AUG 24 2026 AM10:38

RULE NO.: R161-26.18

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE **POSTING DATE: August 24, 2026**

The Director of Austin Water proposes to adopt the following rule on October 1, 2026.

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 September 25, 2026, or after November 2, 2026 (the 70th day after the date of this notice).

If a proposed rule is not adopted on or before November 2, 2026, it is automatically withdrawn and cannot be adopted without first posting a new notice of a proposed rule.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON PROPOSED RULES

The City requests comments from the public with respect to the proposed rule included in this Notice. Comments must be submitted in writing to the contact person below no later than September 24, 2026. 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.

Contact Person:

Eric Langhout
Austin Water Department
eric.langhout@austintexas.gov
512-972-0073

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

R161-26.18: Proposed revision to Standard Specification 510

Rule 3 – Revision to Standard Specification 510

1. Item 510 – Pipe – **Item 510.2(8)** – Remove the first four paragraphs. This language is located in the UCM, Standards, and/or SPL and is redundant. Some of the language is outdated and incorrect.

2. Item 510 – Pipe – **Item 510.3(24)(b)** – Add language to update the hydrostatic testing and disinfection process during wet connections for new water mains.

3. Item 510 – Pipe – **Item 510.3(24)(c)** – Remove the allowance of size-on-size taps.

4. Item 510 – Pipe – **Item 510.3(29)(e)** – Add language to reference the wet connection requirements before connecting to the existing main. Also, TCEQ requires bac-t samples be taken every 1000' and not 1200' which is stated in AWWA C651-23.

An affordability impact statement regarding the proposed rule is available by contacting Eric Langhout, eric.langhout@austintexas.gov or 512-972-0073.

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 City Code Chapter 1-2 (*Adoption of Rules*). The authority to adopt this rule is established in City Code Section 15-9-9 (*Criteria Manuals*).

CERTIFICATION BY CITY ATTORNEY

By signing this Notice of Proposed Rule R161-26.18, 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 Ralls Roalson

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

Date: 8/7/2026

Deborah Thomas

Deborah Thomas
City Attorney

Date: 8/11/2026

ITEM NO. 510 PIPE ~~6-2-25~~ 10-01-26

510.2 Materials

(8) Pipe

General

~~Fire line leads and fire hydrant leads shall be ductile iron. Domestic water services shall not be supplied from fire service leads, unless the domestic and fire connections are on separately valved branches with an approved backflow prevention device in the fire service branch. All wastewater force mains shall be constructed of ductile iron pipe Pressure Class 250 minimum for pipe greater than 12-inch size and Pressure Class 350 for pipe 12-inch size and smaller. Wastewater pipe shall be in accordance with AW SPL WW-534 and shall have a corrosion resistant interior lining acceptable to the Owner.~~

~~All water pipe within utility easements on private property shall be Ductile Iron Pipe, Pressure Class 350 minimum for pipe 12-inch size and smaller and Pressure Class 250 minimum for pipe greater than 12-inch size wrapped as indicated. For sizes over 24 inches, Concrete Pressure Pipe, steel cylinder type, conforming to the requirements of AWWA C-301 will be acceptable.~~

~~There may be no service connections to Concrete Pressure Pipe installed in utility easements on private property. Approved service clamps or saddles shall be used when tapping ductile iron pipe 12-inch size and smaller. All service tubing (¾ inch thru 2 inches) installed in utility easements on private property shall be 150 psi annealed seamless Type K copper tubing with no sweat or soldered joints.~~

~~All reclaimed water mains shall be constructed of ductile iron pipe, Pressure Class 350 minimum for pipe 12-inch size and smaller and pressure class 250 for pipe greater than 12-inch size. For mains 12-inch size and smaller, PVC pipe, conforming to the requirements of AWWA C-900, DR 14 shall be acceptable. Reclaimed water pipe shall be manufactured purple, painted purple, or wrapped in purple polyethylene film wrap.~~

Manufacturers of concrete pipe and pipe larger than 24-inch diameter shall have a quality control program consisting of one or more of the following: 1) a quality management system certified by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) or National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) to comply with ISO 9001:2000, 2) a quality management system certified by the QCast Program following the requirements of the ACPA Plant Certification Manual, 3) a quality management system certified by the National Precast Concrete Association 4) a quality control program approved by the OWNER prior to submittal of bids for the PROJECT, or 5) an independent, third party quality control testing and inspection firm for testing and inspecting pipe produced for the PROJECT and approved by the OWNER prior to submittal of bids for the PROJECT. All such quality control programs shall be paid for by the manufacturer. It is the intent of this requirement that the manufacturer will document all appropriate tests and inspections with sampling and inspection criteria, frequency of testing and inspection, date of testing and inspection and date on which every piece was manufactured. Required testing and inspection, including that by an independent, third party, shall be performed full-time during production of pipe for the PROJECT. When requested by the OWNER, the manufacturer will provide copies of test data and results and inspection reports with the shipment of pipe for the PROJECT. Test data and results and inspection reports shall be traceable to specific pipe lots or pieces. Owner approval of the manufacturer's quality control program will expire after three years, at which time the manufacturer must present a current quality control program for approval in order to retain listing on the applicable SPL. Owner approval of the Concrete Pipe manufacturer's quality control program will expire after three years, at which time the manufacturer must present a current quality control program for approval.

The quality of materials, the process of manufacture and the finished pipe shall be subject to inspection and approval by the E/A at the pipe manufacturing plant and at the project site prior to and

during installation. Plant inspections shall be conducted at the discretion of the City Representative. Only manufacturers having a quality control program of the type described above will be considered as approved providers of concrete pipe and pipe products as listed in the SPL.

All water distribution pipe and fittings shall be listed in the Fire Protection Equipment Directory published by the Underwriter's Laboratories, Inc., or shall be Factory Mutual approved for fire service. All water pipe and related products shall be registered by the National Sanitation Foundation as having been certified to meet NSF/ANSI Standard 61.

510.3 Construction Methods

(24) Potable or Reclaimed Water System Connections

All necessary connections of new piping or accessories to the existing potable or reclaimed water system shall be made by, and at the expense of, the Contractor. To minimize any inconvenience from outages, the Contractor shall schedule all such connections in advance and such schedule must be approved by the E/A before beginning any Work. When cutting existing water mains, the contractor shall ensure the existing pipe shall not be cut within 3 feet of an existing pipe joint. If a pipe joint exists within 3 feet, then adjacent pipe joint shall be removed and new pipe and approved sleeve installed in its place.

(a) Shutoffs

The City will make all shutoffs on existing potable or reclaimed water mains. The Contractor shall be required to notify the Owner's Representative in writing a least ~~twenty five (25)~~ 25 Calendar Days prior to the anticipated date for a wet-connection. The Owner's Representative is defined as the City Inspector. The Owner's Representative will notify any affected utility customers at least 48 hours prior to the shutoff. AW will make the shutoff after ensuring that all appropriate measures have been taken to protect the potable or reclaimed water system, customers and employees.

If a shutout is required for a connection to or relocation of an existing water transmission main (typically 24-inch and larger in diameter for potable water), these shutouts will generally only be allowed from October 1 to March 31. Shutout of these waterlines will require prior approval via the AW Concurrence process prior to shutting off water. COA inspector shall contact AWValveExercising@austintexas.gov three or more weeks before desired schedule for the subject shutout. No shutout will proceed until the contractor is fully prepared to perform work related to the shutout, i.e., all required material, equipment, and labor are on site.

The City will operate all valves to fill existing mains. Where a newly constructed main has not been placed in service and has only one connection to the potable or reclaimed system, the Contractor may operate one valve to fill the main after approval has been obtained from AW. The operation of the valve is to be conducted under the immediate supervision of the Owner's Representative.

Water for the Work shall be metered and furnished by the Contractor in accordance with Section 01500 of the Standard Contract Documents.

(b) Wet Connections to Existing Potable or Reclaimed Water System

When a new main is connected to the water system a wet connection is required. A wet connection is comprised of depressurizing, draining and cutting in a new MJ ductile iron tee, fitting or gate valve to an existing main ~~required when connecting a new main to an existing main by cutting in a new MJ ductile iron tee, fitting or gate valve~~.

The Contractor shall make all wet connections called for by the Contract or required to complete the Work. Two connections to an existing main ~~line~~ performed during the same shutout, at the same time and at a distance less than 50 linear feet apart, will be considered one wet

connection. Two connections to an existing main ~~line~~ performed during the same shutout, at the same time and at a distance equal to, or greater than 50 linear feet will be considered two wet connections. A wet connection shall include draining and cutting into existing piping and connecting a new pipeline or other extension into the existing ~~pressure~~ piping, forming an addition to the potable or reclaimed water distribution or transmission system ~~and distribution network~~.

The Contract price for wet connections shall be full payment for all necessary shutoffs, excavation, removing plugs and fittings, pumping water to drain the piping ~~lines~~, cutting in new fittings, blocking and anchoring piping, bedding and backfilling, placing the new main into ~~lines and~~ service, and all site cleanup.

When a new main is connected to the potable water system by wet connection, one connection is allowed between the new main and existing main prior to hydrostatic testing and disinfection of the new main (per 510.3(27) and 510.3(29), respectively). Hydrostatic testing and disinfection of a new main that is not yet connected to AW's system will only be allowed when all following conditions are satisfied:

1. Less than 20 linear feet of new pipe and no more than two fittings (for example, one DI bend and one MJ sleeve per connection) are necessary to connect the new main to the existing main. No new valves, fire hydrants, CAVs, service connections, or other appurtenances are permitted within the non-tested section of the new main.
2. The new main will be in service within 7 days following a passing bacteriological test result. A new main shall not be placed into service after 7 days of a passing bacteriological test unless additional chlorine residual test results are at least 1.0 mg/L at the end of the main and each original test site.
    a. If < 1.0 mg/L chlorine residual is detected at any test site, the main shall be flushed and new passing bacteriological tests shall be performed at the original test sites prior to placing the main into service.
    b. If < 0.50 mg/L chlorine residual is detected at any site, the main shall be disinfected again (per 510.3(29)) followed by passing bacteriological test results.
3. Hydrostatic and disinfection testing shall include all pipe, fittings, valves, CAVs, services, FHs, or other appurtenances connected to new pipe (not including pipe and fittings defined in Bullet 1).

No water containing detectable amounts of chlorine may be drained, released or discharged until specific planning and appropriate preparations to handle, dilute and dispose of such chlorinated water are approved in advance by the City and the disposal operations will be witnessed by an authorized representative from the City.

(c) Pressure Taps to Existing Potable or Reclaimed Water System

The Contractor shall make all pressure taps called for by the Contract Documents or required to complete the Work. A pressure tap shall consist of connecting new piping to the existing potable or reclaimed water system by drilling into the existing pipe while it is carrying water under normal pressure without taking the existing piping out of service.

Unless otherwise provided by the Contract, the Contractor shall, at the Contractor's expense, perform all necessary excavation, furnish and install the tapping sleeve, valve and accessories, provide the tapping machine, drill the tap and shall block, anchor and backfill the piping, valve and all accessories, place the new piping in service and perform all site cleanup. When the City makes the tap, City forces are not obligated or expected to perform any Work except to provide tapping machine and drill the actual hole. If City crews are to make the tap, fiscal arrangements must be made in advance at the Taps Office, Waller Creek Center, 625 East 10th Street.

If a private Contractor makes the tap, an AW Inspector must be present. "Size on size" taps are prohibited. ~~will not be permitted, unless made by use of an approved full bodied mechanical joint tapping sleeve.~~ Concrete blocking shall be placed behind and under all tap sleeves 24 hours prior to making the pressure tap.

Pressure taps shall be performed by Austin Water approved Contractors and requires the use of approved SPL listed tapping sleeves.

(d) Service Connections

Service connection taps into PVC or AC pipe or into CI or DI pipe 12 inches or smaller shall be made using either a service clamp or saddle or a tapping sleeve as recommended by the pipe manufacturer and as approved by the E/A. Direct tapping of these pipes will not be permitted.

All potable or reclaimed water service connections shall be installed so that the outlet is at an angle of not more than 45 degrees above horizontal at the main line.

Precautions should be taken to ensure that the tapping saddle or sleeve is placed on the pipe straight to prevent any binding or deformation of the PVC pipe. The mounting chain or U-bolt strap must be tight.

Tapping shall be performed with a sharp shell type cutter so designed that it will smoothly penetrate heavy walled PVC DR14 and 200 psi AC and will retain and extract the coupon from the pipe

(29) Disinfection of Potable Water Lines

(e) Bacteriological Testing

Prior to performing disinfection and final flushing of a new potable water main, the contractor and inspector shall confirm that any final connection of a new main to an existing main is in full compliance with 510.3(24)(b), Wet Connections to Existing Potable or Reclaimed Water System.

After disinfection and final flushing, samples shall be collected per one of the two options. Option A: Before approving a main for release, take an initial set of samples and then resample again after a minimum of 16 hours. Both sets of samples must pass for the main to be approved for release. Option B: Before approving a main for release, let it sit for a minimum of 16 hours without any water use. Then collect two sets of samples a minimum of 15 minutes apart while the sampling taps are left running. Both sets of samples must pass for the main to be approved for release. The two (2) sets of water samples from the line will be tested for bacteriological quality by the City and must be found free of coliform organisms before the pipeline may be placed in service. Each set shall consist of one (1) sample that is drawn from the end of the main, at least one from each branch greater than one pipe length, and additional samples that are collected at intervals of not more than ~~1,200~~ 1,000 feet along the pipeline. All stubs shall be tested before connections are made to existing systems.

The Contractor, at its expense, shall install sufficient sampling taps at proper locations along the pipeline. Each sampling tap shall consist of a standard corporation cock installed in the line and extended with a copper tubing gooseneck assembly. After samples have been collected, the gooseneck assembly may be removed and retained for future use.

Samples for bacteriological analysis will only be collected from suitable sampling taps in sterile bottles treated with sodium thiosulfate. Samples shall not be drawn from hoses or unregulated sources. The City, at its expense, will furnish the sterile sample bottles and may, at its discretion, collect the test samples with City personnel.

If the initial disinfection fails to produce acceptable sample test results, the disinfection procedure shall be repeated at the Contractor's expense. Before the piping may be placed in service, two (2) consecutive sets of acceptable test results must be obtained.

An acceptable test sample is one in which: (1) the chlorine level is similar to the level of the existing distribution system; (2) there is no free chlorine and (3) total coliform organisms are absent. An invalid sample is one, which has excessive free chlorine, silt or non-coliform growth as defined in the current issue of the AWWA C-651. If unacceptable sample results are obtained for any pipe, the Contractor may, with the concurrence of the Inspector, for one time only flush the lines and then collect a second series of test samples for testing by the City. After this flushing sequence is completed, any pipe with one or more failed samples must be disinfected again in accordance with the approved disinfection procedure followed by appropriate sampling and testing of the water.

The COA Water Quality Laboratory will notify the assigned COA Inspector in writing of all test results. The Inspector will subsequently notify the Contractor of all test results. The Water Quality Laboratory will not release test results directly to the Contractor.