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## Customer Requirements for Trenching in the Right-of-Way

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### 1. Scope

This standard covers the customer requirements for trenching in the public right-of-way for underground electric service conduit installation.

Trenching in private property is outside the scope of this standard.

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### 2. Application

This standard is for Seattle City Light (SCL) engineers, crews, Electric Service Representatives (ESRs), Electric Service Engineers (ESEs), customers, and contractors who design and/or construct underground conduit that requires trenching in the public right-of-way.

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### 3. Definitions

**Trenching:** Excavation, backfill and surface restoration necessary for the installation of conduit.

**Public Right-of-Way:** Property dedicated to public use outside of private property lines.

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### 4. Requirements

#### 4.1 General

Trenching in the public right-of-way within the SCL service area shall be done in accordance with SCL Standards and SCL Requirements Letter with job-specific requirements.

All work must also adhere to the requirements per the City of Seattle Right-of-Way Improvements Manual, Streets Illustrated, and the City of Seattle Standard Plans for Municipal Construction, which are the comprehensive resources for requirements, procedures, standards, and guidelines affecting physical changes in the public rights-of-way or the requirements of the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) if outside Seattle city limits.

All other project-related work, including excavation, backfill, and surface restoration shall also meet the requirements of the above-stated SCL standards and SCL Requirements Letter with job-specific requirements.

A qualified SCL electrical worker is required as a safety standby whenever entry into an energized SCL facility is needed, regardless of the voltage.



The customer/contractor shall be responsible for calling the “One-Call” locator service and for notifying all other utilities who may not subscribe to the One-Call locator service. A toll-free number, 1-800-424-5555, or “811” is available for notifying most Seattle area utilities, including those located in King County. This does not relieve the customer/contractor from notifying all other utilities of the intent to excavate. The customer/contractor must follow all the applicable state guidelines as specified in RCW 19.122.

#### **4.2 Permits**

The customer/contractor is responsible for obtaining necessary permits from the appropriate jurisdiction’s permit-issuing authority prior to commencing work.

SCL franchise cities and Unincorporated King County (UKC) areas served by SCL shall coordinate with the appropriate AHJ to obtain permits for their customers to trench in the public right-of-way as specified in the AHJ’s regulations.

If customers are not allowed to trench in the right-of-way by their respective county, franchise city, or UKC area, SCL will perform all service installation work per SCL’s work schedule in accordance with the Service Installations Policy, DPP 500 P III-417. SCL will obtain the permit and perform all civil construction work. This will be considered extraordinary work for which the customer shall be billed.

#### **4.3 Administrative Charges**

The contractor shall be responsible for administrative costs by the permit-issuing authority, and bonding requirements of both SCL and the permit-issuing authority.

SCL inspection and review charges, if applicable will be assessed in addition to those charged by other inspecting authorities.

#### **4.4 Inspections**

The customer/contractor is responsible for contacting an SCL Electric Service Representative or Electric Service Engineer to schedule inspections to ensure all workmanship is done in accordance with SCL construction standards.

All post-trenching backfill and surface restoration work shall be inspected by the customer’s associated AHJ.

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#### **5. References**

**State of Washington, Underground Utilities Law, 2011**; Chapter 263, codified in Chapter 19.122 RCW

**DPP 500 P III-417**; Service Installations

**City of Seattle Streets Illustrated Right-of-Way Improvements Manual**

**City of Seattle Standard Plans for Municipal Construction**

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#### **6. Sources**

**Lu, Curtis**; SCL Standards Engineer and originator of 0221.01 (curtis.lu@seattle.gov)

**DPP 500 P III-424** (canceled)