



This document outlines the dry utility trenching policy and provides contractors with two options to follow when trenching utilities.

Option 1 The contractor may begin trenching of dry utilities after installation of wet utilities as follows:

- a. After satisfactory completion of the pressure testing and TV inspection of the sewer system.
- b. After sampling of the water system for bacteriological testing. For any subsequent sampling of the water system, the contractor must provide personnel on-site to provide safe and adequate access for water laboratory personnel.
- c. Upon completion of all backfilling and acceptable compaction of the dry utility trenches, the sewer system will be pressure tested a second time. This is to ensure that no damage has occurred to the sewer system as a result of the dry utility installation.
- d. No concrete or paving construction shall begin until the wet and dry utility construction have been completed and accepted.
- e. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in the immediate suspension of all testing and inspection.

Option 2 The contractor may begin trenching of dry utilities before completion of wet utility testing as follows:

- a. Contractor will be allowed to perform dry utility trenching in the right-of-way upon completion of the backfilling and compaction of the water and sewer systems. This must be coordinated with the wet utility contractor and the inspector.
- b. Backfilling and acceptable compaction of dry utility trenches in the right-of-way must be complete prior to testing and TV inspection of the sewer system or water system bacteriological sampling.
- c. No concrete or paving construction shall begin until the wet and dry utilities have been completed and accepted.
- d. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in the immediate suspension of all testing and inspection.

NOTE: *Contractors may perform dry utility trenching in the Public Utility Easement (P.U.E.) at any time. This practice however, is not recommended as it tends to disrupt wet utility construction. There is also a strong tendency for dry utility trenching contractors to expand trenching activity into the right-of-way. This action will result in the immediate suspension of all wet utility testing and inspection.*