

Rule No. 15

Distribution Line Extensions

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APPLICABILITY: This rule is applicable to extension of electric Distribution Lines¹ of BVES' standard voltages (less than 50 kV) necessary to furnish Permanent electric service to Applicants, and will be made in accordance with the following provisions:

A. GENERAL

1. DISTRIBUTION LINE EXTENSION BASIS (T)
 - a. DESIGN: BVES will be responsible for planning, designing and engineering Distribution Line Extensions using BVES' standards for material, design, and construction. (T)
(T)
 - b. OWNERSHIP: The Distribution Line Extension facilities installed under the provisions of this rule, shall be owned, operated, and maintained by BVES, except for Substructures and enclosures that are on, under, within, or part of a building or structure. (T)
(T)
 - c. PRIVATE LINES. BVES shall not be required to serve any Applicant from Distribution Line Extension facilities that are not owned, operated, and maintained by BVES. (T)
(T)
(T)
2. DISTRIBUTION LINE EXTENSION LOCATIONS (T)
 - a. RIGHTS OF WAY: BVES will own, operate and maintain Distribution Line Extension facilities only: (T)
 - (1) along public streets, alleys, roads, highways and other publicly dedicated ways and places which BVES has the legal right to occupy (franchise areas), and (T)
 - (2) on public lands and private property across which rights of way and permits satisfactory to BVES may be obtained without cost to or condemnation by BVES. (T)
(T)
 - b. NORMAL ROUTE OF LINE. The length and normal route of a Distribution Line Extension will be determined by BVES and considered as the distance along the shortest, most practical, available, and acceptable route which is clear of obstructions from BVES' nearest permanent and available distribution facility to the point from which the service facilities will be connected. (T)
(T)
(T)

(Continued)

¹Certain words beginning with capital letters are defined either within the provisions of this rule or in Section I.

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A. GENERAL (Continued)

3. UNDERGROUND DISTRIBUTION LINE EXTENSIONS (T)
 - a. UNDERGROUND REQUIRED. Underground Distribution Line Extensions shall be installed where required to comply with applicable laws and ordinances or similar requirements of governmental authorities having jurisdiction and where BVES maintains or desires to maintain underground distribution facilities. For example, underground Distribution Line Extensions are required for all new: (1) Residential Subdivisions (except as provided for in Section G), (2) Residential Developments, (3) Commercial Developments, (4) Industrial Developments, and (5) locations that are in proximity to and visible from designated Scenic Areas. (T)
(T)
 - b. UNDERGROUND OPTIONAL. When requested by Applicant and agreed upon by BVES, underground Distribution Line Extensions may be installed in areas where it is not required, as provided in Section A.3.a. (T)
4. OVERHEAD DISTRIBUTION LINE EXTENSIONS. Overhead Distribution Line Extensions may be installed only where under-ground extensions are not required as provided in Section A.3.a. (T)
5. SPECIAL OR ADDED FACILITIES. Any special or added facilities BVES agrees to install at the request of Applicant will be installed at Applicant's expense in accordance with Rule 2, Description of Service. (T)
6. TEMPORARY SERVICE. Facilities installed for temporary service or for operations of speculative character or questionable permanency shall be made in accordance with the fundamental installation and ownership provisions of this rule, except that all charges and refunds shall be made under the provisions of Rule 13, Temporary Service.
7. SERVICES. Service facilities connected to the Distribution Lines to serve an Applicant's premises will be installed, owned and maintained as provided in Rule 16, Service Extensions.
8. CONVERSIONS OF OVERHEAD TO UNDERGROUND. The replacement of existing overhead Distribution Lines with underground Distribution Lines will be made in accordance with Rule 20, Replacement of Overhead With Underground Electric Facilities.
9. STREET LIGHTS. Street lights and appurtenant facilities shall be installed in accordance with the service provisions of the applicable street light schedule.

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A. GENERAL (Continued)

- 10. CONTRACTS. Each Applicant requesting a Distribution Line Extension may be required to execute a written contract(s), prior to BVES performing its work on the Distribution Line Extension. Such contracts shall be in the form on file with the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission). (T)
(T)
(T)

B. INSTALLATION RESPONSIBILITIES

1. UNDERGROUND DISTRIBUTION LINE EXTENSIONS

- a. APPLICANT RESPONSIBILITY. In accordance with BVES' design, specifications, and requirements, Applicant is responsible for: (T)
(T)

- (1) EXCAVATION. All necessary trenching, backfilling, and other digging as required;

- (2) SUBSTRUCTURES AND CONDUITS. Furnishing, installing, and upon acceptance by BVES, conveying to BVES ownership of all necessary installed Substructures and Conduits, including Feeder Conduits and related Substructures required to extend to and within subdivisions and developments; and (T)

- (3) PROTECTIVE STRUCTURES. Furnishing, installing, and upon acceptance by BVES, conveying to BVES ownership of all necessary Protective Structures. (T)

- b. BVES RESPONSIBILITY. BVES is responsible for furnishing and installing cables, switches, transformers, and other distribution facilities required to complete the Distribution Line Extension. (T)

2. OVERHEAD DISTRIBUTION LINE EXTENSIONS. BVES is responsible for furnishing and installing all facilities required for the Distribution Pole Line Extension. (T)
(T)

3. INSTALLATION OPTIONS

- a. BVES-PERFORMED WORK. Where requested by Applicant, and mutually agreed upon, BVES may perform that portion of the new Distribution Line Extension work normally installed by Applicant according to Section B.1.a., provided Applicant pays BVES its total estimated installed cost. (T)
(T)
(T)

- b. APPLICANT-PERFORMED WORK. Applicant may elect to install that portion of the new Distribution Line Extension normally installed by BVES in accordance with BVES' design and specifications, using qualified contractors. (See Section F, Applicant Installation Options). (T)
(T)

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C. DISTRIBUTION LINE EXTENSION ALLOWANCES (T)

1. GENERAL. BVES will complete a Distribution Line Extension without charge provided BVES' total estimated installed cost does not exceed the allowances as determined, from permanent, bona-fide loads to be served by the Distribution Line Extension within a reasonable time, as determined by BVES. (T) (T)(D) (T)

2. BASIS OF ALLOWANCES. Allowances shall be granted to an Applicant for Permanent Service, or to an Applicant for a subdivision or development under the following conditions:

- a. BVES is provided evidence that construction will proceed promptly and financing is adequate, and (T)
- b. Applicant has submitted evidence of building permit(s) or fully-executed home purchase contract(s) or lease agreement(s), or
- c. Where there is equivalent evidence of occupancy or electric usage satisfactory to BVES. (T)

The allowance in Sections C.3 and C.4 are based on a revenue-supported methodology using the following formula:

$$\text{ALLOWANCE} = \frac{\text{NET REVENUE}}{\text{COST OF SERVICE FACTOR}}$$

3. RESIDENTIAL ALLOWANCES. The allowance for Distribution Line Extensions for Residential Service is \$1,678.96 per meter or residential dwelling unit, which is equal to the Residential Service Allowance determined using the formula in Section C.2 minus the net revenue associated with the Service Extension allowance described in Rule 16 of \$596.04. (T) (T)(D)(N)(R) (N) (N) (N)

4. NON-RESIDENTIAL ALLOWANCES. The allowance for Distribution Line Extensions for Permanent Non-Residential Service is determined by BVES using the formula in Section C.2. (T) (N) (T)

Where the Distribution Line Extension will serve a combination of residential and non-residential meters, residential allowances will be added to non-residential allowances.

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D. CONTRIBUTIONS OR ADVANCES BY APPLICANT

1. GENERAL. Contributions or advances by an Applicant to BVES for the installation of a Distribution Line Extension to receive BVES service consists of such things as cash payments, the value of facilities deeded to BVES, and the value of Excavation performed by Applicant. (T)
(T)
(T)
2. PROJECT-SPECIFIC COST ESTIMATES. BVES' total estimated installed cost will be based on a project-specific estimated cost. (D)
(D)(T)
3. CASH ADVANCE. A cash advance will be required only if Applicant's allowance is less than BVES' total estimated installed cost to complete a Distribution Line Extension. (T)
(D)
4. TAX. All contributions and advances by Applicant are taxable and shall include an Income Tax Component of Contribution (ITCC) at the rate provided in BVES' Preliminary Statement. ITCC will be either refundable or non-refundable in accordance with the corresponding contribution. (T)
5. REFUNDABLE AND NON-REFUNDABLE AMOUNTS. Applicant shall contribute or advance, before the start of BVES' construction, the following: (T)
 - a. UNDERGROUND REFUNDABLE AMOUNT. Applicant's refundable amount is the portion of BVES' total estimated installed cost, including ITCC, to complete the underground Distribution Line Extension that exceeds the amount of Distribution Line Extension allowance determined in Section C for: (T)
(T)(D)
(T)
 - (1) ELECTRICAL FACILITIES. The estimated installed cost of any necessary Cabling installed by BVES to complete the underground Distribution Line Extension. This includes the cost of conversion of existing single-phase lines to three-phase lines, if required; plus (T)
(T)(D)
(T)
 - (2) STRUCTURES. BVES' estimated value of Substructures installed by Applicant and deeded to BVES as required. (T)
(T)

(Continued)

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D. CONTRIBUTIONS OR ADVANCES BY APPLICANT (Continued)

5. REFUNDABLE AND NON-REFUNDABLE AMOUNTS. (Continued) (T)
- b. OVERHEAD REFUNDABLE AMOUNT. Applicant's refundable amount is the portion of BVES' total estimated installed cost, including ITCC, to complete the overhead Distribution Line Extension that exceeds the amount of Distribution Line Extension allowance determined in Section C for: (T)
(T)(D)
- (1) POLE LINE. All necessary facilities required for an overhead Distribution Line Extension and, if required, the conversion of existing single-phase lines to three-phase lines; plus (T)
(T)
- (2) TRANSMISSION UNDERBUILDS. BVES' total estimated installed cost of the underbuild, where all or a portion of an overhead Distribution Line Extension is to be constructed on existing transmission poles of BVES. (T)
(T)
(T)
- c. NON-REFUNDABLE DISCOUNT OPTION. In lieu of contributing the refundable amount determined in Section D.5.a or D.5.b, Applicant has the option of contributing, on a non-refundable basis, fifty percent (50%) of such refundable amount; plus (T)
- d. OTHER NON-REFUNDABLE AMOUNTS. Applicant's non-refundable amount is BVES' estimated value of Excavation, Conduits, and Protective Structures required by BVES for the Distribution Line Extension under Section B.1.a. (T)
(T)
6. GROUP OF APPLICANTS. The total contribution or advance from a group of Applicants will be apportioned among the members of the group in such manner as they may mutually agree. (T)
7. PAYMENT ADJUSTMENTS (T)
- a. CONTRACT COMPLIANCE. If, after six (6) months following the date BVES is first ready to serve residential loads for which allowances were granted, or one (1) year for non-residential loads, Applicant fails to take service, or fails to use the service contracted for, Applicant shall pay to BVES an additional contribution, based on the allowances for the revenue actually generated. (T)
(T)
(T)

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D. CONTRIBUTIONS OR ADVANCES BY APPLICANT (Continued)

7. PAYMENT ADJUSTMENTS. (Continued) (T)
- b. EXCESS FACILITIES. If the loads provided by Applicant(s) results in BVES having installed facilities which are in excess of those needed to serve the actual loads, and BVES elects to reduce such excess facilities, Applicant shall pay BVES its estimated total costs to remove, abandon, or replace the excess facilities, less the estimated salvage of any removed facilities. (T)
(T)
(T)

E. REFUNDS

1. GENERAL. Refunds are based on the allowances and conditions in effect at the time the contract is signed.
2. TOTAL REFUNDABLE AMOUNT. The total amount subject to refund is the sum of the refundable amounts made under Section D.5.
3. REFUND TIMING. Refunds will be made without interest within ninety (90) days after the date an Applicant becomes eligible for a refund, except that refunds may be accumulated to a \$50.00 minimum or the total refundable balance, if less than \$50.00.
4. RESIDENTIAL. Refunds will be made on the basis of a new customer's Permanent Load which produces additional revenues to BVES. The refund will be deducted from the total refundable amount, and the remaining amount subject to refund represents that portion of the Distribution Line Extension cost not supported by revenues. (See Section E.11 for Series Refunding Provisions.) (T)
(T)
5. NON-RESIDENTIAL. BVES shall be responsible to review Applicant's actual base annual revenue for the first three years from the date BVES is first ready to serve. Applicant shall be responsible for notifying BVES if new, permanent load is added the fourth through tenth year from the date BVES is first ready to serve. Such review shall determine if additional revenue supports any refunds to Applicant. (See Section E.11 for Series Refunding Provisions.) (T)
(T)
(T)
6. UNSUPPORTED DISTRIBUTION LINE EXTENSION COST. When any portion of a refundable amount has not qualified for a refund at the end of twelve (12) months from the date BVES is first ready to serve, Applicant will pay to BVES an ownership charge on the remaining refundable balance. Monthly ownership costs are in addition to the refundable amount and will normally be accumulated and deducted from refunds due to Applicant. This provision does not apply to individual residential Applicants. (T)
(T)

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E. REFUNDS (Continued)

7. REFUND PERIOD. The total refundable amount is subject to refund for a period of ten (10) years after the Distribution Line Extension is first ready for service.
8. MAXIMUM REFUND. No refund shall be made in excess of the refundable amount nor after a period of ten (10) years from the date BVES is first ready to serve. Any unrefunded amount remaining at the end of the ten-year period shall become property of BVES. (T)
9. PREVIOUS RULES. Refundable amounts contributed or advanced under conditions of a rule previously in effect will be refunded in accordance with the provisions of such earlier rule.
10. JOINT APPLICANTS. When two (2) or more parties make joint contributions on the same Distribution Line Extension, refunds will be distributed to these parties in the same proportion as their individual contributions bear to the total refundable amount, or as they mutually agree. (T)
11. SERIES OF DISTRIBUTION LINE EXTENSIONS. Where there is a series of Distribution Line Extensions, commencing with a Distribution Line Extension having an outstanding amount subject to refund, and each Distribution Line Extension is dependent on the previous Distribution Line Extension as a direct source of supply, a series refund will be made as follows: (T)
 - a. Additional service connections supplied from a Distribution Line Extension on which there is a refundable amount will provide refunds first to the Distribution Line Extension to which they are connected; and (T)
 - b. When the amount subject to refund on a Distribution Line Extension in a series is fully refunded, the excess refundable amount will provide refunds to the Distribution Line Extension having the oldest outstanding amount subject to refund in the series. (T)

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F. APPLICANT INSTALLATION OPTIONS

1. Applicants for line extensions shall have the option of installing facilities, in excess of those specified as being the Applicant's responsibility under this rule, only when the Utility is unable to guarantee availability of its crews for installation or availability of a contractor to meet the Applicant's reasonable project schedule. (N)
- The Applicant must initially provide the Utility with plans and load information in a timely manner to allow the Utility to develop detailed plans, costs, and a construction schedule. A reasonable construction schedule will provide for up to ninety (90) days or one hundred and eighty (180) days for electric extensions where demand will exceed one thousand (1,000) kilowatts for design, with construction scheduled to commence within thirty (30) days from receipt of Applicant's advance or as mutually agreed between the Utility and Applicant. (N)
2. COMPETITIVE BIDDING. When Applicant selects competitive bidding, the Distribution Line Extension may be installed by Applicant's qualified contractor or sub-contractor in accordance with BVES' design and specifications. Under this option, the following applies: (T)
- a. Upon completion of Applicant's installation, and upon acceptance by BVES, ownership of all such facilities will transfer to BVES; (T)
- b. Applicant shall pay to BVES, subject to refund, any BVES costs associated with the extension, including the estimated costs of design, administration, and installation of any additional facilities and labor necessary to complete the extension; (T)
- c. BVES' total estimated installation cost is subject to the refund and allowance provisions of this rule; (T)
- d. Applicant shall pay to BVES, as a non-refundable amount, the cost of inspection; (T)
- e. Only duly authorized employees of BVES are allowed to connect to, disconnect from, or perform any work upon Utility's facilities. (T)

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F. APPLICANT INSTALLATION OPTIONS (Continued)

3. MINIMUM CONTRACTOR QUALIFICATIONS. Applicant's contractor or Subcontractor (QC/S) shall: (T)
- a. Be licensed in California for the appropriate type of work (electrical and general, etc.);
 - b. Employ workmen properly qualified for specific skills required (Qualified Electrical Worker, Qualified Person, etc.) as defined in State of California High Voltage Safety Orders (Title 8, Chapter 4, Subchapter 5, Group 2); and
 - c. Comply with applicable laws (Equal Opportunity Regulations, OSHA, EPA, etc.)
4. OTHER CONTRACTOR QUALIFICATIONS. An Applicant for service who intends to employ a QC/S also should consider whether the QC/S: (T)
- a. Is technically competent.
 - b. Has access to proper equipment.
 - c. Demonstrates financial responsibility commensurate with the scope of the contract.
 - d. Has adequate insurance coverage (worker's compensation, liability, property damage, etc.).
 - e. Is able to furnish a surety bond for performance of contract, if required.

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- G. OVER HEAD DISTRIBUTION LINE EXTENSIONS FOR SUBDIVISIONS OR DEVELOPMENTS. (T)
1. Overhead Distribution Line Extensions may be constructed in Residential Subdivisions or Developments only where either a. or b. below are found to exist: (T)
- a. The lots within the Residential Subdivision or Development existed as legally described parcels prior to May 5, 1970, and significant overhead lines exist within the subdivision or development.
- b. The minimum parcel size within the new Residential Subdivision or real estate development, identifiable by a map filed with the local government authority, is three (3) acres and Applicant for the Distribution Line Extension shows that all of the following conditions exist:
- (1) Local ordinances do not require underground construction;
- (2) Local ordinances or land use policies do not permit further division of the parcels involved such that parcel sizes less than three (3) acres could be formed;
- (3) Local ordinances or deed restrictions do not allow more than one single-family dwelling or accommodation on a parcel of less than three (3) acres, or any portion of a parcel of less than three (3) acres;
- (4) Exceptional circumstances do not exist which, in BVES' opinion, warrant the installation of underground distribution facilities. Whenever BVES invokes this provision, the circumstances shall be described promptly in a letter to the Commission, with a copy to Applicant for the Distribution Line Extension; and (T)
(T)
- (5) BVES does not elect to install the Distribution Line Extension underground for its operating convenience. Whenever BVES elects to install the Distribution Line Extension underground for its operating convenience, the extra cost compared with overhead shall be borne by BVES. (T)
(T)
(T)
(T)
- H. SPECIAL CONDITIONS
1. FACILITY RELOCATION OR REARRANGEMENT. Any relocation or rearrangement of BVES' existing facilities, at the request of, or to meet the convenience of an Applicant or customer, and agreed upon by BVES, normally shall be performed by BVES. Where new facilities can be constructed in a separate location, before removal of any existing facilities, and Applicant requests to perform the new construction work, it can be performed under the applicable provisions of Section F, Applicant Installation Options. (T)
(T)

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H. SPECIAL CONDITIONS (Continued)

1. FACILITIES RELOCATION OR REARRANGEMENT (Continued)

In all instances, BVES shall remove its existing facilities. Applicant or customer shall be responsible for the costs of all related relocation, rearrangement and removal work. (T)

2. PERIODIC REVIEW. BVES will periodically review the factors it uses to determine its residential allowances, non-refundable discount option percentage rate, and Cost of Service Factor stated in this rule. If such review results in a change of more than five percent (5%), BVES will submit a tariff revision proposal to the Commission for review and approval. Such proposed changes shall be submitted no sooner than six (6) months after the last revision. (T)
(D)
(T)

3. EXCEPTIONAL CASES. When the application of this rule appears impractical or unjust to either party or the ratepayers, BVES or Applicant may refer the matter to the Commission for a special ruling or for special condition(s), which may be mutually agreed upon. (T)

I. DEFINITIONS FOR RULE 15

Applicant: A person or agency requesting BVES to supply electric service. (T)

Betterment: Facilities installed by Applicant at the request of BVES in addition to those required under Section B.1.a. (T)

Cabling: Conductors (including cable-in-conduit, if used), connectors, switches, as required by BVES for primary, secondary, and service installations. (T)
(T)

Commercial Development: Two (2) or more enterprises engaged in trade or the furnishing of services, (e.g., shopping centers, sales enterprises, business offices, professional offices, and educational or governmental complexes) and located on a single parcel or on two (2) or more contiguous parcels of land.

Conduit: Ducts, pipes or tubes of certain metals, plastics and other materials acceptable to BVES (including pull ropes and concrete encasement where required) for the installation and protection of electric wires or cables. (T)

Cost of Service Factor: The annualized cost of ownership percentage for BVES-financed distribution facilities stated in Rule 2. (T)

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I. DEFINITIONS FOR RULE 15. (Continued)

Distribution Line Extension: New distribution facilities of BVES that is a continuation of, or a branch from, the nearest available existing permanent Distribution Line (including any facility rearrangements and relocations necessary to accommodate the extension) to the point of connection of the last service. BVES' Distribution Line Extension includes transmission underbuilds and converting an existing single-phase line to three-phase in order to furnish three-phase service to an Applicant, (L)(T)
(L)
(L)
(L)(T)
(L)
(L)(D)

Distribution Lines: Overhead and underground lines which are operated at distribution voltages, and which are designed to supply two (2) or more services.

Distribution Trench Footage: The total trench footage used for calculating cabling costs. It is determined by adding the total length of all new and existing trench for the installation of underground primary and secondary Distribution Lines designed to supply two (2) or more services (excluding service trench footage under Rule 16.).

Excavation: All necessary trenching, backfilling, and other digging to install extension facilities, including furnishing of any imported backfill material and disposal of trench soil as required, surface repair and replacement, landscape repair and replacement.

Feeder Conduit: Conduit for such uses as part of a backbone system to provide for future anticipated load growth outside the subdivision involved, to provide for future anticipated load growth in the existing subdivision and the existing subdivisions in close proximity, to balance loads between substations, to interconnect the service to the subdivision with service to subsequent developments outside the subdivision, and to provide the flexibility and versatility of modifying or supplying emergency backup power to the area involved.

Industrial Development: Two (2) or more enterprises engaged in a process which creates a product or changes material into another form or product and located on a single parcel or on two (2) or more contiguous parcels of land.

Insignificant Loads: Small operating loads such as gate openers, valve controls, clocks, timing devices, fire protection equipment, alarm devices, etc.

Net Revenue: That portion of the total annual rate revenues that supports BVES' Distribution Line and Service Extension costs and excludes such items as energy, transmission, public purpose programs, revenue cycle services revenues, and other revenues that do not support the Distribution Line and Service Extension costs. For residential line extensions, the Net Revenue is calculated based on average residential distribution revenue per customer, calculated as the total residential distribution revenue divided by the total number of residential customers. (C)
|
(C)

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I. DEFINITIONS FOR RULE 15. (Continued)

Permanent Service: Service which, in the opinion of BVES, is of a permanent and established character. This may be continuous, intermittent, or seasonal in nature. (L)

Pole Line: Poles, cross-arms, insulators, conductors, switches, guy-wires, and other related equipment used in the construction of an electric overhead line.

Protective Structures: Fences, retaining wall (in lieu of grading), sound barriers, posts, or barricades and other structures as required by BVES to protect distribution equipment.

Residential Development: Five (5) or more dwelling units in two (2) or more buildings located on a single parcel of land.

Residential Subdivision: An area of five (5) or more lots for residential dwelling units which may be identified by filed subdivision plans or an area in which a group of dwellings may be constructed about the same time, either by a builder or several builders working on a coordinated basis

Scenic Areas: An area such as a scenic highway, a state or national park or other area determined by a governmental agency to be of unusual scenic interest to the general public. Scenic highways are official designated under the California Scenic Highway Program established pursuant to Paragraph 320 of the Public Utilities Code and applicable sections of the Streets and Highway Code. State or national parks or other areas of unusual scenic interest to the general public are determined by the appropriate governmental agency. "In proximity to" shall mean within 1,000 feet from each edge of the right-of-way of designated scenic highways and from the boundaries of designated parks and scenic areas. "Visible from" shall mean that overhead distribution facilities could be seen by motorists or pedestrians traveling along scenic highways or visiting parks or scenic areas.

Substructures: The surface and subsurface structures which are necessary to contain or support BVES' electric facilities. This includes, but is not limited to, such things as splice boxes, pull boxes, equipment vaults and enclosures, foundations or pads for surface-mounted equipment. (L)
(L)(T)
(L)
(L)

Trenching: See Excavation. (L)

ISSUED BY

Date Filed: October 9, 2014

Advice Letter No. 288-E
Decision No. _____

R. J. SPROWLS
President

Effective Date: November 8, 2014
Resolution No. _____