

Underground electric distribution systems exist in a harsh environment, and as these systems age conductors and equipment quickly deteriorate. Unmaintained vault systems can lead to loss of electricity in the lines which leads to unreliable electricity to customers and loss of money.

Once significant deterioration happens there is potential for contact voltage, which can energize structures such as fences, scaffolding, street lights, and more. This alone causes a major safety concern to the public as touching these energized structures can lead to electrocution. In addition, degrading cable insulation often produces the fuel and faulted cables are commonly the ignition for manhole explosions.

Many public service commissions are now holding electric utilities accountable for these incidents, so inspection and mitigation is the best prevention.

Osmose field technicians are trained to:

- Safely open underground vault structures
- Test for stray voltage
- Inventory internal equipment
- Collect pertinent data
- Conduct infrared thermography
- Execute routine maintenance activities such as installing shrink caps, packing service ducts, and installing barriers
- Check for hazardous conditions or other reliability concerns in or around the structure

Collected data is used to update your geographic information system (GIS) or other data applications. Digital imagery or videos can be captured to supplement the inventory or inspection process reducing the effort of quality control and data acceptance, as well as providing a historical record of asset condition.

To learn more, contact your local Osmose expert call 770.632.6700, or email underground@osmose.com.







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