

Portland Water Bureau

Engineering & Technical Standards Admin Rule

Section 1. Effective Date

This administrative rule is effective on June 1, 2022.

Section 2. Regulatory Authority

- A. PCC 21.24.080 establishes the authority for the Administrator / Director of The Portland Water Bureau to create administrative rules related to the public water system.
- B. PCC 21.04.010 establishes the authority for the Chief Engineer of the Portland Water Bureau to establish engineering and technical standards for the protection, design, construction, operations, and maintenance of the public water system.
- C. PCC 21.12.130 defines limits of Portland Water Bureau assets vs private property owner assets for purposes of maintenance, repair, and replacement. This Engineering & Technical Standards Admin Rule (hereafter referred to as “Rule”) applies to Portland Water Bureau assets, not private water systems.

Section 3. About these standards

Purpose of these standards:

The Portland Water Bureau is responsible for developing and maintaining engineering standards to protect, construct, operate and maintain the water system infrastructure integrity and to provide unobstructed access to the infrastructure for operations, maintenance, and repairs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The standards in the enclosed Appendices cover a variety of conditions and scenarios and are necessary to document existing and address new or changing conditions from current standards. This Rule provides clarity and citation ability for these standards.

The Portland Water Bureau’s right to review work

To maintain water service, reduce the risk of damage or injury, and comply with applicable City, State and Federal regulations, the Portland Water Bureau can evaluate any work that might affect Portland Water Bureau water system infrastructure, as defined in PCC 21.12.130. Portland Water Bureau review may require relocation of existing utilities, installation of isolation valves, submittal of Utility Protection Plans, or other site-specific changes.

The Portland Water Bureau can require changes during construction for work around or impacting Portland Water Bureau assets to protect and maintain the integrity of the water system. Changes during construction must still follow appropriate applicable permit approvals.

Who must follow these standards:

Anyone who plans, designs, constructs, operates, changes, or maintains infrastructure that includes, or impacts, public water infrastructure must follow these standards. This can include but is not limited to:

- City staff
- Consultants
- Developers
- Contractors
- Utilities
- Public agencies

Section 4. Design Exception Process

When the Portland Water Bureau standards, code and policies in this Rule are not feasible:

When the Portland Water Bureau standards, code, or policies of this Rule cannot be met, either due to permanent or temporary development or construction, the applicant may submit a Design Exception Request form to the Portland Water Bureau. Design Exception Requests are considered by the Portland Water Bureau Chief Engineer or designee(s) and will be approved, approved with mitigations, or denied. The applicant must submit the Design Exception Request form with their permit application or when they learn that their proposal cannot meet the standard or policy. A Design Exception may also be required by the Portland Water Bureau for any proposed development or construction that does not meet Portland Water Bureau standards and thus the Portland Water Bureau's ability to access, maintain, and/or protect Portland Water Bureau assets and reduce risk. Any fee imposed for review of Design Exceptions will be included in the Portland Water Bureau Fee Schedule. The Fee Schedule is revised yearly and can be found at [fy-2021 2022-pwb-bes-rates.pdf \(portland.gov\)](https://www.portland.gov/water/backflow-prevention/backflow-assembly-installation-requirements) Portland Water Bureau Design Exceptions are not possible for premise-isolation backflow requirements, see Portland Water Bureau document "Backflow Assembly Installation Requirements". Other exceptions may be allowed as defined in Title 25.07. <https://www.portland.gov/water/backflow-prevention/backflow-assembly-installation-requirements>

On the Design Exception Request form the applicant will need to include:

- The type of conflict and Portland Water Bureau Standard, Code, Guideline or Policy that cannot be met and why
- Relevant documentation, such as site plans and cross sections
- A clear rationale for the proposed alternative design; and
- How the proposed alternative design and/or mitigations support the intent of the applicable criteria.

A copy of the Design Exception form and instructions is available on the Portland Water Bureau's website at <https://www.portland.gov/water>.

Section 5. Appendices

The Standards included by Appendices:

- A. Submittal requirements for development and utility permit applications.
- B. Submittal requirements for deep vaults
- C. Compliance with current standards
- D. Standard Separation Tables
- E. Tap Separations for New Services
- F. Water & Sewer separation policy
- G. Seismic Infrastructure policy
- H. Conduit/Transmission Main Protection Requirements
- I. Electric Rail (light rail and streetcar) Requirements