



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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BUILDING AND SAFETY - PLANNING - GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)

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DATE: March 2, 2009
TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Doug Oliver, Chief Building Official
SUBJECT: Electrical Service Authorization Policy

Effective April 1, 2009, the Tuolumne County Building and Safety Division is instituting a new policy for electrical service authorization designed to offer greater flexibility to the builders of the community, improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the inspection process, and increase communication between the Building and Safety Division, the builders of the community and the local service providers.

Final Electrical Inspection refers to an inspection requested for permanent service authorization for a structure or premises. The inspection is requested when all components of an electrical system, installed within the scope of an active building permit, are completed and ready to energize. If the Building Inspector finds the electrical system has met the requirements of the adopted codes, including the provisions of Tuolumne County Ordinance Code Section 13.08.100, relative to onsite wastewater treatment systems, if applicable, the Building Inspector will authorize the utility connection by signing the inspection approval on the back of the building permit and prepare an **ELECTRICAL SERVICE APPROVAL**, a blue self-adhesive tag, and attach the tag to the inside of the service panel door.

If the Inspector finds that the service panel is not complete, he may issue a **TEMPORARY POWER APPROVAL** under the following conditions:

- 1) The electrical service connection is required to prevent an unsafe condition to the structure or premises.
- 2) All grounding and bonding of the service are complete and correct.
- 3) The main disconnecting means and the over-current protection for the main service are installed and correct.
- 4) The service entrance lateral or mast is complete and correct. If the service lateral or mast is existing, the service entrance conductors must also be installed and correct.

Temporary Power Inspection is any inspection requested for a temporary electrical service connection for the purpose of: 1) construction power; 2) emergency power to a premises or structure to prevent an unsafe or unsanitary condition; or 3) electrical power to a temporary site use, such as a film set, Christmas tree farm, pumpkin patch, or similar use not exceeding 90 days.

In order to obtain a Temporary Power Inspection, all aspects of the project that are required to safely provide power to the structure or premises must be ready at time of inspection. For instance, if construction power is required in order to run the furnace to dry paint in a cold environment, the gas line must be inspected or already be approved and all components relating to safe operation of the furnace must be installed and ready for inspection.

If the Inspector finds that the service can be operated safely, he may authorize the utility connection by signing the inspection approval on the back of the building permit and prepare a TEMPORARY ELECTRICAL AUTHORIZATION, a yellow self adhesive tag, and attach the tag to the inside of the service panel door.

Temporary power authorization is not an approval to occupy the structure. Anyone found to be occupying any structure while operating under temporary power and without a Certificate of Occupancy will be cited under Tuolumne County Ordinance Code Chapter 1.10 for a building code violation.

The Tuolumne County Building and Safety Division reserves the right to refuse temporary power at any time to any jobsite for which the conditions of this policy are not met, an outstanding code compliance violation would prohibit a utility connection, the minimum installation and code standards for the electrical equipment are not met, or the site conditions are too hazardous to allow a service meter to be installed.

It is recommended that any complex electrical projects requiring multiple electrical inspections be thoroughly discussed with the Building and Safety Division prior to beginning inspections or requesting a Temporary Power Authorization.