



City of St. John's Corporate and Operational Policy

Policy: 08-04-16 Proper Abandonment of Water Service to Property

Status:

Issued By: Public Works and Parks

Revision No: 1

Revision Date: 2008/12/15

Date of Original Council

Approval: 2002/04/23

Rescind Date:

Index: 08 Public Works

Section: 04 Water and Sewer

Title: 16 Proper Abandonment of Water Service to Property

Purpose

To protect the City water distribution system from the consequences of allowing an abandoned water service lateral to be left in the ground unused, but containing pressurized municipal water. Potential problems include:

- unnecessary waste of municipal water;
- potential flooding if an unused service is accidentally disturbed;
- additional work by City forces in digging up water service laterals left by others.

Policy Statement

1. It is the property owners responsibility to properly abandon a water service lateral that is no longer in use.
2. Proper abandonment of a service means physical removal of means for municipal water to enter the service lateral. The owner is responsible for properly removing the connection at the point where the service lateral is connected to the City water mains, by a method satisfactory to the City.
3. In some cases, proper abandonment also means physically removing the water service lateral pipe.
4. In the cases where the owner wishes to demolish an existing structure, the owner shall, as a pre-

condition of obtaining a Demolition Permit, have properly abandoned any water property water service lateral(s) to the satisfaction of the City Environmental Services Division.

5. In the cases where the owner wishes to redevelop the site and needs a differently sized water service or services, or needs to draw water from a different location, proper abandonment of the old service(s) to the satisfaction of the Environmental Services Division shall be a condition of granting approval of the application, and the prior abandonment of the service to City requirements shall be a condition of the issuance of a Permit to connect.

6. In a case where the owner requests to defer the actual abandonment of the property water service(s) for a specific period of time, and the City agrees, the following arrangements shall be made, in order to protect the City's interest:

- The applicant shall take out an Abandonment Deposit equal to twice the cost that the City Environmental Services Division estimates to do the work.
- The applicant shall commit to a completion date for the abandonment of the service(s) that is agreeable to the City.
- No Demolition Permit or Permit to Connect shall be issued until the Abandonment Deposit is paid.
- If the applicant does not properly abandon the service lateral after expiration of the date committed to, the City may elect to have the works done, with the applicant forfeiting the Abandonment Deposit.

7. The applicant must not cover up the service trench until he has contacted the City to inspect the abandoned service lateral in the open trench and the City has inspected the works. Upon satisfactory inspection of the abandoned service lateral, the Environmental Services Division shall arrange for the Abandonment Deposit to be released.

Application

Responsibilities

Department of Public Works and Parks, Departments of Engineering and Planning, Department of Building and Property Management.

Definitions

References/Appendix

Monitoring and Contravention

Approvals

Public Works and Parks Standing Committee report - April 16, 2002; Regular Meeting of Council - April 23, 2002; Public Works and Environment Standing Committee report - December 11, 2008; Regular Meeting of Council - December 15, 2008.

Review Period**Available to Public**

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No