



## MEC Trench Guidelines

1. Before digging call for Underground locates: 811 at least 48 hours prior to digging.
2. All Primary trenches must be a minimum of 36" deep. Extended depths may be required by MEC staff on a case by case basis.
3. If a 36" depth cannot be achieved, contact your local Mountain Electric Engineering Department
4. If trench is to be a joint trench (*shared with other utilities*) the following separations must be maintained:
  - a. 24" between gas and electric lines
  - b. 18" between water and electric lines
  - c. 36" between sewer and electric lines
  - d. 12" between communications and electric lines
5. If the trench is dug through rough, rocky terrain, the conduit must be bedded with a minimum of 4" of sand.
6. All conduits must be 2.5" gray Schedule 40 electrical PVC, or Red SDR 13.5 Smooth conduit.
7. All primary conduit (7200V) must be 2.5" diameter with 36" radius long sweeping elbows at any 90° bend. Unless otherwise specified by MEC Engineer.
8. Secondary (120/240V) conduit for a 200 Amp. service is recommended to be 2.5" diameter, with 36" radius long sweeping elbows at any 90° bend. Unless otherwise specified by MEC Engineer.
9. There will be no more than 180° of bend (2- 90° bends or 4- 45°) in any one run of primary conduit, between devices.
10. Mule-tape rated at 2500# must be left in all conduits, primary and/or secondary. Mule-tape must move freely in conduit and have sufficient length (10' or greater) beyond each end to accommodate installation of conductor.

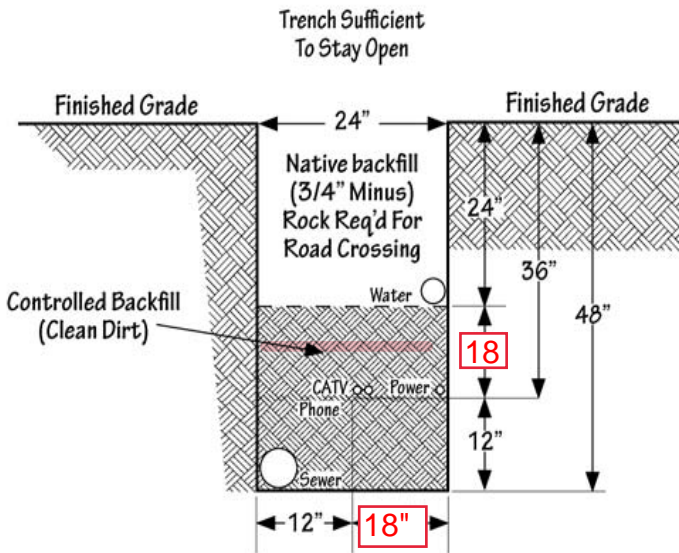
11. Where transformers and primary or secondary junction boxes are to be installed, specifications must be obtained from Mountain Electric Engineering Department.

12. After the Trench is dug and conduit installed, call Mountain Electric (TN 423-727-1800 & 1-828-733-0159 for NC and Roan Mtn) to have an inspection scheduled by the Engineering and Operations Department.

13. After the Trench and the conduit are inspected, the Trench may be back-filled. Conductor will NOT be installed until trench is backfilled.

14. A second 2.5" conduit must be installed parallel with the power conductor conduit. Same specs as primary conduit. This is a spare for future use and will be supplied by MEC.

## Typical Trench Detail



MEC to supply marking tape to be installed 12" above Primary cable  
See staking Engineer.

**NOTE:** No electric lines, primary or secondary, may be placed under a concrete foundation or slab.