

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

## Regarding Construction

### 2018 Water System Expansion Project: City of North Pole

1. Will the construction occur on my property?
  - a. Most construction will take place in public road right of ways (ROW). Portions of the construction will be in utility or public access easements located on private property. If construction will be occurring in an easement on your property, you will be notified by mail prior to construction. Please note that the road ROW is frequently much wider than the developed roadway, and easements and property lines may be different than assumed. Property lines and easements will be marked by a surveyor prior to construction to make sure that encroachments outside of the ROW or easements do not occur. Construction workers can be identified by the high visibility clothing they are required to wear.
2. What will happen to the wood being cut from the construction corridor?
  - a. All spruce and birch wood over 6" diameter will be considered salvageable and will be bucked into 6' sections and stacked. If the trees are cut in easements on private property the wood belongs to the person on whose property the wood is cut. If the trees are within the public ROW, the wood is public property. Residents will be given a sign they may place on the wood to "claim" it, but the Contractor cannot prevent others from collecting wood in the public ROW, and residents are encouraged to promptly remove wood in front of their property. Residents interested in claiming the logs will need to remove the wood from the ROW before contractor begins excavation. If not removed by this time, the contractor will dispose of it.
3. What will happen to the trees in my yard?
  - a. Effort was made during design to minimize the impact to neighborhoods including individual properties. In some cases, cutting trees in the ROW or utility easements on private property is unavoidable. Tree stumps in forested areas will be cut close to the ground. Tree stumps in established lawns will be removed or ground and debris removed. The lawn area will be reclaimed with topsoil and lawn seed following construction. Trees within the ROW or utility easements will not be replaced.
4. How will my driveway be impacted by construction?
  - a. Driveways that are disturbed will be rebuilt with compacted gravel and resurfaced with a material similar to the existing material. If the driveway includes a culvert which is disturbed by construction it will be replaced.
5. How long will area in front of my property be disturbed?
  - a. Initial disturbance may occur during tree clearing in the early spring. The contractor will notify residents via door hanger at least one week prior to clearing, and again prior to excavation in a neighborhood. Following installation of the water line, restoration should occur within several weeks. The current project will be installing just the water mains.

6. Will access to my home be blocked at any point during construction?
  - a. The contractor will be working to establish traffic control and access plans into and out of project area properties at all times, including providing safety personnel, flagging and detours. There may be limited times when access to homes is briefly blocked. The contractor will contact residents and coordinate the access interruption, and arrange for temporary or alternate access. In general, access to any blocked property will be restored in less than 12 hours.
  
7. What will the construction site look like after it is complete?
  - a. Developed lawns areas that are disturbed by construction will be smoothed out, topsoil added, and reseeded with a hydroseed lawn mix. In brush, forested and similar non-lawn areas, large debris will be removed, and the existing soil seeded with a native seed mix. If large items such as inoperable vehicles or equipment have to be moved to allow construction these items will not be placed back over the water line because they would prevent maintenance or repair of the pipeline.
  
8. What will happen to my fence and landscaping that is within the ROW or easement?
  - a. Site improvements that must be removed to allow construction will be replaced to at least their original condition. Fences will be replaced in their original locations, or moved to the property line or ROW line if originally located in the ROW. Permanent items such as sheds or other structures cannot be placed over the water line.
  
9. When is construction happening in my neighborhood?
  - a. Construction in Zone 1 & 2 is planned to occur in 2018, beginning in February. Within Zone 3 & 4, construction is planned for 2019. Limited portions of Zone 3 and 4, especially wetlands areas, may be constructed in winter of 2018. Residents will be notified by the contractor via door hangers at least a week prior to clearing beginning and again a week before excavation. A construction schedule is available on the City of North Pole website: [www.northpolealaska.com/projects](http://www.northpolealaska.com/projects) or via the construction contractor's project update website: [fb.me/2018watersystemexpansionproject](https://fb.me/2018watersystemexpansionproject).
  
10. What should I do if there is damage to an improvement on my property?
  - a. If damage to an improvement on your property is not repaired to your satisfaction you may contact Rebecca Matar at Exclusive Paving, 907-490-1347 (office), 907-322-2226 (mobile).
  
11. When will I be able to connect to the system?
  - a. It is currently anticipated that individual properties adjacent to the first new water mains will be eligible for connection in 2019. Details regarding the process for connecting services are still in development. Property owners will be notified when access to connect to the distribution lines is available in their neighborhoods.
  
12. Will my mailbox be impacted by construction?
  - a. Mail service will not be interrupted by construction. However, temporary mailboxes may be established while excavation is underway. Mailboxes disturbed by construction will be reset, or replaced with a new mailbox constructed to State of Alaska and US Postal Service standards.

Additional information regarding the history and plans for this project can be found at <http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/sites/north-pole-refinery>