

Electric Utility Plant Depreciation Tables

Introduction

BCRI's Electric Utility Depreciation Tables are specifically designed to capture the depreciation characteristics of electric utility transmission and distribution plant. They capture the loss in economic value due to physical deterioration, functional and technological obsolescence, and other forms of external obsolescence impacting the electric industry. This document provides a brief description of the plant accounts for which depreciation tables are provided. The actual depreciation tables are provided at the end of this chapter and on the accompanying CD.

Electric Plant Accounts

This section contains a brief description for each of the plant accounts for which depreciation tables are provided. The plant account descriptions were summarized from FERC documents. A comprehensive description of the all FERC accounts can be found in FERC's Uniform System of Accounts (Part 101) prescribed for public utilities, which is provided in its entirety on the CD accompanying your subscription.

Table 1
BCRI's Electric Utility Depreciation Tables

Electric Utility Plant	
RCatID	Description
5352	Trans: Structures and Improvements
5353	Trans: Station Equipment
5354	Trans: Towers and Fixtures
5355	Trans: Poles and Fixtures
5356	Trans: Overhead Conductors and Devices
5357	Trans: Underground Conduit
5358	Trans: Underground Conductors and Devices
5361	Dist: Structures and Improvements
5362	Dist: Station Equipment
5364	Dist: Poles, Towers, and Fixtures
5365	Dist: Overhead Conductors and Devices
5366	Dist: Underground Conduit
5367	Dist: Underground Conductors
5368	Dist: Line Transformers
5369	Dist: Services
5370	Dist: Meters
5371	Dist: Installations on Customer Premises
5373	Dist: Street Lighting and Signal Systems
5390	GenPlt: Structures and Improvements
5396	GenPlt: Power Operated Equipment
5392	GenPlt: Transportation Equipment
5403	GenPlt: Transportation (Automobiles)
5404	GenPlt: Transportation (Light Trucks)
5405	GenPlt: Transportation (Heavy Trucks)
5406	GenPlt: Transportation (Tractor-Trailers)
5407	GenPlt: Transportation (Trailers)

Electric Utility Depreciation Tables

BCRI's tables are classified using the same plant classifications as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the major accounts. In some cases, sub accounts are provided for commonly used classifications.

Transmission Plant Accounts

The plant account headings in this section provide both the FERC plant account number (in parenthesis to the left of the headings), and BCRI unique account number (along the right margin.)

(352) Trans: Structures and Improvements **5352**

This account includes structures and improvements used in connection with transmission operations.

(353) Trans: Station Equipment **5353**

This account includes transforming, conversion, and switching equipment used for the purpose of changing the characteristics of electricity in connection with its transmission or for controlling transmission circuits.

Includes Items:

1. Bus compartments, concrete, brick, and sectional steel, including items permanently attached thereto.
2. Conduit, including concrete and iron duct runs not a part of a building.
3. Control equipment, including batteries, battery charging equipment, transformers, remote relay boards, and connections.
4. Conversion equipment, including transformers, indoor and outdoor, frequency changers, motor generator sets, rectifiers, synchronous converters, motors, cooling equipment, and associated connections.
5. Fences.
6. Fixed and synchronous condensers, including transformers, switching equipment blowers, motors and connections.
7. Foundations and settings specially constructed for and not expected to outlast the apparatus for which provided.
8. General station equipment, including air compressors, motors, hoists, cranes, test equipment, ventilating equipment, etc.
9. Platforms, railings, steps, gratings, etc. appurtenant to apparatus listed herein.
10. Primary and secondary voltage connections, including bus runs and supports, insulators, potheads, lightning arresters, cable and wire runs from and to outdoor connections or to manholes and the associated regulators, reactors, resistors, surge arresters, and accessory equipment.
11. Switchboards, including meters, relays, control wiring, etc.
12. Switching equipment, indoor and outdoor, including oil circuit breakers and operating mechanisms, truck-switches, and disconnect-switches.
13. Tools and appliances.

(354) Trans: Towers And Fixtures **5354**

This account includes towers and appurtenant fixtures used for supporting overhead transmission conductors.

Includes Items:

1. Anchors, guys, braces.
2. Brackets.
3. Crossarms, including braces.
4. Excavation, backfill, and disposal of excess excavated material.

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5. Foundations.
6. Guards.
7. Insulator pins and suspension bolts.
8. Ladders and steps.
9. Railings, etc.
10. Towers.

(355) Trans: Poles And Fixtures

5355

This account includes transmission line poles, wood, steel, concrete, or other material, together with appurtenant fixtures used for supporting overhead transmission conductors.

Includes Items:

1. Anchors, head arm and other guys, including guy guards, guy clamps, strain insulators, pole plates, etc.
2. Brackets.
3. Crossarms and braces.
4. Excavation and backfill, including disposal of excess excavated material.
5. Extension arms.
6. Gaining, roofing stenciling, and tagging.
7. Insulator pins and suspension bolts.
8. Paving.
9. Pole steps.
10. Poles, wood, steel, concrete, or other material.
11. Racks complete with insulators.
12. Reinforcing and stubbing.
13. Settings.
14. Shaving and painting.

(356) Trans: Overhead Conductors And Devices

5356

This account includes overhead conductors and devices used for transmission purposes.

Includes Items:

1. Circuit breakers.
2. Conductors, including insulated and bare wires and cables.
3. Ground wires and ground clamps.
4. Insulators, including pin, suspension, and other types.
5. Lightning arresters.
6. Switches.
7. Other line devices.

(357) Trans: Underground Conduit

5357

This account includes underground conduit and tunnels used for housing transmission cables or wires.

Includes Items:

1. Conduit, concrete, brick or tile, including iron pipe, fiber pipe, Murray duct, and standpipe on pole or tower.
2. Excavation, including shoring, bracing, bridging, backfill, and disposal of excess excavated material.
3. Foundations and settings specially constructed for and not expected to outlast the apparatus for which provided.
4. Lighting systems.
5. Manholes, concrete or brick, including iron or steel, frames and covers, hatchways, gratings, ladders, cable racks and hangers, etc., permanently attached to manholes.
6. Municipal inspection.

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7. Pavement disturbed, including cutting and replacing pavement, pavement base and sidewalks.
8. Permits.
9. Protection of street openings.
10. Removal and relocation of subsurface obstructions.
11. Sewer connections, including drains, traps, tide valves, check valves, etc.
12. Sumps, including pumps.
13. Ventilating equipment.

(358) Trans: Underground Conductors And Devices **5358**

This account includes underground conductors and devices used for transmission purposes.

Includes Items:

1. Armored conductors, buried, including insulators, insulating materials, splices, potheads, trenching, etc.
2. Armored conductors, submarine, including insulators, insulating materials, splices in terminal chambers, potheads, etc.
3. Cables in standpipe, including pothead and connection from terminal chamber of manhole to insulators on pole.
4. Circuit breakers.
5. Fireproofing, in connection with any items listed herein.
6. Hollow-core oil-filled cable, including straight or stop joints pressure tanks, auxiliary air tanks, feeding tanks, terminals, potheads and connections, ventilating equipment, etc.
7. Lead and fabric covered conductors, including insulators, compound filled, oil filled, or vacuum splices, potheads, etc.
8. Lightning arresters.
9. Municipal inspection.
10. Permits.
11. Protection of street openings.
12. Racking of cables.
13. Switches.
14. Other line devices.

Distribution Plant Accounts

(361) Dist: Structures And Improvements **5361**

This account includes structures and improvements used in connection with distribution operations.

(362) Dist: Station Equipment **5362**

This account includes station equipment, including transformer banks, etc., which are used for the purpose of changing the characteristics of electricity in connection with its distribution.

Includes Items:

1. Bus compartments, concrete, brick and sectional steel, including items permanently attached thereto.
2. Conduit, including concrete and iron duct runs not part of building.
3. Control equipment, including batteries, battery charging equipment, transformers, remote relay boards, and connections.
4. Conversion equipment, indoor and outdoor, frequency changers, motor generator sets, rectifiers, synchronous converters, motors, cooling equipment, and associated connections.
5. Fences.

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6. Fixed and synchronous condensers, including transformers, switching equipment, blowers, motors, and connections.
7. Foundations and settings specially constructed for and not expected to outlast the apparatus for which provided.
8. General station equipment, including air compressors, motors, hoists, cranes, test equipment, ventilating equipment, etc.
9. Platforms, railings, steps, gratings, etc., appurtenant to apparatus listed herein.
10. Primary and secondary voltage connections, including bus runs and supports, insulators, potheads, lightning arresters, cable and wire runs from and to outdoor connections or to manholes and the associated regulators, reactors, resistors, surge arresters, and accessory equipment.
11. Switchboards, including meters, relays, control wiring, etc.
12. Switching equipment, indoor and outdoor, including oil circuit breakers and operating mechanisms, truck switches, disconnect switches.

(364) Dist: Poles, Towers And Fixtures

5364

This account includes poles, towers, and appurtenant fixtures used for supporting overhead distribution conductors and service wires.

Includes Items:

1. Anchors, head arm, and other guys, including guy guards, guy clamps, strain insulators, pole plates, etc.
2. Brackets.
3. Crossarms and braces.
4. Excavation and backfill, including disposal of excess excavated material.
5. Extension arms.
6. Foundations.
7. Guards.
8. Insulator pins and suspension bolts.
9. Paving.
10. Permits for construction.
11. Pole steps and ladders.
12. Poles, wood, steel, concrete, or other material.
13. Racks complete with insulators.
14. Railings.
15. Reinforcing and stubbing.
16. Settings.
17. Shaving, painting, gaining, roofing, stenciling, and tagging.
18. Towers.
19. Transformer racks and platforms.

(365) Dist: Overhead Conductors And Devices

5365

This account includes overhead conductors and devices used for distribution purposes.

Includes Items:

1. Circuit breakers.
2. Conductors, including insulated and bare wires and cables.
3. Ground wires, clamps, etc.
4. Insulators, including pin, suspension, and other types, and tie wire or clamps.
5. Lightning arresters.
6. Railroad and highway crossing guards.
7. Splices.
8. Switches.
9. Tree trimming, initial cost including the cost of permits there for.
10. Other line devices.

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(366) Dist: Underground Conduit

5366

This account includes underground conduit and tunnels used for housing distribution cables or wires.

Includes Items:

1. Conduit, concrete, brick and tile, including iron pipe, fiber pipe, Murray duct, and standpipe on pole or tower.
2. Excavation, including shoring, bracing, bridging, backfill, and disposal of excess excavated material.
3. Foundations and settings specially constructed for and not expected to outlast the apparatus for which constructed.
4. Lighting systems.
5. Manholes, concrete or brick, including iron or steel frames and covers, hatchways, gratings, ladders, cable racks and hangers, etc., permanently attached to manholes.
6. Municipal inspection.
7. Pavement disturbed, including cutting and replacing pavement, pavement base, and sidewalks.
8. Permits.
9. Protection of street openings.
10. Removal and relocation of subsurface obstructions.
11. Sewer connections, including drains, traps, tide valves, check valves, etc.
12. Sumps, including pumps.
13. Ventilating equipment.

(367) Dist: Underground Conductors And Devices

5367

This account includes underground conductors and devices used for distribution purposes.

Includes Items:

1. Armored conductors, buried, including insulators, insulating materials, splices, potheads, trenching, etc.
2. Armored conductors, submarine, including insulators, insulating materials, splices in terminal chamber, potheads, etc.
3. Cables in standpipe, including pothead and connection from terminal chamber or manhole to insulators on pole.
4. Circuit breakers.
5. Fireproofing, in connection with any items listed herein.
6. Hollow-core oil-filled cable, including straight or stop joints, pressure tanks, auxiliary air tanks, feeding tanks, terminals, potheads and connections, etc.
7. Lead and fabric covered conductors, including insulators, compound-filled, oil-filled or vacuum splices, potheads, etc.
8. Lightning arresters.
9. Municipal inspection.
10. Permits.
11. Protection of street openings.
12. Racking of cables.
13. Switches.
14. Other line devices.

(368) Dist: Line Transformers

5368

This account includes overhead and underground distribution line transformers and pole type and underground voltage regulators owned by the utility, for use in transforming electricity to the voltage at which it is to be used by the customer, whether actually in service or held in reserve.

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Includes Items:

1. Installation, labor of (first installation only).
2. Transformer cut-out boxes.
3. Transformer lightning arresters.
4. Transformers, line and network.
5. Capacitors.
6. Network protectors.

(369) Dist: Services

5369

This account includes overhead and underground conductors leading from a point where wires leave the last pole of the overhead system or the distribution box or manhole, or the top of the pole of the distribution line, to the point of connection with the customer's outlet or wiring. Conduit used for underground service conductors shall be included herein.

Includes Items:

1. Brackets.
2. Cables and wires.
3. Conduit.
4. Insulators.
5. Municipal inspection.
6. Overhead to underground, including conduit or standpipe and conductor from last splice on pole to connection with customer's wiring.
7. Pavement disturbed, including cutting and replacing pavement, pavement base, and sidewalks.
8. Permits.
9. Protection of street openings.
10. Service switch.
11. Suspension wire.

(370) Dist: Meters

5370

This account includes meters or devices and appurtenances thereto, for use in measuring the electricity delivered to its users, whether actually in service or held in reserve. This account does not include meters for recording output of a generating station, substation meters, etc. It includes only those meters used to record energy delivered to customers.

Includes Items:

1. Alternating current, watt-hour meters.
2. Current limiting devices.
3. Demand indicators.
4. Demand meters.
5. Direct current watt-hour meters.
6. Graphic demand meters.
7. Installation, labor of (first installation only).
8. Instrument transformers.
9. Maximum demand meters.
10. Meter badges and their attachments.
11. Meter boards and boxes.
12. Meter fittings, connections, and shelves (first set).
13. Meter switches and cut-outs.
14. Prepayment meters.
15. Protective devices.
16. Testing new meters.

Electric Utility Depreciation Tables

(371) Dist: Installations On Customers' Premises

5371

This account includes equipment on the customer's side of a meter when the utility incurs such cost and when the utility retains title to and assumes full responsibility for maintenance and replacement of such property.

Includes Items:

1. Cable vaults.
2. Commercial lamp equipment.
3. Foundations and settings specially provided for equipment included herein.
4. Frequency changer sets.
5. Motor generator sets.
6. Motors.
7. Switchboard panels, high or low tension.
8. Wire and cable connections to incoming cables.

(373) Dist: Street Lighting And Signal Systems

5373

This account includes equipment used wholly for public street and highway lighting or traffic, fire alarm, police, and other signal systems.

Includes Items:

1. Armored conductors, buried or submarine, including insulators, insulating materials, splices, trenching, etc.
2. Automatic control equipment.
3. Conductors, overhead or underground, including lead or fabric covered, parkway cables, etc., including splices, insulators, etc.
4. Lamps, incandescent or other types, including glassware, suspension fixtures, brackets, etc.
5. Municipal inspection.
6. Ornamental lamp posts.
7. Pavement disturbed, including cutting and replacing pavement, pavement base, and sidewalks.
8. Permits.
9. Posts and standards.
10. Protection of street openings.
11. Relays or time clocks.
12. Series contactors.
13. Switches.
14. Transformers, pole or underground.

General Plant Accounts

(390) GenPlt: Structures And Improvements

5390

This account includes in place of structures and improvements used for utility purposes, the cost of which is not properly includible in other structures and improvements accounts.

(392) GenPlt: Transportation Equipment

5392

This account includes transportation vehicles used for utility purposes. This account represents a composite of the following sub-accounts, for which separate depreciation tables are also provided.

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(392.1) GenPlt: Transportation – Automobiles	5403
(392.2) GenPlt: Transportation - Light Trucks	5404
(392.3) GenPlt: Transportation - Heavy Trucks	5405
(392.4) GenPlt: Transportation - Tractor-Trailers	5406
(392.5) GenPlt: Transportation – Trailers	5407

(396) GenPlt: Power Operated Equipment **5396**

This account includes power operated equipment used in construction or repair work exclusive of equipment includible in other accounts. Include, also, the tools and accessories acquired for use with such equipment and the vehicle on which such equipment is mounted.

Includes Items:

1. Air compressors, including driving unit and vehicle.
2. Back filling machines.
3. Boring machines.
4. Bulldozers.
5. Cranes and hoists.
6. Diggers.
7. Engines.
8. Pile drivers.
9. Pipe cleaning machines.
10. Pipe coating or wrapping machines.
11. Tractors, Crawler type.
12. Trenchers.
13. Other power operated equipment.