

# Section 7: Glossary

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## **Clearance**

A set distance between two objects.

## **Common Ground Point**

The conductor used to connect the grounding electrode to the equipment grounding conductor and/or to the grounded conductor of the circuit at the service.

## **Conduit**

A listed or approved pipe with a smooth interior surface to permit easy drawing-in of electrical conductors. A conduit may be metallic or non-metallic, depending on its usage, in accordance with codes and standards.

## **Corrosion Inhibitor**

Electrical joint compound used to retard oxidation of electrical connections.

## **Drip Loop**

A loop formed in overhead secondary conductors at the weatherhead, to prevent the entrance of water into the service entrance conduit and equipment.

## **Ground**

Connected to or in contact with earth or connected to some extended conductive body that serves instead of the earth.

## **Guy**

A cable or brace used to relieve the strain of overhead conductors on masts and poles.

## **Key box**

A permanently installed, locked box with keys enclosed, mounted on the outside of a building, for accessing the customer's premises to read, install, service or remove the utility's meters and/or electrical equipment during reasonable working hours.

## **Listed**

Equipment or material accepted by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, inspection agency, or other organization concerned with product evaluation.

## **Manual Circuit-Closing Block**

A provision for paralleling the meter circuit, allowing the meter to be removed without interrupting service to the member.

## **Meter Equipment**

Any equipment associated with measuring electric energy.

## **Meter Jaw**

A spring-loaded receptacle inside a meter socket which connects the terminals of a meter to the source or load conductors of the service.

## **Meter Socket**

The mounting device for socket type meters, consisting of meter jaws, connectors, an enclosure and in permanent installations an integrated main circuit breaker is required.

## **Mobile Home**

A house trailer serving as a permanent home.

## **Modular Home**

Also referred to as a manufactured home. A home designed with standardized units or dimensions and manufactured in a factory type facility.

## **Municipal, State Inspector**

The qualified representative of a city or the state, authorized to inspect electrical service installations on their behalf.

## **NEC**

National Electrical Code. Safety provisions for the installation of electrical equipment and conductors in buildings and other structures, published by the National Fire Protection Association.

## **NEMA**

National Electrical Manufacturers Association. A trade association which publishes standards for manufacturers of electrical equipment, including enclosures and racks.

## **NESC**

National Electrical Safety Code. Safety provisions for the installation, operation, and maintenance of electric supply and communication lines, published by Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

## **Neutral**

The grounded conductor in a single-phase, three-wire or three-phase or three-phase, four wire system. The service conductor at zero potential to ground.

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**Point of Attachment**

On overhead services, the point at which the utility's service line is attached to the customer's structure.

**Point of Delivery**

The point where the utility's service line and the customer's system are interconnected.

**Seal**

A locking device to secure a meter or service entrance equipment to assure safety and security.

**Select Backfill**

Native soil or soil brought in from another area, free from sharp objects, rocks, scrap building material and corrosive material.

**Self-Contained**

In reference to meter sockets, a device designed and rated to continuously carry the entire capacity of the service. The maximum self-contained meter socket current rating typically used is 400 amperes (also called a single-phase Class 320 A Meter).

**Service Line**

Conductors from the utility's system to the customer's point of delivery. A service line can be overhead or underground.

**Service Entrance Conductor**

On overhead services, conductors which extend between the customer's meter socket and the point of delivery.

**Service Entrance Equipment**

Service conduit, conductors, weatherhead, meter base, enclosures, service disconnect and service panel.

**Service Mast**

The conduit above the meter used to provide mechanical protection for the service conductors and to support the service drop from the utility.

**Temporary Service**

An electrical service installed by the utility to provide power to a customer on a temporary basis (less than one year).

**UL**

Underwriters' Laboratories. A recognized test laboratory which lists materials it has tested and accepted.

**Underground Facilities**

Any material or equipment that is integral to the underground distribution system.

**Weatherhead**

A simple underground-overhead fitting which provides a cap or a roof for the vertical conduit to prevent rain from entering it. Its use is restricted to connecting underground secondary cables to overhead secondary lines or service wires.