NEW BRUNSWICK EXCAVATION

Locates & Buried Lines

Info-Excavation and NB Power locate requests, private lines, pipelines and digging near utilities

4 Expert Answers from Dig IQ

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Q1

How many days notice does NB Power need for a locate?

NB Power asks for at least five business days' notice before you dig. That request is separate from Info-Excavation's Click Before You Dig service, which needs three working days' notice.

The two locates cover different things. NB Power's locate checks only for NB Power-owned underground power lines, and NB Power notes those lines can be buried as little as one foot underground. The locate is valid for 60 days from the date on the NB Power locate form. Any other cables, pipes or fuel lines on the property, including wires run to a garage, pool or shed by the owner or a past owner, are yours to find and mark before the machine arrives.

A few things worth keeping straight before any dig: book the NB Power locate and the Info-Excavation locate as two separate requests, because one does not cover the other. Info-Excavation's locate is valid until the end date of the work written on your request, not for a fixed number of days. If there is any chance a pipeline runs through the area, the NB Energy and Utilities Board's guidelines ask for a locate request at least 72 hours, three full working days, ahead, and say mechanical equipment must not be used closer than 0.3 metre to a pipeline. Ask the contractor to show you both locate tickets before the machine starts.

If a gas line, power line or pipeline is ever struck during the work, stop immediately, get everyone away from the area, and call emergency services from a safe distance.

The request form on this page sends your project details to local excavation contractors listed in the New Brunswick Construction Network directory.

Q2

Who marks the wire I ran to my shed in Fredericton?

The wire you ran to your shed is a private line, and it is yours to find and mark. NB Power says it only checks for its own underground power lines and that everything else, including wires you ran to a pool, garage or shed, is the owner's to have checked.

Before any digging near that shed, there are three steps. Submit an Info-Excavation request through Click Before You Dig at least three working days ahead, and the locate is valid until the end date written on your request. NB Power runs its own separate underground locate service for NB Power-owned power lines only; request that one at least five business days before digging, and it is valid for 60 days from the date on the locate form. Neither of those

two requests will find your shed wire, your neighbour's private drainage, or any other line a past or present owner put in the ground. Those are yours to trace and mark before the machine moves.

A few things worth knowing for a Fredericton dig:

- NB Power notes its lines can be buried as little as one foot underground, so even a shallow trench can reach them.
- If any digging is planned within 30 metres of a watercourse or wetland, a provincial Watercourse and Wetland Alteration permit is required before work starts; that distance is measured horizontally from the top of the bank on the ground, not from a map.
- For work that involves a building permit in Fredericton, the City's Engineering Division reviews lot grading and servicing at the permit stage, so check with the City early if this dig is part of a larger project.
- We found no provincial excavation-contractor licence, but do ask any contractor you hire for a WorkSafeNB clearance certificate before work begins.

Before the machine arrives, book your Info-Excavation request and your separate NB Power locate, then walk the yard yourself and mark every private line, pipe and cable you know about, including that shed wire.

Q3

My locate expired before the dig in Fredericton, now what?

Stop and get new locates before digging resumes. WorkSafeNB requires the employer to make sure underground lines are located before excavating, and the Energy and Utilities Board's pipeline guidelines call for a new locate once the locate period expires.

Get Both Locates Renewed Before the Machine Moves

Info-Excavation, reached through Click Before You Dig, requires three working days' notice. Its locate is valid until the end date written on the request, and that date has passed, so a fresh request is needed. The new locate will carry a new end date tied to the work period you describe on the form.

NB Power runs its own separate underground locate service, and it is not covered by an Info-Excavation request. NB Power asks for at least five business days' notice. Its locate is valid for 60 days from the date on the locate form, and it covers only NB Power-owned underground power lines. NB Power says wiring a past owner ran to a garage, shed or outbuilding is the owner's to have checked before digging resumes.

If there is a pipeline anywhere near the work area, the Pipeline Act, 2005 requires reasonable steps to find out whether one is present and to notify the operator. The NB Energy and Utilities Board's guidelines ask for locate requests at least 72 hours, meaning three full working days, ahead of ground disturbance.

Private lines, drains or tanks installed by the owner or a past owner are yours to locate and mark. Whether Info-Excavation covers municipal water and sewer was not confirmed, so ask the City of Fredericton directly.

A few other things to check while the work is paused. If this dig involves a new foundation, Regulation 2021-2 under the Building Code Administration Act requires a footing and foundation inspection before any backfilling begins. Ask the City of Fredericton's building department how to book that inspection so it does not hold up the pour or the backfill. If the work is within 30 metres of a watercourse or wetland, a Watercourse and Wetland Alteration permit from the province is required before the machine returns to that area. The 30 metres is measured horizontally from the top of the bank on the ground, not from a map.

Ask the contractor to show you both the renewed Info-Excavation ticket and the NB Power locate form before the excavator starts again, and confirm with the City of Fredericton's building department whether an inspection is needed at this stage of your job.

Q4

Does Click Before You Dig cover NB Power lines?

Click Before You Dig is the portal for Info-Excavation, New Brunswick's one-call locate service. NB Power runs its own separate underground locate service and is not part of Info-Excavation. You need to contact NB Power directly, and that request must go in at least five business days before you dig.

The two services cover different things, and neither covers everything. NB Power's locate checks only for NB Power-owned underground power lines. NB Power itself notes that its lines can be buried as little as one foot underground, and that the property owner is responsible for having the site checked for all other cables, pipes and fuel lines, including any wires run to a pool, garage or shed. Info-Excavation's notice period is three working days, and the locate is valid until the end date of the work written on the request. NB Power's locate is valid for 60 days from the date on the locate form.

Private lines, drains and tanks that the owner or a past owner installed are yours to find and mark before any machine touches the ground. If you are unsure whether a municipal water or sewer line runs through the property, ask your municipality directly, as we found no confirmation that Info-Excavation covers those.

One more point worth knowing: if you are digging near a pipeline, the NB Energy and Utilities Board's guidelines treat anyone using mechanical equipment as an excavator. The Pipeline Act requires reasonable precautions to find out whether a pipeline is in the area and notice to its operator, and the Board's guidelines ask for locate requests at least 72 hours (three full working days) ahead. They also say mechanical equipment must not be used closer than 0.3 metre (1 foot) to a pipeline.

The short version: book both requests, mark your own private lines, and ask your municipality about water and sewer. If a gas line, pipeline or power line is struck during any dig, stop work immediately, get everyone away from the area, and call emergency services from a safe distance.

Before you sign anything with an excavation contractor, ask them directly how they handle the locate process and who is responsible for marking private lines on your property.

Disclaimer: This guide is provided for informational purposes only by New Brunswick Excavation. It does not constitute professional advice. Always book your locates, check with your municipality or Regional Service Commission, and follow WorkSafeNB rules before starting any excavation project. Information is current as of November 15, 2026 and may change. Visit **newbrunswickexcavation.com** for the latest answers.