

Privately built line extension

In some situations, you may benefit by having a private contractor build your line extension. You must secure easements or deeded rights on the land that your line will pass across. If the line is on a public way, you must comply with the relevant requirements in Maine Law, including Title 25-A M.R.S.A., Sections 2305-B, 2503, and 2507 that may require you to obtain all necessary and appropriate permits from the city, town, or Maine Department of Transportation (DOT), and other requirements of Maine Law. There are additional requirements for underground service installations. You must provide trenching, cable, conduits, and related equipment to be installed by CMP on CMP's poles. When installing an underground primary voltage line, you will be responsible for installing and owning the riser pole and underground cable risers.

Design requirements

In order to ensure the safety and reliability of our electricity distribution system, your line must be built to comply with CMP's Distribution Construction Standards, Field Operating Procedures, and the National Electrical Safety Code. Before CMP can connect the private line extension to the system, these 3 steps must be completed:

- A copy of the itemized invoice establishing the cost of your private line and a detailed design or sketch of the line must be provided (see sample in this packet).
- All payments and contracts, as well as any required permits must be executed.
- The line must be inspected for safety by a CMP employee or a professional engineer.

Pole permits and easements

If you are building a private line, you are responsible for obtaining necessary permits and easements. In cases where our poles and lines will extend onto or across privately or town-owned property, CMP must obtain permission from the property owner(s). This permission is given to CMP through one of the following forms:

Pole Permit: When CMP must install poles or underground cable along a public way, we need permission from the town or state. CMP will attempt to obtain the necessary pole permit(s). However, CMP cannot assure that such permits will be granted. Therefore, the ultimate responsibility for this permission lies with the customer.

Easement: When CMP must install poles on private property or extend wires across private property, it requires an easement from land owners. As with pole permits, CMP will create the necessary easements. We cannot take such rights by eminent domain. Therefore, if we are unable to obtain all necessary easements, you will have to obtain them for us in order for CMP to serve you. Please bring completed Easement Information Sheet to the site visit.

Getting your new line connected

Please call CMP before any construction is started to initiate a new account and coordinate the schedule with us. Contacting CMP first is important so that we can have the proper equipment on hand and be prepared to perform any work required on existing poles and lines to be ready to serve the new location when you need it. We want to help you avoid surprises.

Single-phase customers will not be responsible for costs for the overhead service cable, transformer, or meter. These are included in your monthly electricity delivery service bill.

Final ownership of your privately built line

You can maintain ownership of the line as long as it will be used to provide electric service to only your distinct household or business. If you opt to keep your line private, you are responsible for all future maintenance of the line. You must provide and install all necessary equipment on your own riser pole. You must sign a Customer-Owner Line Extension Contract.

If you decide to convey ownership to CMP before the line is energized:

1. CMP will take over future maintenance of the line.
2. Construction must meet CMP standards (loop feed/2 cables).
3. You can “rise” the underground cable on a CMP-owned pole. (You pay for the necessary equipment and CMP will install it on our pole).
4. You must pay a Contribution in Aid of Construction (CIAC) tax based on the amount of your Private Line Invoice (excluding trenching, backfill, and conduit associated with the underground).
5. You must sign a conveyance (transfer of ownership) document.
6. You must provide easement rights for all cable and structures.

Who will take care of your line?

You are responsible for keeping the line in proper operating condition, including periodic tree trimming and repair. If CMP believes the line has been damaged due to a storm or otherwise needs repair, CMP may shut the power off to protect you and the public, and to allow you to have a contractor make repairs. If you request, CMP can repair the line and bill you for this work.

Maintenance Agreement: You may enter into a maintenance agreement with CMP for your privately owned line. If the line is constructed in a right-of-way or not accessible by standard CMP equipment and procedures, you will be charged an additional cost for maintenance-related work on the line.

Customer Owned Line Extension Contract: This document will be prepared by CMP and sent to you for signatures.

What if you sell your property?

If you sell, or otherwise convey your property to another person, the title to the private line shall be transferred to the new owner of the property. The contract you sign with CMP shall be deemed to be assigned to the new owner.

What if another customer requests service from the line?

If another customer who has deeded access to the location of the private line requests service from the line and CMP determines it to be necessary to own all or part of the line to serve the customer, you will be required to convey to CMP the portion of the line needed along with any necessary easements as required for CMP to operate and maintain the line. At that time, CMP will require the line to meet CMP's current construction standards. If CMP acquires the line within 20 years of the date it is energized, you will receive payments whenever additional customers are connected to the line for the remainder of the 20-year term. Review the Reallocation section of the Pricing Fact Sheet in this packet.

We're happy to help. If you have questions, call us.