



Meeting Minutes

Contractor Open House / Technical Information Session

Chair	Casey Smit	Date	Jan 15 th , 2025
Start Time	1:30pm	End Time	2:45pm
Attendees	Casey Smit, Tim Austin, Bede Blomme, Byron Rokeby-Thomas, Christian Desrosiers, Dana Hamilton, Jillian McKay, Neal Dermody, Scott Spencer, Kim Verigin (KV Electrical Systems), Alain Ladouceur (Shoreline Electric), Joe Georget (Red Truck Electric), Paul Adam (Adam Electric Inc.), Eli Bergeuin (Emprise Contracting), Mike Bowick (Bowick Electric), Kyle Tracey (TSBC), Jesse Ewert (Full Spectrum Electric), Mark Thayer (Longbeach Electrical Cont.)		
Issued By	Sophia Mountford		
Purpose	To provide a briefing to Nelson Hydro contractors on key changes to the Nelson Hydro Service Bylaw (No. 3608, 2024) as well as the newly issued Service and Metering Guide. To provide an opportunity for contractor questions and discussion.		

Briefing Summary

The following were key discussion items:

- Nelson Hydro (NH) team including Casey Smit, Tim Austin, Bede Blomme, and Christian Desrosiers gave a briefing on key changes including:
 - Amalgamation of two previous bylaws into a single document. Making changes to the bylaw involves a prolonged process through the BCUC, hence Nelson Hydro has published a separate technical guide, the Service & Metering Guide which can be revised as needed. Always look on the Nelson Hydro website for the most up to date version of both documents.
 - Bulletin correcting an incorrect definition in the Bylaw – the Point of Connection for an underground service is not the bottom of the meter as written in the bylaw, this should be the line side meter base lugs in accordance with CEC and manufacturers' requirements.
 - Fee changes including:
 - different rates for rural vs urban connections
 - lowest new connection rate is for a 200A service. 100A services are still permitted, but will be charged 200A connection fee by Nelson Hydro.

- Supply of wire >200A will be customer responsibility. **Supply of conductor for multi gang meter bases was discussed – See Q&A Summary Question 1 below.**
- Introduction of a \$400 Underground incentive credit
- Fees will be charged at actual rate for after hours callouts e.g. double time, 2-hour minimum callout, vehicles etc.
- TSBC Declarations – preference is for these to be emailed to NH Design in advance of work taking place. Hard copy on site is also acceptable, and the line crew will need to take the copy. Crew will not energize on verbal confirmation.
- For multi-gang meter bases a blank cell is required. **See Q&A Summary Question 8 below.** Permanent labels are required, even for old services that have been worked on. Services without labels will not be energized. If labels are in the sun these will need to be UV rated e.g. lamacoid.
- Nelson Hydro will now be allowing 320A meter bases because of delays receiving CTs. These will have lower fees and better availability. The first 320A self-contained meters should arrive end of January. 320A services are limited to combined panel ratings of 200A + 125A or 200A + 100A. Nelson Hydro will be checking the correct breaker size is behind meter base.
- Engage with Nelson Hydro Design team early! NHdesign@nelson.ca

Q&A Summary

1. Will there be enough space in the 3" conduit for CEC wire sizes for a 2 x 200A duplex meter base?

For individual services 200A or less, Nelson Hydro (NH) will supply the conductor. For individual services greater than 200A the customer will provide the conductor which may require parallel conduits to meet CEC requirements.

For duplex, triplex or quadplex structures with multiple ganged services NH will provide the service conductor and only a single 3" conduit will be required. NH's requirement for long radius conduit sweeps must be adhered to. The ganged meter base bus rating must be 400A or less and each ganged service must be 200A or less.

***NOTE:** This differs from the information that was presented and the content published in Revision 0 of the Service and Metering Guide. Revision 1 of the Service and Metering guide is forthcoming and will reflect this change.

2. Can you clarify ownership of conduits for underground services <200A?

Conduits will continue to be owned by the customer. Conduits should be installed as per CEC requirements and NH's requirements. Where CEC and Nelson Hydro both have rules the more stringent shall apply. If there is a conflict between Nelson Hydro requirements and CEC, CEC rules shall take priority and the contractor should alert NH Design of the conflict.

3. Are there any changes to the process of dual inspection (TSBC and NH) for underground services?

Dual inspections will continue to be required. Service conduit will be installed under the customer's TSBC permit, and TSBC will inspect for compliance with CEC requirements. NH will perform its own inspections for compliance with NH requirements.

4. When will these guidelines be applied to projects? For example, projects already quoted and designed prior to January 2025.

Projects that were active prior to Dec 31 2024 will be completed under the 2024 fee structure and guidelines. To be considered active, a project quote from 2024 must have been paid prior to the expiration date shown on the quote. If a quote has expired and the customer still wishes to proceed, the project design will be reviewed using current guidelines and the project will be requoted using current Bylaws.

5. Will Nelson Hydro be notifying contractors of new revisions to the Service and Metering Guide?

Official document revisions will be published on [Nelson Hydro's website](#). Nelson Hydro will establish a Contractor Distribution Email List set up to informally notify contractors of changes.

6. When considering that contractors are now responsible for conductor >200A, the \$400 Underground Incentive doesn't provide much incentive as it isn't a lot in terms of covering the cost of conductor and pulling it without a line truck.

Services over 200A need to be installed underground unless otherwise approved by Nelson Hydro. The \$400 incentive will be applied to all underground services to assist with the transition to this requirement.

7. There are a few issues (above) that Nelson Hydro will be taking under consideration. When will the Service and Metering Guide start applying given this?

The current revision of the Service and Metering Guide is in effect as of Jan 1, 2025. Contractors can reach out to Nelson Hydro design to discuss their particular circumstances.

8. Regarding the requirement for a blank cell in a multi-gang meter base, does this apply to Overhead Services as well?

This requirement is meant to address cable routing challenges associated with conductors entering from the bottom, which is not a concern with overhead services. The next revision of the Service & Metering Guide will clarify that a blank cell in a multi-gang meter base is only required for underground services.

9. In terms of Nelson Hydro's move to only charging for 200A as the minimum service size. Will Nelson Hydro refuse to connect if wire, mast, and meter base are rated for 100A?

Nelson Hydro will still connect 100A services, but customers will be charged for a 200A service and Nelson Hydro will install service conductor suitable for a 200A service.

10. Are the new 320A self-contained meters readily available?

Nelson Hydro is expecting a shipment of these at the end of February. Nelson Hydro can notify interested contractors when they arrive, as there is a chance of delay with meter shipments.

11. What is the current solution for projects needing a CT or 320A meter until these are available?

Contact NH Design and we will advise on lead times on both options.

12. Can Nelson Hydro install demand meters for personal reasons with a fee?

In some instances, NH will install a demand meter at the customer's request. Fees will apply for any field work that is required to accommodate a request. Please contact NH Design to discuss specific circumstances.

Distribution

The Meeting Minutes were distributed electronically to attendees of the Contractor Information Session held Jan 15th, 2025.

Appendices & Attachments

[5500-02-EP-001 – Service & Metering Guide R0](#)