

PW092601-09

PROPOSED EXCEPTIONS TO RESIDENTIAL
CITY-CONDUCTED WATER LINE REPAIR

Reasons for Deviation from Established Repair Policy. It is currently, and shall remain the policy of the City of Rapid City to be responsible for, and repair or replace, only main water lines. The responsibility for the repair and replacement of all other water lines, including service lines from the main to the curb stop, shall remain on the respective homeowner who is serviced by that line. There shall be an exception to this policy for all neighborhoods which have water lines constructed of polybutelene plastic. Polybutelene pipes have, over the past decade, proven to be an inferior product, highly susceptible to imperfect laying techniques and prone to pull away from its end connections. Due to the nationwide failure of these pipes and the involvement of the City of Rapid City in deciding to use these pipes over a decade ago, the City of Rapid City shall implement a good will exception to the established repair and replacement policy.

The City of Rapid City shall repair and replace all leaky polybutelene service lines from the main to the curb stop on a prorated basis. Any polybutelene water line which malfunctions shall be replaced with a new copper water service line. At such time of repair, the City shall install a new copper line only to the curb stop. The existing polybutelene water line has an anticipated design life of 40 years. The cost of installing a new copper water line from the main to the curb stop shall be prorated using the 40-year life expectancy as the base. The respective homeowner of the malfunctioning polybutelene line shall be responsible for the portion of the costs which represents the amount of service the water line has already given, i.e. a homeowner with a 10-year old line shall receive a 75 percent reimbursement for the costs of such repair and replacement. Existing polybutelene water line which runs from the residence to the curb stop is not addressed under this good faith exception. The portion of existing polybutelene water line from the residence to the curb stop is the responsibility of the homeowner and shall be wholly an expense to that homeowner when and if replacement is required.

All homeowners who have had water service line breakages due to the failure of polybutelene water service lines since January 1, 1987, shall be reimbursed on a pro rata basis for the expense incurred for replacement of the water service lines from the city main to the curb stop. This reimbursement shall include the costs of replacing all cement and roadwork and any other costs which were a direct result of the water service line replacement. The City of Rapid City assumes no liability for any other damage caused to real or personal property as a result of the breakage of any water line but only for the costs associated with replacement of such line. It shall be the responsibility of the homeowners who have previously suffered water service line breakages to submit invoices of all the costs incurred by them. Upon review of these invoices, the City of Rapid City shall, per proper authorization, issue reimbursements for such costs.