

Overview of Process to Bury Power Lines to Cabin

For cabins that have overhead service that is directly served from the road, service can be converted to underground buried lines. There is a good amount of work the cabin owner has to do to convert power to underground, and the expense is not insignificant.

This will take coordination with both the Forest Service and PSE. Here are some of the considerations and steps to take:

Contact the Forest Service to get approval and a permit for the work.

The trench for the buried power line should be planned for previously disturbed ground, such as along the driveway.

Find and hire an electrician that can convert the existing overhead meter to underground.

The cabin owner or an electrician should submit a power application to PSE, to include a sketch showing the location of the new power underground meter. Call PSE customer service at 1-888-321-7779 and provide this information for a Project Manager to be assigned to your project.

Provide confirmation to PSE that your Forest Service application has been granted.

The PSE Project Manager will contact the cabin owner or your electrician and work out the planned service conversion route and timing.

The cabin owner will be responsible to provide the new underground service trench and 3" conduit run from the service pole to the new meter base.

Once the Forest Service places their approval sticker and written approval permit in the new meter base, PSE will schedule the new underground service run and retire the old overhead service.

During this conversion change, there will be a power outage for a couple of hours where your electrician will make the meter base changes (from old to new) when power is disconnected. Once your electrician has done the required changes, PSE will come back to energize the new underground service.

Once the new service is energized, PSE will bill around \$1,500.00 on your next statement billing cycle.