

LETTER TO THE INDUSTRY

DATE: February 18, 2009

TO: All Builders, Developers, Engineers and Surveyors doing business with Loudoun Water

SUBJECT: Separation of Water and Sanitary Sewer

The Virginia Waterworks Regulation in Section 12VAC 5-590-1150 B states that “under normal conditions water mains shall be laid at least 10 feet horizontally from a sewer or sewer manhole...measured edge-to-edge.” The regulations continue to state that under “unusual conditions” the separation can be reduced. However, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) recently interpreted the regulations such that all new construction falls under “normal conditions”.

Through the cooperation of the Northern Virginia District of Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), we have been able to develop a design standard that will accommodate the needs of both VDH and VDOT in subdivision streets. In general, sanitary sewer manholes will be five (5) feet off the centerline of subdivision roads and the waterline will be eight (8) feet on the opposite side of the centerline, thereby providing thirteen (13) feet center-to-center of the utilities, which allows for the required separation including manhole size, pipe size, and material thicknesses. All plans submitted after November 13, 2008 must comply with this new design standard.

In private streets, the thirteen (13) feet center-to-center design standard must also be maintained. Loudoun Water still desires five (5) between the utility and the edge of the gutter pan whenever possible. However, for narrow pavement widths, the distance between the utility and the edge of the gutter pan may be reduced to as little as three (3) feet.

All plans approved by Loudoun Water under our Local Review Authority prior to November 13, 2008 shall be vested under the interpretations in effect at the time the plan was originally approved. All plan submissions after November 13, 2008 shall comply with the separation requirement above. Loudoun Water will continue to send those plans containing waterlines sixteen (16) inches in diameter and greater to VDH for further approval.



Loudoun Water continues to be committed to protecting the public health and supporting the goals of providing safe drinking water to the community. Questions about specific projects should be directed to Loudoun Water's Project Engineer for that project. All other questions may be directed to me at 571-291-7994 or mlatham@loudounwater.org.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Latham, PE
Manager, Land Development Programs

cc: Kevin Wood, PE, Director of Engineering

