

Overhead vs Underground What are the Opportunities

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Pros & Cons of Overhead

Pros

- Proven technology and long life
- Least cost to construct and repair when damaged
- Extensive workforce available to respond to emergencies
- Least impact on the environment to construct

Cons

- Most subject to storm damage
- Least aesthetic value to residents
- Most subject to external damage from the public

Pros & Cons of Underground

Pros

- Technology has improved and long life obtainable
- Least visual impacts

Cons

- Most expensive to install
- Longest to construct and high impact on the environment
- Difficult to repair
- High skill level to install traditional systems
- Limited resources external to support major damage repairs

Utility/Regulator/Community Partnership— A Win/Win/Win

- Large scale undergrounding enabled by utility/regulator/community partnership
- Coordinate undergrounding project with other infrastructure improvement activities
- Selective undergrounding in areas with proven impact during storms
- Undergrounding for aesthetics should continue to be paid for by the community not rate payers

Cost Recovery

- Innovative rate treatments of new investment, that were agreed to by all parties before the work was performed, to ensure fair and timely return
- Phased in approach prevents spikes in rates; can defer need for full-blown rate cases; creates certainty; improves financing

Your Support is Essential

