

# Fairfax Water

FAIRFAX COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

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PLANNING AND ENGINEERING DIVISION  
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**To:** All Architects, Builders, Developers, Engineers, and Surveyors Practicing in Fairfax County

**Subject:** Utility Separation – Water Mains and Appurtenances and Gas Mains

Effective immediately, in order to safely operate and maintain our facilities, the minimum horizontal separation between water mains and appurtenances (including but not limited to service lines, meter boxes, valve boxes, and hydrants) and gas mains shall be 5 feet measured edge to edge. The minimum vertical clearance between water mains and appurtenances and a gas main shall be 12 inches. Accordingly, Fairfax Water's Design Practice Manual is hereby revised as follows:

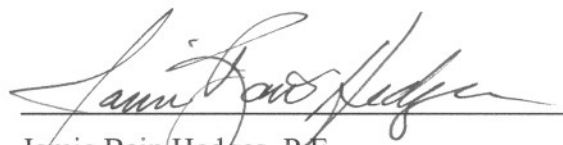
Section II.C.2.e.vii. (New)

**The minimum horizontal separation between water mains and appurtenances (including but not limited to service lines, meter boxes, valve boxes, and hydrants) and gas mains shall be 5 feet.**

Section II.C.3.d. (Revised)

Water Main Crossing Gas Main - **When a water main or appurtenance (including but not limited to service lines, meter boxes, and hydrant branches) crosses a gas main, either above or below, a minimum vertical clearance of 12 inches is required.** The large petroleum product pipeline companies (i.e., Colonial, Columbia, Transco) may impose a vertical separation greater than 12 inches, along with concrete pads above their pipelines. When a concrete pad is required by the pipeline company, the water main should be routed around the concrete pads, using 4 - 45° horizontal bends.

Minimum clearances between water mains and other utilities must be designed and constructed in accordance with Fairfax County's Public Facilities Manual (PFM) and Fairfax Water's Design Practice Manual. The PFM is posted on the county's website at <http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/dpwes/publications/pfm.htm>. The Design Practice Manual may be found on Fairfax Water's website at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org/engineering/developers.htm>.



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