

MONROE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH POLICY REGARDING WATER MAIN AND SEWER SEPARATIONS

General

The requirements of the State of New York, as found in the document entitled “Recommended Standards for Water Works”, will remain a goal of designers and regulators alike, especially for new construction.

Crossings

It is deemed preferable to orient utilities so that water mains cross above sanitary and storm sewers wherever and whenever possible. This Office will accept a six-inch minimum vertical separation to allow the water main to pass over the sewer.

Should it be necessary to construct a water main below the sanitary or storm sewer, options available include:

- ◆ A minimum vertical separation of 18-inches; or
- ◆ Constructing the sewer using water main standard pipe and testing said pipe at 150 psi; or
- ◆ Encasing, sleeving or otherwise enveloping the water main or sewer, for a distance equal to two full lengths of water pipe, to maximize separation between the crossing and unprotected joints

Except in the event that the proposed design specifies encasement or the other similar treatment of the water main, one full length of water pipe shall be centered on the crossing.

Parallel Utilities

Where the water main is proposed to be above the sewer, horizontal separation between water mains and sewer lines will be a minimum of three (3) feet. “Above” is defined as those situations where the invert of the water main is six (6) inches above the top of the sewer.

Should the water main be constructed below (all cases other than “above” as previously defined) the sewer, three options available to protect the integrity of the water main are:

- ◆ A minimum vertical separation of 18”;
- ◆ Constructing the sewer using water main standard pipe and testing said pipe at 150 psi; or
- ◆ Encasing, sleeving or otherwise enveloping the water main or sewer to maximize protection of the water main

In cases where the requirements of the State of New York are unable to be met, the design professional should, as part of the **initial** plan submission, formally substantiate the reason(s) for such failure in order to expedite Department review and approval.

For special situations where the requirements of this policy create undue hardship, staff from this Office are to be contacted for consultation on a case-specific basis.