

SECTION 15025

CLEANING PIPELINES

PART 1: GENERAL

1.01 SCOPE OF WORK

Clean the pipelines installed under these Contract Documents using foam pigs, swabs, or "go-devils", as described herein, whenever normal flushing will not sufficiently remove dirt and debris that was introduced during construction.

1.02 GENERAL

Normal pipeline flushing is often inadequate to remove all the entrapped air, loose debris, and other objects that may have been left in the main during installation. In such cases, use polyurethane foam pigs and/or polyurethane hard foam swabs to remove all foreign matter from the pipeline (i.e. "pig" the pipeline). Clean the pipeline per the requirements of this Specification Section prior to testing and disinfecting the main.

1.03 RELATED WORK

See Specification Section 15000.3.02 - Construction Methods to Avoid Contamination and Specification Section 15020.3.01-Preparation (prior to disinfecting pipelines).

1.04 PROTECTION DURING FLUSHING AND CLEANING

Coordinate with Engineer and Owner before flushing to ensure that an adequate volume of flushing water is available, at sufficiently high pressure. Determine if the water can be disposed of safely. Notify the Owner, Engineer, and the following prior to flushing, or cleaning:

- a. Fire Department
- b. Other utilities, such as gas, electric and telephone companies, who may have underground facilities in the area.
- c. Customers who may be inconvenienced by reduced pressure or dirty water.

Coordinate with Owner to isolate the section to be flushed from the operating distribution system. Close valves slowly to prevent water hammer. Open the fire hydrant or blow-off valve slowly until the desired flow rate is obtained. When flushing from a dry barrel fire hydrant, use the gate valve upstream of the hydrant for throttling purposes. Open the hydrant valve fully to prevent water from escaping into the ground through the fire hydrant barrel drain.

Protect the work staff and the public during operation of hydrants and valves. Keep children away from the flow of flushing water. Where practical employ energy

dissipators to help avoid damage to property and the flooding of streets. The safety considerations also apply to main cleaning. See General Conditions Article 6.

PART 2: PRODUCTS

2.01 MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

Furnish the foam cleaning plugs (swabs or pigs), labor, and equipment as needed to pig all pipelines. Furnish all materials required for the expulsion of air and other debris from pipelines. Do not use pipe cleaning plugs which utilize Bristles, wire brushes, carbide abrasives, steel studs, or any other Type abrasive unless specifically approved by the Engineer. Consult a manufacturer of pipe cleaning plugs, such as Knapp Polly Pig (Houston, Texas), to determine the type and size of cleaning plug best suited for the application. Two types of plugs shall be considered and are described as follows:

A. Swabs

Swabs used for cleaning mains shall be made of polyurethane foam. This foam has a density of 1 to 2 pounds per cubic feet. Swabs shall be purchased from commercial manufacturers of swabs for pipes. Both soft and hard grade foam swabs are available. New mains are typically cleaned with hard foam swabs.

Use swabs cut into cubes and cylinders slightly larger than the size of the pipe to be cleaned. Cubes one inch larger in dimension than the nominal diameter of the pipe being cleaned have worked well for cleaning pipes up to 12-inches in diameter. For mains greater than 12-inches in diameter, the swab diameter must be considered individually for each operation. For new mains, swabs 3-inches larger than the pipe diameter have worked well. Swabs for the larger mains are usually 1-1/2 times the diameter in length.

B. Pigs

The other type of cleaning plug available is called a pig. Pigs, if used, shall be commercially manufactured for the specific purpose of cleaning pipes. They shall be made of polyurethane foam weighing 2 to 15 lb./cu.ft. Pigs are bullet shaped and come in various grades of flexibility and roughness. Pigs are typically 1/4 -inch to 1/2-inch larger in diameter than the pipe to be cleaned.

PART 3: EXECUTION

3.01 PLUG INSTALLATION AND REMOVAL

Furnish all equipment, material, and labor to satisfactorily expose cleaning wyes, or other entry or exit points. Remove cleaning wye covers, etc., as required by the Engineer to insert the plugs into the mains.

If approved by the Engineer, stripped fire hydrants, air valves and blow-offs may serve as entry and exit points for smaller sized mains. The Engineer will examine these

appurtenances and the connecting laterals to ensure that adequate openings exist through which a plug may be launched.

If these appurtenances are used, a special launcher is required to ease the insertion and launching of the plug. If available, a pressurized water source such as a fire hydrant can be used to launch the plug. If water from the system is not available nearby, use a water truck with pump.

If hydrants are used as entry and/or exit points, remove the internal mechanisms and plug the drains under the supervision of the Engineer. Insert the plug and replace the cap with a special flange with a 2-1/2-inch fitting. Connect the 2-1/2-inch fitting, with a pressure gauge and valve, to a pressurized water source. After closing the last valve isolating the section to be cleaned, open the hydrant supply valve. Propel the swab or pig into the main by opening the exit valve.

In mains greater than 8-inches, wyes shall be used at the entry and exit points. Fabricate the wye section one size larger than the main to ease the insertion and extraction of the plug. The use of wyes, as with the previously mentioned appurtenances, requires an outside source of pressurized water for launching. Cap the wye with a flange with a 2 to 6 inch fitting for connecting to the pressurized water source.

Many pigs are harder to insert into a pipe since they are less flexible than swabs,. Other methods acceptable to insert pigs include:

1. winching with a double sling,
 2. winching with a rope attached to the pig,
 3. compression with a banding machine prior to insertion,
- and
4. the use of a specially designed tapered steel pipe which is removed after use.

During swab or pig installation, leave as much water as possible in the main to be cleaned. The water suspends the material being removed from the pipe and minimizes the chance of the material forming a solid plug. Water in the pipe also keeps the swab or pig from traveling through the pipe at excessive rates. If swabs or pigs travel too fast, they will remove less material and wear more rapidly.

At the exit point or blow-off, install a wye long enough to house the swab or pig. Attach temporary piping to the end cap to allow the drainage of the water.

Take precautions to prevent backflow of purged water into the main when the cleaning plug exits through a dead end main. This can be accomplished by installing mechanical joint bends and pipe joints to provide a riser out of the trench. Additional excavation of the trench may serve the same purpose.

3.02 PRE-CLEANING PROCEDURES

- A. Prepare a written cleaning plan for the Engineer's review,
- B. Suggested pre-cleaning procedures include:

1. Identify mains to be cleaned on a map. Mark the location of the entry, water supply, exit points, any blow-offs to be used, valves to be closed, and the path of the swab or pig.
2. Under the Engineer's supervision and with Owner staff as required, inspect and operate all valves and hydrants to be used in the cleaning operation to ensure their correct operation and a tight shutdown.
3. Check location and type of hydrants, launch and exit location, and blow-offs to be used. Make blow-off tap connections, if necessary.
4. The Owner will notify customers served by the main to be cleaned that their water will be off for a specified period of time on the day of the cleaning.
5. The Owner will identify customers who may require temporary services during the main cleaning operation. The Contractor shall provide the temporary connections.
6. Determine the number and size of plugs to be used.

3.03 CLEANING PROCEDURE

Clean the pipeline using the following procedures and the Contractor's cleaning plan, as approved by the Engineer.

A. Swab Cleaning Procedures

1. Open the water supply upstream of the swab. Throttle the flow in the main at the discharge (plug exit) point so that the swab passes through the main at a speed of 2 to 4 fps. (At this velocity, swabs will effectively clean pipes for distances of up to 4,000 feet before disintegrating to a size smaller than the main.) Use pitot gauges at the exist hydrant or blow-off to estimate the flowrate in the main.
2. Note the time of entry of the swab into the main and estimate its time of exit. If the swab does not reach the exit point in the estimated time plus ten minutes, then a blockage has probably occurred. Reverse the flow in the main and note the time required for the swab to reach the original entry point. From the return travel time, estimate the location of the blockage. The Engineer may require the use of a swab containing a transmitter to accurately locate the blockage.
3. Swab repeatedly as needed. Stop swabbing when the water behind the swab emerging at the exit clears up within one minute. Account for all swabs inserted into the main.

4. After the last swab has been recovered, flush the main to remove swab particles. This may require up to an hour of flushing.

B. Pig Cleaning Procedures

1. Remove all air valves along the line. Insure that each isolating valves to the air release valve are completely closed. Operate system to prevent undesired build up of air while air release valves are out of service.
2. If the pig is inserted directly into the main, set it in motion by opening the upstream gate valve and a downstream fire hydrant or blow-off valve (usually the valve on the capped end at the exit point). If the pig is launched from a wye, fire hydrant, or other appurtenance, use an external pressurized water source to inject the pig into the main as described in Specification Section 3.01.
3. Once the pig is launched, control its speed by throttling the discharge at a downstream fire hydrant or blow-off. Operate pigs at the typical speed of 1 fps. This slow speed will help prevent pressure surges when the pig passes through undersized valves, enters smaller pipes, or turns through tees or crosses. Speeds of up to 2 fps. can be used on straight runs with no restrictions or sharp turns.
4. Make sufficient passes of the pig to obtain thorough cleaning. Two pigs may be used in tandem to save time and water. Sufficient cleaning is established when the water discharging after the pig becomes clear within one minute.

3.04 POST CLEANING PROCEDURE

After successful cleaning; test, flush, and disinfect the main in accordance with applicable sections of these Specifications.

END OF SECTION