



WATER AND SEWER SERVICE

EFFECTIVE DATE:
January 30, 2015

STARTING SECTION:
41565

LOW PRESSURE FORCE MAIN AND GRINDER PUMP POLICY

OWNER:
Director of O&M

Division IV

Chapter 1

§ 41565. Low Pressure Force Main and Grinder Pump Policy

a) POLICY

The following policy outlines the Low Pressure Force Main and Grinder Pump Policy of Prince William Water. This policy is intended to establish guidelines for the approval of the installation of low pressure force mains that are to be maintained by Prince William Water for existing properties and new development areas; as well as guidelines for the responsibilities associated with private grinder pump installations. This policy may require interpretation by the General Manager of Prince William Water and may be amended as necessary by the General Manager. The General Manager shall implement any procedures necessary to enforce the policy.

b) PROCESS/PROCEDURES

1) Low Pressure Force Main Applicability

Low Pressure Force Mains shall only be used where connection to Prince William Water's sewer system is required and the use of a gravity system is not possible or reasonably feasible, as determined by Prince William Water's Engineering & Planning Division and approved by the Engineering & Planning Director. In the case of new subdivisions, written concurrence from Prince William Water's Director of Operations & Maintenance Division is required. The decision to allow the use of a low pressure force main instead of a gravity system shall be at the sole discretion of Prince William Water. The design and construction of low pressure force main systems shall be in compliance with and meet the requirements of Prince William Water's Utility Standards Manual (USM). Factors Prince William Water may consider in determining if a gravity system is not possible or reasonably feasible include, but are not limited to:

- a. Likelihood of future extension of the sewer system in the vicinity under consideration;
- b. Environmental impacts;
- c. The number of properties to be served; or
- d. Conflicts with existing infrastructure such as roads or utilities.

2) Grinder Pump Applicability:

Property owners may elect to connect to Prince William Water's sewer system via grinder pump subject to the Property Owner Responsibilities below.

3) Property Owner Responsibilities (Existing Properties and New Development):

- a. Service Connection Only



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Property owners requesting to install a grinder pump in order to connect to an existing Service Authority sewer main (whether a gravity main, force main, or a low pressure force main) must apply for a service connection (see Service Connection Policy). The property owner shall be responsible to install the Grinder Pump System and Connection Facilities and pay all related installation costs. The property owner shall have the installation performed by a contractor of their choosing, subject to all USM requirements. The Connection Facilities shall be dedicated to and accepted by Prince William Water for ownership and maintenance. The property owner must obtain and satisfy the requirements of any required permits from the appropriate Building Official (i.e. Prince William County, Town of Dumfries, etc.) or permitting agency.

b. Service Connection with Low Pressure Force Main Extension

- i. Property owners requesting to construct a low pressure force main and associated grinder pump(s) must apply for a service connection (see Service Connection Policy). Property owners shall not install a grinder pump and low pressure force main without approval by Prince William Water. The property owner shall be responsible to install the Grinder Pump System, Connection Facilities, and Low Pressure Force Main and pay all related installation costs. The property owner shall have the installation performed by a contractor of their choosing, subject to all USM requirements. The Low Pressure Force Main and Connection Facilities shall be dedicated to and accepted by Prince William Water for ownership and maintenance. The property owner must obtain and satisfy the requirements of any required permits from the appropriate Building Official (i.e. Prince William County, Town of Dumfries, etc.) or permitting agency.
- ii. Any property with sewer service that is served by a private well must have a water meter, issued by Prince William Water, installed on the well prior to connection to Prince William Water's System. The property owner shall purchase the water meter from Prince William Water, at the same time as paying the availability fee. The property owner shall provide and install a meter yoke, meter crock, and meter crock cover and Prince William Water shall install the well meter. Installation must meet all Service Authority specifications provided by Prince William Water at the time of approval. After the property owner has installed the meter crock and yoke, Prince William Water shall install the appropriately sized meter. The well meter shall be installed at a location approved by Prince William Water in accordance with Prince William Water's water meter standards. Prince William Water shall use the well meter reading when billing for sewer use. The property owner agrees to grant access to the water meter for reading and routine maintenance during regular business hours. Failure to grant access shall result in disconnection of service.
- iii. Ownership, maintenance, repair, and replacement of the Grinder Pump System shall be the sole responsibility of the property owner. The Grinder Pump System must be located on the property to be served.



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4) Service Authority Responsibilities for Low Pressure Force Mains

All maintenance of the Low Pressure Force Mains and Connection Facilities in the Right of Way or easement dedicated to Prince William Water shall be the responsibility of Prince William Water.

5) Service Authority Responsibilities (In cases where a grinder pump is provided for the benefit of Prince William Water)

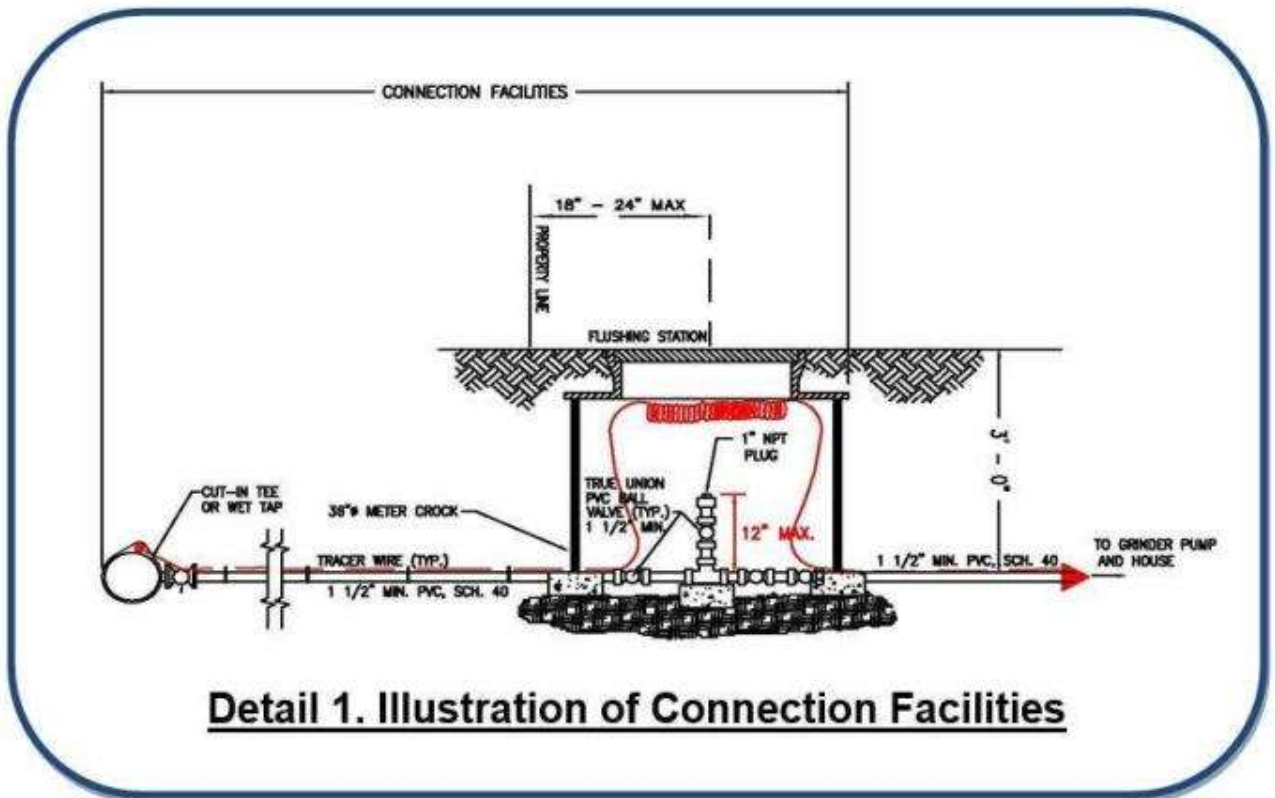
- a. Prince William Water's Director of Engineering and the Director of Operations and Maintenance may determine that it is necessary and in the best interest of Prince William Water's system to install grinder pumps at properties which are already served by gravity laterals, (e.g. Nokesville Pumpover and Wellington Road Interceptor, or where needed to prevent sewage backup into home). In these cases, Prince William Water shall provide and install the Grinder Pump System from the property owner's existing lateral connection to Prince William Water's sewer system. This shall include design, inspection, electrical connection from the alarm panel to the grinder pump, grinder pump and tank, and associated pipe and appurtenances. In these circumstances, Prince William Water shall provide on-going maintenance of the Grinder Pump System at no cost to the property owner.
- b. Properties that meet the circumstances described in (5.a), above, and are served by a private well must have a water meter, issued by Prince William Water, installed on the well. Prince William Water shall install the well meter, meter yoke, meter crock, and meter crock cover. Installation must meet all Service Authority specifications as shown in the USM at the time of approval. The well meter shall be installed at a location approved by Prince William Water in accordance with Prince William Water's water meter standards. Prince William Water shall use the well meter reading when billing for sewer use. The property owner agrees to grant access to the water meter for reading and routine maintenance during regular business hours. Failure to grant access shall result in disconnection of service.

6) Continuing Service and Fees

- a. Prince William Water shall continue to provide maintenance to residential properties in which Prince William Water previously accepted responsibility to maintain the Grinder Pump System for a maintenance fee. Prince William Water does not offer maintenance services to commercial customers. Prince William Water shall not offer new maintenance service to any new customers.
- b. Grinder pump maintenance fees shall cover the estimated cost of maintenance and replacement. Grinder pump fees shall be adjusted as necessary by the General Manager. Grinder pump fees shall be assessed monthly.

7) Account Default, Account Closure, Grinder Pump Removal, and Failure to Grant Access

The property owner is responsible for paying all usage and service fees. Prince William Water's responsibilities for maintenance services under this Policy shall cease if: an account is in default, the account is closed, or the grinder pump is removed (by Prince William Water or the property owner) and relocated by the property owner to accommodate redevelopment of the existing property. Default for an account held by a property owner shall be defined as an account which has been closed for non-payment. Default for an account held by a tenant shall be defined as an unpaid account thirty (30) days after notice to the property owner that such account has not been paid or thirty (30) days from filing a lien for such payment. If disruption of a maintenance service occurs, future service shall be at the sole discretion of Prince William Water. Additionally, failure to grant access to the Grinder Pump System for maintenance shall relieve Prince William Water of any and all responsibilities for maintenance, and such responsibilities shall revert to the property owner.





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c) POLICY AUTHORITY

The Director of O&M is the policy owner. However, minor administrative changes can be approved by the Director of O&M. The General Manager may change or amend this policy at any time.