

Habersham EMC's Underground Services Requirements for Consumers Wishing to Dig Their Own Ditch

Before you wire:

The consumer must contact their assigned HEMC engineer prior to mounting a meter base. The Staking Engineer will stake the job and spot the meter base. Meter bases mounted prior to getting the engineer's approval will possibly subject the consumer to additional changes in the job at the consumer's expense.

Ditch Specifications:

The consumer is responsible for calling the Utilities Protection Center for underground line location prior to digging. Call for a Dig Ticket at 1-800-282-7411. Georgia law requires that you call at least three business days prior to digging.

The ditch must be dug from directly below the meter base to within two feet of the underground transformer or pole base. When digging to an underground transformer, the ditch must not go to the back of the transformer. The ditch should end at the side or front of the transformer (see illustration). The ditch depth should be 30 - 42 inches from the top of the ground the full length of the ditch.

Ditches may not cross over or be closer than 15 feet to septic tanks and drain fields. Using conduit in this situation is not an acceptable exemption.

HEMC will not install wire in a ditch that would require one HEMC employee more than 30 minutes of additional digging or cleaning fill dirt out of the ditch.

If there is a reason a specification cannot be met, call the Staking Engineer for help. The engineer will do their best to work with consumers in difficult situations. Any exception must be approved by the Staking Engineer and noted on the work order.

County Approval:

The service entrance must be approved by the county before HEMC will install service wires to the building.

HEMC Wire Installation:

After the meter base has been spotted by an engineer, the ditch has been dug to the above specifications, the meter base has been approved by the county, and the engineer has completed the work order, wire installation may be scheduled by calling the Construction Supervisor at 706-839-4104. HEMC will normally install wire within one to three days after the Construction Supervisor receives the work order from Engineering. HEMC will notify the consumer of any unexpected delay.

Any scheduled visit that an HEMC employee makes for wire installation and cannot install wire because the above specifications aren't met will post a \$75 trip charge to the consumer's account.

Additional notes:

Conduit will be installed at the consumer's expense where the ditch crosses driveways that will be paved or other areas that will be inaccessible later.

The temporary will be disconnected at the time of job completion. Otherwise, a trip charge and other additional fees will apply.