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New CSU requirements for residential service

Beginning January 1, 2013, there are some new requirements that builders, electrical contractors, and homeowners will need to be aware of for new and upgraded residential services within CSU's utility area.

CSU is installing larger utility transformers and upgrading existing transformers in residential areas that in some cases will affect the available fault current at the service on the home. In CSU's new 2013 standards they have several charts outlining the minimum distance the utility transformer must be from the service on the home to not be affected by this change.

The guidelines RBD will be utilizing in our permitting and inspection process are as follows:

- 1) New residence -----At the time the builder pulls the permit for the home they will have to provide the length of service lateral from the transformer to the service on the home. If this is 65ft or more, nothing else will be required and the service can be built with a traditional self-contained meter socket and panel all rated for 10K fault current. If less than 65ft, the service will have to utilize a combo meter/main or meter/panel with a main breaker rated 22K. (For services larger than 200-amp, it is the contractor/builders responsibility to refer to the charts provided by CSU in determining equipment ratings.)

If the distance to the utility transformer is unknown at the time the permit is pulled, the building permit will still be issued, but the electrical contractor will not be able to schedule the service inspection until the length of service lateral is provided to RBD.

- 2) Existing residence -----Contractors and homeowners will need to provide similar information when upgrading a service on an existing home. At the time the permit is issued they will be asked whether the service is overhead or underground. If overhead, nothing else will be required and they can proceed with a standard self-contained meter socket and panel all rated for 10K fault current. If underground, they will have to know what the available fault current is at the service. This will be based on the information in CSU's standards for wire size and distance from the transformer. If less than 10K, the service can be built with standard 10K rated equipment. If more than 10K, they will have to install a combo meter/main or meter/panel with a 22K rated main breaker.

CSU provides their standard in book form at no cost, or it can be accessed on-line.