TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

WATER SUPPLY DIVISION STAFF GUIDANCE

Potable Water Transfer Lines

Rules Affected: 30 TAC §290.44(d)

Background:

Section 290.44(d) in our current Rules and Regulations for Public Water Systems relates to minimum pressures within a public water system (PWS). Some PWS officials and consulting engineers have had concerns about the minimum requirements for PWSs distribution lines to maintain 35 pounds per square inch (psi) of pressure. These concerns are valid and a distinction between potable water distribution lines and potable water transfer lines is necessary. The following definitions and guidance have been established:

Definitions:

1. A potable water **distribution line** is any conveyance used to deliver treated, potable water *under pressure* to any system customer or customers. A distribution line is subject to the minimum pressure requirements contained in §290.44(d).
2. A potable water **transfer line** is any conveyance used exclusively for the transfer/delivery of treated, potable water from a supply clearwell or ground storage unit to a destination storage unit through an air-gap. The transfer line must only have connections to tanks through an air-gap. The transfer line cannot have pressurized service or tank connections such as a service connection to a home.

Guidance:

Potable water transfer lines shall be designed to maintain a minimum internal pressure of 5 pounds per square inch gage (psig) above any expected local external hydrostatic pressure under all normal conditions. This minimum pressure requirement applies even during periods when there is no flow in the line. Pressure studies shall be provided by the system's design engineer during the plan review process. Field investigators are not required nor are they expected to determine compliance with minimum transfer line pressures during comprehensive compliance investigations or other onsite inspections.

Finalized and Approved by:

Ada Lichaa

Ada Lichaa, Plan and Technical Review Section Manager, 12/19/2012

If no formal expiration date has been established for this staff guidance, it will remain in effect until superseded or canceled.

Revision History

Date	Action	Action by
4/1/2004	Approved	Buck Henderson
12/1/2012	Revised	Marlo Wanielista Berg
12/12/12	Approved	Ada Lichaa