

## PROCEDURES

### LOCATOR WIRE

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#### 4.0 PURPOSE

Locator wire (also referred to as tracer wire) shall be installed with all PE or other non-metallic pipe for accurate locating of the natural gas facilities as required by law.

NOTE: It is of paramount importance that all broken or damaged locator wires be spliced or replaced.

#### 4.1 SCOPE

- A. Wire
- B. Connectors
- C. Connection to Steel Main

#### 4.2 WIRE

1. Locator wire shall be coated and resistant to corrosion damage, suitable for burial.
2. Wire shall be a minimum #14 gauge, solid copper (Type TW). Other approved locator wires include the following:
  - a. #12 solid copper coated
  - b. Copper clad steel wire with 30 mil high density PE jacketing
3. Wire shall be installed directly below or above the pipe when and where possible.
4. Wrap wire once around service tee to avoid separation.
5. Wire shall be installed as to allow only minimum contact with the pipe, **NOT** spiral wrapped around the pipe.
6. Wire may be taped to the pipe at intervals sufficient to maintain a close proximity to the pipe for locating purposed and when inserting the pipe.
7. Wire shall be installed with sufficient slack as to allow for expansion and contraction, and shall be brought up 12 inches (minimum) above grade in valve boxes.
8. Locator wire shall be wrapped twice around the service riser, below the stopcock, taped and wire connector placed over the end of the wire.
9. **Do Not** allow the wire to make direct contact to the metal riser creating a short.

#### 4.3 WIRE CONNECTORS

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- A. There are a number of approved methods for connecting multiple locator wire(s) including but not limited to the following list:
1. 3M Wire Connector
  2. Split Bolt
  3. Crimp Sleeve
  4. Wire Nut
  5. Direct Bury Lug
- B. Wire connector may incorporate self waterproof, corrosion proof seal.
- C. All connections shall be sealed.

#### 4.4 **DEAD END / BRANCH STUBS**

Where it may become difficult to accurately locate stubs and dead ends you shall:

1. Place an EMS marker.
2. Place a depth marker and run tracer wire up depth marker above grade with a wire connector.

#### 4.5 **CONNECTION TO STEEL MAIN**

Installations where a plastic service line is tied on to steel mainline piping, for locating purposes, the service locator wire may be attached to the steel by using either the brazing or thermit weld process. This should be first approved by your corrosion department before attaching the wire. **Refer to Section L-3.**

#### 4.6 **CONNECTION TO ISOLATED STEEL SECTION**

There are instances where a short section of PE pipe is utilized for repair / replacement of an existing cathodically protected steel pipeline.

- 1 A bond wire may be required to continue adequate cathodic protection across the replacement pipe. In some cases a length of locator wire may be adequate.
- 2 Insure that bond wire is sized appropriately for adequate cathodic protection.  
**(Reference Section L C.P.)**