

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



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Drinking Water Section

DWS Circular Letter #2016-28

To: All Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Applicants
From: Lori Mathieu, Public Health Section Chief *Lori J. Mathieu*
Date: November 7, 2016
Subject: Funding Eligibility of Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Construction Work

This circular letter is intended to clarify the eligibility criteria for construction phase work to be funded under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program. All final eligibility determinations will be at the discretion of the Drinking Water Section.

I. Bid Form

Any non-eligible project components, whenever possible, must be identified as separate line items on the bid form. Exceptions and their specified limits are identified in this memo.

II. Large purchases for Equipment that May be Used on Another Project

Large cost items that are purchased for a project that may be used on another project are not eligible for DWSRF funding. If such items are considered a permanent fixture of the project, they may be deemed eligible for DWSRF funding. Common examples include, but are not limited to:

- Vehicles or construction equipment
- Computer equipment that is not for a specific project

III. Pipe and Paving

a. Other Utility Work

Sewer mains replaced under the same contract as a water main replacement are considered separate projects are not eligible for DWSRF funding. However, any



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necessary sewer work as result of the location of the new water main will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the DWSRF Project Engineer. Any utility work that is ancillary to the project or is necessary due to a conflict with the location of the new water main may be eligible for DWSRF funding.

b. Service Connections

Service connections shall be eligible for DWSRF funding from the curb stop up to the premise plumbing. Costs associated with the installation of service connections, excluding Tees, shall be eligible for DWSRF funding only as a separate bid item from the price of the water main.

c. Payment Widths

The payment width for water main shall be the trench limit as specified in the plans and specifications. If an item bid is for the full road width repair, DWSRF funding will only cover the eligible cost for allowable trench limits. The public water system must provide a tabulation of bid items including:

1. The trench limit percentage.
2. The eligible payment width percentage.
3. The eligible amount of the scheduled value.

This information should be submitted as soon as it becomes available. Loan Agreement Requests will not be processed without this information.

The calculation for the trench limit percentage as follows:

$$Trench\ Limit\ \% = \frac{Trench\ Limit}{Road\ Width} \times 100\ \%$$

The payment width percentage will be the trench limit percentage rounded to the nearest 5%.

The eligible amount of the scheduled value shall be the scheduled value multiplied by the eligible payment width percentage.

d. Soil Excavation and Disposal

Soil excavation and disposal shall be eligible for DWSRF funding as a separate bid item or included in the bid price associated with eligible pipe installation.

If soil excavation is bid as a separate item on a cubic yard basis, it shall be eligible for DWSRF funding within the specified payment limits. Incremental depths may be used, if desired, subject to DPH review.

Excavated soils shall be reused as backfill wherever possible, and not limited to the project area in accordance with applicable general permits, beneficial use practices, and/or regulations.

If soils have been characterized as hazardous waste and its reuse as backfill is not at all

possible, soil disposal shall be eligible for DWSRF funding.

e. Rock Excavation

Rock excavation shall be eligible for DWSRF funding as a separate bid item, by the cubic yard within the specified payment limit. This bid item may include replacement backfill material.

f. Substitute Backfill (Borrow)

Substitute backfill (borrow) shall be eligible for DWSRF funding as a separate bid item, by the cubic yard within the specified payment limit.

g. Processed Gravel Base Course

Processed gravel base shall be eligible for DWSRF funding up to a maximum depth as the public water system's engineer deems necessary to install the water main. This item shall be eligible for DWSRF funding on a linear foot, square yard, or cubic yard basis. If the project includes ineligible sewer work, the public water system must provide a tabulation of relevant bid items including:

1. The depth limit percentage.
2. The eligible payment depth limit percentage.
3. The eligible amount of the scheduled value.

This information should be submitted along with the Authorization to Award Construction Contract Application Checklist or with the Schedule of Values, as applicable. Loan Agreement Requests will not be processed without this information.

The calculation for the depth limit percentage as follows:

$$\text{Depth Limit \%} = \frac{\text{Maximum depth necessary to install the water main}}{\text{Depth as specified in Bid Item}} \times 100\%$$

The payment depth percentage will be the depth limit percentage rounded to the nearest 5 %.

The eligible amount of the scheduled value shall be the scheduled value multiplied by the eligible payment depth limit percentage.

h. Permanent Pavement Restoration

Permanent pavement restoration shall be eligible for DWSRF funding on a square yard or linear foot basis, within the specified payment width.

Permanent pavement restoration shall be eligible for DWSRF funding up to a maximum depth equal to the current AASHTO standard, or the existing pavement depth, whichever is greater. Additional pavement depth required per municipal standards shall not be eligible. If work is performed in a state highway or road, the standards in the ConnDOT *The State of Connecticut Major Traffic Generator (MTG) Pavement Design Catalog* shall

govern.

i. Mill/Overlay

Mill/overlay, as a substitute for permanent pavement, may be eligible for DWSRF funding provided that:

- i. Travel width of full lane overlay is included as an alternate bid item in the bid specifications;
- ii. Both the permanent pavement and overlay are identified in the bid form for cost comparison purposes on a linear foot basis; and
- iii. Mill/overlay is the less expensive pavement restoration method based upon such bid.

If a system opts for mill/overlay but it is more expensive than trench width repair, the municipality may still proceed with mill/overlay, but shall only receive partial eligibility equal to the cost of trench width pavement restoration.

j. Temporary Pavement

Temporary pavement shall be eligible for DWSRF funding on a square yard or linear foot basis within the specified payment width.

k. Asphalt Adjustment

Asphalt adjustment shall be eligible for DWSRF funding on a square yard or linear foot basis within the specified payment limit.

IV. Definitions

AASHTO: American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials

ConnDOT: Connecticut Department of Transportation

DPH: Department of Public Health

DWSRF: Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

Payment Width: The paving width eligible for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund funding.

Payment Depth: The paving depth eligible for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.