



In an electrical distribution system, power travels from power plants — like AmerenUE's Sioux Plant—over high-voltage transmission lines to substations. These high-voltage lines are almost always located above-ground. The high voltage lines continue on to substations, where the voltage is decreased for travel over the lower-voltage distribution system. Distribution lines can be located either overhead or underground (see highlighted dashed lines). Many new subdivisions are built with underground lines. However, as can be seen in this diagram, power usually does have to travel above ground before reaching the subdivision. Costs to install new underground lines are comparable to costs to install new overhead lines, while costs to convert overhead lines to underground are significantly higher.