

# SAN BERNARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

P. O. Box 1208

Bellville, Texas 77418

## UNDERGROUND SERVICE INSTALLATION SPECIFICATIONS

San Bernard Electric Cooperative, Inc., (SBEC) will allow a Member to install the underground electrical service cable in conduit from the transformer to the meter under the following rules and conditions. SBEC will waive the line extension charges for underground service if the Member has properly installed the service cable and conduit according to the following specifications and conditions.

1. The trench must be of sufficient depth in order to maintain a minimum depth of 24 inches (SBEC recommends a minimum of 36 inches) from the ground line to the top of the conduit on secondary voltage cable installations. **SBEC WILL NOT ACCEPT ANYTHING LESS THAN 24 INCHES MINIMUM DEPTH.** Please note that ground line is considered to be the finished grade and no subsequent removal of soil that would result in the depth being less than 24 inches will be allowed.
2. Conduit shall be (gray) 2 inch or larger (SBEC recommends 2-1/2 inch) minimum schedule 40 rigid PVC nonmetallic conduit below grade and galvanized Rigid metal or schedule 80 rigid PVC nonmetallic conduit above grade with long sweeping or long radius elbows for secondary voltage conduit installations up to a 200 ampere service. All conduit joints must be properly glued. Maximum lineal distance of the trench for secondary cable shall be no greater than 125 feet unless approved in writing by SBEC. Conduit installations for secondary services larger than 200 ampere will be determined based on the size of service needed and specified by the Staking Technician as \_\_\_\_\_ run(s) of \_\_\_\_\_ inch conduit at a maximum distance of \_\_\_\_\_ feet.
3. **Prior to backfilling**, the trench with conduit and cable installed must be inspected by SBEC personnel for proper size and type of cable or conductor, conduit and depth. In order for SBEC to accept the conduit and conductor cable installation, the conductor shall be installed through the conduit, connected properly into the meter base and the conduit must be at the proper depth with marking positioned so that they are visible and be clean and free of debris in the interior. After inspection, the trench shall be backfilled and a caution tape stating "*Caution- Electric Line Buried Below*" installed half way between the ground line and the conduit. **NOTE: The first trip to inspect the conduit and conductor installation is covered in the connect fee. If a service is rejected as not being up to standards on the initial visit, any additional inspection trips will be charged the current service fee per trip. It is required that the member coordinate the timing of the actual installation with SBEC so inspections can be made and errors may be corrected while member's contractor is still on site. Inspections are made Monday through Friday during normal business hours.**
4. The trench must follow the centerline of the route as staked by the Staking Technician. Any deviation of the trench route over two feet from centerline could result in increase charges for staking time. **Any changes in route shall be approved in writing by the Staking Technician prior to making any change and the appropriate cost of such change will be accessed.**
5. **The Member or his Representative is required to call the One-Call System in order to have underground facilities located prior to trenching.**
6. **Member's personnel shall not trench or dig closer than four feet to the power pole or pad-mount transformer with out SBEC personnel present.** This is due to the possibility of the pole leaning or falling, or the presence of other underground cables at an existing pad-mount transformer. Enough conductor cable, conduit, weather head, and a long sweeping elbow shall be provided in order to complete the installation into the transformer. **An appointment during normal business hours must be made for inspection and to have SBEC personnel onsite while member or member's contractor trench or dig near a power pole or pad-mount transformer and install the conduit/cable at the location.** The SBEC personnel shall make all connections inside the pad-mount transformer or shall assist the installation of the riser up the pole. (Note- Only SBEC personnel are allowed inside of a pad-mount transformer or on a high-voltage or transformer pole.)
7. Conductors shall be copper (preferred) or aluminum with approved insulation and sized per the current edition of the National Electric Code. Single-Phase Dwelling Services and Feeders specifications according to Table 310.15(B)(7) in the National Electric Code **are only allowed** when the meter is located on the side of a residential dwelling. For meter loops being installed on a pole or a meter rack NEC Table 310-15(B)(16) applies.
8. Neutral conductor may be reduced no more than two sizes on residential applications.
9. See reverse side for specification drawing.

**I, the undersigned Member, do hereby acknowledge that I have received this specification sheet and understand that if the conductor cable and conduit installation does not meet the requirements herein specified, the Cooperative will reject the installation until corrections are made. I further understand as the original owner of the installed cable I retain ownership of the conductor cable and conduit and I am responsible for any and all repairs and maintenance of the said conductor cable and conduit. I further understand that should the cable fail, SBEC will disconnect my cable from the power source and I will remain without power until I have the cable repaired or replaced and call SBEC to reconnect the power source. Upon reconnection, SBEC will bill my account for the standard service fee.**

Signature

Print Name

Date