

**RULE NO.: R161-16.14**

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE**

**POSTING DATE: July 6, 2016**

The Director of the Department of Austin Water proposes to adopt the following rule after August 7, 2016.

Comments on the proposed rule are requested from the public. Comments should be submitted to Mr. Alberto Ramirez; Austin Water, 625 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 7th Floor Suite 715, Austin, Texas 78701, 512-972-0211, or via email at [Alberto.Ramirez@austintexas.gov](mailto:Alberto.Ramirez@austintexas.gov). To be considered, comments must be submitted before August 7, 2016, the 32nd day after the date this notice is posted. A summary of the written comments received will be included in the notice of rule adoption that must be posted for the rule to become effective.

An affordability impact statement regarding the proposed rule has been obtained and is available for inspection or copying at the address noted in the preceding paragraph.

**EFFECTIVE DATE OF PROPOSED RULE**

A rule proposed in this notice may not become effective before the effective date established by a separate notice of rule adoption. A notice of rule adoption may not be posted before August 7, 2016 (the 32nd day after the date of this notice) or not after October 4, 2016 (the 90th day after the date of this notice).

If a proposed rule is not adopted on or before October 4, 2016, it is automatically withdrawn and cannot be adopted without first posting a new notice of a proposed rule.

**TEXT OF PROPOSED RULE**

A copy of the complete text of the proposed rule is available for public inspection and copying at the following locations. Copies may be purchased at the following locations at a cost of ten cents per page:

Austin Water, located at 625 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 7th Floor Suite 715, Austin, Texas. See Mr. Alberto Ramirez and:

Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, located at 301 West 2nd Street, Austin, Texas.

## **BRIEF EXPLANATION OF PROPOSED RULE**

### **R161-16.14:** Proposed revisions to the Utility Criteria Manual Section 2.9.4

- Section 2.9.4.A.5 – This change is being made to clarify when flow measurements may be used in designing wastewater lines.
- Section 2.9.4.B.5 – This is being added because the UCM does not allow 10” wastewater mains and we do not want the Engineer to confuse the two requirements.
- Section 2.9.4.C.4 – This is being added to specify the amount of separation distance between gas and wastewater lines. There is not state regulation regarding wastewater lines and dry utilities. This will also apply to all other dry utilities and wastewater lines.
- Section 2.9.4.C.6 – This is being added to keep Engineers from filling or cutting in excess above wastewater lines.
- Section 2.9.4.C.6.a,b,c – This change is being made to require the same minimum depth of new wastewater pipes for both proposed and existing streets at 66 inches below the ground elevation. It also replaces “of cover” with “below ground elevation to be consistent with the details.
- Section 2.9.4.D.1 – This is a concern of the practice of installing sewer mains running from development on upland property down through canyons to mains or interceptors in the creeks. Access is nearly impossible in these situations.
- Section 2.9.4.D.1.h – This is being added to ensure the manhole is placed at the main and not at another location along the service.
- Section 2.9.4.D.3 – This is being added to specify the need for bolted watertight covers in the TCEQ Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone.
- Section 2.9.4.D.4 – This is being added since the Engineers are already required to perform a Manhole Assessment and Inspection Report from the reviewers when they are connecting to an existing manhole.
- Section 2.9.4.D.6 – This is being changed to specify that the utility does not want external drops over 15’ deep where re-excavating the massive block of concrete encasement is a huge effort and cost.
- Section 2.9.4.D.7.Note 2 – This is being added to specify that large diameter manholes means “a five (5) foot or larger diameter manhole.”
- Section 2.9.4.D.7.Note 3 – This is being changed to specify Professional Engineer instead of Structural Engineer.
- Section 2.9.4.D.7.Note 4 – This is being added to provide the minimum separation distance for new precast manholes.
- Section 2.9.4.D.7.Note 5 – This is being added to provide working room to maintenance crews who will need to work in manholes.

- Section 2.9.4.D.8 – This is being added to differentiate between constructing a new wastewater line or water line.
- Section 2.9.4.D.9 – This is being requested to be removed as an unnecessary mandate. The designer and Austin Water should determine which base should be used based on the site specific conditions.
- Section 2.9.4.D.10.b – This is being added to provide clarity to Engineers that all manholes located in floodplains shall be sealed.
- Section 2.9.4.F – This is being changed to discourage siphons.
- Section 2.9.4.G.4 – These additional sizes are being requested to be added since SPL ww-146B states that the 24” PVC base is for 4”, 6”, and 8” connection pipes. AW may have allowed up to 12” connection pipes coming into a large diameter cleanout for some projects.
- Section 2.9.4.G.5 – This change is being made to require manholes on 8” wastewater lines too.
- Section 2.9.4.J.1 – This is being changed to correct the section number.
- Section 2.9.4.J.7.c – This is being changed to correct the section number.
- Section 2.9.4.J.17.a – This is being added to include MUD’s and WCID’s.
- Section 2.9.4.J.17.b – This change is being made to clarify what is required for grinder pumps.
- Section 2.9.4.J.17.c – This is being added to clarify what is allowed for cleanouts regarding sizes of fittings, valves, and bends.

## **AUTHORITY FOR ADOPTION OF PROPOSED RULE**

The authority and procedure for adoption of a rule to assist in the implementation, administration, or enforcement of a provision of the City Code is provided in Chapter 1-2 of the City Code. The authority to regulate construction requirements is established in Section 552.001 and Title 15 of the City Code.

CERTIFICATION BY CITY ATTORNEY

By signing this Notice of Proposed Rule R161-16.14, the City Attorney certifies the City Attorney has reviewed the rule and finds that adoption of the rule is a valid exercise of the Director's administrative authority.

**REVIEWED AND APPROVED**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Meszaros, Director  
Austin Water

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anne L. Morgan  
City Attorney

Date: \_\_\_\_\_