

## Replace 3 Main Waterlines at Kerrville VA

### Consolidated RFIs with Answers:

1. Will the existing in ground pipe be abandoned or will need to be removed?  
*A. We are expecting any pipe that is immediately exposed during pipe installation be removed and cap the end of each pipe that is abandon.*
2. There will be no new piping installed in the tunnels?  
*A. No new piping will be installed in the tunnel.*
3. Will the existing pipe in the tunnels need to be removed?  
*A. Yes the water line within the tunnel shall be removed.*
4. For clarity the Hard Water is the fire line and the Blue line is the domestic water line?  
*A. Yes.*
5. Only the main pipe lines are shown on the drawings, the branch line that tee off of them for the irrigation where not shown?  
*A. Yes this is correct, the project consist of replacing the water mains. The secondary lines shall be connected to the new mains.*
6. There was no soil determined as to clay, black, gumbo or if rock would be encountered, can a rock clause be added to the bid.  
*A. No rock clause will be added.*
7. Not all underground utilities are on the drawings, if something is cut that was not known who is responsible for that cost and down time?  
*A. The design drawings are based on Plan of Record drawings, the contractor is responsible to verify all utility locations prior to any work; therefore, the contractor is responsible for all cost in regards to downtime if any.*
8. Where can the spoils be stored?  
*A. IN general the specs call out a permit process for trenching that accounts for location of spoils near the trench. Any remainder or excess spoils can be stored at the rear of the VA property. However, all spoils must be disposed of at the bidder's expense when construction is complete.*
9. Will the Prime Contractor be responsible to have a security guard?  
*A. The intent of the clause is for the contractor to maintain a safe work site and secure materials. The use of a security guard is only required if the contractor's means and methods allow the use. If the security guard is used then the specs dictate the policy and protocol for interaction with government personnel. (See also Question #42 below)*
10. Will 1'' plate work to cover up the trench across roads?  
*A. 1'' plate work will be allowed for trench across roads; however, plate duration time must be approved by the VA prior to excavation.*

11. Drawings show that there is a stub that is 5 ft. from the edge of the building, are others responsible for the in-building connections in this scope of work?  
*A. The mains are shown on the civil drawings up to 5-ft from the building. The continuation of the water main are shown on the mechanical construction drawings.*
12. Will there need to be a fenced area for the spoils?  
*A. Yes, a fenced area is required for spoils.*
13. If needed, can there be a deviation from the drawing, so the piping can be more easily installed?  
*A. Pipe deviations will be permitted; however, they must be approved prior to installation. Slight deviations to avoid trees, signs, or other obstacles will be permitted.*
14. Along HWL-C @ +/- Sta. 2+88 there is a TEE and LINE branches off (around Bldg. 41). Please provide size of TEE and BRANCH LINE diameter.  
*A. The TEE is 6" TEE and the branch line is 6" C-900 PVC Hard Water Line.*
15. At HWL-C Sta. 10+31.33 and HWL-H Sta. 1+00, it calls for an 8" Tee. Is this meant to be an 8" cross? Or do the lines cross at different elevations at this point?  
*A. This connection should be an 8" cross.*
16. At SWL-E Sta. 2+27.25 there appears to be a +/- 20' extension line running north, northeast. Is this extension part of the scope of work? Please clarify.  
*A. Yes it is part of the project.*
17. At intersection of SWL-C Sta. 7+95.90 and SWL-D Sta. 1+83.70 it calls for an 8" bend when lines at intersection are 6" (SWL-C) and 6" (SWL-D). Please clarify.  
*A. Proposed bend was shown incorrectly, proposed bend shall be 6".*
18. At intersection of SWL-C Sta. 7+84.18 and SWL-E Sta. 1+00 it calls for a 6" tee and a 6" valve. Yet the intersection is of a 6" line (SWL-C) with an 8" line (SWL-E). Please clarify.  
*A. The proposed connections are shown incorrectly, 8" Tee and 2-8" valves are required.*
19. At SWL-E Sta. 3+98.54 calls for a 6" tee and 2-6" valves. Yet SWL-E is an 8" line. Please clarify.  
*A. The proposed connections are shown incorrectly, 8" Tee and 2-8" valves are required.*
20. At SWL-A Sta. 21+78, is there a TEE missing to branch off into the building?  
*A. Service connections should use a tee.*
21. What happens at end of HWL-F Sta. 5+36? Is there a connection to existing line or a cap?  
*A. This line shall connect to existing irrigation system.*

22. What happens at end of SWL-A Sta. 23+03? Is there a connection to existing line or a cap?

***A. This line will service Building 21.***

23. Specification 21 10 00, Section 1.6.A AS-BUILTS, seems outdated and not completely in synch with scope of work for this project. Please indicate if this portion of specifications still stands.

***A. As-builts should be submitted on compact disc (CD).***

24. The contract documents do not appear to indicate the disposition of the existing water lines. Please clearly indicate where water lines are to be abandoned in place, removed, removed to what point, etc.

***A. We are expecting any pipe that is immediately exposed during pipe installation be removed and capped at the ends that is not removed.***

25. The contract documents indicate contract duration of 150 calendar days. This is not feasible or plausible given the scope. Please provide a revised contract duration that will allow for successful completion of the work in a reasonable timeframe.

***A. The schedule duration has been extended to 330 calendar days.***

26. It was indicated during the pre-bid meeting that no exploratory work was performed during design. Are contractors to include an allowance to cover exploratory work, potholing and time spent searching for lines that are not where indicated, or will all work of this nature be covered under the Differing Site Conditions and Changes clauses?

***A. Bidders should make considerations on locating existing pipes if they feel it is necessary. Although exploratory work was not performed during design they are based on construction documents.***

27. The contract documents indicate the new water lines to pass directly through or within the umbrella of numerous trees. Is the contract to include tree removal where trees are in conflict with the plans? Any excavation within the root mat may kill the tree and require tree removal in the years to come.

***A. Water mains should be moved to avoid tree damage.***

28. The hard water lines serve irrigation throughout the campus, however there does not appear to be any indication of the location or quantity of connections to the irrigation systems. Please provide details concerning the locations of connections and the quantity of connections to the irrigation system.

***A. Irrigation connections shall be based on 50 connections. Bid will require a line item for irrigation connections for additional connections cost or deduct for connections less than 50 connections.***

29. There do not appear to be any notes indicating a requirement or specifications provided for cathodic protection. Are cathodic protection systems required for metallic components?

*A. Project does not have proposed steel pipe.*

30. There do not appear to be crossing details. Please confirm as discussed in the pre-bid, road crossings are to be restored to the condition encountered when excavating the crossing. If a specific detail is required please provide. A crossing detail would allow for more accurate pricing.

*A. Road crossings shall be replaced with the same pavement cross section that is disturbed.*

31. General Question: How deep are the existing water lines buried?

*A. Existing water mains range in depth between 2'-12'.*

32. General Question: Can you confirm that all areas of construction will be filled back in with sod. We are not to use seed and straw.

*A. Sod is required on approximately half of the waterline trenching. Hence, those areas that are in high visibility areas such as in front of the hospital and in landscaped areas should be sod. Those areas that are in wild open grass can be treated with seed and straw.*

33. Who is responsible for watering the new sod? Not all areas will be covered by irrigation. If it is the responsibility of the contractor, how long are we responsible for this?

*A. Contractor is responsible for establishing the sod, and must water the sod until it is established.*

34. Who is responsible for the sod if it dies? The chances of having sod survive when placed in the heat of the summer is low.

*A. The contractor is responsible.*

35. What type of marking system should be buried with the pipe?

*A. Copper Tracer Wire will be required, 12 AWG solid direct burial rated (30 MIL polyethylene jacket minimum) copper wires shall be installed above and along all water lines. Wire shall be securely fastened to the pipeline.*

36. How are we to handle the trenching around the tree roots? Can water lines be moved to minimize damage to landscaping?

*A. Water mains should be moved to avoid tree damage.*

37. Is the contractor responsible for tree removal if one dies as a result of root damage?

*A. Yes.*

38. Drawing CU103: The proposed water lines appear to cut thru a solar farm. How should this be handled?

*A. The water main should be shifted to avoid the solar farm.*

39. How deep are the new water lines to be placed?  
*A. 48" minimum.*
40. Can a trencher be used to dig for the new water lines or must the entire trench system be dug as show on drawing CU115 which shows the trench width to be pipe outer diameter, plus 12" min to plus 24' max. This illustration also lists the minimum burial depth to be 48". Please confirm this is the case for all trenching.  
*A. A contractor's means and methods is acceptable if the min and max trenches are achieved.*
41. General Conditions, 1.2 General Intentions and section 01 45 29. Please confirm testing laboratory will be retained and paid for by the VA.  
*A. The Specs related to Testing are included to account for all possible tests and are not truncated for this statement of work. Cost Estimates in the bidders' proposals would include any testing that is expected for this statement of work.*
42. General Conditions, 1.5 Construction Security Requirements, section C guards. Please confirm that unarmed guards, 7 days a week, are required.  
*A. Guards are not required; however, the contractor is responsible for all construction equipment, materials, supplies, and safety. (See also Question #9 above)*
43. General Conditions, 1.12 Professional Surveying Services. Please confirm that this section is intended to be used. The location of the new water lines is pretty clear on drawings.  
*A. This is the contractor's means and methods.*
44. General Conditions 1.13 I understand the need to layout and mark any work before it begins, but this section appears to extend beyond the scope of work. Are sections B, C, D, E, and F required?  
*A. Specification C, D, E, and F do not apply to this project.*
45. General Question: Historically, when digging on site, has dewatering been needed?  
*A. Historically, dewatering has not been required.*
46. Plumbing Drawing P1.1: Plumbing General Note 3 and 4 references new sanitary waste and vent piping. Please confirm there are no new sanitary waste or vent lines as part of this project.  
*A. There is no new sanitary waste or venting piping within this scope of work.*
47. Plumbing Drawing P1.1: Fire Protection Notes: Note 1 refers to fire protection drawings. Which drawings does this note refer to?  
*A. Fire Protection Notes 1 through 6 refer to sprinkler system design and are not part of this scope of work.*

48. Plumbing Drawing P1.1: Fire Protection Notes: Notes 1, 2, and 3 refer to the general contractor having to supply a system design, working plans, and calculations which must be performed by a professional engineer. Can you clarify what we are to design and provide calculations for?  
***A. Fire Protection Notes 1 through 6 refer to sprinkler system design and are not part of this scope of work.***
49. Specification Section 21 10 00, water based fire protection systems. Section 1.4 qualifications. Part A calls for design work and shop drawings to be prepared by a licensed engineer or NICET Level sprinkler technical. The scope of work is to connect new service to the fire protection system in the buildings based on the provided design. What type of shop drawings or design work is required for this? Is this license needed to run the underground pipe? Please clarify the licensing requirements to run the underground pipe.  
***A. Certification as required by AHJ. No design work is required.***
50. Specification Section 21 10 00, water based fire protection systems. Section 1.4 qualifications. Part B states that the installer shall possess a valid state fire protection contractor's license. Is this a requirement to run the underground pipe? Please clarify the licensing requirements for the different aspects of this project.  
***A. Certification as required by AHJ. No design work is required.***
51. Plumbing General: Is the general contractor responsible for sizing the water lines as part of this project?  
***A. Unless noted otherwise, the contractor shall match existing water line sizes.***
52. Plumbing Drawing P1.1: Fire Protection Note 6 states "the buildings will be fully sprinklered per NFPA 13 to meet light hazard occupancy requirements except where more stringent requirements are noted on the plans. Since there are no new sprinkler systems as part of this contract, is this required?  
***A. No, there are no new sprinkler systems within this scope of work.***
53. Is the Contractor responsible to provide an on-site Site Safety and Health Officer for this project?  
***A. Yes.***
54. If so, can the Site Safety and Health Officer and the Site Superintendent be the same person?  
***A. The Site Superintendent may not be the Site Safety and Health Officer.***
55. If so, is the Site Safety and Health Officer required to be on site when any work is being performed?  
***A. The Site Safety and Health Officer is required each day work is performed.***

56. Is TB skin test required for each employee of the Contractor if they work on site?  
*A. Yes.*
57. Is TB skin test required for each subcontractor employee if they work on site?  
*A. Yes.*
58. Is the Contractor required to participate in weekly safety inspections with the VA Industrial Hygienist or VA Safety POC?  
*A. The contractor's safety officer is recommended to be present during routine and random site visits.*
59. If the Contractor is required to attend weekly safety inspections, will the Contractor receive copies of the safety inspection reports?  
*A. If safety reports are generated then safety inspection reports will be shared with the contractor's safety office.*
60. Will trench work be considered permit required confined space? If yes, will retrieval teams be required?  
*A. Trench work will not be considered confined space unless the trench length and width are small.*
61. In regards to the Bldg. 11 crawl space demolition: Will this crawl space area be considered permit required confined space? If so, will it be permit only or will retrieval equipment and personnel be required?  
*A. Bldg. 11 crawl space has NOT been deemed a confined space.*
62. In regards to the demolition in the utility tunnel between water tower and main building: Please confirm this is confined space and should require ventilation and retrieval team.  
*A. The utility tunnel has NOT been deemed a confined space.*
63. Will open trenches need to have temporary fencing?  
*A. The contractor is responsible to keep a safe construction site, temporary fencing is a means and methods.*
64. Other than the Building 11 crawl space and the utility tunnel between main building and water tower, please confirm the remaining water main is to be abandoned in place.  
*A. We are expecting any pipe that is immediately exposed during pipe installation be removed and capped at the ends that is not removed.*
65. In regards to the pipe that needs to be demolished in the tunnel: what kind of material is the pipe?  
*A. PVC Pipe.*

66. In regards to the pipe that needs to be demolished in the tunnel: What size is the pipe? Is it insulated?  
*A. The pipe within in the tunnel is 6" PVC. The pipe is NOT insulated.*
67. Fire Hydrants: We understand new fire hydrants are part of this project but could not be located on the drawings. What drawings are the new hydrants on?  
*A. The bid should provide two hydrants which will be replace two existing fire hydrants. They will be identified during construction.*
68. Will the existing fire hydrants be tying into the new hard water lines? If yes, does this mean additional trenching to tie into existing lines or do we run new piping to them?  
*A. Yes, existing fire lines must be connected to new water line.*
69. How many landscape taps will be required?  
*A. Irrigation connections shall be based on 60 connections.*
70. Interior details are not shown for the buildings that receive new water mains. Please include a description of the existing finishes that may be require replacement as part of this project.  
*A. See Mechanical Plans for continuation.*
71. Sheet CU114 shows that the new 8" soft water line is to tie into the existing soft water tower, however no connection details have been provided. Please provide details of this connection including elevations and required valves/ fittings.  
*A. No existing plans have details of the existing line conditions, the connection is anticipated to tie into and existing water line near the tower.*
72. The plans show the new waterlines routed directly across existing trees. Will the trees be required to be removed as part of this contract?  
*A. Proposed water main should be shifted to avoid trees.*
73. Will the contractor be responsible to warranty any existing trees that may be damaged as part of this project?  
*A. Proposed water main should be shifted to avoid trees.*
74. Are any of the trees in this project area considered "dedication" or Monument trees?  
*A. Proposed water main should be shifted to avoid trees.*
75. What hours will our crews be allowed to work? Will evening or weekend work be permitted? This may be easier when crossing roads.  
*A. 7am to 430pm is standard workday for contractors on site. Afterhours and weekend work might be approved on certain events such as outages or special circumstances.*
76. Is there any requirement for water meters on this project?  
*A. No water meters have been specified on this project.*

77. 2 hydrants are mentioned in the scope, I do not see these on the plans. **Please find out station numbers/lines etc. so we know what size the lines are that they are coming off of.**

*A. The bid should provide two hydrants which will be replace two existing fire hydrants. The specific fire hydrants will be identified during construction.*

78. The scope says 18 valves, I have see 52ea of all 3 sizes (majority are 8") on the plans. Please verify as this is triple the amount

*A. Construction documents reflect the correct number of valves. The scope of work is not accurate as compared to the design drawings.*

79. There is no crossing detail for the hard/soft crossing callouts. City of Kerrville Specs mention concrete encasement, please verify if it is concrete or steel/PVC as is that is typical for crossings.

*A. The proposed water mains are PVC pipe.*

80. 3" C900 is not made, is S80/S40 or a pressure rated class pipe acceptable as an alternate?

*A. Main piping materials shall be S40.*

81. No C900 pipe rating specified in plans. City of Kerrville spec says DR14 unless otherwise approved by the engineer for DR18. Please confirm.

*A. Main piping materials shall be C-900 SDR-14.*

82. There are no connections to existing mains or the existing water lines that will be replaced. Where will the new lines tie in? Need to know in case tapping sleeve or fittings are required.

*A. Existing connections must be attached to the proposed water main.*

83. Relocating a Backflow Preventer is mentioned in the scope, not shown on plans. Please provide existing and proposed locations.

*A. Backflow preventers are shown on plans.*

84. Does the VA have its own standard details and specs or can the City of Kerrville information be referenced if details or specs are not provided in plans?

*A. If the constructions documents don't have a specific detail, they should be requested.*