



## Standard Operating Guidelines Bacteria Testing/Sampling of New/Replacement Water Mains

Guidelines are intended to give direction on water mains owned and operated by the City of East Moline.

New/Replacement water main projects – after required pressure tests, disinfection and flushing:

Bacteria samples are required and must be scheduled with the Water Filtration Plant laboratory. Bacteria samples require 24 to 72 hours for results, therefore bacteria samples shall be scheduled no later than Wednesday of any given week. Holidays may require adjustments to this schedule.

Per I-EPA requirements there shall be a minimum of 1 bacteria sample per 1,200 feet of new/replacement water main pipe. A bacteria sample may be required from each branch of the new/replacement water main depending on design and access for bacteria samples.

I-EPA permitted projects may require additional testing.

Actual number and location of bacteria samples will be determined by East Moline Water Filtration Plant personnel.

Bacteria samples will be taken directly off the new/replacement water main from a 3/4" or 1" tap with a short piece of copper pipe (12" to 24" long) attached. Contractor must furnish tap, copper pipe, bleach and torch to disinfect the copper pipe, as well as access to the sample tap. It is strictly forbidden to pull bacteria samples from fire hydrants.

If possible, taps used for bacteria sampling will be located so the same tap can be used for a customer service line.

Bacteria samples are required to show no growth to pass bacteria test(s).

If growth is present – repeat disinfection and flushing will be required. Once this is completed, per I-EPA requirements, two bacteria samples 24 hours apart (from each sample site) will be required. All samples must show no growth.

This process must be repeated until two bacteria samples, taken 24 hours apart, show no growth.

Once the primary part of the new/replacement water main has passed bacteria testing, services and additional connections can be completed.

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When making additional connections to the primary new/replacement water main, use less than 20' of pipe where possible. Water shutdown will be required when making these connections. When water is shutdown, or falls below 20 psi, a boil order for affected customers is required, and bacteria samples must be obtained. One bacteria sample is required for every 25 taps (customers), so affected areas shall be kept to a minimum.

These are meant to be guidelines. Under certain circumstances there may be some variation from these guidelines. All variations must be approved by Water Filtration Plant personnel and there will be no variance allowed for I-EPA requirements.

## **Private Water Lines –**

Private water lines, no matter what size, are the responsibility of the property owner. If a private water line loses pressure or falls below 20 psi, it is the property owner's responsibility to establish protocol for their property or customers/occupants.

If this situation arises – East Moline Water Filtration Plant will provide bacteria sampling and testing, at the customer's request, at no charge to **East Moline water customers only**.

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