

RULE NO.: R161-23.23**NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE****POSTING DATE: October 5, 2023**

The Director of the Department of Austin Water proposes to adopt the following rule on or after November 7, 2023.

Comments on the proposed rule are requested from the public. Comments should be submitted to Mr. Eric Langhout, P.E.; Austin Water, 3907 S. Industrial Dr., Suite 236, Austin, Texas 78744, 512-972-0073, or via email at Eric.Langhout@austintexas.gov. To be considered, comments must be received before November 7, 2023. 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 November 7, 2023 (the first business day following the 32nd day after the date of this notice) or not after December 14, 2023 (the 70th day after the date of this notice).

If a proposed rule is not adopted on or before December 14, 2023, it is automatically withdrawn and cannot be adopted without first posting a new notice of a proposed rule.

TEXT OF PROPOSED RULE

The text of the proposed rule, indicating changes from the current text, is attached to this notice.

BRIEF EXPLANATION OF PROPOSED RULE

R161-23.23: Proposed revision to UCM 2.9.2

Rule 1 – Revisions to Utility Criteria Manual Sections 2.9.2

1. SECTION 2.9.2 – Water Systems – Section 2.9.2.D.10 – Remove this requirement. The PRV manufacturers do not recommended installing a PRV on a fire line that will not be exercised in a timely manner.

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 adopt this rule is established in Section 552.001 of the Texas Local Government Code, Section 552.017 of the Texas Local Government Code, City Code 15-9-9 and Chapter 15 of the City Code.

CERTIFICATION BY CITY ATTORNEY

By signing this Notice of Proposed Rule R161-23.23, 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


Shay Kalls Roalson, P.E., Director
Austin Water

Date: 9/11/2023

Anne L. Morgan
Anne L. Morgan
City Attorney

Date: 9/20/23

2.9.2 Water Systems

D. Fire Hydrants

1. Hydrants shall be installed at the intersection of two streets and between intersections where necessary, at distances not in excess of 300 feet between hydrants in commercial or other high-density areas and not more than 600 feet in residential areas.
2. Hydrants shall be installed on both sides of all divided roads or highways (as defined by 2.9.2.B.2) if required to provide adequate firefighting coverage.
3. The entire fire hydrant assembly shall have restrained joints.
4. Fire hydrants shall not be designed to be within 9 feet in any direction of any wastewater main, lateral, or service regardless of material of construction.
5. Fire hydrants shall be designed so as not to interfere with sidewalk ramps, trash receptacles, and street light and signal pole foundations.
6. To avoid sidewalks, ramps, and other features, fire hydrants placed near a street corner should in general be located outside the curve radius and a minimum of 4 feet from ramps. Exceptions may apply in existing neighborhoods or long (>5 feet) radius curb return.
7. Placement of fire hydrants should take into consideration above ground improvements, landscaping, critical root zones, grades and other utilities.
8. In existing neighborhoods, new fire hydrants should be placed as close as possible to the existing fire hydrant locations with the exception of new hydrants needed to meet minimum spacing requirements.
9. Fire hydrants should be placed on the short side of the street where possible unless there are site constraints. Fire Hydrant lead lines shall not cross a divided road or highway (as defined by 2.9.2.B.2) or exceed 55 feet in length.
- ~~10. When fire hydrants are subjected to pressures above 150 psi, they shall have an attached PRV installed and set to reduce the operating pressure of the fire hydrants below 150 psi.~~
10. When new water lines are installed along with new fire hydrant leads, the drawings shall indicate existing fire hydrants are to be replaced with a new one, if the existing fire hydrant is older than 10 years old.
11. Fire Hydrants shall not be designed in such a manner as to provide fire flow for developments served by other water utility service providers.
12. Fire hydrants shall be located so that during their design service life they will be readily accessible for maintenance and operations personnel and equipment.