

## RC-2: CONDUIT INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

### 1. PURPOSE

This standard provides the minimum placement instructions for direct burial and concrete encased plastic conduits and fittings.

All conduits and fittings used shall conform to standard RC-1.

### 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	PURPOSE .....	1
2.	TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	1
3.	DAMAGE MINIMIZATION .....	1
4.	TEMPERATURE .....	1
5.	PREPARATION FOR MAKING A PVC JOINT .....	2
6.	CUTTING PVC CONDUIT .....	2
7.	CEMENT AND THINNER.....	2
8.	CEMENTING PVC CONDUIT .....	2
9.	CONDUIT FITTINGS.....	3
10.	CONDUIT TERMINATION .....	3
11.	CONDUIT SPACERS.....	3
12.	TRENCH AND BACKFILL.....	3
13.	CONCRETE ENCASEMENT .....	4
14.	FINISH REQUIREMENTS .....	4
15.	CONDUIT DEBRIS SEALS.....	4

### 3. DAMAGE MINIMIZATION

- A. Conduit should not be left exposed in an open trench longer than absolutely necessary.
- B. Provide support for the full length of conduit when transporting long lengths.
- C. Do not permit unsupported overhangs.
- D. Conduit stored for periods of longer than 30 days should be protected from sunlight according to the manufacturer's recommendations.
- E. Exposure to sunlight during normal construction is not harmful.

### 4. TEMPERATURE

- A. All plastic conduit and fittings to be joined should be exposed to the same temperature conditions for a reasonable length of time before assembly.
- B. Due to an expansion and contraction of plastic duct of 1 –1/2” per 100’ for every 20 degrees F change in temperature, the following precautions should be taken:
  - 1) Allow extra conduit footage at each tie – in for contraction when duct temperature is higher than that of earth; or extra room for expansion, if the reverse condition exists.
  - 2) Backfill from center of ditch towards ends or from tie – in point toward other end of duct run.
  - 3) After trench is backfilled and compacted and duct temperature is the same as that of surrounding soil, duct may be cut off and matched up for connection with tie – ins. All conduit tie – ins entering manhole, vault or handhole walls shall be grouted into the walls.

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## 5. PREPARATION FOR MAKING A PVC JOINT

- A. Make certain that all foreign matter has been wiped from both the conduit and fittings at joints.
- B. The conduit should be dry before inserting into the fitting. It must bottom to make a good cement weld.
- C. Change in conduit sizes must be done at manholes, splice boxes, pullboxes, etc. Reducers must not be used in the conduit line.

## 6. CUTTING PVC CONDUIT



Use a fine tooth wood saw to cut conduit from ½" to 1 ½" diameter, or crosscut wood saw on sizes over 1 ½" diameter. A hacksaw can be used on all sizes. The conduit must be cut straight. Clean off burrs.

## 7. CEMENT AND THINNER

- A. Use only the manufacturer's recommended cement for PVC conduit fabrication.
- B. Use only the manufacturers recommended thinner for PVC conduit fabrication.
- C. Use thinner to cut consistency when cement thickens.
- D. Do not use thinner on PVC conduit.

## 8. CEMENTING PVC CONDUIT

- A. Apply a liberal and uniform coat of cement to the conduit for the full length of the depth of the socket and apply a uniform coat to sufficiently wet the socket of the fitting. Excess cement on the fitting should be avoided as it is wiped into the joint and tends to weaken the pipe.
- B. Work fast enough to insure a good and uniformly – cemented joint.
- C. Slip conduit straight into the fitting with a slight twist until it bottoms. Hold the joint for about 15 seconds. (1 minute in extreme cold weather), so the conduit does not push out of the fitting. Do not twist or drive pipe after insertion is completed.
- D. The joined members shall be cured, undisturbed, for five (5) minutes or more before they are handled. After this initial cure, care must be exercised in handling to prevent twisting or pulling the joint. (In cold or damp weather, this interval should be increased to allow for the slower evaporation of the cement). All duct should be assembled above ground and allowed to lay undisturbed for the weld cure before being lowered into the ditch.
- E. Be sure to wipe off the excess cement that is left on the outer shoulder of the fitting. Plastic bristle brushes should not be used. On larger diameter conduit the brush should be 1" wide minimum.
- F. Use only small cans of cement since it dries rapidly. Keep covered when not in use and away from heat and flames. Cement thinner may be used for thinning cement, which has thickened.
- G. Another fitting or duct section can be added to the opposite end within two or three minutes, if care is exercised in handling, so the strain is not placed on the previous assembly.
- H. Any joint included in the section of conduit to be bent in the ditch, shall be made up above ground and allowed to lay undisturbed for 12 hours or more before installation.
- I. The plastic joint must be held rigid during the curing period in cases where a plastic connection is made with the union under stress due to misalignment or other factors. This will relieve stress on the joint until the conduit is backfilled or encased.

		T&D STANDARDS   NEVADA POWER COMPANY ELECTRIC SERVICE REQUIREMENTS	
		<b>RC-2 Conduit Installation Requirements</b>	
DI: ESRNPC-RC002-REV02		SHEET 2 OF 4	
SCALE: NONE	INITIAL ISSUE DATE: 03/10/2006		

## 9. CONDUIT FITTINGS

Use only approved adapter coupling to convert to other types of conduit.

## 10. CONDUIT TERMINATION

- A. Cap free end of conduit with a plastic cap.
- B. Terminated ends of conduit must be free of support from the manhole for at least 10' to permit alignment of the conduit and the knockout opening. The conduit will be supported inside the manhole with proper spacing and will be cut to length after the concrete has cured.

## 11. CONDUIT SPACERS

- A. Duct spacers should be of the type recommended by the conduit manufacturers and approved by NPC. Horizontal and vertical spacers are placed as follows:



DUCT SIZE	MAXIMUM SPACING
0" to 2"	6 Feet
3" to 3-1/2"	8 Feet
4" to 6"	10 Feet

For a one-tier conduit bank only base spacers are to be used. In multiple – tier conduit banks intermediate spacers must be used between tiers. When the required number of ducts are built up, securely tie the entire assembly together.

- B. Intermediate spacers should not be located at the center of a bend.
  - 1) On fabricated bends, locate the spacer in the tangent.
  - 2) On the trench formed sweeps, locate spacers midway between the tangent and center of bend.

## 12. TRENCH AND BACKFILL

- A. The trench must be uniformly graded with the bottom, rock-free and covered with select material. The backfill shall be:
  - 1) Select fill surrounding direct buried conduit or cable and grounding. Refer to ESR Standard: RT-1 for general trench and backfill requirements.
  - 2) Select natural fill for the remainder of the backfill, refer to ESR Standard: RT-1.
  - 3) Vinyl warning markers shall be placed above ducts at 15-18" below the ground surface.
- B. Backfill shall be made 6" layers and tamped or flooded after each layer is in place. It shall be dense and compacted sufficiently to prevent future settling. It must meet local ordinances.
- C. Flooding is not accepted by all governing entities.

		<b>T&amp;D STANDARDS NEVADA POWER COMPANY ELECTRIC SERVICE REQUIREMENTS</b>	
<b>RC-2 Conduit Installation Requirements</b>			
DI: ESRNPC-RC002-REV02		SHEET 3 OF 4	
SCALE: NONE	INITIAL ISSUE DATE: 03/10/2006		

### 13. CONCRETE ENCASEMENT



- A. A trench containing 3 or more conduits (for installation of primary conductors) shall be encased in concrete as per ESR Standard: RC-3.
- B. Tie and fasten all conduits to prevent floating.
- C. Spacers shall be placed as specified in 11.A (of this specification).
- D. Minimum spacing of 3" between conduits is required.
- E. Minimum concrete coverage shall be 3" on the top, bottom, and sides of the conduits.
- F. Backfill will be as specified in 12.A.2 (of this specification) after the concrete has cured.
- G. Conduit is subject to temperature rise as the concrete cures. Therefore, allow the free end to expand by pouring the concrete from the center of the run or from one tie-in point.

### 14. FINISH REQUIREMENTS

- A. All conduits shall be proven free and clear of dirt and debris by use of an appropriately sized metal mandrel no less than 1/2" smaller than the inside diameter of the conduit.
- B. An approved polyester pull tape (see NPC MT-15) having continuous durable footage markings, with a minimum 1200 lbs of pull strength for conduit 4" or less in diameter and 2500 lbs of pull strength for 6" diameter conduit shall be installed in each completed conduit run.
- C. No service conduit is allowed under one building to serve another building.

### 15. CONDUIT DEBRIS SEALS

- A. For 1-1/2 inch and 2 inch CIC/conduit(s) installed in RS-1 handholes and to RS- transformer pads, the raceway(s) shall be sealed with a NPC MC-16 stock number 255050 cold shrink cover.
- B. For 3 inch conduit(s) installed in RS-1 handholes and to RS-transformer pads, the raceway(s) shall be sealed with NPC MC-39 stock number 240442 debris shield.
- C. For 4 inch conduit(s) installed in NPC RS-1 handholes and to RS- transformer pads, the raceway(s) shall be sealed with a NPC MC-39 stock number 240444 debris shield.

		<b>T&amp;D STANDARDS NEVADA POWER COMPANY ELECTRIC SERVICE REQUIREMENTS</b>	
		<b>RC-2 Conduit Installation Requirements</b>	
DI: ESRNPC-RC002-REV02		<b>SHEET 4 OF 4</b>	
SCALE: NONE	INITIAL ISSUE DATE: 03/10/2006		