

BURIED PLANT MAINTENANCE AND EXTENSION TO EXISTING SYSTEMS IN URBAN INSTALLATIONS—GENERAL

1. GENERAL

1.01 This section outlines the general procedures to be followed when maintaining or extending buried telephone plant sharing a common trench with power cables or wires. It also outlines general procedures to be followed when telephone and power facilities occupy separate trenches in the same easement. Detailed maintenance methods of telephone cables are found in Section 629-295-301.

1.02 Initial installation of joint-use buried plant is covered in Section 629-020-100.

2. MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING SYSTEMS—COMMON TRENCH—VERTICAL AND RANDOM SEPARATION

2.01 Whenever either the power or telephone company requires access to a common trench for maintenance purposes, *neither company shall dig or excavate without a representative of the other company being present.*

2.02 Accurately locate the path and depth of the cables to be exposed before starting to excavate.

2.03 Carefully uncover the cables by hand digging. Use only tools with handles of wood or similar insulating material. *Do not use digging bars or tools with metal handles* in the vicinity of joint buried cables. Use extreme care to avoid damage to cable or wire insulation. Dig down 6 to 12 inches to one side of the established cable path. When at a depth below the electrically tested depth of the cables, carefully dig toward cables to expose them.

2.04 Electrically identify the exposed telephone cable with approved test sets. Place a tone at a terminal or central office between one conductor of a pair in one group and a conductor of a pair in a different group. Short these conductors at the distant end, then use an exploring coil to pick

out the cable. *Do not use a ground return.* (In the case of a "dig-up" where cables have been cut and can be positively identified by appearance, electrical identification is not required.)

2.05 If the maintenance work involves only the telephone cables, it is the responsibility of the power company personnel to physically separate and mechanically protect its facilities from damage during the telephone work operations. In the case of vertical separation, power cables may not need additional protection if after excavation of the telephone cables, it can be established that there is sufficient soil cover over the power cables to adequately protect them.

2.06 In the case of power cable maintenance only, telephone personnel shall protect the telephone cable by covering it with boards and/or insulating blankets. While this work is in progress, it is the responsibility of the power company to either turn off the power or to separate and adequately insulate and protect its cables.

2.07 If the maintenance work involves both power and telephone facilities, power will be turned off while power work is in progress. *Telephone personnel shall stand by until power work is completed. Telephone maintenance shall start only after power personnel have separated and adequately protected their cables.*

2.08 After all work has been completed and all cables and wires are in the trench, backfill and restore the surface as nearly as practical to its prior condition.

3. MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING SYSTEMS—SEPARATE TRENCH

3.01 Locate cable path and expose cables as described in 2.02 and 2.03.

3.02 Electrically identify exposed cables as indicated in 2.04.

3.03 In the event that power company cables are found in the exposed cable run, stop work immediately and request power company personnel to stand by until work is completed. ***Do not proceed until power company personnel are present.***

3.04 After completing repairs, backfill as described in 2.08.

4. EXTENSIONS TO EXISTING SYSTEMS

4.01 To gain access to existing cables, proceed as outlined in 2.01 through 2.05.

4.02 If only one company is extending its system at this time, place mechanical protection over the cables not involved in the extension.

4.03 After the cables have been exposed by hand digging, power digging equipment may be used to extend the trench in a direction ***away from*** the existing trench and facilities. Extensions to existing cables may now be made as outlined in Section 629-020-100.