

Water Service Tubing

Submitted by Robert Lamb, Ph.D., P.E.

Consulting Engineer

Austin Water Utility

The Austin Water Utility will immediately allow HDPE in lieu of copper for water service tubing and will eliminate the requirements for the water main to be put behind the curb or the service tubing to be placed in a PVC casing as is currently specified in Standard 520-14 for the HDPE. In other words, HDPE will be a direct replacement for copper. We will be deleting Standard 520-14 and we are developing Standards for HDPE services that will look exactly like the ones now specifying copper. These changes will ultimately be adopted through the City's rule-making process. In the meantime, we will allow use of HDPE as a way of reducing construction costs. As of January 1, we have revised and new Standard Products Lists for this tubing and related appurtenances (See SPL WW-65, 65A, and 65B). All HDPE services will be 2-inch diameter.

Anyone wishing to use HDPE will need to work closely with the AWU plan reviewers to make sure everything is made clear in the project construction drawings.