

Electric Line Extensions Built Jointly with a Telephone Company

If you are planning construction that will require both electric service and telephone service, there are some things you need to know to avoid delays. Most importantly, you must contact both the electric company providing service in your location and the telephone provider of your choice.

In Vermont, the electric utility companies and the land line owning telephone companies have what is known as “maintenance areas” within their respective service territories. Poles located within an electric company maintenance area are owned by the electric company and likewise, poles within a telephone company maintenance area are owned by the telephone company.

The representative from the electric company will let you know whether your line extension is located in the electric company’s or telephone provider’s maintenance area. If the line extension is located within a telephone company maintenance area and you want to have a land line from **that same telephone company**, then you must contact that telephone company to make that request in order for the pole setting to occur. **If you don’t contact the phone company in a timely manner, it will delay the electric company’s ability to extend its electric lines and provide service.**

If you request a line extension for both electricity and telephone at the same time (referred to in the industry as “joint construction”), you must have separate agreements with both the electric company and the telephone company for pole and wire charges along with any other costs associated with their services, sometimes called a line extension agreement. You will be charged for the costs incurred by both the electric company and the telephone company.

If the telephone company chooses to run its facilities underground while the electric company runs its electric lines overhead, you will be charged the non-joint rate by the electric company. The non-joint rate is a higher cost due to the fact that there are not multiple utilities sharing the expense of construction.

If you choose to have only an electric line installed, the electric company will be responsible for placing the poles and anchor guys regardless of the defined maintenance area. In that instance, then you only need to be in contact with the representative from the electric company to arrange for that work to occur.

**This handout is for informational purposes only. Not intended to advise the customer as to their rights in selecting a telephony provider. Line extension costs and construction specifics are governed by applicable Tariffs of the utility companies.