

FOR BOARD ACTION

Agenda Item # 11.

Meeting Date:

10/30/07

SUBJECT: REVISIONS TO WATER SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS

PREPARED BY: Doug Rovang, Senior Civil Engineer



ITEM DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of the Water Service Rules & Regulations is to assist RPU customers, prospective customers and their architects, engineers or plumbing contractors in planning for, making arrangements for, obtaining and maintaining municipal water service. A summary of the proposed revisions to the "Rules" is attached. Staff will review the proposed changes with the Utility Board at the 10/30/2007 Board meeting.

UTILITY BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Staff requests the Utility Board approve the proposed revisions to the Water Service Rules and Regulations to become effective November 1, 2007.

Reviewed 10-25-07 WNS


General Manager

10/25/07
Date



SUMMARY OF PROPOSED REVISIONS
TO
WATER SERVICE RULES & REGULATIONS
October, 2007

The proposed revisions to the Water Service Rules & Regulations are described below. The attached copy of Exhibit I shows the proposed revisions in bold and italicized.

Proposed Revision No. 1 –

Section 400 (Water Service) Paragraph 409 (Service Materials and Sizing) – Correction of the last sentence of this paragraph to correctly reference Exhibit I for acceptable water service materials. The current “Rules” incorrectly reference Exhibit J for acceptable water service materials.)

Proposed Revision No. 2 –

Exhibit I (Allowable Water Service Pipe Materials) Exhibit I is being updated to reflect a proposed change in allowable water service pipe materials under certain conditions. The proposed change would allow the use of suitable polyethylene pipe material for the portion of new water service lines extending from the end of an in-place copper water service stub-out in new subdivisions or from the curb stop in existing subdivisions to the inside of the building being served, only if that service extends more than 100’ from the curb stop. The change would also allow the use of suitable polyethylene pipe material for the portion of a replacement water service line extending from the existing curb stop to the building being served, only if that service extends more than 100’ from the curb stop. All 2” and smaller water service lines within the street right-of-way and to the limit of utility easements are to be Type K copper as the “Rules” currently require.

Reason for This Proposed Revision to the Water Service Rules and Regulations:

The price differential between the currently specified copper water service pipe material and polyethylene pipe material is significant (but has lessened somewhat in recent months). RPU staff considers copper to be a better water service line material and recommends continuing to require the installation of copper water service lines in the street right-of-way and adjacent utility easement. However, staff recognizes the significantly increased cost of unusually long copper water service lines (to the point where, in some cases, connection to City water is delayed or not made) and, therefore, is proposing this change to the “Rules”. Where a portion of the water service line would be permitted to be constructed with polyethylene pipe material, a number of material and installation conditions are proposed to ensure the highest quality installation possible with this material (as listed on the attached proposed Exhibit I).

EXHIBIT I

ALLOWABLE WATER SERVICE PIPE MATERIALS

<u>Diameter</u>	<u>Material</u>
¾"	Type K Copper
1"	Type K Copper (See Note 1)
1-1/4"	Type K Copper (See Note 1)
1-1/2"	Type K Copper (See Note 1)
2"	Type K Copper (See Note 1)
4"	Ductile Iron
6"	"
8"	"
10"	"
12"	"

Note 1 – High density polyethylene (HDPE) water service pipe meeting the following specifications will be permitted as a substitute for copper water service pipe only for the below-stated applications and only with written Water Utility approval prior to installation. Required polyethylene pipe diameter for each such service will be determined by the Water Utility. (Upsizing from copper will be likely due to the increased polyethylene pipe wall thickness.)

- 1) **Materials.** Pipe shall be new HDPE meeting requirements of the latest revision of AWWA C901 "Standard for Polyethylene Pressure Pipe and Tubing, ½" Through 3" for Water Service", PE3408 material conforming to ASTM D3350, 200 psi pressure rating, copper tube OD-sized with DR 9 outside diameter ratio, meeting potability requirements of NSF 61, and factory supplied in blue-color. Contractor shall provide affidavit of compliance with these specifications to include name of pipe manufacturer.
- 2) **Allowable Polyethylene Water Service Pipe Applications.** (All 2" and smaller water service lines within the street right-of-way shall to be Type K copper.)
 - a) That portion of a new water service line extending as one-piece from the curb stop or the end of the in-place copper water service stub-out to the inside of the building served, only if the service extends more than 100' from the curb stop to the building served.
 - b) That portion of a replacement water service line extending one-piece from the existing curb stop to the building being served, only if the service extends more than 100' from the curb stop to the building being served.
 - c) Installation of polyethylene pipe will not be permitted where volatile organic materials are determined to be present in or near the water service line trench materials.
- 2) **Fitting and Sleeving Requirements** Standard brass fittings as specified in the City of Rochester Standards for Street and Utility Construction, C150 "Service Connection Specifications", shall be used at the termination points of polyethylene water service pipe. A standard stainless steel stiffener shall be installed inside the polyethylene pipe at such joints. Polyethylene pipe is to be installed inside a Schedule 40 PVC sleeve where passing through a building wall or floor.
- 3) **Service Tracer Wire Requirement.** A continuous solid core #10 (blue colored) THHN insulated tracer wire shall be installed immediately above the entire length of the service to the curb stop (and into the building served), and permanently attached to the copper portion of the service line on the street end. The brass coupling nut is to be provided with a tapped bossed projection suitable for connection of the tracer wire.
- 4) **Water Service Grounding Requirement.** The water service within the building served shall be properly grounded as required by the National Electric Code.



RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Public Utility Board of the City of Rochester, Minnesota, to approve certain revisions to the Water Service Rules and Regulations to become effective November 1, 2007.

Passed by the Public Utility Board of the City of Rochester, Minnesota, this 30th day of October, 2007.

President

Secretary