
SECTION 31 23 23.16 – TRENCHING FOR WATER AND SEWER LINES

PART 1 - GENERAL

1.1 SUMMARY

- A. This section includes excavation required for the construction of water and sewer pipes and appurtenances.
- B. Related sections:
 - 1. Section 31 23 23.16 – Trench Backfill
 - 2. Section 33 41 19 – Pipe Laying

1.2 GENERAL

- A. General Requirements: See Division 01, GENERAL REQUIREMENTS, which contains information and requirements that apply to the work specified herein and are mandatory for this project.
- B. Provide and install trench bracing and shoring that conforms to the requirements of 29 CFR Part 1926 Subpart P of the OSHA Standards. Bracing shall be so arranged as not to place any strain on portions of completed work until the construction has proceeded far enough to provide ample strength.
- C. Overexcavation, whether by Contractor's negligence or at direction of the Engineer, shall be repaired to required lines and grades.
- D. Trenches shall be dug to the alignment and depth required and shall not advance more than 100 feet ahead of the completed pipe, unless otherwise permitted by the Engineer.

1.3 UTILITIES

- A. The location and/or elevation of existing utilities as shown on these plans is based on records of the various utility companies and, where possible, measurements taken in the field. The information is not to be relied upon as being exact or complete. The Contractor must call each utility owner at least two working days before any excavation to request exact field location of utilities.
- B. Protect utilities encountered during excavation.
- C. Do not interrupt service in utilities encountered during excavation without approval of the utility owner.
- D. If utilities are damaged or utility service is interrupted by work under this section, the utility owner has the first right to repair. If public health or safety is at risk, Contractor shall take appropriate prudent action to repair damage and service interruption. Costs of utility protection and repair shall be at no additional cost to the Owner.
- E. If existing utilities are found to interfere with the permanent facility being constructed, notify the Engineer for instructions. Do not proceed with permanent relocation of utilities without written instructions from the Engineer.

PART 2 - PRODUCTS

2.1 FILL MATERIALS

- A. Shall be as specified in Section 31 23 23.16, TRENCH BACKFILL

PART 3 - EXECUTION

3.1 GENERAL

- A. Notify property residents two working days prior to beginning excavation on property.
- B. Excavated materials not suitable for backfill or embankment shall not be incorporated into the project but shall be disposed of by Contractor.
- C. Excavate with caution so that structures and underground conduits can be protected.
- D. Excavate every type of material encountered to the lines and elevations necessary to complete the project.
- E. Reroute surface water before excavating and protect excavated trench from entrance of surface water.
- F. In general, the sheeting and bracing shall be removed as the trench or excavation is backfilled, and in such a manner as to avoid the caving in of the bank or disturbance of adjacent areas or structures. The voids left by the withdrawal of sheeting shall be backfilled the same as trench excavations.
- G. Provide "before and after" color photographs of lawns and gardens to Engineer.
- H. Comply with Section 33 41 19, PIPE LAYING.

3.2 TRENCH DEPTH

- A. Excavate to the elevation necessary to provide the depth of bedding material under the barrel of the pipe, noted on the plans or in these specifications, whichever is greater.
- B. All over-excavation up to 2 feet shall be backfilled with bedding material in 6-inch layers and tamped to a bearing capacity equal to the adjacent undisturbed earth. Over excavation greater than 2 feet will require excavation operation to stop until an engineered backfill is determined. Over excavation shall not proceed until approved by Engineer. Contractor shall bear all expense involved if he fails to obtain prior approval from the Engineer.

3.3 TRENCH WIDTH

- A. Excavate to the width shown in detail drawings. Specified width dimensions must be maintained from trench bottom to an elevation 12 inches above barrel of pipe. Over-width excavation will require excavation operation to stop until additional earth loads can be compared to strength of pipe. Costs of unauthorized deviation from the specified width will be borne by the Contractor.

3.4 TRENCH LENGTH

- A. Excavate to a maximum distance of 100 feet from the pipe jointing operation. Longer distances will be considered when conditions warrant.

3.5 EXCAVATION IN ROCK

- A. When rock is encountered, excavate to an elevation 6 inches below the pipe and to the trench width as shown in the details at no additional cost to Owner.

3.6 EXCAVATION IN UNSUITABLE SOIL

- A. Where, in the judgment of the Engineer, the planned bottom of trench is found to be unstable, excavation shall stop until an engineered subgrade stabilization method is determined.

3.7 EXCAVATION IN WET CONDITIONS

- A. Where the planned bottom of trench contains water or the trench bottom is soft from excess water, excavation depth shall increase a minimum of 6 inches or as directed by the Engineer.

3.8 EXCAVATION IN UNFORESEEN STRUCTURE

- A. Preserve unforeseen structures encountered in excavation.
- B. Advise the Engineer when unforeseen structure interferes with planned work. Engineer will determine if plan will change or if structure will be abandoned.

3.9 UNAUTHORIZED EXCAVATION

- A. Unauthorized excavation is removal of materials beyond specified elevations or dimensions without the Engineer or Owner's specific prior approval.

3.10 UNSUITABLE AND EXCESS EXCAVATED MATERIAL:

- A. Excavated material not suitable for backfill and excess excavated material shall be disposed of by Contractor in a manner approved by the Engineer and applicable governmental regulations.

3.11 EXCAVATION DEWATERING:

- A. Wellpointing or deep wells, where required to keep the excavation dry and the subgrade stable, shall be installed when the excavation extends to within two (2) feet of the water table, except as herein provided, and shall be in continuous operation until backfill is completed to this level.
- B. When construction equipment is to be operated in an area that has been excavated, and wellpointing or deep wells are required to keep the excavation dry and the subgrade stable, the wellpointing or deep wells shall be installed when the excavation extends to within five (5) feet of the water table.
- C. There shall be sufficient pumping equipment, in good working order, readily available at all times to remove any water that accumulates in excavations to the extent that a stable subgrade is obtained.
- D. Where the excavation crosses natural drainage channels, the work shall be conducted in such a manner that unnecessary damage or delays in the prosecution of the work will be prevented.
- E. Trench dewatering shall discharge to an approved location in conformance with the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan.

- F. Wellpoint dewatering for the sewer line construction will not be mandatory where a properly stabilized subgrade can be obtained by use of granular bedding. If granular bedding is utilized by the Contractor for stabilization of the trench bottom in lieu of wellpointing, such bedding material will not be measured for separate payment but will be considered subsidiary to the pipe installation.
- G. Where dewatering might be necessary to properly install the sewer line, such as at drainage channel crossings and tunnel or boring locations, the Contractor shall submit his proposal for this dewatering to the Owner for approval.
- H. Dewatering operations shall continue until pipe has been backfilled and a sufficient cover depth has been reached to prevent flotation of pipe.

- END OF SECTION -