



## Building Department Notice

NEC 230.71

2020 National Electrical Code

Subsection 230.71

Two to Six Service Disconnecting Means

Release Date: March 31, 2023

*The following interpretation, policy, or code alternate is intended to provide guidance to staff for consistency of review/inspection and is subject to change without notice. Application of this interpretation, policy, or code alternate to specific projects may vary.*

**Code Issue:**

Adoption of the 2020 National Electrical Code (NEC) changed the requirements for service enclosures. There is currently a national shortage of the newly required service enclosures. The inability to procure these service enclosures in a reasonable amount of time would delay projects and cause unreasonable hardship to the building community.

**Official Policy:**

Due to a national shortage of these service enclosures the City of Missoula will offer the following as an alternative compliance route until further notice or the next State code cycle adoption process is implemented, whichever occurs first. This notice does not preclude the use of 2020 NEC service disconnects, should the installing contractor choose to implement those requirements.

Voluntary Alternative to 2020 NEC 230.71

Where two service disconnects are enclosed within the same compartment with the purpose of manufacturing availability, the contractor may elect to follow the 2017 NEC 230.71 service enclosure disconnect requirements. They shall additionally, install an *approved*, permanent weatherproof warning placard on the exterior of the enclosure. The field marking shall comply with NEC 110.21(B) and contain the following text:

"Warning:  
Two Service Disconnects  
De-energize Both Before Servicing This Equipment."

Note: A main switch is still required from a 3-6 pack enclosure.

*Cristina Coddington*  
Building Official