



## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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**Backfill** - Native soil or soil brought in from another area, free from sharp objects, rocks, scrap building material and corrosive material.

**Clearance** - A set distance between two objects.

**Conduit** - A listed or approved wireway with a smooth interior surface.

**Current Transformers (CT)** — A device used to measure the current flow of larger services (401 amps or greater for single phase; 201 amps or greater for three phase) in conjunction with a low voltage meter.

**Current Transformer (CT) Enclosure** - A sealable cabinet designed for surface mounting with a frame or trim for doors or removable covers.

**Deadend Insulator** – a mounted device designed to withstand the pull of suspended electrical wire.

**Demand** - The maximum average kilowatt load used by the customer for a specific period of time during the billing period.

**Drip Loop** - A loop formed in overhead secondary conductors at the weatherhead to prevent water from entering into the service entrance conduit and equipment.

**Ground Rod** - A ground electrode made of a rod not less than 8' in length and 5/8" in diameter, typically made of zinc or copper coated steel. More information on ground rods is available in the National Electric Code.

**Guy** - Cable or brace used to relieve the strain of overhead conductors on masts and poles.

**Load Center (electrical panel)** - Provides circuit control and overcurrent protection. The power is distributed from the load center to various branch circuits for lighting, appliances, and electrical outlets. Careful planning is required so that the power distribution system safely and efficiently supplies adequate electric service for present and possible future needs.

**Locked Rotor Current** - Locked rotor current is associated with the amount of current drawn from your electric service necessary to start an electric motor. Typically, a motor requires more current for the rotor to transition from being stationary or stopped, to spinning. Once the rotor of a motor is spinning, the current needed to power the motor is typically reduced. Locked rotor current is sometimes referred to as Locked Rotor Amperes, In-Rush Current or Starting Current. Not all motorized devices have a unique starting current.

**Meter Pole** - A pole which supports the meter base and associated equipment owned and maintained by the customer.

**Meter Base/Socket** - The mounting device consisting of meter jaws, connectors and enclosure for accommodating socket-type meters. The mounting device may be either a single socket or a trough to accommodate more than one metering unit.

**Neutral** - The grounded conductor in a single-phase, three-wire or three-phase, four-wire system. The service conductor that is at zero potential to ground.

**Point of Attachment (Point of Service)** - The point at which Douglas County PUD's service conductors are attached to the customer's premises by an approved insulated clevis.

**Point of Delivery** - The connection point of the meter base, on the customer's premises, where Douglas County PUD's circuit and the customer's system are interconnected.

**Primary Voltage** - The higher voltage, before transformation, used to distribute electrical energy through neighborhoods and local areas. Normally in excess of 600 V.

**Secondary Voltage** - The lower voltage, after transformation, used to supply the customer with electrical energy. Normally less than 600 V.

**Self-Contained** - In reference to meter sockets: a device designed and rated to continuously carry the entire capacity of the service entrance equipment through the meter.

**Service Disconnect** - a switch used to ensure that an electrical circuit is completely de-energized for service or maintenance.

**Service Drop** - an overhead electrical line running from a utility pole to a customer's building or other premises.

**Service Entrance Conductors** - Those conductors which extend between the customer's load center and point of delivery.

**Service Entrance Equipment** - Service conduit, conductors, service mast, meter base, enclosures and service disconnect.

**Service Mast** - The conduit above the meter used to provide mechanical protection for the service conductors and to support the secondary service conductors from the Douglas County PUD transformer pole.

**TBX** - A buried fiberglass box/vault which most single phase padmount transformers are installed on.

**Temporary Service** - An electrical service providing power to a customer on a temporary basis typically for construction of a structure. Temporary services are used for one year or less.

**Transformer** - Equipment used to reduce (step down) primary voltage to the secondary voltage required to supply the customer.

**Weatherhead** - A waterproof cap on the end of the conduit that allows the wires to enter without letting in water.