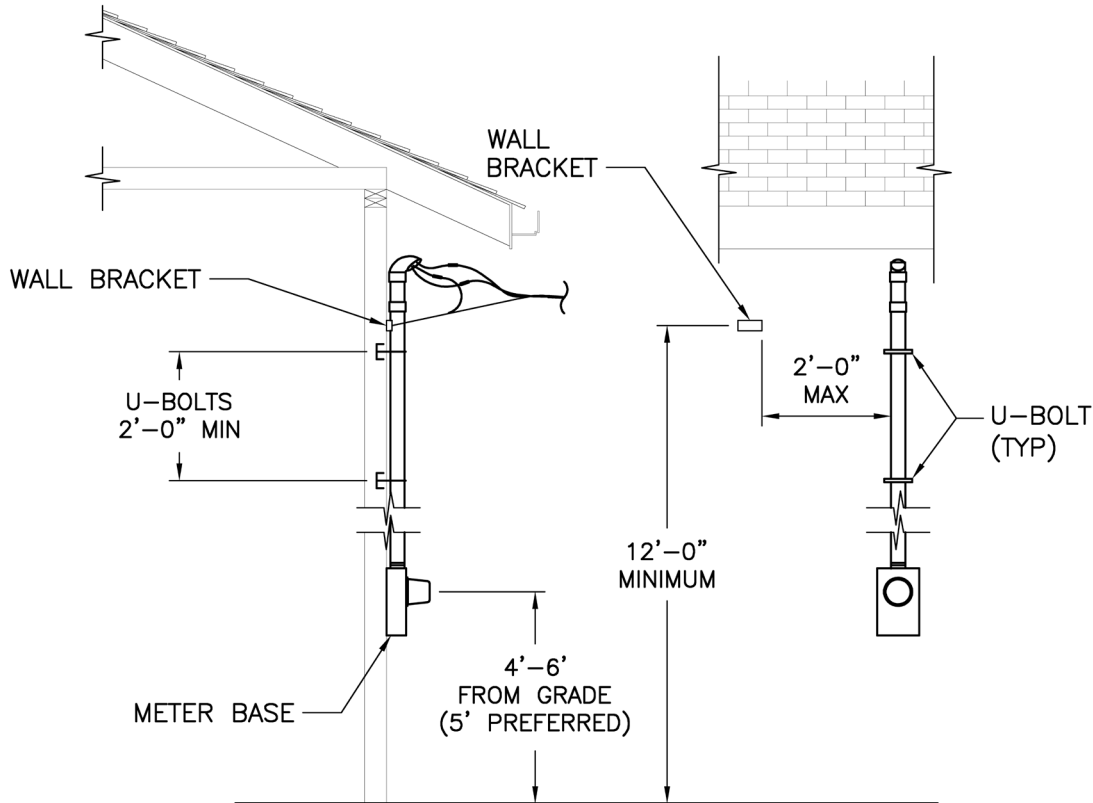
### 3.7.1.2 Wall-Mounted Service Installation

All wall-mounted [service brackets](#) and Kindorf brackets must be secured by lag screws, 3/8 in x 4 in minimum, into solid wood, or 3/8-in bolts through 2-in minimum solid wood.

The [point of attachment](#) must be between 12 and 20 feet above grade, with the [drip loop](#) a minimum of 11 feet above grade.

The distance from the service bracket to the [weatherhead\(s\)](#) must not exceed 24 inches. See Figure 3.7.1.2.

**Figure 3.7.1.2. Wall-Mounted Service Installation**



### 3.7.1.3 Service Poles and Guys

[Service poles](#) are: (1) poles that serve only one [customer](#), and (2) are located on the customer's property. City Light may require a service pole on the customer's property where:

- The distance from the City Light distribution pole to the customer's point of service attachment is greater than 150 feet.
- A clear, direct route without trespass is not available for the service drop from the distribution pole to the customer's point of service attachment.

**Note:** City Light must have a 12-ft-wide access road to set a pole on [private property](#). If this space is not available, services will need to be located underground. See Section 3.7.2.

- The applicable code authority requires a service pole.

City Light will install guys on service poles as needed.

### 3.7.2. Secondary Underground Services

All secondary underground service shall be installed in accordance with SCL 1561.05.

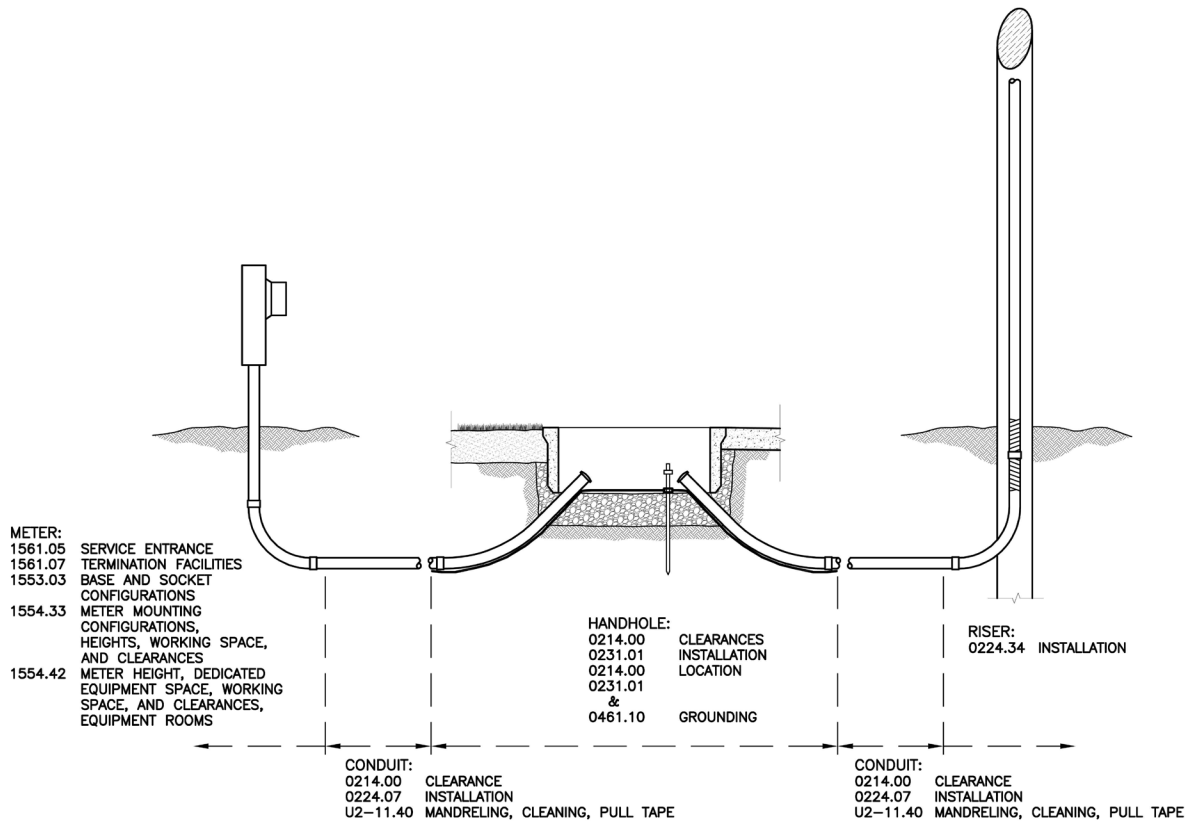
City Light will install the [service conductors](#) from the designated point of termination on the [customer's](#) property to the City Light facility in the right-of-way or [easement](#) area.

It is the customer's responsibility to ensure required clearances between City Light underground structures and other utilities' structures, and to trench up to and expose the location of entry into the SCL facility. A City Light Electrical Reviewer or Underground Crew must supervise the last five feet of [conduit](#) installation. Under no circumstances shall a customer or contractor enter an energized facility.

A City Light Electrical Reviewer or Underground Crew must supervise the final 5 feet of trenching to any energized City Light vault or [handhole](#).

Figure 3.7.2 provides a visual guide to all the City Light standards that govern the City Light underground [secondary service](#).

**Figure 3.7.2. Guide to Underground Secondary Service Standards**



For more information on installing secondary underground services, see *City Light Construction Standard 1561.05, Underground Residential Service Entrances*; *City Light Construction Standard 0224.01, Customer Requirements for Underground Secondary Service, Looped Radial System*; and *City Light Construction Standard 0214.00, Clearances Between SCL Underground Assets and Non-SCL Structures and Objects in the Standards for Electric Service*.

### 3.8. Primary Service

[Primary service](#) is any service that exceeds the maximum [secondary service](#) capacity shown in Table 3.3. These services require [transformers](#) or primary metering enclosures to be located in vaults or on pads located on the [customer's](#) property.

The customer is required to be aware of and satisfy all applicable building codes for the City of Seattle as well as other cities and county jurisdictions in the City Light service area.

Table 3.8 shows the City Light construction standards corresponding to transformer location.

TABLE 3.8. CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS BY TRANSFORMER LOCATION	
Transformer Location	City Light Standards (see <a href="#">Standards for Electric Service</a> )
Vault inside building	SCL 0751.00, "Customer Requirements, In-Building Transformer Vaults, Network and Looped Radial Systems" SCL 0751.60, "Concurrent Customer Requirements, In-Building Transformer Vaults"
Vault outside building	SCL 0732.50, "Customer Requirements for Below-Grade Transformer Service Vaults, Looped Radial System"
Concrete pad outside building	SCL 0724.50; Customer Requirements for Padmount Transformer Services, Looped Radial System"

**Note:** Dimensions of the transformer vault or pad are determined by City Light and are contingent on:

- The capacity of transformer(s) to be installed. Transformer size is determined by the customer's total electrical load and aggregate service entrance capacity.
- The type of devices used for secondary connection to the customer's NEC-sized service entrance equipment.
- The working clearance needed around the equipment.

All vault and pad-mounted transformers must be located to provide safe access and code clearances from fire escapes, combustibles materials, and other hazards. Building owners must make provisions to prevent unwanted debris from accumulating in and around vaults and pads.

The customer must contact City Light well in advance of building design to receive the necessary requirements. These specifications will be provided by City Light in the Service Construction Letter after reviewing the customer's plans.

### 3.8.1. Water Entry Prevention

The [customer](#) is responsible for the following measures to avoid water entry into buildings and service equipment:

- System design that considers elevation differences and other factors that would cause a problem. The design should prevent water from entering the building or electrical equipment to prevent electrical hazard or property damage. A City Light Representative can advise the customer in this concern.
- Watertight grouting of [conduit](#) where it enters the building, the vault, or the [handhole](#).
- Watertight conduit sealing for customer/contractor-installed [conductors](#) to prevent water from entering the service conduits. The vault interior must remain dry. The customer must prevent water from entering the vault.

### 3.8.2. Vault Access

The [customer](#) must provide properly supported, unobstructed access from the right-of-way to the vault for City Light equipment handling machinery to deliver all necessary equipment. In-building vaults must not be located more than one floor below the building's exterior finished grade and must have elevator access.

For all properties with an in-building vault, and for properties where below grade vaults and transformer pads are located such that the customer cannot meet the requirements spelled out above, a City Light [Equipment Transportation Agreement](#) (ETA) must be signed by the property owner.

An ETA is a legal document in which the building owner(s) take sole responsibility for moving the transformer(s) into and out of the vault, to a mutually agreed-upon location from which City Light is able to deliver or pick up the transformer(s) using our normal transportation methods and equipment.

All ETAs will be recorded on the property title at the property owner's expense, as all future owners are obligated to the same terms and conditions of the agreement. Any damage occurring to the transformer(s) during transportation by the building owner(s) and any additional expense incurred because of said damage must be paid by the building owner(s).

A copy of the ETA must be kept in the vault, permanently installed in a document enclosure on the vault wall beneath the light switch. The customer must provide and install a weatherproof enclosure large enough to hold a paper copy of the ETA.

For vault construction requirements, see: *City Light Construction Standard 0751.00, "Construction Requirement, In-Building Transformer Vaults, Network and Looped Radial Systems"* and *City Light Construction Standard 0751.60, "Concurrent Customer Requirements, In-Building Transformer Vaults"* in the [Standards for Electric Service](#).

### 3.9. Fire Clearance

All vault and pad-mounted transformers must be located to provide safe access and code clearances from fire escapes, combustible materials, and other hazards. This is necessary to comply with the fire clearance requirements of City Light and the appropriate City, County, or State inspecting authorities. Building owners must make provisions to prevent unwanted debris from accumulating in and around vaults and pads.

The [customer](#) must contact City Light well in advance of building design to receive the necessary requirements. These specifications will be provided by City Light in the Service Construction Letter after reviewing the [customer's](#) plans.

### **3.10. Vibration and Noise Levels**

The [customer](#) is responsible for isolating the transformer vault or pad so that sound and vibration levels satisfy the applicable laws and ordinances of the Washington Administrative Code ([WAC](#)), the City of Seattle, or other applicable jurisdictions, including the customer's own requirements. Further, it is the customer's responsibility to mitigate any magnetic field effects from any customer-owned sensitive equipment.

### **3.11. Elevators**

Elevator service must be provided to any building level where a transformer vault is located.

### **3.12. Special Services**

#### **3.12.1. Mobile Home Parks**

City Light will supply one service to a mobile home park per [Seattle Municipal Code 21.49.100](#), Paragraph H, Section 2. Installation and maintenance beyond the service [connection](#) point will be the owner's responsibility. Meter locations must be accessible, and meters grouped. See Chapter 6, Metering, for more information.

#### **3.12.2. Mobile Homes on Individual Owner Lots (not part of a mobile home community)**

Mobile home installations that are not part of a mobile home community will require a [service pole](#) and meter socket that is not attached to the mobile home, per NEC requirements.

#### **3.12.3. Houseboat Piers**

City Light service for houseboats must be terminated on shore. The termination equipment must also be approved by City Light.

City Light will not upgrade existing overhead distribution on houseboat piers. If additional loads require upgrading of houseboat pier electrical distribution, it is the customer's responsibility to do so.

#### **3.12.4. Boat Moorages**

New or upgraded service to boat mooring establishments must be master metered per [Seattle Municipal Code 21.49.100](#), Paragraph H, Section 1. See Chapter 6, Metering for more information.

#### **3.12.5. Unit Lot Subdivisions**

For [unit lot subdivisions](#), the parent parcel is considered one [development site](#). Service entrance [conductors](#) must be combined in such a way that all structures on the parent parcel can be served from one service drop or service lateral directly from the City Light distribution system. The design of the distribution system to serve the site must be within the sole discretion of City Light. No [bridled services](#) will be allowed.



Per [Seattle Municipal Code 23.24.045 \(F\)](#), the unit lots created by unit lot subdivision are not separate buildable lots. Development standards will be applied to the original parcel and not to each of the new unit lots. As a result, the electrical service to an existing structure will need to meet current City Light standards and requirements for the development site.

This applies to cases where new buildings (SFRs, Townhomes) are constructed and added to sites that have existing buildings.

## 4. Network Services

### 4.1. Introduction

[Network service areas](#) are designed to provide redundancy and continuity of service in the case of outages and include protective devices to prevent backfeed onto the grid. Special rules apply for customer generation in the Network service area. Please see Chapter 5, “Distributed Energy Resources,” for more information.

City Light has four network service areas: Downtown, First Hill, University District, and the South Lake Union Area.

[Secondary services](#) in network areas are served from street networks, where the [transformers](#) and related equipment are located in facilities in the right of way. [Primary services](#) are served from [spot networks](#), where the facilities are located on the property of the service.

This chapter includes general guidelines for service installations in network areas. [Customers](#) must contact City Light well in advance of the project starting to receive the required design specifications.

### 4.2. Availability of Service

Individual structures will typically be serviced by a single service drop. If the [customer](#) requires additional amperage to an existing structure, the customer must upgrade the existing service. If the customer requires a different voltage, they may provide the transformation from the voltage provided by City Light. Please see Table 3.3, “Available Service Voltages and Maximum Secondary Service Entrance Ratings” for more information.

City Light may provide additional [secondary services](#) to [development sites](#) in some circumstances, for example:

- To allow for an additional secondary voltage to serve the same site if a pole or underground facility is available to accommodate the necessary equipment. If City Light needs to add equipment to the distribution system to provide a second service, the customer will be billed the full cost of that addition, including the equipment.
- If site has need for physically separated point of service not intended to serve its main structure(s) or operation.

Additional service drops must not be attached to, or feed equipment in, buildings with existing electrical service, and must not be bridled. (See Glossary.)

For an additional primary feed with a different voltage on an existing site, the customer must install a load break [vault](#) with the second primary run feeding a separate vault or padmount transformer [cabinet](#).

City Light may require a utility [easement](#) for placement of equipment that will be owned and maintained by the utility. It is the customer’s responsibility to provide legal description(s) and a professional approved surveyed drawing of the property. City Light will secure the easement at the customer’s expense. See Section 1.6.2 for more information.

### 4.3. Clearances Between SCL Underground Structures and Other Structures

All projects must meet the requirements for clearances between SCL underground structures and other structures as specified in SCL 0214.00.

For more information, see *City Light Construction Standard 0214.00; Clearances Between SCL Underground Assets and Non-SCL Structures and Objects* in the [Standards for Electric Service](#).

### 4.4. Permitting and Inspections

See Section 1.7.

### 4.5. Service Notes, General

All services in the Network system are underground.

Single-phase, three-wire and [three-phase, four-wire](#) service can be provided. Three-phase, three-wire service is not available at any voltages.

The [service rating](#) must be determined by the nameplate ampere rating of the main service disconnect. In the absence of a single main service disconnect, City Light will determine the service rating by the nameplate rating of the main service [bus](#) or the rating of the main busing in the service entrance panel, whichever applies.

In buildings where multiple services are connected from one service drop or service lateral, the service rating for the building must be the aggregate of the individual service ratings.

Table 4.5 shows the available service voltages and corresponding maximum service entrance ratings for [secondary service](#) in Network Areas.

TABLE 4.5. AVAILABLE SERVICE VOLTAGES AND MAXIMUM SECONDARY SERVICE ENTRANCE RATINGS FOR NETWORK AREAS	
Single-Phase Service Voltage (V)	Maximum Secondary Service Rating (A)
120/208	200
277/480	100
Three-Phase Service Voltage (V)	
120/208Y	1000
277/480Y	600

<sup>a</sup> The maximum allowable service ampacities indicated in the table represent the total single-phase and three-phase loads combined. The customer will be required to connect all single-phase loads across the grounded phase, unless otherwise agreed to by City Light.

Services to larger buildings, commercial office buildings and apartment buildings may have large electrical services where the aggregate [service entrance capacity](#) exceeds that allowed maximum secondary service size listed in Table 4.5. For these services, the [customer](#) must provide a [vault](#) on [private property](#) for City Light [transformer](#)(s) and associated service equipment. Such a vault for City Light transformer(s) must be located on the site being serviced, or in an [easement](#) area on private property.

#### 4.6. Vault Construction

For vault construction requirements, see *City Light Construction Standard 0751.00, "Construction Requirements, In-Building Transformer Vaults, Network and Looped Radial Systems"* and *City Light Construction Standard 0751.60, "Concurrent Customer Requirements, In-Building Transformer Vaults"* in the [Standards for Electric Service](#).

Dimensions of the transformer [vault](#) are determined by City Light and are contingent on:

- The capacity of transformer(s) to be installed. Transformer size is determined by the [customer's](#) total electrical load and aggregate [service entrance capacity](#).
- The type of devices used for secondary connection to the [customer's](#) NEC-sized service entrance equipment.
- The working clearance needed around the equipment.

#### 4.7. Water Entry Prevention

The [customer](#) is responsible for the following measures to avoid water entry into buildings and service equipment:

- System design that considers elevation differences and other factors that would cause a problem. The design should prevent water from entering the building or electrical equipment to prevent electrical hazard or property damage. A City Light Representative can advise the customer in this concern.
- Watertight grouting of [conduit](#) where it enters the building, the vault, or the [handhole](#).
- Watertight conduit sealing for customer/contractor installed [conductors](#) to prevent water from entering the service conduits. The vault interior must remain dry. The customer must prevent water from entering the vault.

#### 4.8. Vault Access

The [customer](#) must provide properly supported, unobstructed access from the right-of-way to the [vault](#) for City Light equipment handling machinery to deliver all necessary equipment. In-building vaults must not be located more than one floor below the building's exterior finished grade and must have elevator access.

An ETA is required for all properties with an in-building vault, and for properties where below-grade vaults and transformer pads are located such that the customer cannot meet the requirements spelled out above. The City Light [Equipment Transportation Agreement](#) (ETA) must be signed by the property owner."

An ETA is a legal document in which the building owner(s) take sole responsibility for moving the transformer(s) into and out of the vault, to a mutually agreed-upon location from which City Light is able to deliver or pick up the transformer(s) using our normal transportation methods and equipment.

All ETAs will be recorded on the property title at the property owner's expense, as all future owners are obligated to the same terms and conditions of the agreement. Any damage occurring to the transformer during transportation by the building owner(s) and any additional expense incurred because of said damage must be paid by the building owner(s).

A copy of the ETA must be kept in the vault. The customer must provide and install a weatherproof enclosure large enough to hold a paper copy of the ETA. The ETA must be permanently installed in a document enclosure on the vault wall beneath the light switch.

#### **4.9. Fire Clearance**

All [vault](#) and pad-mounted [transformers](#) must be located to provide safe access and code clearances from fire escapes, combustibles, and other hazards. This is necessary to comply with the fire clearance requirements of City Light and the appropriate City, County, or State inspecting authorities. Building owners must make provisions to prevent unwanted debris from accumulating in and around vaults and pads.

The [customer](#) must contact City Light well in advance of building design to receive the necessary requirements. These specifications will be provided by City Light in the Service Construction Letter after reviewing the customer's plans.

#### **4.10. Vibration and Noise Levels**

The [customer](#) is responsible for isolating the transformer [vault](#) or pad so that sound and vibration levels satisfy the applicable laws and ordinances of the Washington Administrative Code ([WAC](#)), the City of Seattle, or other applicable jurisdictions, including the customer's own requirements. Further, it is the customer's responsibility to mitigate any magnetic field effects from any customer-owned sensitive equipment.

#### **4.11. Elevators**

Elevator service must be provided to any building level where a transformer vault is located.

#### **4.12. NEC-Sized Service Entrances in Network Areas**

The maximum size of an NEC cable allowed to enter a [vault](#) is 750 [kcmil](#).

Depending on [transformer](#) size, City Light may terminate a maximum of six (6) sets of NEC-sized cables directly on the transformer secondary terminals.

#### 4.13. Secondary Service

The aggregate service [ampacity](#) must be limited to 1000 A at 120/208Y, or 600 A at 277/480Y, depending on which is available.

Where the service entrance [ampacity](#) exceeds 200 A at 120/208Y or 100 A at 277/480Y, the service must be [three-phase, four-wire](#), and the load must be [balanced](#).

The [customer](#) must install the necessary [conduit](#) to the City Light-designated point of termination. City Light will extend this conduit to the City Light service [handhole](#) or [vault](#) and install [service conductors](#) to the point of service [connection](#) designated by City Light.

**TABLE 4.13. REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENTIAL AND MULTI-FAMILY SERVICE IN NETWORK AREAS**

<b>Single-Phase Service Voltage (V)</b>	<b>Requirement(s)</b>
120/208 up to 200 A	The customer must install service conduit to a City Light-designated point on the property line.
277/480Y up to 100 A	The customer must install service conduit to a City Light-designated point on the property line.
<b>Three-Phase Service Voltage (V)</b>	
120/208Y greater than 1000 A	The customer must supply a transformer vault or space on the premises for our transformer(s), as well as service conduits to the property line as specified by City Light. The transformer vault must be approved by City Light and must be in compliance with City Light electrical and building codes.
277/480Y greater than 600 A	The customer must supply a transformer vault or space on the premises for our transformer(s), as well as service conduits to the property line as specified by City Light. The transformer vault must be approved by City Light and must be in compliance with City Light electrical and building codes.

#### 4.14. Primary Service

Contractors must notify City Light well in advance of designing their buildings, as the requirements for [primary service](#) may alter the building design. For example, City Light may require space not only for the [vault](#), but for a primary switchgear room as well.

Where the aggregate [service entrance capacity](#) exceeds 1000 A at 120/208Y or 600 A at 277/480Y, the [customer](#) must provide a vault or other suitable facilities on [private property](#) for the City Light [transformer\(s\)](#) and associated service equipment. Such vault or other facility for Utility transformer(s) must be located on the site being served.

Services greater than 600 A at 277/480Y will be required to be [spot networks](#). They cannot be served from the adjacent street network.

#### **4.15. Fault Current Limiters**

When the [customer](#) installs [fault current](#) limiters on the line side (the City Light side) of the first disconnect or main breaker, the customer must install a current limiter enclosure that meets the requirements below:

The enclosure must be sealable and separate from our service termination point. The customer's [weatherhead](#), service terminal box, meter socket, and [current transformer](#) enclosures are not acceptable locations for current limiters.

The current limiter enclosure must be clearly marked "Fault Current Limiters," and it may not be used for any other purpose, such as a connection point for taps or extensions.

The customer is responsible for maintaining and replacing fault current limiters. If repair or maintenance operations require City Light to temporarily disconnect the service, the customer will be billed for this labor. After any maintenance operation, the customer must notify City Light for replacement of meter [seals](#).

## 5. Distributed Energy Resources

As of July 1, 2025, all content in this chapter will be superseded by a new publication, the [Seattle City Light Distribution Interconnection Handbook](#).

### 5.1. Introduction

A distributed energy resource (DER) refers to equipment that is owned by the [customer](#), capable of operating in parallel with the City Light electrical grid and located on the customer's side of the point of termination. DERs can include electrical generation systems (solar, wind, fossil fuel, etc.), energy storage systems (batteries, etc.), and [microgrids](#).

If sources of power generation or energy storage are configured so they may never operate in parallel to the City Light electrical grid, they are not referred to as DERs, and this chapter is not pertinent. Instead, they will be considered emergency backup equipment, the requirements for which are described in Chapter 8.

### 5.2. Overview of the Interconnection Process

All [customers](#) who seek [interconnection](#) of a DER with the City Light electrical grid must submit an online [Application for Electric Service](#), obtain utility approvals, sign an interconnection agreement with City Light, and receive a Permission to Operate (PTO) Letter from City Light prior to commencing generation from their DER. Interconnection involves a multi-step technical, administrative, and financial process to enable a DER to safely and reliably connect and exchange power with a utility's electrical grid.

Steps in City Light's DER interconnection process are described below and displayed in a simplified form in Figure 5.2. Where customer actions are noted, a DER installation firm can perform the actions on the customer's behalf if the installation firm is listed on the customer's application.

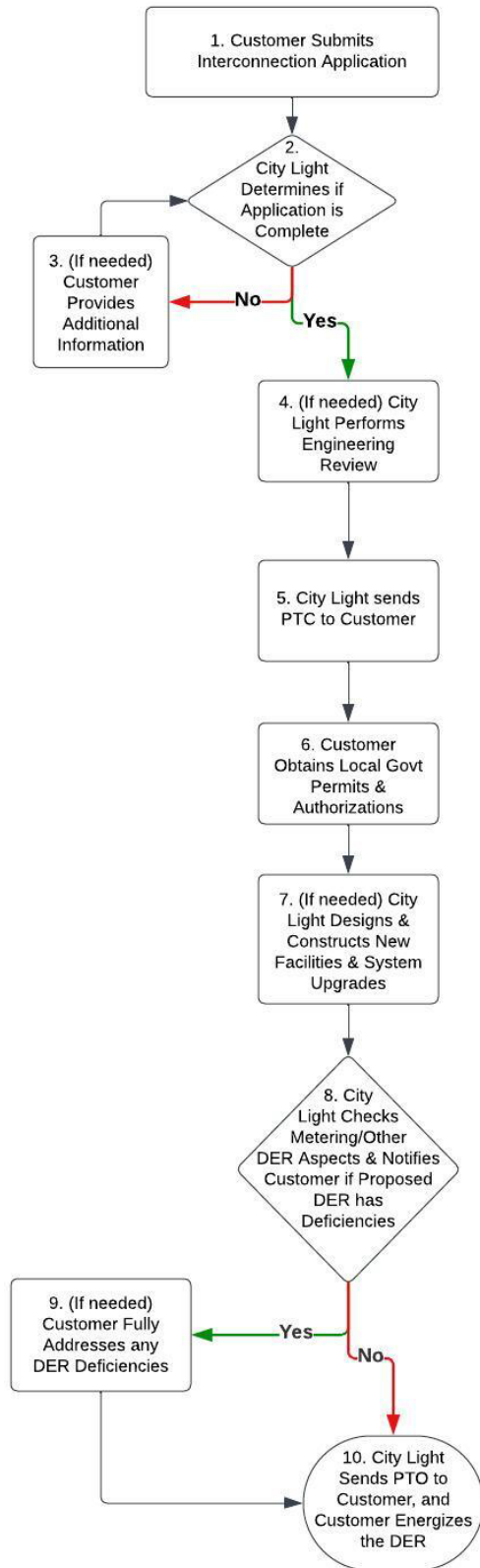
1. The customer completes and submits an interconnection application along with an online [Application for Electric Service](#), which can be found on the [Apply for New or Upgraded Electric Service](#) page on the City Light website. Necessary attachments (i.e., electrical one-line riser diagram, site plan or other notation of where the proposed DER will be placed on the customer premises, equipment specification sheet(s), and customer-signed interconnection agreement) must also be provided to City Light.
2. City Light reviews the application and attachments for completeness and contacts the customer if any clarifications or additional materials are required.
3. If requested by City Light, the customer submits additional information.



4. If needed (see Section 5.3), City Light performs an engineering review, including identifying any new [interconnection facility](#) or system upgrade costs that must be paid by the customer to accommodate the proposed DER. City Light may contact the customer at this step if updated information is needed for a successful review. Following receipt of that information, City Light may re-perform the engineering review.
5. City Light sends a Permission to Construct (PTC) Letter to the customer.
6. The customer, at their own expense, obtains all permits and authorizations, as outlined in Section 1.7. City Light encourages the customer to begin these permit and authorization activities as early as feasible to avoid unduly delaying DER commissioning.
7. If needed, based on the earlier engineering review, City Light conducts the design and construction of new facilities or [system upgrades](#) after the customer pays for such interconnection costs. This step can occur simultaneously with Step 6.
8. City Light performs its final reviews of the proposed DER, including an inspection to verify the service meets utility requirements. As part of that inspection, City Light checks the customer metering to ensure that a bi-directional advanced meter is installed (or to arrange installation if it is not already installed) and checks that the metering is compliant. DER installations are required to have an advanced meter and may not opt out of that requirement as stated in DPP 500 III-427, [Advanced Metering Opt-Out](#).
9. If notified by City Light of any deficiencies in the proposed DER, the customer addresses the deficiencies.
10. The customer can connect the DER to the City Light electric grid when it reaches this step and receives a PTO Letter from City Light, but not before. This is also called energizing the DER.

A customer may withdraw their application at any time in the process if they no longer wish to pursue interconnection of their proposed DER with the City Light electrical grid.

**Figure 5.2. List of Steps in the DER Interconnection Process**



### 5.3. Utility Programs for Distributed Energy Resources

City Light offers two main programs that establish eligibility, participation, and compensation requirements for electricity produced by qualifying DERs in excess of [customer](#)'s on-site electricity consumption: the [net metering](#) program and the large solar program. Customers must complete the [interconnection](#) process to be eligible for either program. City Light's DER programs and compensation rates are subject to change.

Under the net metering program, solar and other qualifying DER types receive kilowatt-hour ([kWh](#)) credits on the customer's utility bill for the electricity produced by the DER. These credits are generated between April 1 and March 31 and are valued at the customer's retail rate of electricity. Credit balances are cleared out on March 31 in accordance with [RCW 80.60.030](#) governing the net metering program. For this program, DER [nameplate capacity](#) cannot exceed 100 [kW](#), except under certain conditions specified in [Seattle Municipal Code 21.49.082](#) and [Seattle Municipal Code 21.49.083](#).

Under the large solar program, solar DERs with nameplate capacity above 100 kW and not exceeding 2,000 kW, and which are not participating in the net metering program, may participate in this program. The program's monetary credits are described in [Seattle Municipal Code 21.49.083](#).

More information on City Light solar programs for residential and business customers can be found on City Light's website at <https://seattle.gov/city-light/residential-services/home-energy-solutions/solar-power#citylightsolarprograms> and <https://seattle.gov/city-light/business-solutions/renewable-energy-services/solar-programs-for-businesses#citylightsolarprograms>. Customers can also contact their City Light Representatives for information about these programs.

### 5.4. Engineering Review

City Light Engineering may evaluate any proposed DER for adverse impacts to the City Light electrical grid as part of the [interconnection](#) process. If an adverse impact is determined, additional engineering analysis will be required. This analysis may delay the commissioning of the DER installation. This analysis may also identify new [interconnection facility](#) or [system upgrades](#) necessary to be installed at [customer](#)'s expense in order for City Light to interconnect the DER safely and reliably.

Among new DER installations, there are two pathways: Pathway A (those that **do not require** an engineering review), and Pathway B (those that **do require** an engineering review).

The types of new DER installations on Pathway B that can expect an engineering review include:

- An inverter-based resource, without an associated energy storage system, of more than 10 [kW](#) in nameplate capacity
- A DER with an energy storage system of any size
- A [machine-based generation resource](#) of any size
- A microgrid of any size
- A DER located within a Network service area
- A DER determined to have an adverse impact to the City Light electrical grid based on initial City Light analysis

All proposed, inverter-based DERs must use [inverters](#) certified under Underwriters Laboratories (UL) 1741 Supplement B (Standard for Safety Inverters, Converters, Controllers and Interconnection System Equipment for Use With Distributed Energy Resources, Supplement B and labeled as UL1741-SB) and Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 1547-2018 (Standard for Interconnection and Interoperability of Distributed Energy Resources with Associated Electric Power Systems Interfaces).

### 5.5. Safety Disconnect Switches

All DERs must include a safety disconnect switch capable of fully disconnecting the DER from the City Light electrical grid. The safety disconnect switch shall meet the requirements specified in SCL 0097.03.

For more information on safety disconnect switch requirements, see *City Light Construction Standard 0097.03, "Installation of Solar Generation Facilities"* in the [Standards for Electric Service](#).

### 5.6. Compliance with Metering Requirements

DER metering must meet all pertinent requirements as defined in Chapters 5 and 6 (including requirements for access and placement), the [customer's](#) interconnection agreement with City Light, and the rules of any City Light rates and programs under which the customer is served.

In all cases, the installation of DER equipment must meet clearance and working space requirements for utility meters as specified in SCL 1554.33 and SCL 1554.42. Certain elective modifications made to a customer's [electric service](#) will require the customer to bring the entire electric service (this means all existing service equipment, including metering) up to current City Light construction standards. See Section 3.3.

For more information on utility-meter clearance and working space requirements, see *City Light Construction Standard 1554.33, Meter Mounting Configurations, Heights, Working Space, and Clearances, Exterior (Outdoor)* and *City Light Construction Standard 1554.42, Meter Height, Dedicated Equipment Space, Working Space, and Clearances, Equipment Rooms* in the [Standards for Electric Service](#).

### 5.7. Line Side Taps

Line side taps are not allowed in meter sockets or [current transformer](#) (CT) [cabinets](#).

## 5.8. Interconnection within Network Service Areas

In addition to the requirements described throughout this chapter for DER [interconnection](#) within the City Light Looped Radial system, there are additional requirements governing DER interconnection within City Light [Network service areas](#). These additional requirements help assure electric power quality and reliability as well as the safety of City Light employees and contractors who maintain the Network service areas and are:

- Only [inverter-based resources](#) are eligible to interconnect. [Machine-based generation resources](#) are not eligible.
- [Customers](#) seeking interconnection within the Network service area must provide evidence to the satisfaction of City Light that their proposed DER will never result in reverse current flow (i.e., power export) through utility network protectors and will not create adverse operational scenarios on the City Light electrical grid.
- Closed transition transfer switches are not allowed.
- A proposed DER associated with customer electrical loads must “break” existing connection to the City Light electrical grid before the DER can “make” connection with the customer’s load.
- The proposed DER must install a reverse power flow relay to protect City Light from inadvertent power export from the DER to the City Light electrical grid. All DERs must follow the requirements for protective relays as specified in SCL 0097.03. Additional or alternative protective function schemes or other equipment to prevent power export to the City Light electrical grid may be installed on a case-by-case basis only upon review and approval by City Light’s Network Engineering Group. All protection relays or other equipment required by City Light for interconnection of DERs on Network service areas must be installed at the customer’s expense

In addition, DERs within Network service areas must meet pertinent requirements in Chapter 4.

For more information on protection relay requirements, see *City Light Construction Standard 0097.03, “Installation of Solar Generation Facilities”* in the [Standards for Electric Service](#).

## 6. Metering

### 6.1. Introduction

Electricity meters are required for all electrical services so City Light can determine [customer](#) usage for accurate billing and for maintaining appropriate distribution to our customers.

City Light provides and installs all electricity meters for customer-installed [meter sockets](#). This chapter describes the requirements for equipment, location, and clearances for both simple and complex meter installations.

City Light installs and maintains meters, instruments, [transformers](#) and [associated equipment](#) that are located on the City Light side of the meter. City Light has ownership of this equipment. Customer-owned, installed, and maintained equipment includes meter sockets, enclosures, [landing pads](#), lugs, [conduit](#), and [conductors](#).

City Light does not allow any non-Utility devices or equipment to be located between the meter socket and the meter. This is considered to be utility space and under the control of the utility and is to be treated the same as any other unmetered wire or [bus](#). SCL will, however, allow devices or equipment to be mounted on the load side of the meter adjacent to the meter enclosure for customer monitoring of their systems for quality and generation purposes.

City Light will determine the specific [metering equipment](#) requirements after reviewing customer plans and/or drawings.

Drawings must be submitted and approved for customer-designed pedestals or other structures on which the customer is proposing to mount metering or [service entrance equipment](#). All drawings or prints submitted to City Light must be engineering or architectural grade.

### 6.2. Requirements, General

#### 6.2.1. Electric Utility Service Equipment Requirements Committee (EUSERC) Material and Equipment Requirements

All [electric service](#) installations must be constructed of material and equipment that meet the applicable requirements of EUSERC standards. Contact your City Light Representative for questions regarding EUSERC.

#### 6.2.2. Service Entrance Conductors for Metered Loads

For single meter installations, unmetered [service conductors](#) (i.e., before meter) must not pass through any [junction box](#), conduit, or fitting, or have any other point of access, regardless of lockable function.

For multi-meter installations, the use of [bus](#) or [wire troughs](#) is permitted for unmetered service conductors if the enclosures are approved, sealable, and lockable by City Light.

Unmetered service conductors must be continuous from the service [connection](#) point to the [meter socket](#) or [current transformer](#) enclosure, or in a main disconnect for [group installations](#).

Unmetered service conductors and metered load conductors are not allowed in the same [conduit](#), [raceway](#), or [wire trough](#) and must be run separately.

[Metering equipment](#), enclosures, and wire troughs containing unmetered service conductors and/or [bus](#) must be sealable and lockable as determined by City Light.

Any equipment or [switchgear](#) compartments that afford access to unmetered service conductors or [bus](#) must be sealable and lockable by City Light.

Metered load conductors must not pass through sealable sections, including [current transformer](#) enclosures.

### 6.2.3. Conductor Connections

For aluminum conductors and connections, an [oxide inhibitor](#) must be used. The [meter socket](#) must have lugs approved for aluminum.

When copper is used as conductor, meter terminals, and/or socket jaws, an oxide inhibitor must not be used.

## 6.3. Voltages

All services must be metered at the service [voltage](#).

**Exception:** 480Y/277 V, three-phase services transformed to 120/208 or 120/240 for residential distribution in multi-unit buildings is allowed.

All primary voltage services (4160 V, 13,800 V and 26,400 V) must be metered at the service voltage in accordance with the Electric Utility Service Equipment Requirements (EUSERC) standards and City Light Construction Standards.

For voltages greater than 600 V, contact your City Light Representative for primary voltage metering requirements.

## 6.4. Meter Sockets

While City Light provides and installs the meter and [instrument transformers](#), the [customer](#) is responsible for providing and installing the [meter socket](#) and [current transformer](#) enclosure as applicable. See Section 6.9 for current transformer-rated service requirements.

All meter sockets must meet ANSI C12.1 and UL 414 Standards for Meter Sockets.

Meter sockets and equipment enclosures must be raintight, [NEMA](#) 3R rated if they are located outside.

It is important to refer to *City Light Construction Standard 1553.03, "Meter Base and Socket Configurations"* (see [Standards for Electric Service](#)), to identify the correct meter socket for your application in order to avoid delays to receiving service.

Commercial services require either a block bypass or a safety socket.

Block bypass sockets are required on 400 A (class 320) residential services.

200 A residential services do not require block bypass sockets; however, they are strongly recommended.

Block bypass sockets are required on three phase services when the [voltage](#) is less than 277 V to [neutral](#) or 480 V phase to phase.

Safety sockets are required when the service voltage is 277 V to neutral or 480 V phase to phase.

City Light does not allow automatic, lever type, or slide-link socket bypass devices.

City Light does not allow ringless meter sockets/bases of any type.

Meter sockets and equipment enclosures must be plumb and securely fastened to the supporting structure.

Unused threaded or knockout openings must be closed with an approved plug locked in place from the inside.

Only metering taps are allowed in meter sockets. Examples of metering taps are the 5th and 7th terminal connections to the neutral and a 5th terminal connection to the unmetred leg as in existing three-phase, three-wire Delta services.

Line side taps are not allowed in meter sockets.

5th terminals must not be installed in 120/240 V sockets.

The line side conductors must be connected to the top terminals of the meter socket. The load side conductors must be connected to the bottom terminals.

Meter rings will be provided by City Light.

## **6.5. Location, Access, and Protection of Metering Equipment**

### **6.5.1. Location**

Residential sockets must be installed in an accessible location outside the building. Commercial and multi-use socket installations may be located outside or inside the building. The [working space](#) must be accessible at all times and must be maintained for the duration that the service exists.

[Metering equipment](#) must not be installed over stairs, stairwells, steps, or public walkways. If mounted on a balcony or platform, a fixed stairway to the area is required and must be maintained for the duration that the service exists. Ship ladders are not allowed. For balcony or platform installations the structure must be professionally engineered. The structure must meet all Washington Administrative Code ([WAC](#)) requirements. City Light requires meshing be installed on the railing as an additional safeguard with the opening not to exceed 1/2 inch.

City Light may post a Utility logo on the outside of meter room doors. City Light will inspect and approve the [customer's](#) choice of location for meter sockets and metering equipment prior to beginning equipment installation. The location must be free from vibration, corrosive atmosphere, and extreme temperatures.



Equipment rooms where meters are installed must be for the sole purpose of electrical [switchgear](#) and metering equipment. Under no circumstances will gasoline, diesel fuel, propane, paints, or any other noxious or hazardous materials be stored in a meter room.

Meter locations must not be under or over any structure which might be enclosed or removed in the future, such as a porch, deck, carport, or stairway.

All [current transformer](#) enclosures must be installed in an accessible location outside the building or in an approved equipment room. For residential services the current transformer enclosures must be outdoors and accessible during normal business hours.

### **6.5.2. Access to Metering Equipment**

Access to [electric service](#) must be provided at all times, not just for the duration of construction.

City Light reserves the right to access the [customer's](#) premises during normal business hours (Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 4 PM) for meter reading, testing, installation, removal, inspection, and/or maintenance of City Light equipment.

The location must be readily accessible without risk of bodily harm to City Light employees.

Access must not be blocked by either permanent or portable materials. This includes the path to the meter and the meter [working space](#).

The area around all City Light equipment must be free from vegetation.

Any fenced/enclosed areas and/or metering [cabinets](#)/enclosures must be made accessible with a City Light-provided key box at the owner's expense. This lock box will be co-located with the Fire Department's Lock Box (where applicable). The customer must provide keys and/or key cards.

All metering covers must be functional and readily accessible. They may not be plastered, caulked, or built in, in any way, so as to impede the opening of the meter cover or metering equipment covers including current transformer enclosure covers or doors.

All metering equipment doors must open a minimum of 90 degrees from the front of the enclosures. Outdoor equipment enclosure doors must have a hold open device.

### 6.5.3. Physical Protection of Metering Equipment

Where damage of [metering equipment](#) has or is likely to occur from vandalism, vehicles or other causes, it is recommended that the [customer](#) install protective devices such as bollards, barriers, or enclosures to protect the equipment from damage. Protective devices must not encroach the meter [working space](#).

[Pedestal](#) metering equipment must be installed as outlined in SCL 1561.05.

Pedestal metering equipment must be sturdy enough for reasonable installation or removal of a meter without damage to the pedestal.

Indoor spaces housing metering equipment must have the ambient air temperature maintained below 30 degrees C (86°F). The customer is responsible for cost of maintenance, repairs and replacement of meter equipment resulting from ambient temperature failure.

For more information on installation of pedestal metering equipment, see *City Light Construction Standard 1561.05, "Underground Residential Service Entrances"* in the [Standards for Electric Service](#).

### 6.6. Meter Height, Working Space, and Clearance Requirements

All meter installations must meet the requirements as specified in SCL 1554.33 and SCL 1554.42.

For more information on meter height, working space, and clearance requirements, see *City Light Construction Standard 1554.33, Meter Mounting Configurations, Heights, Working Space, and Clearances, Exterior (Outdoor)* and *City Light Construction Standard 1554.42, Meter Height, Dedicated Equipment Space, Working Space, and Clearances, Equipment Rooms* in the [Standards for Electric Service](#).

### 6.7. Service Entrance Equipment Sequencing

#### 6.7.1. Single Self-Contained Meter Installation

The [meter socket](#) must be installed ahead of the fused disconnect/circuit breaker. A fused disconnect/circuit breaker cannot precede the meter except in certain multi-unit installations (described below).

[Pedestal](#) metering must not contain the [customer's](#) main disconnect.

#### 6.7.2. Multi-Unit Self-Contained Meter Installations

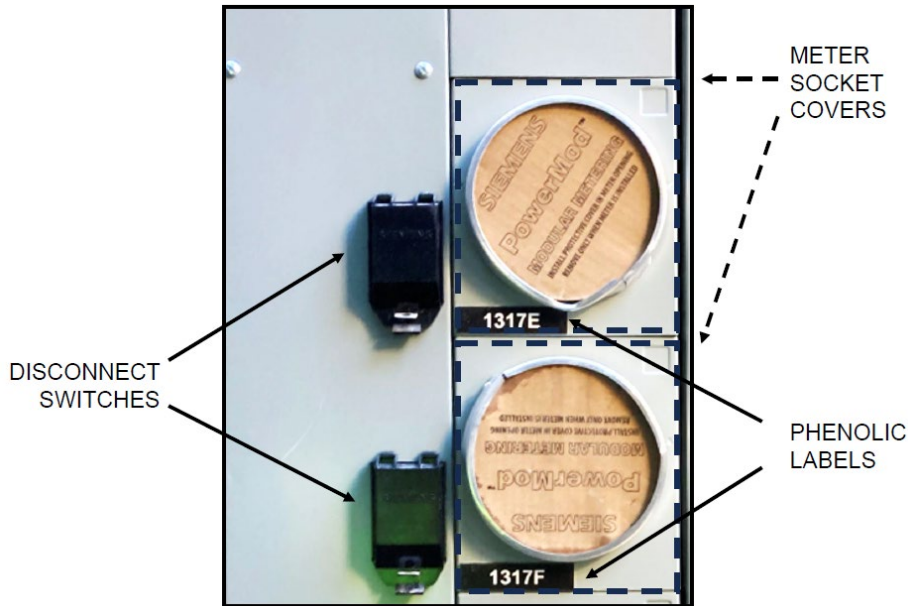
A main disconnect/breaker may be installed ahead of the [meter sockets](#) in multi-unit installations of two or more individual sockets provided that all equipment ahead of the meters has sealing provisions.

The breaker must be the common trip type, i.e., must open or close all ungrounded [conductors](#) simultaneously. The breaker must be constructed to prevent being changed to a non-trip type.

## 6.8. Metering Requirements for Multi-Unit Buildings

Prior to meter installation, all [meter sockets](#) must be identified with permanent labeling by final space or unit number, letter designation, and/or street address. Meter sockets must have engraved phenolic nameplates affixed to the socket covers. Nameplates must be placed directly beneath the meter socket on the side closest to the disconnect switch. See Figure 6.8.

**Figure 6.8. Phenolic Nameplate Placement**



**Note:** Felt-tip pens and label-maker tape are not considered permanent marking.

Permanent numbering of the separately metered spaces or units is required. If it is not practical before meter installation, the [customer](#) must provide weather-resistant, temporary identification at the main entrance of the space for the purpose of performing [space checks](#).

All multi-unit services must have at least one meter for each legal dwelling unit. Where common load exists, an additional house meter is required.

All [accessory dwelling units \(ADUs\)](#) without separate metering, and/or units found to have mixed or common loads will be billed in the owner's name.

City Light-conducted space checks are required for all new and rewired multi-unit services to verify socket-to-unit panel wiring.

After the initial service installation, all additional space checks, address changes, and mixed-load checks will be charged to the owner or person making the request.

Service capacity determination will be based upon the greatest aggregate nameplate ratings of each fused disconnect or circuit breaker.

Please see the appendix document, "Contractor's Pre-Installation Checklist Multi-Unit Metering," for more information.

For information on meter height, working space, and clearances for equipment (meter) rooms, see *City Light Construction Standard 1554.42, Meter Height, Dedicated Equipment Space, Working Space, and Clearances, Equipment Rooms* in the [Standards for Electric Service](#).

## 6.9. Current Transformers

### 6.9.1. Current Transformer-Rated Metering

[Current transformers](#) (CTs) and/or voltage transformers are required on all services that exceed 225 A. See Figure 6.9.1 for a typical CT service.

**Exceptions:** (1) residential services with 400 A services that use class 320 metering, and (2) remote metering with services under 225 A.

**Figure 6.9.1. CT Service, Typical**



All transformer-rated meter sockets must have test switch provisions.

## 6.9.2. Landing Pads and Enclosures

[Current transformer](#) enclosures must contain only [service conductors](#), [metering equipment](#), and meter conductors. They must not be used as a [junction box](#), [gutter](#), or [raceway](#) for the purpose of making taps. Line-side taps are not allowed.

**Exception:** Taps must be allowed on the load side of the [customer's landing pads](#) to accommodate emergency services, fire pumps, and/or elevator ventilation systems as allowed by local/national fire codes.

All services rated at 800 A or less that use current transformer landing pads having mechanical lug provisions for termination of line and load conductors. Landing pads must be centrally mounted in the current transformer enclosure and the conductors will enter and leave near the corners.

**Note:** If terminations cannot be made in accordance with manufacturer requirements and/or equipment listing, a bus gutter will be required to accommodate additional taps.

The minimum size of current transformer enclosures must be as follows:

- Single-phase 400 A or under: 24 inches wide x 48 inches high x 11 inches deep
- Single-phase over 400 A: 36 inches wide x 48 inches high x 11 inches deep
- Three-phase: 36 inches wide x 48 inches high x 11 inches deep

**Note:** Larger current transformer enclosures may be necessary depending on the [National Electric Code \(NEC\)](#) requirements for conductor bends.

All landing pads must be of heavy-duty type with minimum (AIC) fault duty rating of 50,000 A rms symmetrical. They must be UL labeled.

The cover of the current transformer enclosure or [switchgear](#) must be side-hinged and have provisions for locks and [seals](#). Hinges must be built so that they cannot be disassembled from the outside of the enclosure.

The top of the current transformer enclosure must not be higher than 7 feet and the bottom must not be lower than 6 inches from the finished grade or floor.

Connection to the grounded service conductor ([neutral](#)) must not be used to bond current transformer enclosures. Bonding must be derived from the service main grounding point.

### 6.9.3. Secondary Wiring

The [customer](#) must provide a 1-inch minimum [conduit](#) between the [current transformer](#) enclosure and the [meter socket](#). A maximum of 360 degrees of bends is allowable. For metering runs over 75 feet, a 1-1/4-inch minimum conduit is required. Conduit shall be on the hinged side of the enclosure.

[Junction boxes](#) and condulets are not allowed in conduit runs for secondary metering [conductors](#).

The customer must provide metering secondary conductors, leaving 8 feet of wire (from the top front edge of the enclosure door on the hinged side) in the current transformer enclosure and 2 feet of wire in the socket enclosure.

**Exception:** City Light will provide the metering secondary conductors when the socket is within 10 feet of the current transformer enclosure.

All secondary conduit runs over 75 feet must have prior approval by the City Light Technical Metering Unit. Conduit runs beyond 250 feet are not permitted.

The conductor colors for CT metering secondary runs are as follows:

- Single-phase: 1 black, 1 red, #12 solid conductor (voltage)
- 1 black, 1 red and 1 white #10 solid conductor (current)
- 1 green #12 solid conductor (bonding)
- Three-phase: 1 black, 1 red, 1 blue, 1 white, #12 solid conductor (voltage)
- 1 black, 1 red, 1 blue, 1 white #10 solid conductor (current)
- 1 green #12 solid conductor (bonding)

For secondary runs over 75 feet the current conductors need to be sized as follows:

- #8 stranded conductors for current circuits from 75 feet to 150 feet
- #6 stranded conductors for current circuits from 150 feet to 250 feet

## 6.10. Switchgear

### 6.10.1. General

City Light's Technical Metering Unit will provide the [customer](#) with specific information on metering requirements for individual projects after they have reviewed plans submitted by the customer. Prints or drawings of the [metering equipment](#) must be submitted and approved by City Light prior to manufacture when the equipment is to be installed in [switchgear](#). The drawings need to show the sequence of compartments, dimensions of the gear and manufacturer information.

### 6.10.2. Switchgear Operating at Voltages Up to and Including 480 V

Multiple self-contained metering: the clear space around each [meter socket](#) will not be less than 1 inch at the top and the sides, and not less than 2 inches at the bottom.

All clearances must meet requirements specified in *City Light Construction Standard 1554.42, Meter Height, Dedicated Equipment Space, Working Space, and Clearances, Equipment Rooms* in the [Standards for Electric Service](#).

The termination [cabinet](#), [current transformer cabinet](#), and any other switchgear section exclusively under City Light's control must not contain any [customer](#) equipment that requires servicing, control wiring or load monitoring equipment. These sections must contain only service entrance [conductors/bus](#) and City Light [metering equipment](#). For further information contact your City Light Representative.

Permanent switchboard metered services must not have the electric meter located on the switchboard door adjacent to the current transformer compartment. The meter must be located in a remote single meter socket with a test switch provision on the nearest possible wall.

**Note:** Permanent engraved phenolic unit or equipment designation labeling is required at both the meter socket and the switchboard.

### 6.10.3. Switchgear Operating at Voltages Greater Than 480 V

Contact your City Light Representative for requirements and construction guidelines.

## 6.11. Master Metering

City Light will not supply electricity for any new service to a duplex or [multiple dwelling building](#) for the purpose of [master metering](#) the energy usage of the dwelling units, a central space heating system, or a central domestic water heating system, per [Seattle Municipal Code 21.49.110 E](#). City Light will not supply electricity for any upgraded service to an existing duplex or multi-unit building for the purpose of master metering new central or individual space heating systems.

An owner-occupied dwelling unit also containing an additional "accessory housing unit" meeting all provisions as defined in [Seattle Municipal Code 23.44](#) and approved by the City of Seattle will be allowed to master meter.

Master metering is required for boat moorages but prohibited for houseboats.

## 6.12. Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) for Meter Rooms

Where meter rooms are vertically stacked, a 2-inch Schedule 40 PVC [conduit](#) pathway connecting all of the meter rooms must be provided for the Advanced Metering antenna cable. Lateral meter rooms should also be tied into the vertical distribution stack whenever possible.

The conduit must have a maximum of 360 degrees in total bends.

A 1/8-inch minimum nylon zip tie pull string is to be provided in the conduit.

All connection cables for Advanced Meters will be provided by City Light and installed by the [customer](#). City Light will make all connections.

Cables must be in contiguous runs, without splices, unless otherwise approved by City Light.

In either the top-most or bottom-most meter room (including sub-grade meter rooms), provide a 2-inch Schedule 40 PVC conduit to a [NEMA](#) 3R enclosure (enclosure must be at least 8 in x 8 in x 6 in) mounted on exterior of the building. The conduit must have a maximum of 360 degrees in total bends and be no more than 100 feet of total length.

A 1/8-inch minimum nylon zip tie pull string is to be provided in the conduit.

NEMA 3R enclosure must be mounted in a location that is approved by City Light and is safe to access. NEMA 3R enclosure must be mounted between 14 and 20 feet above ground level unless roof top access is available and can be accessed without hazard/restraint.

In the meter room with conduit to the exterior of building, the customer must provide a 2 ft x 2 ft x 3/4-inch plywood mounting board with dedicated duplex receptacle:

- Plywood must be mounted on wall adjacent to meter (or meter bank) less than 20 linear feet from closest meter.
- The bottom edge of the plywood mounting board must be between 4 and 6 feet above floor level.
- A dedicated 120 V, 15 A duplex power receptacle must be located below the plywood mounting board.

### **6.13. Communications Provisions for Large Metered Loads**

New or enlarged commercial/industrial services served by a single meter with loads that are expected to reach 1 megawatt or more, or that will be [totalized](#), are required to have an analog phone line or communications line that meets City Light requirements at the point of metering. The [customer](#) must own, install, and maintain the analog phone/communications line.

Totalizing is permitted per [Seattle Municipal Code 21.49.010](#). For more information, contact your City Light Representative.

Where totalized metering is permitted, the customer must install the totalizing circuitry. [Meter totalizing](#) must meet the Utility's criteria and be approved by City Light before [metering equipment](#) will be installed



#### **6.14. Temporary Totalized Metering**

At City Light's discretion, Temporary Totalized Metering may be utilized to capture a [customer's](#) total consumption for billing purposes. This temporary metering will generally apply to a project during initial construction but may be used when a customer is altering or upgrading their [service entrance equipment](#).

All required equipment for this metering will be the sole responsibility of City Light, and all metered consumption will be billed in accordance with the appropriate rate schedule.

If a customer completes a Temporary Totalized Metering Agreement Form with the assistance of the appropriate City Light Representative, they will be allowed to shunt self-contained [meter sockets](#) prior to installation of the permanent metering.

Once the facility is ready for permanent meter installation, it is the responsibility of the property owner to contact City Light and ensure that all metering facilities are prepared according to City Light specifications, including the Multi-Unit Pre-metering Checklist. Failure to meet these requirements may result in fines, additional trip charges, and installation delays.

Communications provisions for Large Metered Loads are in no way altered or impacted by the requirements of the Temporary Totalized Meter specifications.

#### **6.15. Net Metering**

City Light allows [net metering](#) on approved customer generation installations of up to 100 [kW](#) AC in most areas of the service territory. For more information, see Chapter 5, Distributed Energy Resources.

## 7. Motors and Special Loads

### 7.1. Introduction

Some of City Light's large commercial or industrial customers may require motors or special loads. This chapter identifies the City Light requirements related to motors and special loads.

All motor equipment must conform to the standards of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association ([NEMA](#)).

City Light requires detailed information about new motor load installations.

At time of application for service, the customer must provide suitable protective devices on all motor installations, including protection against single phasing on polyphase motors.

### 7.2. Motor-Starting Limits and Interference

The customer's use of electricity must not interfere with the quality of their own service and must not interfere with the quality of service to other customers. If any motor and associated device(s) cause interference with its owner's or another customer's electrical service, the owner of the motor/device is responsible for taking corrective action at their own expense. Conforming to the requirements does not assure that interference problems will not occur.

Interference problems may arise when:

- The customer needs voltage control within unusually close tolerances
- There is an unbalance of single-phase and three-phase loads
- Where the customer intermittently switches large loads on and off, such as electric boilers, heaters, or motors

### 7.3. Voltage Flicker

[Voltage flicker](#) is defined as the subjective impression of fluctuating luminance caused by [voltage](#) fluctuations. It is caused by momentary motor starting currents, switching currents, or by [fault current](#) of the distribution system.

The customer is required to adhere to City Light-established voltage flicker limits.

For more information, see *City Light Construction Standard 0041.05, Voltage Flicker Limits* in the [Standards for Electric Service](#).

#### 7.4. Starting Limitations on Single-Phase Motors

One-half horsepower or larger motors on recurrent starting with more than one start per hour, such as those operating water pumps or furnace blowers, must be served at not less than 240 V (208 V in the Network system). Single-phase motors must not exceed the maximum [locked rotor currents](#) listed in tables 7.4a and 7.4b, unless approved in writing by City Light.

**TABLE 7.4a. SINGLE-PHASE MOTOR MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE LOCKED ROTOR CURRENTS**

Rated Size (hp)	At 208 V	At 240 V
5	149 A	129 A

**TABLE 7.4b. SINGLE-PHASE HERMETIC REFRIGERANT MOTOR COMPRESSOR MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE LOCKED ROTOR CURRENTS (FROM NEMA STANDARDS)**

Rated Size (hp)	Motor Size (hp)	208 V (Network Only)	240 V
5	5	200 A	173 A

#### 7.5. Starting Limitations on Polyphase Motors for Secondary Services

Across-the-line starting of 15-horsepower motors or less will be permitted for starting currents less than values in Table 7.5. Reduced starting current devices must be required on all motors exceeding a 15 hp nameplate rating, or motors started more frequently than one start per hour.

Upon failure to install the required starting device, City Light will disconnect the service until it is acceptable. Reconnection must be at the customer’s expense.

**TABLE 7.5. POLYPHASE MOTOR MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE LOCKED ROTOR CURRENT (DERIVED FROM NEMA STANDARDS)**

Rated Size (hp)	120/208Y, Three-Phase (A)	120/240, Three-Phase (A)	277/480Y, Three-Phase (A)	240/480 Open Delta (A)
15	250	125	108	63

**Note:** Starting devices may be omitted on smaller motors of a group installation when the omission does not result in a starting current in excess of the starting current limits shown.

#### 7.6. Electric Power Regeneration Due to Motor Drive/Control

Regeneration of electric power while braking, or upon motoring-down, must not exceed circuit loading at the common point of termination unless the operation has been approved by City Light. Typically, regeneration is intermittent and can cause mis-operation of the distribution system which may jeopardize worker safety.

### **7.7. Maximum Switched Load**

The maximum increment of load to be switched as a unit will be 90 [kVA](#), three-phase or 30 kVA, single-phase. Loads in excess of these amounts may require the customer to furnish and install special switching equipment to reduce the magnitude of unit loads to be cycled on and off.

### **7.8. Welding Equipment**

Welding equipment must conform to the standard of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association ([NEMA](#)).

### **7.9. Minimum Power-Factor Limitations**

#### **7.9.1. Lighting**

Low power-factor lighting, such as LED, neon, mercury vapor, and fluorescent, must have suitable auxiliary equipment to provide a [power factor](#) of not less than 97% lagging at the meter location.

#### **7.9.2. 85% Minimum Power Factor**

The minimum [power factor](#) per billing cycle must be at least 97% lagging and always above 85% lagging at the meter location. Any auxiliary power factor correction equipment must be switched with the load so that at no time will it supply leading Volt Ampere Reactive (VAR) to the City Light distribution system unless there is written approval by City Light.

#### **7.9.3. Capacitor Control**

Capacitors installed by the customer for power-factor correction must be switched by automatic means so that the capacitors will be switched off during periods of reduced load.

## 8. Emergency Backup: Generators and Energy Storage Systems

### 8.1. Introduction

Emergency backup equipment may be either fossil-fuel-based generators, or energy storage systems (such as a battery system), which would be used to supply electricity to a [customer](#) or customers during a power outage. Such equipment must be configured to never [operate in parallel](#) with the City Light electrical grid.

If energy storage systems are configured so they may operate in parallel to the City Light electrical grid, this chapter is not pertinent. Instead, they will be considered Distributed Energy Resources and must file an [interconnection](#) application with City Light. See Chapter 5 for information on City Light's interconnection requirements. Most battery storage systems, whether in hybrid designs with solar or in standalone designs, are configured to operate in parallel, even if their main purpose for customers is power supply during grid outages.

Emergency backup systems must comply with all applicable [NEC](#) codes, such as NEC Article 445 for Generators, NEC Article 700 for Emergency Systems, NEC Article 701 for Legally Required Standby Systems, and NEC Article 702 for Optional Standby systems.

### 8.2. Inverter-Based Emergency Backup Systems

All [inverter](#)-based emergency backup systems must have batteries as their energy source.

### 8.3. Transfer Switches

All emergency backup generators and energy storage systems must have a transfer switch that prevents the [interconnection](#) of the emergency backup generator or energy storage system with the City Light electrical grid.

Transfer switches must be the "open transition" type.

Specifications and drawings of the open transition switch must be submitted to City Light as part of the application process for electric service connection.

## 9. Maintenance of Equipment and Facilities

### 9.1. Introduction

This chapter describes the division of responsibility between City Light and the [customer](#) for the maintenance of equipment. Table 9.1 shows distribution of responsibility by category.

**TABLE 9.1. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES**

#### Customer

- All masts, brackets, [conduits](#), and other [service entrance equipment](#)
- Installation of conduit and trenching to the City Light-designated point of connection to the system
- Equipment on the load side of the meter
- Customer-owned poles installed by City Light; this maintenance will be at the customer’s expense
- Any other equipment for which the customer is assigned responsibility in written agreements between City Light and the customer, including transformer vaults, pads, fences, bollards, and related structures and equipment
- Vegetation to ensure a 3-ft radius of space for overhead conductors from the [service pole](#) to the [weatherhead](#); if there is a [transformer](#) on the service pole, the customer is not responsible for any vegetation in a 4-ft area around the transformer
- Underground services, as follows:
  - **Services in conduit:** City Light will provide new service wire if the existing conductors fail. The City Light crew will pull out the old wire and install new service wire provided they are able to remove the old conductors.  
**Note:** If the conduit has been damaged or rusted, the wires may not be able to be removed. The customer will be responsible for replacing the conduit run.
  - **Services without conduit:** In situations where the service wire is buried in the ground without conduit (“[direct-buried](#)”) and the service fails, City Light 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.

**Note:** Only one repair will be attempted per service drop. If additional faults occur, the customer will be responsible for replacing the failed service with a service in conduit that meets City Light standards.

#### City Light

- All vegetation pole-to-pole
- All City Light-owned and installed poles and anchors
- All meters, [instrument transformers](#), and related equipment; see Chapter 6, Metering

## **9.2. Charges**

There will be no charges for installing underground [service conductors](#) on existing services for replacement due to failure. Except where 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.

## **9.3. Temporary Restoration of Service**

City Light may restore service on a temporary basis until the customer completes the necessary work so City Light can replace the [service conductors](#). If City Light 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.

## Glossary

**ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT (ADU):** A separate living space within a house or on the same property as an existing house. These units are not legal unless they have been established through a permit process. A legally permitted unit in the home is called an attached accessory dwelling unit (**AADU**). A legally permitted unit on the property (but not within the home) is called a detached accessory dwelling unit (**DADU**) or backyard cottage. Tiny houses, with foundations, are considered DADUs.

**AMPERES:** The base unit of electric current.

**AMPACITY:** Current-carrying capacity measured in amperes.

**ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT:** In discussions of metering equipment, the term includes the meter socket, instrument enclosures, test switches, and other equipment.

**AUTHORITY HAVING JURISDICTION:** Refers to the local jurisdiction which permits and inspects electrical services. In the City of Seattle, this is the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspection (SDCI).

**BALANCED:** When loads or phase currents on a three-phase circuit are equal.

**BRIDLED SERVICE:** An overhead service wire originating from one Utility pole that uses a guy wire from an adjacent pole to change the route of the service drop to the service entrance attachment point.

**BUS (BAR):** Flat metallic conductor housed within switchgear or an enclosure.

**CABINET:** An enclosure designed for surface or flush mounting and provided with a frame, mat or trim, and swinging doors. Cabinets are usually employed to contain panel boards.

**CONNECTION:** A one-way electric service connection between the utility and the customer. See Interconnection.

**CONDUCTOR:** A material that allows electricity to move through it easily. A wire, cable, bar, rod, or tube that serves as a path for electricity to flow. The most common conductor used by City Light is overhead wire.

**CONDUIT:** A UL-labeled wireway with a smooth interior surface that permits easy drawing in of the electrical conductors.

**CURRENT:** The electrical current is simply a measure of how much electricity passes a given point in a fixed amount of time. It is measured in amperes.

**CURRENT TRANSFORMER (CT):** A transformer used in instrumentation to assist in measuring current.

**CUSTOMER:** Any person, firm, corporation, government agency, or other entity that uses, has used, or has contracted for electric service from City Light.

**DEMAND:** The amount of electricity drawn from an electrical system at a given time, measured in kW's; the amount of power required to meet the customer's load at a given instant or averaged over any designated interval of time, expressed in kilowatts or megawatts.



**DEVELOPMENT SITE:** A piece of land to which all the development standards for land use, building, and electrical systems are applied.

**DIRECT-BURIED:** The installation of electric conductors in a trench without the use of a conduit. Direct burial installations are no longer accepted by City Light.

**DRIP LOOP:** A downward loop in the customer's conductors, near where the customer's conductors attach to the Utility's overhead conductors, to prevent water from entering the service at the weatherhead.

**EASEMENT:** See Service Easement.

**ELECTRIC SERVICE:** All service conductors (primary and secondary), transformers, and distribution system equipment for delivering electric energy from City Light's supply system to the wiring system of the premises.

**FAULT CURRENT:** A current that flows between conductors or between a conductor and a ground because of an abnormal connection between the two.

**GENERAL SERVICE:** Any service that is not residential, as defined by the [Seattle Municipal Code](#).

**GROUND ROD:** An approved metal rod or pipe placed in the ground to which electric connection can be made in order to maintain earth potential on equipment.

**GROUP INSTALLATION:** An installation that includes more than one electrical device, such as panels, meters, motors, etc., connected together by a common electric circuit.

**GUTTER:** See Wiring Gutter.

**GUYING FACILITY:** Cables or braces used to relieve stress on masts and poles.

**HANDHOLE:** A permanently installed protective enclosure (usually below grade), which is used for gaining access to electrical conductors for the purpose of pulling, splicing, or terminating.

**HERTZ (Hz):** A unit of frequency equal to one cycle per second; refers to the frequency of alternating current (ac).

**HIGH LEG:** In a four-wire Delta service, the phase leg that is at higher potential/voltage to ground than the other two-phase legs. Also called the wild leg or the delta leg.

**INSTRUMENT TRANSFORMER:** Current and/or voltage transformers used in connection with metering and control devices.

**INTERCONNECTION:** A type of electric service connection in which the customer has installed a Distributed Energy Resource and has entered into an Interconnection Agreement with City Light. See Ch. 5, Distributed Energy Resources.

**INTERCONNECTION FACILITY:** Electrical wires, switches, metering, and other equipment owned by City Light or the customer and used to interconnect a DER to the electrical grid. Interconnection facilities are located between the DER and the point of termination. These facilities do not include system upgrades.

**INVERTER:** An electronic device used to change dc current into ac current.

**INVERTER-BASED RESOURCE:** A DER that relies on one or more power electronic devices that convert direct current power to alternating current power by means of electronic switching. These resources include, but are not limited to, solar photovoltaic systems and battery energy storage systems.

**JUNCTION BOX:** A box, which may be metallic or non-metallic, that has openings in the sides and back and is used to protect and support electrical wire connections or conductor splices.

**KCMIL:** One thousand circular mils; a measurement of wire size.

**KEYBOX:** A permanently installed lock box with keys enclosed. Keyboxes allow City Light personnel to gain access to a customer's premises for the purpose of reading, installing, servicing, or removing City Light system components.

**KILOWATT (kW):** One thousand watts; a standard measure of demand for power or capacity.

**KILOWATT HOUR (kWh):** The standard unit of measure for electric energy. One kilowatt-hour is one kilowatt of electricity supplied for one hour.

**KILOVOLT AMPERE (kVA):** A rating that designates the output which a transformer can deliver at rated voltage and frequency without exceeding a specified temperature rise.

**LANDING PADS:** Hardware upon which current transformers are mounted in the CT can.

**LOCKED ROTOR CURRENT:** Steady-state current drawn by a motor with the rated voltage and frequency applied and the rotor locked in a stationary position. This is the maximum current the motor will draw.

**MANDREL:** A tapered, or cylindrical, spindle inserted into, and pulled through the distance of, the installed conduit run for clearing the conduit run of foreign material.

**MASTER METER:** Any single meter that measures the electrical consumption of all units or subdivisions of a building.

**MACHINE-BASED GENERATION RESOURCE:** A generator that converts mechanical energy into electrical energy. This resource category includes, but is not limited to, synchronous and asynchronous generators. Typical fossil fuel turbine- or reciprocating engine-based generation systems are examples of synchronous generators. Typical wind turbine and run-of-the-river hydropower systems are examples of asynchronous generators.

**METER SOCKET:** A receptacle for the installation of an electric meter.

**METER TOTALIZING:** See Totalized Metering.

**METERING EQUIPMENT:** Any equipment used to measure electrical energy.

**MICROGRID:** A group of interconnected loads and DERs within clearly defined electrical boundaries that acts as a single controllable entity with respect to the electrical grid.

**MOTOR STARTING LIMITATIONS:** Limits placed by City Light on maximum starting current of electric motors.

**MULTIPLE DWELLING BUILDING:** Any building or any portion of the building which contains three or more dwelling units, occupied with provisions for living, sleeping, cooking, and sanitation.

**NAMEPLATE CAPACITY (DER-related):** The rated capacity of a DER measured in AC. For an inverter-based DER, nameplate capacity is the combined rated capacity in AC of the inverter(s) that are part of the DER.

**NEC:** National Electric Code.

**NEMA:** The National Electrical Manufacturers Association.

**NET METERING:** A method of crediting customers for electricity that they generate on site in excess of their own electricity consumption.

**NETWORK SERVICE AREAS:** Network service areas are designed to provide redundancy and continuity of service in the case of outages and include protective devices to prevent backfeed onto the grid. Network service areas exist in Downtown Seattle, First Hill, South Lake Union, and parts of the University District.

**NEUTRAL:** The grounded conductor of a single-phase, 3-wire or 3-phase, 4-wire system. The identified conductor that is at zero potential/voltage to ground.

**NON-INDUCTIVE LOAD:** An electrical load consisting entirely of resistance.

**OPERATE / OPERATING IN PARALLEL:** The synchronous operation of a Distributed Energy Resource (DER) while interconnected with the City Light electrical grid.

**OVERCURRENT:** An overcurrent is a current exceeding the rated current. An overcurrent can be due to overloading a circuit, a fault, or a short circuit.

**OXIDE INHIBITOR:** A compound used to retard oxidation on electrical connections where aluminum conductors are used.

**PEDESTAL:** A free-standing structure used exclusively to support or contain electrical metering equipment and/or customer service equipment.

**POINT OF ATTACHMENT:** The point at which City Light's service conductors are attached to a structure by an approved service bracket.

**POWER FACTOR:** The ratio of true power (kilowatts) to the apparent power (kilovolt-amperes) for any given load and time.

**PRIMARY SERVICE:** Any service that exceeds the maximum secondary service capacity shown in Table 3.4. These services require transformers or primary metering enclosures to be located in vaults or on pads located on the customer's property.

**PRIVATE PROPERTY:** Land owned in fee-simple title by an individual, individuals, or corporations.

**PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY:** Land set aside and designated for use by the public for common access and City Light functions, such as streets, alleys, boulevards, and walkways.

**RACEWAY:** An enclosed channel for holding wires or cables.

**RECLOSER:** A complex form of circuit breaker which protects electrical systems from temporary voltage surges and other unfavorable conditions. In addition to preventing electrical overloads from passing through a circuit, reclosers can automatically “reclose” the circuit and restore normal power transmission once the problem is cleared.

**RESIDENCE:** A single-family dwelling.

**SECONDARY SERVICE:** Services where the load is served from transformers in the right-of-way or easement areas that meet the requirements defined in Table 3.4.

**SERVICE BRACKET:** Approved insulators installed by the customer to provide a mechanical termination for the overhead service wires from the City Light distribution system to the customer’s structure.

**SERVICE CONDUCTORS:** Extend from the City Light distribution system to the point of service connection at the customer’s property or facility.

**SERVICE EASEMENT:** A right acquired by City Light to construct, operate, maintain, reconstruct, and alter overhead or underground electric facilities on private property, including property owned by another public agency.

**SEAL:** A locking device to secure a meter or other service equipment.

**SERVICE ENTRANCE CAPACITY:** The rating in amperes of the customer’s service equipment.

**SERVICE ENTRANCE EQUIPMENT:** Service conduit, conductors, weatherhead, meter socket, and load center.

**SERVICE MAST:** For overhead service, the conduit above the meter used to provide mechanical protection for the customer’s service conductors, and to support the service drop from the City Light distribution system.

**SERVICE POLE:** A pole necessary to provide adequate clearance and support of the service drop.

**SERVICE RATING:** The size (in amperes) of the service entrance equipment.

**SERVICE STRIKE:** The overhead point of attachment for City Light’s service drop to be attached to the customer’s conductors.

**SERVICE STUB:** An underground conduit to be used in the future to pull conductors to the customer’s property.

**SHORT PLAT:** A short subdivision; a division of land into two to nine lots. See [Seattle Municipal Code 23.24](#).

**SPACE CHECK:** In new construction, a field check is performed by City Light to verify that the metering designations assigned by the contractor are correct as to which unit each meter is serving.

**SPOT NETWORK:** A spot network is a network service composed of three or four primary circuits in a vault that are connected together on the secondary side of the transformers and is not interconnected with a distributed grid outside the vault.

**STEP-DOWN TRANSFORMER:** A device that lowers voltages: the high voltage winding is connected to the input or power source and the low voltage winding to the output or load.

**SWITCHGEAR:** The switches, fused switches, or circuit breakers used for disconnecting an electrical circuit.

**SYSTEM UPGRADES (DER-related):** Additions, modifications, and upgrades to the electrical grid at or beyond the point of termination necessary to interconnect the DER. System upgrades do not include interconnection facilities.

**TEMPORARY SERVICE:** A customer's service panel energized by City Light on a temporary basis for construction purposes.

**THREE-PHASE, FOUR-WIRE SERVICE:** Voltage is carried through three conductors 120° out of phase with the other two. Three-phase power provides a more efficient means of supplying large electrical loads like motors.

**TOTALIZED METERING:** Totalized Metering (Adjacent or Remote) is the measurement for billing purposes on the appropriate rate, through one meter, of the simultaneous demands and energy of a customer. Totalizing can be permanent or temporary.

**TRANSFORMER:** Referring to a voltage transformer; a stationary device that increases or decreases the voltage in an electrical system, through the use of primary and secondary coils.

**TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT:** A legal agreement that is required in cases where City Light cannot access the in-building vault to install and remove its transformers. The building owner assumes the responsibility for moving the transformers.

**UNIT LOT SUBDIVISION:** Subdivision of land to build townhouses, cottage housing developments, and single-family residences where such uses are permitted. The development as a whole, i.e., the parent lot, meets applicable development standards. As a result of the subdivision, the unit lot developments are allowed to be non-conforming to some developmental standards. See [Seattle Municipal Code 23.22.062](#).

**UTILITY:** Seattle City Light ("City Light").

**VAULT:** An approved chamber for electrical equipment. Vaults must meet City Light construction requirements.

**VOLTAGE:** The pressure behind the flow of electricity, measured in volts.

**VOLTAGE FLICKER:** The subjective impression of fluctuating luminance caused by voltage fluctuations. It is caused by momentary motor starting currents, switching currents, or by fault current of the distribution system.

**WAC:** Washington Administrative Code.

**WATT:** A unit of measure of electric power.

**WEATHERHEAD:** Rain tight conduit fitting installed on the top of the overhead service mast.

**WIRE TROUGH:** A sheet metal channel/enclosure with a removable cover used to connect two electrical cabinets or as a standalone assembly to house insulated electrical conductors.

**WIRING GUTTER:** A box with a removable face for electrical wires to run through. Wire gutters are used when a single large cable serves several electrical meters. The cable entering the wiring gutter is distributed and connected to the other services. The box is lockable and sealed by City Light.

**WORKING PLATFORM:** A safe, clear, unobstructed floor area with safe access to all electric equipment, protected according to [WAC 296-24-75007](#).

**WORKING SPACE:** An area free of any obstructions in front of meters, service panels, and electric equipment for providing safe access to install, remove, or repair all electrical devices. A safe working space must meet the requirements of the National and City Electrical Codes.

# Appendix: Multi-Unit Metering Pre-Job Checklist

- 1. Certificate of Occupancy**- Proof of issuance provided to ESR/ESE for approval. *Note: Only applies to buildings with a Temporary Totalizing Meter (TTM).*
- 2. Parking** - Adequate parking is available close to the metering location. (SCL Meter Crews need to park for the duration of the work due to the amount of equipment that needs to be transported).
- 3. Access** - The meter rooms and passageways are clean and clear of all equipment/debris.
- 4. Lighting** - Adequate lighting is provided by the contractor to safely perform the work.
- 5. Meter Base Labels** - Meter bases shall have engraved phenolic nameplates installed on the cover of the meter socket identifying the final space or unit number, letter designation, and/or street address. *Note: Felt-tip pens and label marker tape are not permanent markings.*
- 6. Unit Labels**- All units receiving meters shall have at least temporary identification at the main entrance of the space. *Note: It is imperative to notify the Electrical Service Representative/Engineer (ESR/ESE) if the address changes after meter installation.*
- 7. Panels Safe to Energize** - All unit electrical distribution panels have been approved for service by an electrical code inspector and are safe to energize. *Note: These panels must be energized to perform space checks at the time of meter installation.*
- 8. Electrical Contractor on Site** - Electricians are available at the time of meter installation to operate breakers or switches and install/remove panel covers as needed.
- 9. Access for Space Check** - All units are safe and accessible to perform space checks at the time of meter installation.
- 10. Key Box Installed** - *Note: The key box without a cover will be provided by the ESR/ESE.*

Project Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: Superintendent

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: City Light ESR/ESE

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_