

Underground vs. Overhead: The Complex Decision Tree for Utility Companies

Mike Freeman and Laya Khademi

Consulting wood scientists

Hurricanes, winter storms and wildfires have prompted many utilities to consider moving overhead lines underground in hopes of improving system resiliency. While it may seem simple, the process to move from overhead to underground is complicated as utilities must consider a host of factors before making such a decision.

About Mike and Laya

Mike Freeman is a consulting independent wood scientist and chemist from Memphis, Tenn. He has over 40 years of experience in wood preservation and wood treatment technology. With over 450 publications in the field of wood science and wood preservation, he is considered by many as the ‘go to’ guy when issues arise concerning investigation into chemistry and potential early product failures. With extensive world-wide travel to more than 58 countries, he is also the recipient of the American Wood Protections Association’s highest honor, the 2017 AWWPA Award of Merit. His newest book, ***The Real “411” on Industrial Wood Preservatives*** is scheduled for release later this year.

Laya Khademi has recently been awarded her Ph.D. from the Mississippi State University College of Sustainable Bioproducts, located in Starkville, Miss. She has five peer-reviewed publications and three more currently in draft form awaiting publication since her recent Ph.D. defense concerning wood protection and chitosan and nano-chitosan particles used for fire retardancy or wood protection. She was born and had her early education in Iran and has been in the employ as a sub-contractor/scientist to Mike H. Freeman’s WoodDoc consulting practice since 2017, as well as being a researcher at Mississippi State University.