

APPENDIX FF

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY AND
CONTEL/GTE

AUGUST 1996

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into this 28th day of August 1996, by and between the TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY (TRPA), through its Executive Director as authorized by the Governing Board, and CONTEL/GTE, by and through its Vice President of Network Design.

All activities described in this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) shall be in accordance with the Regional Plan package of TRPA as adopted by Ordinance No. 87-9, as amended from time to time. Activities exempt under this MOU shall not result in the creation of additional land coverage, relocation of existing coverage, or an increase in vehicle trips in excess of that otherwise exempt pursuant to Subsection 4.3.B of the TRPA Code. All activities undertaken by CONTEL/GTE pursuant to this MOU shall comply with applicable Best Management Practices (BMPs), and all provisions of the TRPA Code of Ordinances (Code), as it may be amended from time to time, except for the procedural provisions replaced by this MOU, and such guidelines as may be adopted by TRPA.

I. EXEMPT ACTIVITIES

The following activities of CONTEL/GTE, in addition to those exempt pursuant to Section 4.2. of the TRPA Code, are not subject to review and approval by TRPA provided any related excavation or backfilling work does not exceed 10 cubic yards (unless modified below), occurs during the grading season (May 1 to October 15) in land capability districts 4 through 7 and/or within an existing paved area or compacted road shoulder, and the site is stabilized and/or revegetated within 72 hours to prevent erosion.

A. SERVICE CONNECTIONS

1. Repair and replacement of existing underground or overhead facilities such as vaults, pedestals, associated hardware, conduit, service boxes and other appurtenant facilities, provided there is no increase in size or capacity and the replacement facilities are similar in type and function.
2. Installation of new underground service connections for TRPA-approved projects, and for existing improved properties.
3. Location of existing underground facilities.

B. DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES

1. Reinforcement of existing distribution facilities, including aerial facilities or underground facilities in existing conduits. (Reinforcement is defined in Chapter 2 of the Code).
2. Extension of underground distribution facilities for new or additional service connections.
3. Pole replacements in place.
4. Replacement of existing aerial or underground facilities.
5. Location of underground facilities.

C. GENERAL OPERATIONS FOR OUTSIDE PLANT AND BUILDINGS

1. Repair or replacement of splice boxes, conduits, pedestals, cross-connect boxes, and other appurtenant facilities.
2. Gravel existing roadways provided that BMPs are in place, including dust control measures.
3. Traffic control and lane closures for installation and maintenance activities provided any lane closures are limited to the minimum amount of time needed to complete the activity and, with the exception of emergencies, do not occur during holidays or weekends.
4. Use of portable generators, pumps, and compressors for maintenance and repair operations.
5. Installation of roadside warning signs related to construction/ maintenance activities or needed for safety purposes, provided signs are removed within 10 business days following completion of the activities, or within 10 business days of the removal of the safety hazard.
6. Demolition of structures provided the structure is not designated, or pending designation on the TRPA Historic Resource Map, as amended from time to time.
7. Structural repair or remodeling pursuant to Section 4.2.A of the TRPA Code.
8. Excavation and removal of contaminated soil or other material resulting from petroleum product or chemical spills.
9. Installation of observation wells and soil borings for groundwater monitoring and soil investigations.

D. EROSION CONTROL AND RESTORATION ACTIVITIES

1. Installation of erosion control devices such as:
 - a. Sediment basins not exceeding 150 square feet in size.
 - b. Swales
 - c. Rock slope protection not visible from any TRPA-designated scenic roadway or shorezone unit, class I bike paths, or recreation area.
 - d. Rock-lined ditches.
 - e. Willow wattling.
 - f. Access barriers, i.e., bollards and split-rail fencing.
 - g. Installation of temporary erosion control devices.
2. Restoration of disturbed areas of one acre or less provided scarification does not exceed 6" in depth and excavation and filling does not exceed 20 cubic yards.

II. QUALIFIED EXEMPT ACTIVITIES

The following activities of CONTEL/GTE are not subject to review and approval by TRPA, provided CONTEL/GTE certifies, on a form provided by TRPA, that the activity does not result in the creation of additional land coverage or relocation of land coverage, excavation and backfilling does not exceed 25 cubic yards (unless modified below), occurs during the grading season (May 1 to October 15) in land capability districts 4-7 and/or within an existing paved area or compacted road shoulder, and the site is stabilized and/or revegetated within 72 hours to prevent erosion, and the activity is in conformance with the applicable provisions of the TRPA Code. The form shall be filed with TRPA at least five working days before the activity commences. For those activities involving in excess of 25 cubic yards of excavation (as provided below), CONTEL/GTE shall submit the form to TRPA at least 30 days before the activity commences. The following activities are in addition to those activities deemed "Qualified Exempt" pursuant to Section 4.3 of the TRPA Code.

A. SERVICE CONNECTIONS

1. Installation of new service connections for TRPA-approved projects and existing improved properties provided the service connection, if overhead, is not visible from any TRPA-designated scenic roadway or shoreline unit, and is not located within 300 feet of any designated scenic highway corridor right-of-way in urban corridors, within 1000 feet in rural transition corridors, and within one-half mile in rural corridors.
2. Repair or replacement of existing overhead or underground service connections.

B. DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES

1. Reinforcement of existing buried distribution facilities.
2. Extension of underground facilities for new or additional service connections.
3. Repair or replacement of existing aerial or underground facilities.
4. Realignment of existing pole lines due to construction of an erosion control project or road improvement project provided that the realigned pole line is not visible from any TRPA-designated scenic roadway or shoreline units.

C. GENERAL OPERATIONS FOR OUTSIDE PLANT AND BUILDINGS

1. Repair or replacement of submarine cable.

D. MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

1. Conversion from overhead to underground or replacement and/or repair of existing underground facilities including pipelines, conduit and conductor for a distance of not more than 2500 lineal feet, provided all excavation is within an existing road right-of-way, relocations or conversions of facilities to underground are within existing paved areas or compacted road shoulders, the amount of excavation is the minimum necessary, and all stockpiling of spoil material is accomplished in accordance with TRPA BMPs.
2. Installation of snow barrier walls to protect pad-mounted equipment, provided walls do not exceed 5 feet in height and 25 feet in length, are not visible from any TRPA-designated scenic roadway or shoreline unit, and are consistent with the TRPA Design Review Guidelines (Chapter 1, Section C(7) and Section 30.13.C(2) of the TRPA Code.
3. Tree removal for public health and safety pursuant to Section 71.4.E(2) of the TRPA Code, and in accordance with any requirements of the owner of the underlying land within the utility easement or right-of-way.

E. EROSION CONTROL AND RESTORATION ACTIVITIES

1. Installation of retaining walls not exceeding 25 feet in length and 3 feet in height, provided that if located within a TRPA-designated scenic roadway or shoreline unit, the wall design is consistent with the TRPA Design Review Guidelines (Chapter 1, Section C(7) and Section 30.13.C(2) of the TRPA Code.
2. Restoration of disturbed areas not exceeding 2 acres, provided scarification does not exceed 6" in depth.

III. TREATMENT AND ACCOUNTING OF COVERAGE

It is understood by CONTEL/GTE and TRPA that the activities set forth herein may result in a requirement to mitigate existing excess coverage. Further, many of the activities involve removal of existing land coverage or restoration of disturbed lands.

Chapter 38 of the Code provides for the accounting, tracking, and banking of coverage in conjunction with Chapter 20. CONTEL/GTE shall report to the Executive Director of TRPA annually on the status of compliance with all excess coverage mitigation, coverage removal and restoration requirements as related to all activities undertaken pursuant to this MOU.

IV. LOSS OF EXEMPTION

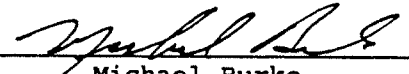
Any exempt activity set forth herein shall be considered a project requiring TRPA review if the Executive Director determines that, because of unusual circumstances, the activity may have a substantial effect on the land, air, water, space, or any other natural resource in the Region.

V. TERMINATION

This MOU may be terminated by either party upon sixty (60) days notice in writing.

CONTEL/GTE

DATED: 11/14/90



Michael Burke

Vice President, Network Design

TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

DATED: 11-6-90

James W. Baetge Executive Director