



## INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF UTILITY SERVICES

---

**DATE:** March 2, 2018

**TO:** Jason E. Brown, County Administrator

**FROM:** Vincent Burke, P.E., Director of Utility Services

**THRU:** Arjuna Weragoda, P.E., Capital Projects Manager  
John Boyer, P.E., Utilities

**PREPARED BY:** Art Pfeffer, Project Specialist

**SUBJECT:** Utility Construction Standards, March 2018

---

### **BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS:**

On February 14, 2017, the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) directed staff to schedule a meeting on the Development Review Process. A Development Review Permitting Process Workshop was held on April 12, 2017. Since Indian River County Department of Utility Services (IRCDUS) had been involved for the past year updating the April 2014 - Water, Wastewater, and Reclaimed Water Construction Standards, workshop participants at the meeting were informed that staff would solicit feedback from the development community prior to finalizing the updates. A file transfer protocol (FTP) site was set up to upload revised documents for review. All workshop participants were notified by e-mail on April 21, 2017 to solicit their review and input on the proposed changes. Email recipients were asked to comment within 45 days, or by June 15, 2017. Only one comment was received, thanking us for the opportunity to review the documents.

IRCDUS held a workshop with members of the development community on November 17, 2017. The discussion focused on the initial cost to construct a residential water service (Developer) versus the post construction repair costs to replace a water service (County). The discussion touched on how the proposed construction standards revision would impact initial capital costs to the Developer and the long term operation, and maintenance cost to the Utilities and the intangible cost to the customer when they are out of service. Also, discussed at the workshop was a more transparent revision framework and schedule. The workshop closed with the following action items:

- Action Item 1 – Developers to provide a line item cost analysis using existing vs. proposed construction standards.
- Action Item 2 – IRCDUS to provide a cost analysis of repairs by street address throughout the

service area, broken down by material and labor.

- Action Item 3 – Agenda item would be presented to the BCC to approve adoption of revised Construction Standards in March 2018.

The results of the Action Items are as follows:

Action Item 1: Although, a line item comparative cost analysis based on the current standards versus the proposed standards was not submitted, one developer and contractor scheduled a meeting on January 31, 2018, with IRCDUS staff regarding lining manholes and related costs. The developer and the contractor were satisfied and were in concurrence once staff explained the need for the revision and the requirements of the revision.

Action Item 2: IRCDUS staff compiled data from main and service line breaks throughout the County service area for a period of 2 years. The average cost is estimated at \$1,127.21 per break, inclusive of labor, materials, equipment and restoration costs.

The subject agenda addresses action item 3.

Staff intends on bringing forth updates and revisions during the same month as the subject updates annually if necessary. Prior to formalizing the updates/revisions to BCC, a 30-day public comment period will be scheduled. Following is an example of a tentative schedule to be followed during updates:

Standards Update Task	Schedule
Draft of the Updates/Revisions	December, 2018
Submit of the updates/revisions for comments	January, 2019
Receive comments	February, 2019
Submit for BCC approval/adoption	March, 2019

Given that industry standards are constantly changing, an update to the standards and specifications is essential in order to stay in conformance with American Water Works Association (AWWA) requirements. The infrastructure dedicated to the utility with updated changes will be of a quality that will minimize future maintenance and replacement costs. In so doing, new facilities accepted by IRCDUS will not burden existing customers due to premature failure. Additionally, the procedures contained in the updates provide a detailed description of IRCDUS administrative requirements. This allows projects to be completed as expediently as possible and permits staff to treat all new projects/customers in a uniform and non-discriminatory manner. Staff evaluates new products or product manufacturers and accepts those with merit. Incorporating this kind of change offers a clear and consistent guideline to a contractor providing building services in the County. Similarly, for the Utility Inspector, the construction standards provide a minimum acceptable installation requirement. Ultimately, IRCDUS customers benefit from a reliable system.

Engineering and Operations staff reviewed the December 2015 standards, completed a comprehensive revision and forwarded the revised document to an engineering consultant, Richard B. Votapka of Vero Beach, for review. Mr. Votapka performed a thorough examination and made recommendations, which have been incorporated into the proposed March 2018 standards. Each drawing was revised for technical

accuracy, and consistency for style and syntax. The written specifications were updated and cross referenced with the drawings. A list of the major changes is documented in Attachment A. Complete documentation of the revisions recommended by Mr. Votapka is on file and may be viewed upon request. The intent and technical integrity of the document provides a minimum standard and serves as a guide for the construction of water, wastewater and reclaimed water utilities. The revised standards will be incorporated into the IRCDUS website ([www.ircutilities.com](http://www.ircutilities.com)) and will be available for downloading in a portable document format (PDF).

**FUNDING:**

Funds are not required for the subject task.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners approve adoption of the Indian River County Department of Utility Services Water, Wastewater and Reclaimed Water Construction Standards – March 2018, as presented.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment A – List of Major Revisions to Standards