

UNDERGROUND WIRING METHODS AND HYDRO DEMARKATION.

Question: A clarification on where the supply service ends and the consumer service begins for a residential U/G service. Is it at the transformer, or the property line, or the meter socket? Also it appears to me that there is no specific rule defining acceptable wiring methods for the service conductors between the meter socket and the service panel for a U/G service.

Answer: Supply Service is defined as conductors run by supply authority to, and including the point of connection to, a consumer's service.

Downstream from the "point at which the supply authority makes connection" is the consumer's service up to the overcurrent device. The connection point may be at different places depending on the electrical system configuration.

For example:

1. In a regular underground service, the supply service ends at the line side of the meter socket on a building or pole.
2. In a regular overhead service the supply usually ends at the weather head.
3. In some cases a dip service, or regular underground service, runs up the side of a building, which already has an existing overhead service, and terminates in a weather-head, which is adjacent to an existing weather-head. The supply service ends at the conductor connection point.
4. In a dip-service from a utility pole to a building, the supply service ends at the meter socket or switch, whichever comes first.
5. In an overhead utility service to a private pole, and then underground, the supply service would end at the pole-top.

A transformer has no bearing on the definitions of consumer/supply service conductors.

At the property line? It could be if Hydro stops at that point (first pole) and the contractor continues with the consumer service conductors.

At the Meter socket? Yes for less than 200 amp and less than 347/600 volts.

The short answer is that the dividing line between supply and consumer's services depends on the circumstances. But in any case, it is at the "point where the supply authority makes connection."

Acceptable wiring methods between the meter socket and service panel? The scope of the answer pretty much involves the BC Electrical Code as these are considered consumer service conductors.