Temporary Service

Introduction

This Section provides information for installing a new temporary service.

Temporary service is defined as a means of supplying electricity to a site **for less than 12 months**. Usually a temporary service is installed to provide power during the construction phase of a project, while provisions are being made for permanent power.

Getting started

Installing temporary new electrical service to a home/building is a joint project between you (the member) and the Cooperative.

The Cooperative is responsible for installing the service lines to bring power to the temporary residence/building and for installing a meter in the meter socket.

The member needs to complete several items before the Cooperative can energize temporary service such as:

- Call the Cooperative at 1-800-698-2007 to begin the service order process.
- Install the required service equipment and structure.
- An on-site meeting with a Line Design Technician or other Cooperative representative.
- Obtain an electrical inspection and approval of the service equipment and structure. The call for this inspection is made by the member or the electrical contractor.
- After the electrical inspection is complete, call the Cooperative's Engineering Department to request that service be energized.

The remainder of this Section will assist with this process.

Overhead or underground service?

The two types of temporary services are overhead and underground. If the existing power system in the area is a series of poles as shown in Figure 1 on page 6, the area is served overhead, and the temporary service will typically be overhead. If the area is served underground, items such as those shown in Figures 2, 3 and 4 on page 6 should be visible. In this case, the temporary service will be underground.

If none of these items (Figures 1 through 3) shown on page 6 exist in the area, or for service other than 120/240 volts, 100-400 amps, single phase, or for answers to questions, call the Cooperative at 1-800-698-2007.

Inspections and codes

This handbook should be used only as a guide. It does not cover all federal, state, and local code requirements. It is the member's responsibility to ensure the project complies with the most recent issue of the National Electrical Code and any other federal, state, or local codes that apply.

Once the member's service equipment is installed, the state, or the city with jurisdiction, may require that the installation pass an electrical inspection before the Cooperative can complete the connection to the electrical system. The member is responsible for requesting and passing this inspection.

Underground locates

Three days prior to any trenching or excavation work, the member is required to call for underground utility locates. Underground utility locates are available by calling the Dig Safe Underground Location Center at 1-888-344-7233. The Center has established a system called the "One-Call" system. One call to Dig Safe will notify the utilities, or a locating service, that locates are required. However, in some areas, not all utilities are members of the One-Call system. In those areas, the member must contact the utilities individually.

There is no charge for this service.

To get a locate, call the Utilities Underground Location Center One-Call number, at 1-888-344-7233.

A color code system has been established to identify each utility so everyone can see what has been located. The color codes are:

Color	Utility
Red	Electric
Yellow	Gas/Oil
Orange	Telephone/Cable TV
Blue	Water
Green	Sewer
White	Area to be located

Any digging within 24 inches of either side of the location markings must be done by hand.

Meter socket requirements

For the latest listing of NHEC-approved meter sockets, go here and click on the List of Approved Meter Sockets:
www.nhec.com/education_incentiveprograms.php

Temporary Overhead Service

The process and costs of obtaining temporary overhead service varies, depending upon the location of the Cooperative's existing facilities. After meeting with the Co-op Representative in the field, the member installs the temporary service equipment and structure, has it inspected, and calls the Cooperative at 1-800-698-2007 to discuss fees and to order service. Once the above items are completed, service will usually be connected as soon as all required documentation, prepayments, and permits have been completed, and scheduling allows.

For help with technical questions about service in the area, call the Cooperative's Engineering Department.

Meter location

A temporary meter service structure should be located on the property within 50 feet of the power pole that will serve the site. This limitation ensures that the temporary service pole can withstand the weight of the conductor. If a distance greater than 50 feet is required, contact the Cooperative's Engineering Department for approval prior to construction. A taller post with additional bracing might be required. In all cases the post should be set in the ground a minimum of 3 feet deep.

In addition to the distance limitation mentioned above, consider the following:

- The path that the service line will take should not cross property belonging to others.
- If the service line will pass through trees or brush, a path for the line must be cleared to allow Cooperative service personnel to run the line and to allow lines to hang without contacting trees or limbs. *Maintaining this clear path is the member's responsibility.*
- The service line path should avoid areas where vehicular traffic will occur, unless the temporary service post height is increased to provide adequate clearance. See Spec. TS-1 on page 33 for clearance requirements.

The Cooperative will answer questions and advise on special situations.

Clearance requirements

The National Electrical Code (NEC) and the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) have established minimum clearance requirements to maintain safe height requirements for electrical conductors over various terrains.

The NEC and NESC require the lowest point of a service conductor to be at least 12 feet above the ground. The bottom of the drip loop must be a minimum of 10 feet above the ground. Figure 6 on page 10 shows the clearance requirements for the types of terrain most commonly encountered.

It is not the member's responsibility to string the conductor, but the point of attachment at the service structure must allow the Cooperative to install the conductor and maintain required clearances.

For further details, consult the current issue of the NEC, or contact the state or local electrical inspector for the area.

Service installation

The following items must be completed by the member before the Cooperative can energize service:

- Contact a Cooperative representative to request a temporary service.
- Obtain an electrical work permit from the inspecting agency.
- Install temporary service structure and equipment to Cooperative Specifications.
- Obtain an electrical inspection.

After these items are completed, call the Cooperative's Engineering Department to announce that the installation has been inspected and is ready for temporary service.

Spec. TS-1 on page 33, illustrates the recommended temporary overhead service installation. The specifications shown are the minimum acceptable.

Do not deviate from the installation standards without approval from the Cooperative.

Temporary Underground Service

Temporary underground service is available where the existing power facilities are installed underground. If there is power in the area, but the power lines are not visible, the power system is likely to be installed underground.

The process and cost of obtaining temporary underground service varies, depending on the location of existing power facilities. After a field meeting with the Co-op Field Representative, install the meter socket, service pedestal and service wire (see Specs. UTS-1, page 41 and UTS-2, page 42), obtain an inspection, and call the Cooperative to connect service.

For help with questions about Cooperative facilities at the job site, contact the Cooperative's Engineering Department.

The cost for temporary service depends on the extent of special engineering required.

Meter location

Locate the meter pedestal on the property no more than 5 feet from the transformer, stubup, or handhole.

If a distance greater than 5 feet is necessary, contact the Cooperative Representative for approval prior to construction.

Temporary service installation

The following items must be completed prior to energizing the service:

- Contact the Cooperative and request a temporary service.
- Obtain an electrical work permit from the inspecting agency.
- Locate underground service (call Dig Safe).
- Install the meter pedestal and meter socket in the appropriate location.
- Provide the appropriately sized conductor from the meter socket to the Cooperative's connection point. Leave 5 feet of extra wire at a stubup or handhole, and 10 feet out of conduit at the transformer vault. Consult the NEC for the appropriate wire sizes.
- Obtain an electrical inspection where required by the local authority.
- Cover wire leading to the connection point, except where Cooperative personnel will be splicing their wire to the member's.
- Call the Cooperative to announce that the installation has been inspected and is ready for temporary service.

Trenching requirements

It is the member's responsibility to provide a buried cable from the meter base to the Cooperative's transformer or handhole. The cable and conduit installed by the member should be sized per the NEC and have a minimum cover of 36 inches.

If the connection point is a handhole or transformer, the member trenches to the nearest side and leaves the wires exposed. If any other conductors are discovered while digging, leave them covered. If further trenching is required, Cooperative personnel will complete it.

Remember to call Dig Safe at 1-888-344-7233 and request buried cable locations 72 hours before digging. Any trenching within 24 inches of existing underground facilities must be done by hand.

Specs. UTS-1 and UTS-2, on pages 41 and 42, illustrate the recommended temporary underground service. Note the dimensions shown. Deviations from this recommended standard can result in a delay in receiving service, or in service being denied. Contact the Cooperative for answers to any questions.

New Service Checklist

To improve our efficiency, we ask that you review the information in this handbook thoroughly, including the service specifications. Reviewing this important information before calling us for connection will avoid unnecessary delays and/or billing. An unsuccessful visit to connect the service uses valuable time and resources. Please understand that you will be billed if, upon your request, the Cooperative makes a visit to the job site and is unable to make the connection. **Please review the following checklist and ensure you have completed all applicable steps before calling us for your service connection:**

- ❑ Have you provided the Cooperative with all necessary documentation such as an easement and application?
- ❑ If you signed an easement, did you use black ink and have it notarized?
- ❑ Have you made all necessary up-front payments?
- ❑ Have you (or your electrician) set the service up as the applicable NHEC specification in this handbook shows?
- ❑ Is the service located as you and our Field Representative discussed?

If you have any questions concerning any of these items, please call the Cooperative at 1-800-698-2007 or the Field Representative for your area.