
CITY OF KELOWNA

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 30, 2002
File No.: 3900-20

To: City Manager

From: Electrical Utility Manager

Subject: Undergrounding of Wires – Amendment to Electrical By-law & City Policy 101

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council approve an amendment to the City's current Electrical By-law No. 7639 (Schedule B, Section B-2, B-5 and B-6) and City Policy 101 allowing installation of new or up-graded services to be installed either O/H or U/G as laid out in the current Official Community Plan (OCP) and the City of Kelowna Subdivision By-law.

BACKGROUND:

Currently the City's Electrical By-law calls for all new services to be installed underground. This is inconsistent to the current OCP and City of Kelowna Subdivision By-law. In 2002 Council approved an undergrounding of wires and cables strategy presented by the Director of Works & Utilities. That strategy as approved by Council is noted below:

- 1) Installation of underground wires and cables will still be required in all new development streets.
- 2) Burial of overhead wires will be required in all town and village center areas. The City would ensure new development in these areas would be responsible for burial of wires fronting their property. The City would also develop various funding strategies to ensure all wires would ultimately be buried.
- 3) Redevelopment in existing areas outside of town and village centers will be given the option whether to bury wires fronting their property. The City's experience is that there is a desire from some developments to bury the fronting wires due to visual impact on their development. Other developments see no benefit.
- 4) In the City electrical utility service area the City will continue burial of wires under the following conditions:
 - a) Where all the telecommunications and City Electrical utilities jointly identify a benefit to burial of the existing wires and agree to financially share in the costs.
 - b) Where requested by residents a local improvement process will be initiated. The Electrical Utility will pay up to 100% of the cost of burial of their wires (depending on costs and local conditions) with all telecommunication costs to the City be covered by the Local Improvement process.

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The impact of the changes in the Electrical By-law and City Policy 101 would be to reduce the present strategy of burial of wires in City Electrical utility areas while resulting in reduced costs of redevelopment of existing areas of the City. There would be cost savings to the development community as well as to City costs such as Roads DCCs. It also now ensures consistency within the Electrical By-law, Policy 101, OCP and the City of Kelowna Subdivision By-law.

If this recommendation is supported by Council changes to the Electrical By-law and City Policy 101 will be brought before Council for approval.

Rod Carle
Electrical Manager

John Vos
Director of Works & Utilities

cc: Development Engineering Manager
Director of Planning and Development Services