

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### *Is there a maximum length permitted for a water main extension under the General Water Main Construction Permit?*

There is no limit to the length of the main extension. However, the application should only include construction that can be completed *within* the 2-year authorization period. Once the General Construction Permit authorization for a specific project expires, the work that was completed must be certified and “closed out”. A new application will then be required for any remaining work. For example: If a development is planned to be phased, only request a permit for what will be built in the phases that are likely to occur in the first 2 years. If some water main infrastructure will be built, but not put into service because there are no connections for it yet, then that should be made clear in the Construction Completion Certification.

### *Is the Water System permitted to expand – Where do I find this answer?*

This information is contained within the Water System’s Permit to Operate. A copy of this permit can be obtained from the Water System. If the Water System is unable to provide a copy, one can be requested from the Division by contacting Noelle Rizzardi at [Noelle.Rizzardi@vermont.gov](mailto:Noelle.Rizzardi@vermont.gov). If the Water System’s Permit to Operate has not been amended recently, the Water System should reach out to DWGPD staff that conducted the most recent Sanitary Survey to confirm their ability to expand.

### *The “Optional” Technical Design Basis Document(s) Section is showing as “Required”.*

The optional section for Technical Design documents will become *required* if any information is entered in any of the fields within this section. If you would like to remove the requirement, click on the CLEAR button in the upper right-hand corner of this section. It is not possible to submit partial information in this section.

### *Attachments Page: The Project Description is often included in the Basis of Design. In the past, we have not been required to provide separate documents for this.*

It is preferred that the Basis of Design and the Project Description are submitted as separate files. However, you may upload the same file in each section if it contains both components.

### *Attachments Page: The Location map is often included in the Engineering Drawings. Again, we have not been required to provide separate documents for this in the past.*

Engineering Drawings are not required for every application (e.g., General Water Main Construction Permit applications, Minor Amendment applications). Therefore, certain applications will require a Location Map but not Drawings. Submission of a cover sheet or existing conditions plan that contains a location map will satisfy this requirement; this sheet may be uploaded both within the submitted plan set and as a location map.

### *Attachments Page: Hydraulic Calculations are often included in the Basis of Design. Again, we have not been required to provide separate documents for this in the past.*

The separate upload window for the Hydraulic Calculations ensures that this document will be provided when required and will be easy to locate if the project is selected for an internal audit.

*Attachments Page: Does the Division want the Engineering Drawings and Technical Specifications?*

When the project is eligible for the General Water Main Construction Permit (GCP) or the application is for a Minor Amendment of an existing permit, Engineering Drawing and Technical Specification are not required, because these applications do not undergo a technical review. However, the permittee is expected to have a copy of the Drawings and Specifications available upon request for reasons that may include an audit of the GCP application process, or in anticipation of a site visit or sanitary survey. Many applicants choose to upload plans and specifications even when not required, this is fine. If the project will be applying for Wastewater and Potable Water Permits, the Engineering Drawings and/or Technical Specification may be requested as part of their review.

*Is there a place to upload Engineering Drawings and Technical Specifications?*

When the Engineering Drawings and Technical Specifications are a required part of the application, they will be asked for in the "Attachments" section of the application form. If Engineering Drawings and Technical Specifications are not required, these documents can be uploaded to the "Technical Design Basis Document(s)" section (it's the section after Attachments), if desired.

*Is a Permit to Operate (PTO) application required when the construction is eligible for a General Water Main Construction Permit (GCP)?*

A PTO application is not required with a GCP application. The Water System signature attestation replaces the requirement of a PTO application. This is part of the difference between the General Permit application signature page and the Individual Permit signature page.

*Can an expired permit that is now eligible for a General Water Main Construction Permit (GCP) be re-applied for as a GCP?*

Yes, previously permitted projects that now qualify for a GCP can be processed as a GCP. They will not undergo the technical review that the original permit underwent. You will be required to submit a new application with the appropriate signature page and fee payment, and provide the original permit's PID# (e.g., C-1111-22.0).

*Are SPANs required for projects that are located entirely in the public Right-of Way?*

We are working on a way to waive the SPAN requirement for projects located entirely in the Right-of-Way (where there is no SPAN). Until this is in place, enter the SPAN for the nearest property owned by the applicant or Water System.

*I am seeking approval for a variance that will alter the response to a Qualifying Question (for example, connecting a hydrant to a water main with a diameter smaller than eight inches). How should I answer the Qualifying Questions to still qualify for a General Construction Permit?*

If the variance alters the response to the Qualifying Questions in such a way that the project will no longer qualify for a General Construction Permit, then the project should be submitted as an Individual Construction Permit Application.