

Frequently Asked Questions

Easement

- Can the line be moved to avoid my flower bed or garden?
 - No, unfortunately any change to the main water lines “alignment” would require approval & restart a long & involved process with multiple agencies. This could take months or years, would delay the project significantly & might cause it to be canceled entirely.
- How wide is the easement?
 - There are two parts to the easements: Temporary to allow for construction which is +/- 20' (40' wide) & permanent to allow access for long term maintenance which is +/- 10' (20' wide)
- How big is the trench or hole to build this main water line?
 - To prevent freezing, the pipe must be buried about 6' deep. The crew must work at the bottom so to ensure safety, typical construction methods would be in an enclosed steel box. The box is 4' wide so the typical trench is dug about 5' wide.
- What happens if I will NOT sign the Easement/ROW as requested by the representative of SAFD2?
 - Most likely it will delay the project, preventing or delaying your friends & neighbor along the route of Phase 2 from obtaining safe, clean drinking water. This is a publicly funded project that improves the quality of life for all participants. SAFD2 has legal alternatives to overcome this problem but we'd much prefer to not go down that path. Legal action, should it be required, will add cost to all involved and potentially delay or cause cancellation of the project (unlikely outcome).
- Will there be variance from where the line is on the easement drawings?
 - The construction team must build the main line according to approved design & as shown on drawings, what we call the “alignment”. As a practical matter, there may be a limited number of situations where it could not be built exactly as depicted, so the construction crew might make very minor adjustments to accommodate special circumstances.

Construction

- What will happen to my driveway? Lawn? Plants/trees? Utilities?
 - The construction Team is responsible for returning everything to its original condition. The crews will take pictures & talk to landowners before starting. Lawn's will be reseeded, plants & trees replaced and driveway cut evenly & repaired to as close as possible to original. If your driveway is in poor condition, the new asphalt will be new & therefore not look the same.
 - They can not replace very large trees so trees will be smaller. This is the standard specification which was written by a certified arborist: Install one (1) native tree of like kind (e.g., deciduous for deciduous, evergreen for evergreen) of three to three-and-one-half inches (3" to 3½") caliper (deciduous) or eight to ten feet (8'-10') in height (evergreen).
 - Utilities will be located before construction.

- How much disruption will construction be? How long will it last?
 - It's hard to say exactly. Typically, the crews can install about 100' to 300'/day of main water line. It depends on conditions and difficulty (swamp, ledge etc). They will try to impact only one lane of traffic & make every effort to avoid closing roads completely, picking alternative routes etc.
- Will this affect my well or septic if they are close to the line?
 - It should not. If something is adversely impacted by construction, the contractor is responsible for correcting. The entire construction project will be supervised by the Engineering Firm responsible for the design & implementation. In addition, SAFD2 is very interested in seeing that the project proceeds as planned ensuring everyone is satisfied with the outcome.
- When will construction begin? When will it be completed?
 - We are currently working on a timeline to get a request for bids out this September & complete all other tasks such that construction can be started in 2023, mostly likely to be completed in 2024. We can NOT go out for bids until we have assured all required ROW/Easements are complete. We must obtain a total of 76, all signed, notarized and recorded in Town records.

Connection

- How can I connect to the water?
 - All information required to hook-up to SAFD2 is contained on our website: <http://www.safd2.org/> (Note: We are in the process of updating & clarifying the instructions & procedure.)
- Is there a different rate for seasonal use?
 - No
- What will my water bill be if I connect?
 - Our goal is to match the SAFD2 water rate, which is in-line with state & local regulator suggested rates. Currently, we feel you can expect to pay about \$250 to \$300/quarter, depending on your usage. Note: about 80% of your water bill is fixed and goes to repay construction of the main pipe line, only about 20% goes to pay for actual water usage.
- Can neighbors share a service line?
 - No, generally this is not allowed. SAFD2 has agreed, under special circumstances (very long runs, difficult conditions etc) to consider requests to allow for construction of "alternate layout service lines" that would entail either a shared trench or service line if special conditions were met: Mutual

ROW/easements signed & recorded, access to individual shut off valves, approved design drawings & approval of SAFD2.

- How many ERUs do I need?
 - You need 1 ERU per residence. If you have 2 homes on one property, you must have 2 ERU's & separate meters. An exception may be granted by SAFD2 in special cases where a "Mother-in-law" apartment is being serviced. If that additional unit (apartment etc) is NOT rented, SADF2 may grant a waiver & allow only 1 ERU.
- What happens if I sell my property?
 - The new owners are committed to remain a customer of SAFD2 water service, as agreed by the owner. Agreement can NOT be terminated & service simply transfers to the new owner.
- Where will my curbstop be?
 - The curb stop needs to be accessible and will be placed in landscaped areas such as lawns or gardens.

- Do I have to wait for all construction to be completed to get water?
 - No, unfortunately the project must be completed PRIOR to applying for an “operating permit” for the new Phase 2 system, from the State & local regulators.
- How much does it cost to put in my service line?
 - We cannot give any type of estimate at this time. Cost will depend heavily on your length & type of soil. Typically, we used to say about \$10/foot, but that was before the latest inflationary period. Recently the 8” blue pipe (main water line) went from ~\$4/foot to more than \$14/foot. This type of construction is heavily dependent on fuel costs which have skyrocketed lately.
If you have shallow ledge & require blasting or insulated pipe, it will be more money. We have several very experienced contractors that can work with you to generate a plan & cost estimate.
Also, SADF2 charges a one-time hook-up fee of \$1500 if a contract is signed PRIOR to the start of Phase 2 construction. This fee goes to \$2500 & the homeowner is responsible for going under the road (if pipe on opposite side) if this contract is signed AFTER construction of Phase 2 has begun.