



COST MANAGEMENT: DISTRIBUTION SERVICES & OPERATIONS POLE EXCAVATION PROCESS

INTRODUCTION BY:

Rudy Garza

SVP, Distribution Services & Operations

PRESENTED BY:

Darrell Clifton

Senior Director, Overhead Construction Services

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Informational Only

COST MANAGEMENT

DISTRIBUTION SERVICES & OPERATIONS (DS&O)



- ❑ When underground facilities limit the use of mechanized equipment to dig holes for pole installation, hand digging is necessary¹
- ❑ Contractors are used to perform hand digs

Pole Excavation Methods



Digging Machine



Vacuum Truck



Hand Dig

FY2018 Pole Excavation Stats

Method	# of Poles	Average Cost/Hole	Total Average Cost
Hand Dig (Contractor)	3,767	\$1,427	\$5.4 M
Mechanized Equipment	3,659	\$500	\$1.8 M

¹“Hand Digging” is a general term for poles dug by hand or specialized vacuum equipment

COST MANAGEMENT

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- FY18 hand-digging costs ~\$5.4M
- Case-study suggests up to 70% of holes designed as hand digs can be dug using mechanized equipment
- New process: pre-inspect pole locations to minimize hand digs by 30-50%

Cost Savings (\$ in millions)	
FY 2019	\$0.3
FY 2020	\$1.2

Pole site inspections will reduce annual costs by \$1.2M



Thank You