

PLANT MAINTENANCE
INSPECTION OF OUTSIDE PLANT
ON NORMAL WORK VISITS

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1. GENERAL	
1.01 This section outlines the procedures to be followed by the plant forces in making visual inspections of outside plant during the course of normal work visits. It is issued to establish uniform methods of making the inspections and clearing or reporting the defects observed.	
1.02 Forms PF-697, Cable Defect Report, and Form P-3028, Report of Plant Condition Requiring Corrections, shall be used to record and report defects observed, that are not cleared during the visit. The method of preparing the various forms are described in detail in the section entitled, Plant Maintenance - Reports - Preparation, Use and Disposition.	
1.03 All hazardous plant conditions observed shall be classified and processed in accordance with the provisions of the section entitled, Plant Maintenance - Safety Hazards, Classification, Reporting, and Clearing.	
1.04 The departmental responsibilities for correcting specific types of defects and the general policies to be adhered to, when making inspections, are outlined in the section entitled, Plant Maintenance - Outside Plant Inspections - General.	

2. INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS

2.01 During the course of normal work operations, such as line construction, cable maintenance, outside plant engineering, service order or repair visits, the workmen shall be alert to observe adjacent plant for any condition that is a service or safety hazard to the public or employees, or a state law violation. All defects noted which can be cleared economically shall be completed during the current visit. If the workman is unable to make the necessary repairs or changes because of the lack of proper equipment, materials, or due to the nature of the work involved, he shall record the condition on the appropriate form and forward the report to his supervisor.

2.02 During periods of excessive troubles resulting from storm or other causes, inspections, except those which are necessary to insure the safety of the public or employees, may be omitted. At all other times, inspections shall be made.

2.03 The importance of the outside plant inspection methods, as outlined in this section, cannot be overemphasized. The reporting of apparent defects, by field employees, is one of the fundamentals in the outside plant maintenance program. The interest of the individual is vital, to insure that existing safety and service hazards are kept at a minimum. Delays in clearing items reported should not detract from this interest, as it should be recognized that many of the items reported, when considered individually, will not warrant immediate corrective action; consequently, they may be held until a number are accumulated in the same general vicinity.

3. INSPECTION OF OUTSIDE PLANT

3.01 The common items of outside plant to which attention shall be given when making an inspection, are listed below. No safety or service hazard, or state law violation shall be excluded because it is not itemized.

(a) Aerial Cable Plant

- (1) Slipped or missing shields, clips, or rings.
- (2) Broken or missing ties or clamps at sleeves.
- (3) Free abrasions or impending tree interference.
- (4) Missing or loose cable clamps or other supports on poles or buildings.

- (5) Missing or loose cable moulding on poles or buildings.
- (6) Excess slack in cable.
- (7) Impaired clearances or climbing space.
- (8) Sheath cracks, bug holes, etc.

(b) Cable Terminals

- (1) Dirty face plates.
- (2) Loose terminals on poles or buildings.
- (3) Terminals equipped with slip covers, if required.
- (4) Improper or insufficient distributing rings.
- (5) Guard rails in place when required.
- (6) Broken or damaged terminal covers.

(c) Aerial Wire

- (1) Slack or missing arm guys.
- (2) Line wire slack or improperly sagged.
- (3) Impaired clearances or climbing space.
- (4) Impending tree interference.
- (5) Broken or loose tie wires.
- (6) Broken, missing, or floating insulators.
- (7) Rusty or corroded wire.
- (8) Faulty line connections or jumpers at junction poles.

(d) Poles, Crossarms, Anchors, and Guys

- (1) Bent or missing steps.

- (2) Improperly spaced pole step mountings.
 - (3) General condition, age of pole, and load on pole for safety hazards.
 - (4) Impaired clearance or climbing space.
 - (5) Foreign attachments such as clotheslines, nails, antennas, unauthorized signs, or other climbing obstruction.
 - (6) Anchor rods and guys for loose clamps, or hazard to the public.
 - (7) Slack guys.
 - (8) Guy wires equipped with shields.
 - (9) Broken or split crossarms.
 - (10) Loose or missing crossarm braces.
 - (11) Broken or missing crossarm pins, brackets, etc.
- (e) Drop and Block Wires
- (1) Overloaded attachments at poles or buildings.
 - (2) Drop wires subject to damage by trees.
 - (3) Impaired clearances or climbing space.
 - (4) Wire ends improperly stored at terminals.
 - (5) Drop obviously damaged and in need of repairs.
 - (6) Improperly spaced rings on poles or buildings.