



City of Austin

Founded by Congress, Republic of Texas, 1839
Planning and Development Review Department
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Grounding Electrode for T-poles

In July of 2015 it was brought to my attention, t-poles were being installed, and inspected using the illustration in Austin Energy Design Criteria for the grounding electrode. The illustration shows the electrode coiled on the bottom of the t-pole.

This method was used for many years, however this type of installation does not comply with a method prescribed in the National Electrical Code (NEC Section 590.4 for temporary installations, service installations, 250.24, and definition of Premises Wiring).

A minimum of one ground rod, pipe, or plate would be accepted. This is not total compliance with NEC 250.53, but it's a start in the right direction.

To initiate this requirement, the intent, for the first several months was to pass the temporary electric inspection, and inform the contractor a Code recognized grounding electrode would be required for the final t-pole inspection.

I apologize for the oversight of not sending out a memo.

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