## **CONSUMER TRENCHING**

MWP will be responsible for the installation of all primary (high voltage) conductors associated with consumer- requested line extensions. Unless otherwise stipulated, consumer will be responsible for providing acceptable trenches. Consumer trenches connecting meter service to MWP transformers or secondary junction boxes must conform to MWP guidelines.

#### **TRENCHING GUIDELINES**

- MWP will provide stakes indicating the beginning and end of consumer trench. The consumer will be responsible for digging an acceptable trench between these stakes.
- Refer to Page 2 for trenching specifications.
- Dig trenches in straight lines between takeoff points, to the greatest extent possible.
- Trench shall have no more than one 90° bend between the beginning and end of the trench.
- If any conductors or pipes are unexpectedly encountered while digging, leave them exposed.
- Keep the spoils pile at least 24 inches away from the edge of the trench. Refer to new OSHA 1926.651(J)(2) requirements. (Place spoil on the side of the trench opposite the access route.)
- The bottom of the trench is to be flat and free of rocks. If soil conditions are too rocky, consumer shall bed trench with 2" of clean bedding material.
- Once trench is opened, call MWP to schedule a serviceman to inspect the trench for adequate depth and bedding.
- Marking tape shall be installed 18" below final grade.
- If trench is deemed acceptable, a qualified person can install the conduit or, if included in the estimate a MWP can schedule a serviceman to install conduit. Once conduit is installed, the consumer will be responsible for backfilling their trench.
- The trench shall be back-filled according to **Page 2**. Pieces of scrap cable and other construction items must not be buried in the trench. Compact the soil, leaving a slight mound to allow for settling.
- Once MWP is notified that the consumer trench has been backfilled, a crew will be scheduled to pull wire through the conduit.
- If trench depth cannot be met please consult MWP for guidance.

#### **MWP RESPONSIBILITES**

- MWP is responsible for installation of all primary voltage cable.
- MWP will provide load-side electrical conduit and sweep(s) in consumer trench.
- After consumer trench is backfilled satisfactorily, MWP will pull secondary conductors through conduit and terminate connections between MWP transformer or secondary junction box and the top of the meter socket.
- MWP will provide and install watt-hour meter.
- For current transformer (CT) metering, see MWP requirements for additional information.
- MWP will energize power after the customer completes backfilling and compacting of trench to the satisfaction of MWP.

### **CONSUMER RESPONSIBILITIES**

- After MWP or the consumer completes the installation of electrical conduit in the consumer trench, the consumer shall be responsible for backfilling the trench in accordance with MWP requirements.
- Where applicable, the consumer will provide one or all of the following: appropriate meter base and all load side connections.
- Responsible for all site restoration associated with line extension.
- Responsible for all necessary inspections required by the permitting jurisdiction.
- Responsible for protecting the safety of the general public from any open section of trench.
- Responsible for locating existing utilities by calling **811 CALL BEFORE YOU DIG.**
- Ensuring that final grading is completed and that all MWP conduits maintain adequate cover over MWP conductors.

### INSTALLING OTHER UTILITIES IN CONSUMER TRENCH

The customer may place telephone, cable TV, or other electronic signal conductors in a trench with electric utility wires, providing the installation meets the requirements of these companies and their respective regulatory agencies and of MWP. In no circumstances may water or sewer lines be installed in a common trench.

# **CONSUMER TRENCHING**

