

It's up to you to maintain your building's dual radial vault (DRV) system

WorkSafe BC and BC Hydro safety rules require customers who own or manage dual radial vaults (DRV) to perform maintenance on the switches within the vault every 42 months (3.5 years). BC Hydro provides three to four maintenance windows for each circuit yearly to help you maintain your vault in a timely manner.

It's a good idea to book and confirm your maintenance date early. Miss that chance and you not only risk non-compliance but also can be subject to switching outages or restoration delays. Please keep your contact information up to date, as we provide several reminders starting 12 months before the maintenance date.

To book maintenance, contact a certified high voltage contractor for a full-service quote. The contractor will de-energize the vault, take the equipment apart, clean the components, test the equipment, and restore power.

How and why you need to maintain your dual radial vault

By having two different power supply sources, your building has much higher power reliability than if fed from just one source.

The dual radial vault system enables power to a customer site by having the ability to switch from running to standby circuits should there be a scheduled or unscheduled outage on the running circuit. This means building occupants are less likely to experience an outage when switching between circuits needs to occur.

What BC Hydro is working on in downtown Vancouver

Demand is growing and our downtown electrical distribution system is aging. So we'll soon be busy with upgrades to that system.

Starting in 2017, the Downtown Open Loop Project will replace the aging downtown system and convert the underground dual radial circuits to an open loop system for up to 90,000 customers.

What is a dual radial vault?

Dual radial vaults (DRV) are underground vaults served by two separate distribution circuits.

Inside the vault are two sets of 12,470 Volt cables; one 'running' circuit and one 'standby' circuit both with switches.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a high voltage contractor?

- High voltage contractors are qualified to work with electrical systems of 10,000 volts and higher. They are also trained in confined space and other vault or underground hazards.
- Refer to page 3 for a list of high voltage contractors.

2. Are the maintenance windows the same year after year?

- No, maintenance windows change year to year depending on crew availability due to cable configuration and planned maintenance work on the DRV system.

3. What if I miss my maintenance window?

- If you miss your maintenance window, you can book a custom window. BC Hydro will bill you directly for the custom window. This fee is separate from the high voltage contractor fees.
- BC Hydro charges for a custom window because we need to schedule additional crew outside of their regular schedule to accommodate the request.

4. How can we avoid momentary switching outages?

- Having your contact information up to date is important so the maintenance reminders are received by the correct person. Booking maintenance early and within the maintenance windows will keep your vault compliant and will eliminate the risk of switching outages.

5. Why is BC Hydro entering my vault if it is customer owned?

- Even though you own the DRV, BC Hydro has an operating order to run the DRV system to ensure system reliability.

6. What am I responsible for when it comes to DRV maintenance?



- Customer schedules DRV maintenance every 3.5 years and hires high voltage contractor to do the work
- BC Hydro sends reminder notices 12, 9, 6, and 3 months before maintenance due date

Dual Radial Vault Hi-Voltage Contractor List

Contractor	Contact	Phone	Email
Accurate Power Group Ltd	Darren Boeur	(604) 638-7226 ext.222(Office) (604) 813-2917 (Cell)	darren@accuratepowergroup.com
Eaton Industries (Canada)	Ramtin Mahdavian Chris Lai	(604) 379-9107	ramtinmahdavian@eaton.com chrisklai@eaton.com
Exell Power Services Ltd.	Lawren Thompson	(604) 514-9472 (Office)	lawren.thompson@exellpower.com
Houle Electric	Kelsey Wilson	(604) 434-2681	kelseyw@houle.ca
Magna IV Engineering	Scott Nixon	(604) 421-8020 (Office) (604) 202-4221 (Cell)	snixon@magnaiv.com
Pacific Powertech Inc.	Shannon Canaday	(604) 944-6697 (Office) (604) 686-3331 (24-hr line)	scanaday@pacificpowertech.ca
Power Pros	Chris Baker	(604) 825-0188 (Cell)	cbaker@powerpros.ca
PowerSafe Energy Services Inc	Elmir Jasarevic Tony Heir	(778) 893-7325 (778) 892-7235	ejasarevic@powersafe.ca their@powersafe.ca
Pro-Con Electrical	Craig Lawson Cathy Christensen	(604) 303-9770 (Office) (604) 329-3915 (Cell)	dclawson@telus.net cathy@pro-conelectrical.com
Schneider Canada	Nick Pritchard	(604) 248-3521	nick.pritchard@schneider-electric.com
Vancouver Industrial Electric	Grant Lease	(604) 726-2288	grant.lease@vie-bc.com
Wismer-Rawlings	Nathan Ward	(604) 468-5578 (Direct)	nward@wre.ca

Notes:

1. BC Hydro provides this list for your convenience. **There is no liability, expressed or implied regarding the qualifications and certification of these contractors.**
2. An Electrical Contractor qualified to work on high voltage equipment as defined by the Electrical Safety Act and the Workers' Compensation Board, Occupational Health and Safety Regulations is required to perform the maintenance. Your contractor should clean, maintain and/or repair all equipment in your vault including both load break and isolator switches on the standby and running switches.
3. As the customer maintaining customer owned equipment you are hiring a high-voltage contractor to conduct the required service. As such you are accountable for the contractual relationship and any WorkSafeBC rules and regulations.