



<b>Subject: Priority Assessment for Wire Theft Deterrent Treatment for New Designs and Projects in the Construction Phase</b>	
<b>Date:</b> September 21, 2007	<b>Author:</b> Ross Casey
<b>Bulletin Number:</b> TE-2007-04 <b>Bulletin Type:</b> New Procedure	<b>Effective Date:</b> Immediately
<b>Audience</b>	<b>Standards Affected</b>
Ministry Managers, Electrical Services; holders of the Electrical and Traffic Engineering Manual; Project Managers and Directors; Electrical Design Consultants	Electrical and Traffic Engineering Manual, Standard Specifications for Highway Construction

**BACKGROUND:**

Wire theft is a global problem. Wire theft from B.C. Ministry of Transportation electrical infrastructure can result in serious safety and financial ramifications.

The Ministry of Transportation, in partnership with our Electrical Maintenance Contractors, has been “hardening” infrastructure that has already experienced wire theft as well as other high risk locations. The concept of ‘hardening’ deters wire theft by making it more difficult for unauthorized personnel to gain access to Ministry Electrical systems.

Due to the widespread occurrence of this criminal activity, it is recognized that Ministry electrical design and construction methods must be revised to include “hardening” measures to deter wire theft, especially in high risk wire theft locations.

**Policy:**

All new electrical designs shall be assessed for wire theft potential by the Electrical Engineering Centre, South Coast Region and by the appropriate Manager, Electrical Services to determine the wire theft deterrent treatment required.

All electrical projects in the construction phase shall also be assessed by the Electrical Engineering Centre and appropriate Manager, Electrical Services, to determine the wire theft deterrent treatment required.

**Procedure:**

The Electrical Engineering Centre, in conjunction with the appropriate Manager, Electrical Services, shall assess all new electrical designs and all electrical projects in the construction phase to determine the wire theft deterrent treatment required. Where possible, the wire theft deterrent treatment will be specified in the project electrical design criteria.

Some of the factors used in the risk assessment will be;



# TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Ministry of Transportation

ENGINEERING BRANCH  
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- a.) site remoteness
- b.) length of runs of wire
- c.) wire size
- d.) thief hiding areas
- e.) previous theft history

The Electrical Engineering Centre will determine the project wire theft risk based on a weighted assessment and will specify the “hardening” treatment to be utilized using a standard format email.’ A copy of this email shall be included in the Project design folder.

## **CONTACTS:**

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