

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Burns & McDonnell Strengthens Its Underground and Submarine Cable Services Team**

KANSAS CITY, Missouri — [Burns & McDonnell](#), a global engineering and construction firm, has reorganized resources and expanded services to better meet the rapidly growing need for [underground electrical cables](#). The new Underground & Submarine Cables team is organized within the company's industry-leading Transmission & Distribution Group.

Much of the nation's aging electrical infrastructure is being rebuilt, both in high-voltage transmission and lower-voltage distribution systems. Amid changing regulations, load growth in urban areas, and increasing reliability and resiliency requirements, many utilities are pursuing strategic undergrounding approaches. The emergence of offshore wind is also drawing attention to the need for submarine cables to bring that renewable generation to the grid.

"With so many factors driving a greater demand for underground and submarine cable installations and replacements, it just makes sense to create a group with a dedicated leadership team, investing in technical development in these specialized focus areas to better support our clients," says [John Olander](#), president of the Transmission & Distribution Group and chief operating officer at Burns & McDonnell.

Underground transmission and distribution line design is a highly specialized service, critical for bringing vital power reliably through challenging environments. Burns & McDonnell has been a pioneer in underground power delivery, providing integrated services from cable selection and routing to design and construction support. The firm has routed, designed or installed nearly 1,000 miles of underground transmission and distribution lines in the last decade on behalf of more than 75 clients.

Under the leadership of managing director [Frank Morrissey](#), the Underground & Submarine Cables business line will continue to serve the undergrounding needs of electric infrastructure clients, both domestic and international. In addition to creating the new group, the team has also made two key hires of senior leaders in the market.

[Bob Hobson](#) is a technical consultant with four decades of experience in the electrical power industry, specializing in high-voltage underground and submarine power cable systems. He has designed land and submarine high-voltage direct current (HVDC) cable systems up to 640-kV and high-voltage alternating current (HVAC) single-core land lines up to 525-kV, as well as submarine single- and three-core cable systems up to 420-kV for North American applications.

Additionally, trenchless engineering — which has been used extensively for oil and gas pipelines over the past few decades — is an increasingly popular way to shorten routes for electrical transmission and distribution and minimize surface disruptions, but it requires specialized knowledge. Project manager [Kerby Primm](#) has spent almost two decades as an engineer working on civil site design, transportation and trenchless design in the energy sector. Primm is a leader in trenchless design, including designing world-record-long underground crossings of Lake Sakakawea in North Dakota. He is a registered professional engineer in 10 states.

Engineering News-Record has ranked Burns & McDonnell No. 1 in Power generally — and in transmission & distribution specifically — among U.S. engineering and construction firms for seven consecutive years.

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About Burns & McDonnell

Burns & McDonnell is a family of companies bringing together an unmatched team of 10,000 engineers, construction and craft professionals, architects, and more to design and build our critical infrastructure. With an integrated construction and design mindset, we offer full-service capabilities. Founded in 1898 and working from more than 60 offices globally, Burns & McDonnell is 100% employee-owned. Learn how we are [designed to build](#).