

To: Drinking Water Field Office Staff

From: Erich Webber, Drinking Water Fellow

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Subject: Documentation of Line Repairs Made Under Pressure

Recently, we had a topic come up for discussion as a part of a sanitary survey that may need some clarification regarding repairs made under pressure. Division Rule 0400-45-01-.17(8) references following American Water Work Association (AWWA) Standards for protecting water quality during construction or repair of facilities and mains. Equivalent methods and Standard Operating Procedures that are developed by the water system can be used if they are approved in writing by the Division and on hand during the activity.

The focus of 0400-45-01-.17(8) is on situations that pose the greatest risk to contamination and harm such as de-watered line repairs. Therefore, repairs made under pressure, which present the least risk for contamination and harm, is not clearly addressed in rule. Although this process is not specifically set out in rule, this method of line repair is mentioned in AWWA Standard C-651, which states the main is to be flushed to check for visually clear water and that the free chlorine residual is typical for their water system following the repair. The repair area, clamps and fittings are to be disinfected by swab or spray to ensure they are clean before completing the repair. Even though this process would present the least potential for contamination and harm, the sanitary practices used to ensure water quality is protected needs to be documented. Since this may not have been clearly defined in rule, please review these repairs as part of the survey, and make water systems aware of the need to document this process.