

**Van Zandt County Road and Bridge Department  
Rules and Regulations for Underground Utility Lines**

The rules and regulations of this policy will, and do pertain to all roads, improved and unimproved, within Van Zandt County, Texas which includes, but not limited to, the following types of road ways;

- a. Paved Roads
- b. Gravel Roads
- c. Dirt Roads

Formal Notice must be given of proposed installation of any buried lines, and/or cables, upon and along any right of way or easement of county roads in Van Zandt County. This notice must be in writing and submitted for approval by the County Commissioner of the Precinct where the work is to be performed prior to any work being performed. Each written request should contain detailed drawings, and plan specifications, of the proposed utility line, and shall be submitted in copies of three.

**Brush Disposal-** Any brush, trees, debris, material, etc., that are cut will be disposed of and not left in the ditch, the right-of-way, or the road. Mulching brush in ditch is acceptable. Rocks that may be dug up by a plow, trencher, tractor, or any other equipment, must be disposed of properly. All services to be performed shall not interfere nor hinder the normal flow of traffic.

**Damages-** Any damages to the roadway and/or county right-of-way will be repaired to their original condition and to the satisfaction of the Commissioner of the Precinct in which the work is being performed. Van Zandt County will not be responsible for any damage which occurs to buried utility lines within the county road or county right-of-ways.

**Depth of Underground Lines-** The depth of underground lines shall be as specified herein for each type of utility. Where placements at such depths are impractical or where unusual conditions exist, the Precinct Commissioners shall specify other protection as may be appropriate in lieu of the depth of bury required for the utility line. Any and all buried utility lines will be placed at a minimum depth of 36".

Any deviation from the specified depth must be requested in writing and approved by the County Commissioner of the Precinct.

- A. High pressure gas and liquid petroleum lines will be constructed no less than forty-eight inches (48") lower than the lowest part of the drainage or bar ditch, and the drainage is to be considered at least two feet (2') below the center of the roadway.
- B. Fiber Optic lines will be constructed no less than forty-eight inches (48") lower than the lowest part of the drainage or bar ditch, and the drainage is to be considered at least two feet (2') below the center of the roadway.
- C. Communications cable will be constructed no less than {36"} lower than the lowest part of the drainage or bar ditch, and the drainage is to be considered a least two feet (2') below the center of the roadway.
- D. Water Lines will be constructed no less than thirty-six inches (36") lowest than the lowest part of the drainage bar ditch, and the drainage is to be considered a least two feet (2') below the center of the roadway, crossings to be encased.
- E. Underground Power line crossings and longitudinal shall be encased (placed in conduit) and buried a minimum of thirty-six (36") under the roadway ditches, and sixty inches (60") below the pavement surface.
- F. Cable television and copper cable communications lines shall have a minimum depth of twenty-four inches (24") under ditches or 18 inches beneath the bottom of the pavement structure, whichever is greater.
- G. Telephone lines will be constructed no less than eighteen inches (18") deep below the pavement.

**Location-** Utility Lines shall be located to avoid or minimize the need for adjustment for future road improvements and to permit access to the utility lines for their maintenance with minimum interference to road traffic. No line or cable shall be buried in the center of the ditch. All lines must be placed in the back slope, where the right-of-way ends so as not to interfere with the drainage in the ditch. Cables shall not be placed on top or inside of any existing culverts.

**Encasement-** In general, underground utility lines crossings shall be encased in the interest of safety, protection of the utility, protection of the roadway, and for access to the utility.

Casing shall consist of steel pipe or other separate structure around and outside the utility line and shall be designed to support the load of the roadway and imposed loads thereon, including that of construction machinery.

The strength of the casing shall equal or exceed structural requirement for drainage culverts, and it shall be composed of materials of satisfactory durability under conditions to which it may be subjected.

**Markers-** The utility company shall place a readily identifiable and suitable marker at each right-of-way line where it is crossed by any:

- a. High pressure gas or liquid petroleum line, except where marked by a vent.
- b. Communication cables
- c. Water lines
- d. Underground power lines
- e. Cable television and copper cable
- f. Telephone lines

**Methods of Installation-** All lines placed under any existing roadway shall be installed by boring or tunneling. Encasing of the line may be required. No trenching or cutting of the county road is to be done without approval from the Commissioner of the precinct.

The use of explosives for any excavations on the right-of-way incident to utility line installation shall not be permitted.

During installation, all traffic control devices (signs, markings, barricades, etc) must be used to warn motorists of the construction activity and shall conform to the TMUTCD.

**Pedestals-** Above ground pedestals or other utility appurtenances installed as part of an underground commercial line shall be located at or near the right-of-way line, well outside the road maintenance operation area.

**Placement-** No line shall be placed through a culvert (road or access driveway pipe). Parallel water, high pressure gas, and liquified petroleum lines should be constructed on private property. When the line is to cross the county right-of-way and roadway all rules and regulations are to be followed as described within

**Relocation of Equipment-** If future relocation of underground lines shall become necessary for the purpose of widening the road, changing of traffic lane, improving drainage or any other necessity, the equipment installed in the county right-of-way will be required to be relocated. The Commissioner in the Precinct where the work is to be performed shall be given a written 45-day notice before the date the relocation is to be made. This notice will identify the equipment to be relocated and shall indicate the location of the right-of-way where the person may re-install the equipment. The person shall pay the cost of repairing any damage made to the county road damaged by the relocation, and Van Zandt County will not be held responsible for any liabilities and expenses incurred from the relocation of any said utility line.

**Traffic Structures-** The attachment of utility lines to bridges and separation structures is discouraged, since the proliferation of such lines and their maintenance constitutes a hazard to traffic as well as complicating the widening of or repair of such structures. Therefore, no lines shall be placed within 50 feet of either end of a bridge unless otherwise approved by the Commissioner of the Precinct in which the work is being performed, in writing.

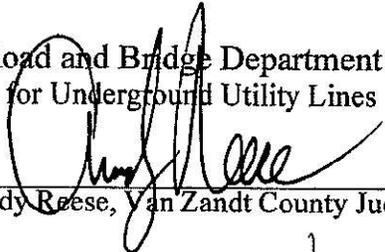
#### Guidelines of Buried Utility Lines

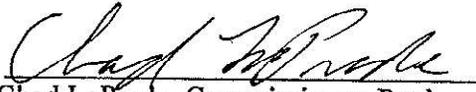
1. The Commissioner of the Precinct in which the work is being performed must be notified prior to the beginning of construction. Notice must be made no later than 48 hours prior to commencing construction.
2. All damage to the roadway and county right-of-way will be required to their original condition and to the satisfaction of the Commissioner of the Precinct in which the work is being performed.
3. Van Zandt County reserves the right to require Applicant to relocate, or lower, any such line at no cost to the Van Zandt County, should any alterations or road changes become necessary.
4. Van Zandt County is not responsible for any damage that might occur to any existing utility line in the County right-of-way, or future line placed in the county right-of-way.
5. The utility shall be placed and maintained on the County right-of-way in accordance with all governing laws, rules, and regulations.
6. All depths of utility lines must be as required and approved.
7. All roads shall be bored in accordance with the Utility Accommodation

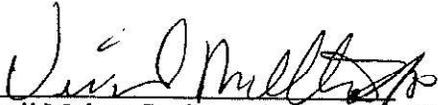
Policy of the Texas Department of Transportation.

8. All work sites will be barricaded during the construction period. No open holes in the county road shall be left unattended or un-barricaded during and after construction period.
9. Construction shall be in strict accordance with the latest Texas Manual Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways, published by the Texas Department of Transportation, and all other State and Federal laws governing utility construction.
10. Overhead lines will have a minimum clearance of 18 feet above the road surface at the point of crossing.
11. Utility companies shall install adequate erosion control measures for any excavation work being performed.
12. Operations along roadways shall be performed in such a manner that all excavated material is kept off the pavement during construction, as well as all operating equipment and materials. Do not use equipment or installation procedures which will damage any road surface or structure. The cost of any repairs to road surface, roadbed, structures or other right-of-way features as direct result of this installation will be borne by the owner of this line.

Van Zandt County Road and Bridge Department  
Rules and Regulations for Underground Utility Lines

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge Andy Reese, Van Zandt County Judge

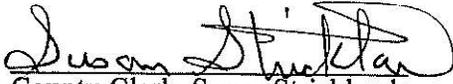
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chad LaPrade, Commissioner, Pct.1

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Virgil Melton Jr, Commissioner, Pct.2

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Keith Pearson, Commissioner Pct.3

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brandon Barton, Commissioner, Pct.4

Date Passed August 16, 2023

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk, Susan Strickland

NOTICE OF PROPOSED INSTALLATION  
of PIPE AND/OR UTILITY LINES

TO: Van Zandt County Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ . Precinct # \_\_\_\_\_  
121 E. Dallas St, Room 207  
Canton, Texas 75103

Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Formal notice is hereby given that: **Company/Entity** \_\_\_\_\_  
proposes to bore/bury a **(type of Utility)** \_\_\_\_\_  
within the right-of-way of **VZ County Road/ Roads** \_\_\_\_\_  
as follows:

The location and description of the proposed line and appurtenances is more fully shown by three copies of drawings attached to this notice. The line will be constructed and maintained on the County right-of-way as directed by the Commissioner of the Precinct in which the work is being performed in accordance with current Van Zandt County specifications. Construction of this line will begin on or after (Date) \_\_\_\_\_ and will be completed within 90 days of the date of approval. A written request for an extension must be submitted if project is not completed within the 90 days.

It is expressly understood that the Van Zandt County Commissioners Court does not purport, hereby, to grant and right, claim, title, or easement in or upon this county road/roads; and it is further understood that in the future should for any reason Van Zandt County need to work, improve, relocate, widen, increase add to or any manner change the structure of this right-of-way line, this line, if affected, will be moved under the direction of the Commissioner of the Precinct in which the work is being performed and shall be relocated at the complete expense of the owner. Van Zandt County shall be notified a minimum of 48 hours prior to the beginning of any work. All work on the county right-of-way shall be performed in accordance with the instructions of the Commissioner of the Precinct in which the work is being performed. The installation shall not damage any part of the road and adequate provisions must be made to cause minimum inconvenience to traffic and adjacent property owners. The Company shall follow the INSTALLATION OF PIPE AND/OR UTILITY LINES guidelines. Any variation from these requirements must be approved by the Commissioner of the Precinct in which the work is being performed in writing.

Company \_\_\_\_\_ By \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_  
City, ST, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: This form(page) is the be submitted in duplicate for each proposed installation.**

For County Use:	
APPROVED: _____	Ratified by Commissioners Court
Commissioner Precinct # _____ Date: _____	Date: _____