

Obtaining Electric Service from Your Cooperative

The technical information provided herein is to assist qualified persons in planning and installing electric service to farms and residences. **Qualified person** is defined in Article 100 of the National Electrical Code (2008 edition) *as one who has the skills and knowledge related to the construction and operation of the electrical equipment and installations and has received safety training to recognize and avoid the hazards involved.* Qualified persons are encouraged to review the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 70E-2004, Standards for Electrical Safety in the Workplace, for electrical safety training requirements. **A person who is not qualified should not attempt the planning and installation of electric service.**

Your electric cooperative and its officers, directors, employees and agents disclaim any and all liability for any personal injury, property damage or other damages of any kind, whether special, indirect, consequential or compensatory, directly or indirectly resulting from the publication, use or reliance on the material contained in the following specifications. No warranties are made, whether express or implied, as to the accuracy or completeness of the information contained herein.

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Note: Any reference to “Code” or “Code Handbook” in the following information refers to the 2008 National Electrical Code and the NEC 2008 Handbook respectively.

How to Obtain Electric Service

Arrangements for electric service are made by contacting the electric cooperative. An electric cooperative member (member) or the member’s authorized contractor may make a request for temporary electric service and/or permanent electric service.

Temporary electric service is a means to provide electricity to premises for a short duration. The temporary electric service may be used at a construction site to power electric hand tools, or other construction equipment. The member should check with the cooperative to determine requirements that must be met to receive temporary electric service.

Temporary electric service or permanent electric service installations are supplied through overhead or underground conductors. Members are encouraged to make arrangements with the cooperative well in advance for either temporary or permanent electric service. This will ensure that electricity will be available when needed.

Responsibility of the Cooperative and the Member

- The cooperative and member will meet at the site to determine the best route for the primary electrical facilities and secondary electrical facilities.
- The cooperative and member will determine whether the primary and secondary electrical facilities will be overhead or underground.
- The cooperative and member will determine the size of the electrical service needed to meet the immediate and future needs of the member’s electrical load.
- The cooperative typically owns all meter poles and meters and therefore determines their location, and reserves the right to have reasonable access to the member’s premises to inspect and maintain the electrical facilities at any time.

- The cooperative and member will determine if the metering point will be on a transformer pole (if allowed by the cooperative), on a meter pole, on a meter stand, or on the building.
- The cooperative may provide the meter socket to the member or the cooperative may require the member to purchase and provide a specific size and type of meter socket. The member should contact the cooperative to determine the requirements for an acceptable installation of the metering equipment.
- The cooperative reserves the right to charge the member for extending overhead or underground electrical facilities to the metering point.
- The location of the service point will be determined by the cooperative. The service point is defined as the point of connection between the facilities of the cooperative and the premises wiring.
- The cooperative is responsible for maintenance of the electrical facilities up to the service point.
- The member will obtain all necessary private right-of-way easements and permits to extend the primary electrical facilities and secondary electrical facilities.
- The member will provide a clear right-of-way for the installation and future maintenance of the primary electrical facilities and secondary electrical facilities. The cooperative reserves the right to determine right-of-way clearing requirements.
- The member assumes the responsibility to employ the services of a qualified electrician to ensure that persons and property are kept safe by the proper installation of electrical equipment.
- The cooperative assumes no responsibility to inspect electrical equipment on the “load side” of the meter, nor to report or correct any insufficiencies or defects as may be present in the member’s electrical devices and equipment.
- The member should notify the proper agency to inspect the installation of the electrical facilities prior to connection of electrical service. In some circumstances, the cooperative is the proper agency to perform the inspection of the meter point equipment.
- The member acknowledges that the cooperative is one of several entities that may have standards and/or codes governing the methods and materials used in the preparation of the member’s premises for electric service from the cooperative. Therefore the member is urged to have a qualified electrician determine any requirements for connection of electric service before any electrical work is performed. This step helps to avoid unnecessary delays in receiving electric service from the cooperative and to avoid extra costs associated with redoing electrical work if the preparation for electric service does not meet required criteria.
- The member agrees that the qualified electrician used to perform the preparation work for electric service must abide by and conform to the electrical wiring requirements from the following resources:
 1. The latest edition of the National Electrical Code.
 2. The latest edition of the National Electrical Safety Code.
 3. Any other applicable state, county, or local codes.
 4. The specifications required by the cooperative.
- The member agrees to pay for any connection fees and deposits required to bring electricity to the premises.

- The member agrees to seek cooperative permission before using the cooperative's meter pole jointly with other conductors. If permission is granted, the member's overhead secondary conductors from a meter loop shall be properly guyed and anchored.
- The member agrees to seek cooperative permission before installing an outside light on the cooperative's meter pole. If granted, the member agrees that the member's security light must not interfere with overhead conductors.
- The member agrees and understands that the cooperative facilities shall not be used for satellite dishes, signs, or any other apparatus.