



# PRECISION UNDERGROUND PROGRAM



# Precision Underground Program

## Keeping your homes and businesses powered

Dependable power is essential for productivity, comfort and everyday life. LES continuously strives to provide our customers reliable electricity and resiliency.

The Precision Underground Program (PUP) is a data-driven method of identifying neighborhoods with overhead power lines that are most prone to outages and converts those power lines to underground. Burying these lines improves power resiliency during storms by reducing the impacts of wind and trees. It also builds upon our reliability by minimizing the number of repairs needed during outage events. Finally, maintenance costs are reduced by removing the need to trim trees around overhead lines.

## Program details

Using multiple years of outage data, LES analyzes the performance of overhead power lines to find the specific line segments at highest risk for future outages. These line segments are selected as candidates for PUP projects.

Unlike traditional capital projects, PUP project areas are often small, sometimes limited to only a few blocks. The project team will communicate with landowners in the project area to explain the program and how the work may impact each property, including electricity routes, possible easements and property restoration. Construction will be scheduled once all impacted landowners have agreed to the project.

## What you can expect

There are six stages to the Precision Underground Program:

### 1. Evaluation

LES analyzes multiple years of outage data to target high-risk power line segments for conversion to underground.

### 2. Design

The LES project team will propose a route for underground facilities and assess how service is provided to determine meter options.

### 3. Obtaining property rights

LES must receive permission to complete this work by way of acquiring an easement to maintain its equipment in the future. Without necessary easements, the project may be canceled.

### 4. Scheduling and site preparations

LES will communicate with landowners prior to construction and will work with NE1Call to identify pre-existing underground facilities on properties.

### 5. Construction and conversion

Once all impacted landowners have agreed to the project, LES will schedule construction. A planned outage will be necessary to convert electric service to the underground line at the end of construction.

### 6. Property restoration

Crews will take care to minimize disruptions to property and will restore it following construction.

# Meter equipment

Neighborhoods located within PUP projects may see power lines in the area converted to underground. Eligible properties may have their service line, or the line that provides power to homes and businesses, also buried.

Service lines converted to underground as part of PUP will be buried at no charge to the landowner. However, landowners will need to decide how to handle their existing, customer-owned meter equipment.

A meter base is the customer-owned box attached to the home or business that holds the electric meter. It safely provides the separation needed between LES' wiring and the customer's wiring that runs into the interior panel box. For safety reasons, a meter base should only be opened by an LES representative, authorized contractor or certified professional electrician using proper personal protective equipment.

If the landowner elects to have their service line buried, at no charge, LES will provide the standard meter equipment for underground lines. LES will also disable previously used overhead meter equipment; however, the overhead equipment will remain on the home. Any equipment removal, painting or surface restoration is the responsibility of the landowner.

Prior to construction, the LES PUP project team will discuss meter options with the landowner to find the best available solution.

Visit [LES.com/PUP](https://www.les.com/PUP) for additional details.

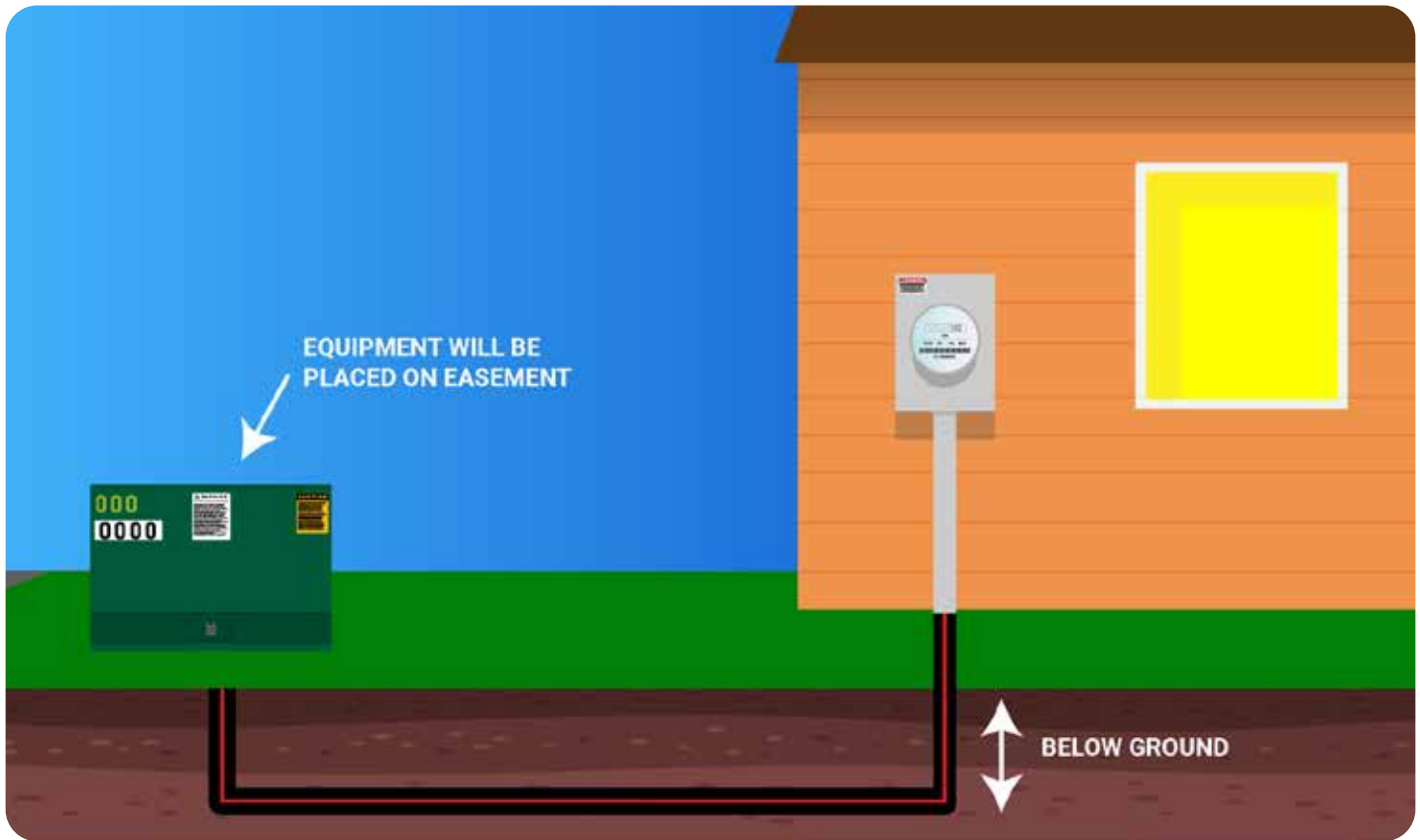
Meter option 1:  
Replace the existing meter base with one that will accept the new underground cable.



Meter option 2:  
Leave the existing electric service line overhead.



# Understanding easements



LES works with landowners to obtain easements granting LES permission to install, maintain and repair equipment on the underground route.

An easement is a signed document that provides legal permission to an entity to perform specific work on another person's public or private land. The landowner still owns the land subject to the rights granted to the utility company.

If an easement is needed, the LES PUP project team will share details about the project route and answer any questions from landowners and customers. These easements are critical for a PUP project to move forward. The easement grants LES the right to cross or otherwise use a particular portion of the landowner's land for a specified purpose and outlines use restrictions within those areas.

Visit [LES.com/PUP](https://www.les.com/PUP) for additional details.

## At a glance

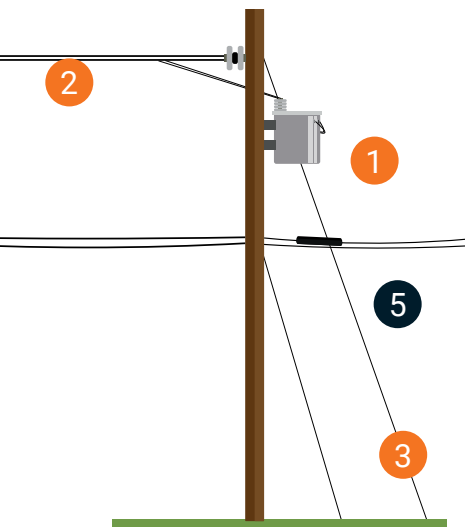
- An easement grants permission for a utility to install, maintain and repair equipment.
- Landowners retain ownership of their land, even if an easement is granted.
- Landscaping around equipment is permissible, within guidelines. View the LES Fence and Landscaping Guide at [LES.com](https://www.les.com) for more details.



# WHAT HAPPENS TO THE POLES?

LES and telecommunication providers often locate facilities on the same poles. When overhead electric lines are converted to underground, but telecommunication facilities remain, LES will remove electric wires and equipment from the poles and shorten them to accommodate the remaining telecommunication lines. LES is unable to coordinate the removal of these providers' facilities. We recommend contacting the utilities' customer service to learn about available removal options. When telecommunication lines are relocated, the pole will be removed.

## BEFORE



1. Transformer removed.
2. Electric lines and components removed.
3. LES anchor/guy wires removed.
4. Poles shortened.
5. Telecommunication services could remain.

### Will it stay or will it go?

The pole will stay if telecommunication providers choose to keep their facilities on the pole. If the pole only has electric equipment, it will be removed.

### If it stays, what will it look like?

Electric lines and components, such as transformers, insulators and fuses, will be removed from the pole. The pole will be shortened 3-4 feet above the remaining telecommunication facilities.

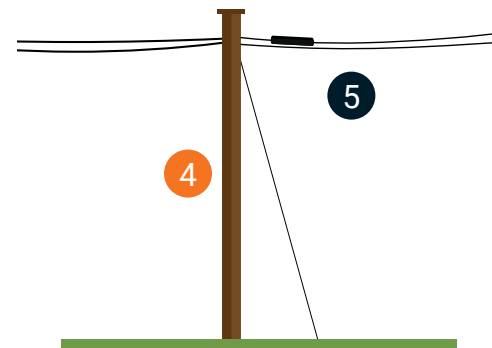
### Who will own the pole?

It depends. LES may retain ownership if we still have equipment on the pole, such as a streetlight. Otherwise, pole ownership may transfer to the remaining utilities.

### Project questions

Reach out to the PUP project team for questions regarding electric lines. For questions about telecommunication facilities, please reach out to the respective service provider through its website. Please note, LES is unable to contact other utilities on behalf of customers.

## AFTER



**PUP projects will result in a stronger electric system and faster restoration following major storms.**

### Improved reliability

- Reduces exposure to weather and trees.
- Fewer power outages.



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