

**SECTION 01520**

**HIGHLIGHTS OF UTILITY ACCOMMODATIONS  
ALONG STATE HIGHWAYS (7/2000)**

1.01	UNDERGROUND UTILITIES .....	1
1.02	ABOVE GROUND UTILITIES .....	1

## SECTION 01520

### HIGHLIGHTS OF UTILITY ACCOMMODATIONS ALONG STATE HIGHWAYS (7/2000)

#### PART 1 - GENERAL

*Note: The following is a brief overview of the utility accommodation standards along all State highways. More comprehensive standards may be found at the following web site: <http://www.state.me.us/mdot/utility>. Please be advised that a new Utility Accommodation Manual is currently under development and will supersede many of these policies by the end of the year.*

#### 1.01 UNDERGROUND UTILITIES

- A. Presently, the minimum depth of cover for underground utilities within the right-of-way limits is **24 inches**, however, this is being increased to **36 inches** with the upcoming policy because the 24 inch depths tend to conflict with maintenance and highway reconstruction.
- B. All gas lines must be installed with a minimum depth of cover of **36 inches**.
- C. All electric lines must be installed in conduit at a minimum depth of **30 inches**.
- D. All non-metallic installations (i.e. plastic gas lines) must have a metal wire buried directly above them to aid in future detection.
- E. All underground electric and gas installations installed by open cut must have warning tape installed roughly 18 inches directly above the facility.
- F. Underground electric services located within the highway right-of-way and installed by open cut must have a 6-inch concrete cap directly over the facility.

#### 1.02 ABOVE GROUND UTILITIES

##### Offsets:

- A. **Rural:** Minimum offset of **10 feet from the edge of travel way** (solid white line) or **6 feet from the edge of shoulder**, whichever is further from the roadway. Since most travel lanes are 11-12 feet wide, this means that most poles in rural areas may not be located any closer than 21 feet from the centerline (unless behind guardrail or curb in a low speed area). This 21-foot offset assumes a shoulder width of four feet or less. As the shoulder width increases beyond four feet, the pole offsets increase as well. Please note that shoulders may be paved or gravel
- B. **Urban:** (Speed limits of 35 MPH or less) Minimum offset of 3 feet from edge of shoulder when no curb is present. When curb is present, a minimum offset of 1 foot behind the face of curb may be used, however, greater offsets are preferred whenever possible.
- C. **Projects:** Pole offsets may be greater than those listed in the previous two bullets when associated with highway projects funded with state and/or federal funds. Please refer to the MDOT Policy on Above Ground Utility Locations at the web site listed above for more details.
- D. **Islands:** Poles are not permitted within the center of a traffic circle or in traffic islands
- E. **Ditches:** Poles are not permitted within **2 feet** of a ditch centerline -they must be placed at least two feet behind the ditch.
- F. **Guardrail:** Poles behind steel beam guardrail must be set a minimum of **3 feet** behind the back of the guardrail post.
- G. **Culverts:** Poles are not permitted within **8 feet** from the end of a culvert.

---END OF SECTION 01520---