

**BELL SYSTEM PRACTICES**  
**Outside Plant Construction**  
**and Maintenance**

**SECTION G50.685.3**  
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**CABLE SPLICING—GENERAL**  
**OPENING LEAD SLEEVE FOR REUSE**

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**1. GENERAL**

- 1.01 This section provides instructions for opening an existing lead sleeve that is to be reused.
- 1.02 Do not attempt to reuse a sleeve if it is filled with paraffin or if it is being opened because of moisture penetration at or near the wiped joints.
- 1.03 If the cable is under gas pressure, notify the test deskman or the office responsible for the alarm system that a sleeve is to be opened and that the gas pressure will be released.

**2. METHOD**

- 2.01 Open the sleeve in the following way:
- (1) Wipe all dirt and moisture off the sleeve, the wiped joints and the sheath.
  - (2) Clean the surface of the wiped joints lightly with the shave hook or carding brush.
  - (3) Place cable pasters on the sleeve and the sheath. Unwipe the joint.
  - (4) As each joint is unwiped, open up the end section, using a screwdriver or other suitable tool to pry open the beat-in. On large sleeves it may be desirable to make 3 or 4 radial cuts on the beat-in portion of the sleeve before prying it open.
- 2.02 Open up the end sections just enough to permit pulling the sleeve to one side. If the sleeve has a Y joint, unwipe the straight joint first and then pull the sleeve toward the straight end after the Y joint is unwiped.

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