

Utility Industry Coalition of Virginia

VOLUNTARY UNDERGROUND UTILITY FACILITY SEPARATION STANDARDS

The Utility Industry Coalition of Virginia recognizes that every year, thousands of new utility lines are placed underground in the Commonwealth, and seeks to establish uniform separation standards to enhance accessibility, maintenance and protection of these underground utility lines.

Thereby, the coalition agrees that this voluntary separation standard does not impede utilities from agreeing to greater separation standards as deemed necessary. The coalition agrees that this standard does not promote or discourage shared trench construction, and the coalition agrees that the absolute minimum separation between all direct-buried electric cable or underground facilities, and direct-buried natural gas pipe or underground facilities shall be 12" radial separation.

GENERAL NOTES

- Utility Industry Coalition separation standards represent electric and natural gas only and apply to both public and private property.
- Utility Industry Coalition separation standards refer to "at time of installation" due to the lack of control by utilities over above-surface construction activity which could cause subsurface compaction to bring facilities slightly closer than their original separation.
- Utility Industry Coalition separation standards apply to new and direct burial replacement construction and compliance shall continue throughout any associated maintenance.

SEPARATION STANDARDS

- The Utility Industry Coalition accepts that if 12" radial separation can be achieved between electric and natural gas facilities, no special precautions are necessary.
- If 12" radial separation between electric and natural gas facilities cannot be achieved or determined, the Utility Industry Coalition commits that a company-approved shield or protective barrier will be applied by the subsequent utility.
- When there is less than 12" radial separation, electric and natural gas facilities and their company-approved shields or protective barriers will be installed in a manner that will provide the maximum amount of spacing that is practical for both utilities to conduct future maintenance after backfill operations are completed.
- Standards for trenchless excavation will follow the above separation standards and will use "test holes" or other methodology to ensure compliance with the standards.

QUALITY CONTROL

- Each utility will take responsibility for ensuring their compliance with these standards.

Effective January 1, 2000