SECTION 31 23 33

EXCAVATING, TRENCHING, AND BACKFILLING

All excavation will meet the most current OSHA Regulations. See SECTION 31 50 50 – TRENCH SAFETY for trench safety requirements.

PART 1 - GENERAL

1.1 DESCRIPTION

A. The work to be performed under this Specification shall consist of furnishing all labor, equipment and materials and performing all operations in connection with the excavating, trenching, and backfilling for pipelines as shown on the plans and as specified herein.

1.2 MEASUREMENT AND PAYMENT

A. All trench excavation, backfill and compaction are not considered pay items. Payment for these items shall be included in the unit price laid in the Proposal for each size of pipe at their respective depths. This unit price shall be full remuneration for performing the trench and backfill complete including grading, bell holes, sheeting, dewatering, tamping, and water soaking; and including the furnishing of sewer pipe, all equipment, labor, materials, power, teams, tools, and transportation necessary or incidental thereto; but not including tunneling, or boring, all of which will be paid for extra.

PART 2 – PRODUCTS

2.1 MATERIALS

A. Materials for pipe embedment will meet TCEQ Regulations for depth of bury and class of pipe and City of Bryan/City of College Station Unified Embedment Details as shown on the Plans.

B. Concrete (For encasement or blocking) See SECTION 03 30 00 - CONCRETE.

Material shall conform to ASTM C94. The compressive strength of the concrete shall be at least 2,000 psi and shall contain at least four (4) sacks of cement per cubic yard.

C. Cement stabilized sand. See SECTION 31 23 23.53 – CEMENT STABILIZED SAND BACKFILL.

2.2 TESTING REQUIREMENTS

A. Compaction tests for all backfill may be required for every 200 linear feet of trench and for each twelve-inches (12”) vertically. Density tests, shall be measured as one unit for each test. The Owner shall pay for Geotechnical tests ordered that meet the requirements of the plans and specifications. Failed tests shall be charged to the Contractor. Refer to City Standard Trench Detail for compaction effort requirements.

PART 3 – EXECUTION

3.1 CONSTRUCTION METHODS

A. CONTROL OF WATER

Provide sufficient pumping equipment, in good working order, available at all times to remove any water that accumulates in excavations. When the excavation crosses a drainage pathway, the contractor shall provide for means of alternate drainage. The discharge of dewatering equipment shall not cause damage to private or public property.

B. SHEETING, SHORING, AND BRACING

See SECTION 31 50 50 – TRENCH SAFETY.

In caving ground, or in wet, saturated, or flowing materials, the contractor shall sheet, shore, or brace the sides of the trench so as to maintain the excavation properly in place. When excavations are made adjacent to existing building or other structures or in paved streets, particular care must be taken to adequately sheet, shore, and brace the sides of the excavation to prevent undermining of, or settlement beneath, the structures or pavement. Underpinning of adjacent structures or pavement shall be done by the Contractor at his own cost and expense, in a manner satisfactory to the Engineer and when required by the Engineer. The pavement shall be removed, the void satisfactorily refilled and compacted, and the pavement replaced by the Contractor. The entire expense of such removal and subsequent replacement thereof shall be borne by the Contractor. Sheeting, shoring, and bracing shall not be left in place, unless otherwise provided for in the contract or authorized by the Engineer. The removal of sheeting, shoring and bracing shall be done in such a manner as not to endanger or damage either new or existing structure, private or public properties, and so as to avoid cave-ins or sliding of the banks. All holes or voids left by the removal of the sheeting, shoring, or bracing shall be immediately and completely filled and compacted with suitable materials.

C. GUARANTEE

1. Guarantee the backfilling of excavation and trenches against settlement for a period of one (1) year after the final completion of the contract under which the work is performed.
2. Make all repairs or replacements made necessary by settlement, including refilling, compacting, and reseeding or resodding the upper portion of the ditch and repairing broken or settled pavements, driveways, and sidewalks within five (5) days after notice from the Engineer.

D. PREPARATION

1. Site Preparation

Prepare the construction site for construction operations by removing and disposing of all obstructions and objectionable materials in accordance with contract documents.

2. Alignment, Grade and Minimum Cover

   a. General

      The water and sewer mains shall be laid and maintained to lines and grades established by the plans and specifications with fittings, valves, hydrants, manholes and clean-outs at the required locations, unless otherwise pre-approved by the Engineer. Valve-operating stems shall be oriented in a manner to allow proper operation. Hydrants shall be installed plumb.

   b. Cut sheets shall be provided to the City's Inspector. The contractor shall determine the alignment and grade or elevation of the pipeline from offset stakes. Offset stakes shall be placed every 100 feet. The contractor shall also provide a continuous chalk line along the alignment of the trench for use by the operator of the excavating equipment. The contractor shall provide a laser beam and grade pole to assist in grading the ditch to the proper elevation.

   c. Should the ditch be graded below the required elevation, bring subgrade to the required elevation with cement stabilized sand or rounded pea gravel. The use of excavating materials for this application will not be allowed.

   d. Where pipe grades or elevations are not definitely fixed by contract drawings, trenches shall be excavated to a depth sufficient to provide a minimum depth of backfill cover over the pipe. Greater pipe cover depths may be necessary for clearance beneath existing pipes, conduits, drains, drainage structures, or other obstructions encountered at normal pipe grades. Measurement of pipe cover depth shall be made vertically from the outside top of pipe to finished ground or pavement surface elevations.

3. Prior Investigation

   Prior to excavation, investigation shall be made to the extent necessary to determine the location of existing underground structures and conflicts. Care should be exercised by the Contractor during excavation to avoid damage to existing structures.

4. Unforeseen Obstructions

   When obstructions that are not shown on the plans are encountered during the progress of work and interfere so that an alteration of the plans is required, the Engineer will alter the plans or order a deviation in line and grade or arrange for removal, relocation or reconstruction of the obstructions.

5. Clearance

   When crossing existing pipelines or other structures, alignment and grade shall be adjusted as necessary, with the approval of the Engineer, to provide clearance as required by federal, state or local regulations or as deemed necessary by the Engineer to prevent future damage or contamination of either structure.

E. EXCAVATION

All excavation shall meet the most current OSHA regulations.

1. Classification

   Excavation of trenches for pipelines is unclassified. Soils will be classified utilizing OSHA Standards and Regulations. The Contractor shall assume that the site contains the worse type of soils and make provisions for shoring the work area.

2. Trench Excavation

   a. General

      The trench shall be excavated to the required alignment, depth and width and in conformance with all federal, state and local regulations for the protection of the workmen.

   b. Trench Preparation

      i) Trench preparation shall proceed in advance of pipe installation for only as far as pipe will be laid that day.

      ii) The contractor shall keep the trench dry from both storm water and seepage from the sides of the trench. Discharge from any trench dewatering pumps shall be conducted to natural drainage channels, storm sewers or a pre-approved reservoir. Do not discharge into any municipal sewer system without municipal approval. The contractor shall be responsible for cleaning any storm drain system, which was used for dewatering discharge.

      iii) Excavated material shall be placed in a manner that will not obstruct the work nor endanger the workmen, obstruct sidewalks, driveways, or other structures and shall be done in compliance with federal, state, or local regulations.

3. Pavement Removal

   Removal of pavement and road surfaces shall be a part of the trench excavation, and the amount removed shall depend upon the width of trench required for installation of the pipe and the dimensions of area required for the installation of valves, hydrants, specials, manholes or other structures. The dimensions of pavement removed shall not exceed the dimensions of the opening required for installation of pipe, valves, hydrants, specials, manholes and other structures by more than twelve (12”) inches in any direction, unless otherwise required or pre-approved by the Engineer.

4. Width

   See City Standard Bedding and Trench Detail.

5. Bell Holes

   Holes for the bells shall be provided at each joint, but shall be no larger than necessary for joint assembly and assurance that the pipe barrel will lie flat on the trench bottom. Other than noted previously, the trench bottom shall be true and even in order to provide support for the full length of the pipe barrel, except that a slight depression may be provided to allow withdrawal of pipe slings or other lifting tackle.

6. Subgrade in Earth

a. Where a firm and stable foundation for the pipe can be obtained in the natural soil, and where special embedment is not shown on the plans, or specified herein, carefully and accurately trim the bottom of the trench to fit the lower portion of the pipe barrel. The bottom of the trench shall be firm, stable and free of standing water.

b. If water is allowed to collect in an originally dry trench after a reasonable time has passed to complete the embedment of the pipe, as determined by the Engineer, the contractor shall place a minimum of four (4") inches of clean rounded pea gravel in the ditch and pump out all accumulated water before placing the pipe. No deleterious materials will be allowed in the gravel. No extra compensation will be allowed for this work.

c. Where wet, soft, or spongy material is encountered in the excavation at subgrade level, the contractor shall remove such material at the direction of the Engineer and replace it with crushed stone of sufficient quantity such that when fully compacted, the subgrade is firm and stable.

7. Subgrade in Rock

a. When excavation of rock is encountered, all rock shall be removed to provide a clearance of at least six (6") inches below and on each side of all pipe, valves and fittings for pipe sizes twenty-four (24") inches or smaller, and nine (9") inches for pipe sizes thirty (30") inches and larger. When excavation is completed, the proper embedment material shall be placed on the bottom of the trench to the previously mentioned depths, leveled and tamped.

b. These clearances and bedding procedures shall also be observed for pieces of concrete or masonry and other debris or subterranean structures, such as masonry walls, piers or foundations that may be encountered during excavation.

c. The installation procedures specified in this section shall be followed when gravel formations containing loose boulders greater than eight (8") inches in diameter are encountered.

d. In all cases, the specified clearances shall be maintained between the bottom of all pipe and appurtenances and any part, projection or point of rock, boulder or stones of sufficient size and placement, which, in the opinion of the Engineer, could cause a fulcrum point.

F. CONCRETE ENCASEMENT

The Contractor shall place 2,000 psi concrete encasement under and around pipe as shown on the embedment detail, and provide necessary anchors to prevent the pipe from floating out of place. The contractor shall remove and relay any pipes that are floated out of proper position

G. BACKFILLING

1. General

   a. The Contractor shall not begin backfilling until approval has been obtained from the Inspector. Backfilling includes refilling and consolidation of the fill in trenches and excavations up to the natural ground surface or road grade.

   b. Backfill shall be accomplished in accordance with the specified laying condition as shown on the plans.

2. Backfill Material

   a. All backfill material shall meet latest edition of ASTM D2321 unless otherwise specified by the Engineer.

   b. If excavated material is indicated on the drawings or specified for backfill, and there is a deficiency due to a rejection of part thereof, the contractor shall provide the required amount of sand, gravel or other pre-approved material.

3. Do not leave trenches open overnight without backfilling to the natural ground level. Steel plates (1/2" in thickness) may be used to cover open trenches only with the approval of the Engineer.

4. Compaction

   Compaction requirements are as specified on the plans.

END OF SECTION