KNOXVILLE UTILITIES BOARD

DESIGN GUIDE FOR CONSTRUCTION APPROVAL FOR WASTEWATER GRAVITY SYSTEMS

4th EDITION
September 2025

KUB | KNOXVILLE UTILITIES BOARD

Introduction to Design Guide for Wastewater Systems

The purpose of this document is to assist developers and design firms with successfully completing wastewater designs for proposed developments. This guide offers a standard set of templates that are proposed for wastewater system designs and outlines the minimum submittal information considered to be required by KUB for new systems such as subdivisions, extensions, upgrades, etc. The purpose of this guide is to improve the efficiency of reviews by reducing the number of re-submittals by the developer's design firm. Project submittals such as construction documents and associated calculations must be prepared according to this design guide.

As a general rule, each submittal should include one pdf copy of the design (also send a copy of the storm water and grading plans with the proposal) to KUB. Once reviewed, the design will be returned to the designer with comments for revisions. Once the plans are ready for approval, KUB will stamp the plans with a red approved for construction stamp and will return the plans with a letter, pending TDEC fees and utility agreements.

Documents Contained in this Design Guide

Several items located in this package can help assist designers in document submittal requirements when preparing proposed wastewater plans and calculations. This guide is divided into several sections. The sections include parts A through E and I, focusing on required checklists that are used to approve general wastewater design projects, Sections F through H focusing on required checklists that are used to approve wastewater as-built submittals, and the latter sections give various wastewater design examples that relate to the previous checklist requirements mentioned.

<u>Proposed Construction Approval for Wastewater Gravity Drawing Requirements (Sections A-H)</u>
There are sets of wastewater design checklists that are used to review the plans in order to improve the efficiency of the review process. It is important that the designer view the checklist items before project submittal to KUB. If an item on the checklist is not identified in the project submittals, the plans will not be approved and will have to be corrected. Note that Sections A-H should be used for gravity wastewater sewer designs. The "Required Documents for Wastewater Submittals" page outlines all the required checklist items relevant to the type of design.

<u>Additional Resources for Construction Approval of Wastewater Gravity Systems</u>
KUB has provided numerous hyperlinks through our webpage to further assist in receiving approved plans. These additional resources include example designs, electronic KUB Logo, calculation templates, etc. Contact Engineering New Service for additional details of accessing this information.

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CHART A-1: Review Process -General Wastewater

Comment Number	**First** Date:	**Second** Date:	**Review Criteria**
1			If submitted design plans are of a project with multiple phases, all prior phases and their respective easements and final subdivision plans must already be approved, accepted, and recorded if this phase will connect to an earlier phase.
2			Provided KUB logo is used.
3			Title Block at the bottom of each sheet must include:
4			-Project name as well as Public or Private
5			- Engineer's company, address and phone number
6			- Engineer's stamp (signed and dated)
7			- Developer's name, address, and phone number
8			- Sites platted address prior to subdivision
9			North Arrow on all sheets
10			Vicinity Map (Upper right-hand corner)
11			Provide a summarized table of property units for proposed public portion on front sheet only.
12			Check GIS for existing utilities in relation to project area.

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CHART B-1: Review Process -General Wastewater (Plan View)

Comment Number	First Date:	Second Date:	Review Criteria
13			Plan scale can be any scale used from a standard engineering scale, such as 1"=20', 1"=50', 1"=100', etc.
14			All existing public utilities and associated easements are shown where appropriate (i.e. water, sewer, gas, electric, storm, etc.)
15			Bold all proposed Public wastewater utilities and features and reduce line weight for other utilities in order to clarify the project's items of interest.
16			Represent existing wastewater mains by dashed lines. (Refer to provided drawing legend.)
17			Represent proposed wastewater mains by solid continuous lines (Refer to provided drawing legend.)
18			Station 0+00 is located at the downstream end of the wastewater main.
19			Location where project/phase completion will occur is clearly shown (i.e. E.O.L..)
20			Clearly label line designations throughout proposed project
21			Clearly indicate the location and station number of all important appurtenances. Manholes (existing and proposed) are described by the line stationing (i.e., MH STATION 0+50) and the KUB MH number for existing manholes.
22			Clearly label each proposed pipe's material and size. Including pipe length on profile view
23			Minimum pipe size shall be 8-inch diameter for gravity wastewater mains
24			Clearly indicate locations of storm water mains, catch basins and detention ponds (existing and proposed).
25			All Stormwater mains not running parallel to sewer mains are shown in profile view.

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CHART B-2: Review Process -General Wastewater (Profile View)

Comment Number	First Date:	Second Date:	Review Criteria
26			Plan scale can be any scale used from a standard engineering scale, such as 1"=20', 1"=50', 1"=100', etc.
27			All existing public utilities and associated easements are shown where appropriate (i.e. water, sewer, gas, electric, storm, etc.)
28			Bold all proposed public wastewater utilities and features and reduce line weight for other utilities in order to clarify the project's items of interest.
29			Represent existing wastewater mains by dashed lines. (Refer to provided drawing legend.)
30			Represent proposed wastewater mains by solid continuous lines (Refer to provided drawing legend.)
31			Station 0+00 is located at the downstream end of the wastewater main and is on the left side of each drawing sheet.
32			Location where project/phase completion will occur is clearly shown (i.e. E.O.L..)
33			Clearly label line designations throughout proposed project
34			Clearly indicate the location and station number of all important appurtenances. Manholes (existing and proposed) are described by the line stationing (i.e., MH STATION 0+50) and the KUB MH number for existing manholes.
35			Clearly label each proposed pipe's material and size. Including pipe length on profile view
36			Minimum pipe size shall be 8-inch diameter for gravity wastewater mains
37			Clearly indicate locations of storm water mains, catch basins and detention ponds (existing and proposed).
38			All Stormwater mains not running parallel to sewer mains are shown in profile view

CHART C-1: Review Process - General Wastewater (Site Plan View)

Comment Number	First Date:	Second Date:	Review Criteria
39			Rights-of-way (ROW), edges of pavement, driveways and property lines are shown and labeled.
40			Existing and proposed streets and street names are shown (actual street names used) if known.
41			Future development in adjacent parcels is addressed in the design by either providing easements for future extensions or extending utilities to allow immediate access for future phases.
42			Show all building footprints and other proposed structures such as pool, garage, clubhouse, etc., on drawing plan that impact the design.
43			Existing houses shall be given consideration during the design of the proposed wastewater system. Finished floor elevations (FFE) and basement elevations for existing houses shall be shown on drawings as required.
44			Show vegetation.

Main and Lateral Locations

			Do Install
45			Street right-of-ways
46			Easements
			Don't Install
47			Paved areas
48			Easements may not encroach upon berms or any crossing detention basins
49			Wastewater mains shall not be installed in the same trench with other utilities unless approved by KUB Engineering in writing prior to the preparation of design plans.

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CHART C-2: Review Process - General Wastewater (Site Plan View) (continued)

Horizontal Separation

50			Horizontal separation between water and wastewater mains is at least 10 feet
51			Minimum horizontal separation shall be greater than or equal to 3 feet between the sanitary sewer and storm water sewer mains measured from the outside of the pipes.
52			When horizontal separations are less than 3 feet, the sanitary sewer pipe material specifications shall be C900 or C905 (SDR 18) PVC Pipe, or Class 150 Ductile Iron Pipe with Protecto 401. Pipe sections between manholes shall be the same material.

Manholes

53			Clearly indicate the delta angles at each manhole to indicate direction of the up-stream sewer main (Delta angles shall be 90 degrees or less)
54			Indicate GPS coordinates for all proposed sanitary sewer manholes. (Please use NAD_1983_HARN_StatePlane_Tennessee_FIPS_4100_Feet)

Laterals

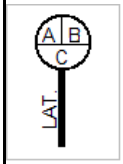
55			Clearly present the proposed locations of all proposed laterals.
56			Each customer (lot or unit) shall have its own sewer lateral connection and shall not cross adjacent property lines without an easement.
57			All typical gravity laterals shall have a minimum diameter of 6 inches PVC (SDR 26). Show cleanout locations. Laterals larger than 6" in diameter must be connected to a manhole unless otherwise approved by KUB.
58			Each customer's (lot or unit) sewer lateral length from the main, depth at the main, and distance from the nearest downstream manhole are shown.  WHERE: A = FT length of the lateral from the main to the property line B = FT of depth where the lateral taps into the sewer main C = FT from the nearest downstream manhole

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CHART D-1: Review Process – Profile View

Comment Number	First Date: _____	Second Date: _____	Review Criteria
Profile View General:			
59			Plan & profile can be any scale used from a standard engineering scale, such as 1"=5' or 10' for vertical (profile), 1"=20', 1"=50', 1"=100', etc. for Horizontal.
60			All existing public utilities and associated easements are shown where appropriate (i.e. water, sewer, gas, electric, storm, etc.)
61			Represent proposed wastewater mains by solid continuous lines (Refer to provided drawing legend.)
62			Represent existing wastewater mains by dashed lines.
63			Station 0+00 is located at the downstream end of the wastewater main and is on the left side of each drawing sheet.
64			Location where project/phase completion will occur is clearly shown (i.e. E.O.L..)
65			Clearly label line designations throughout proposed project
66			Clearly indicate the location and station number of all important appurtenances. Manholes (existing and proposed) are described by the line stationing (i.e., MH STATION 0+50) and the KUB MH number for existing manholes.
67			Clearly label each proposed pipe's material and size in KUB format (e.g. 100' of 8" SDR 26 PVC @ 0.5 %). Include pipe length on profile view.
68			Minimum pipe size shall be 8-inch diameter for gravity wastewater mains
69			Clearly indicate locations of storm water mains and all other utility crossings, including diameter and vertical separation distances.
70			All storm water mains not running parallel to sewer mains are shown in profile view.

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CHART D-2: Review Process - Profile View (Continued)

Comment Number	First Date: _____	Second Date: _____	Review Criteria
Vertical Separation:			
71			Vertical separation must be labeled between wastewater mains and all utilities to include water and storm water lines.
72			Wastewater and water mains have at least 18 inches of vertical separation measured from outside pipe to outside pipe.
73			Minimum vertical separation shall be greater than or equal to 24 inches between the outside of sanitary sewer mains and the outside of storm water sewer mains.
74			When vertical separations are less than 2 feet between wastewater and storm water, the sewer pipe shall be constructed with Class 150 Ductile Iron Pipe with Protecto 401, and the lower pipe shall be exposed down to the spring and encased in concrete.
Line Slopes:			
75			Gravity sewer calculations must be submitted including the slope percentage, full flow velocity, Mannings variable, and full flow capacity of each proposed line (see example Table I-1). Minimum slopes based on the size of the main (traditional method) are illustrated in TDEC's Design Criteria Chapter 2 (see Table I-2). Strongly recommend slopes greater than minimum required slope.
76			A-lock gaskets are the standard; however, Z-lock gaskets shall be used when slopes exceed 10%.
77			For gravity sewer where the slope of a sewer line is in excess of 20%, the line shall be constructed of mechanical joint ductile iron pipe with concrete anchors and the pipe joint must be completely encased in concrete.
78			Slopes over 30% are not permitted.
Wastewater Main Depth:			
79			Minimum depth of cover for gravity wastewater lines in roadways and other traffic-bearing areas is 48 inches for PVC, HDPE, and CCFMP and 30 inches for Ductile Iron. In non-traffic-bearing areas (easements), the minimum cover is 30 inches no matter the pipe material.
80			Investigate options to shallow deep mains.
81			Wastewater carried in PVC pipe shall not have more than 17 feet of cover. If over 17 feet, C900 or C905 (SDR 18) PVC Pipe, or Class 150 Ductile Iron Pipe with Protecto 401 coating should be utilized.
82			Maximum depth of cover for gravity wastewater lines shall not exceed 20 feet of cover, unless otherwise approved by KUB.
83			Where applicable indicate fill compaction specifications that meet KUB standards.

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CHART D-3: Review Process - Profile View (Continued)

Comment Number	First Date:	Second Date:	Review Criteria
Material:			
84			When ductile iron pipe must be used on a portion of a new sewer line segment, the entire length of sewer must be installed with Ductile Iron pipe. No flexible couplings will be permitted on new construction to convert to PVC between manholes.
85			Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipes and fittings shall meet or exceed an SDR 26 for pipe from 4 inches to 15 inches in diameter for gravity sewer excluding clean-outs until they are available in SDR 26.
86			HDPE pipes and fittings shall be a minimum of SDR 17 with DIP outside pipe diameters, external green stripe, and heat fusion welded joints for gravity sewer.
Manholes:			
87			Clearly indicate the location of clay water stops on both sides of a water crossing or as directed by KUB.
88			Maximum spacing for manholes shall be 400 feet for pipe diameters of 21 inches and smaller and 500 feet spacing for connecting pipes larger than 21 inches.
89			Manhole rim / surface elevations with correct numerical stationing are shown.
90			All manhole invert (IN and OUT) elevations are clearly shown.
91			If the difference in the invert elevations of two sewers intersecting in a manhole is 2 feet or more, a drop manhole is required. Please indicate whether an internal or external drop is used.
92			Verify that the appropriate A- or Z-lock gasket is used for the particular pipe material (i.e. DIP or PVC).

CHART E-1: Review Process – Easements

Comment Number	**First** Date: _____	**Second** Date: _____	**Review Criteria**
93			All required easements and/or subdivision plats shall be submitted, approved, and recorded before the new wastewater system will be accepted.
94			The deed instrument number shall be clearly indicated on the plans. If multiple instrument numbers exist for the development, then each instrument number shall be listed.
95			Easements are indicated on plans for sewer laterals which cross private property to serve another lot if approved by KUB.
96			With project easements, a 15-foot wide permanent utility easement exists 7.5 feet on either side of all water & wastewater mains as installed, plus an additional 10 foot utility construction & maintenance easement as required, necessary to install and maintain mains.
97			If a joint permanent easement (JPE) with utilities is used rather than public Right of Way, then the JPE must include "with utilities" to remove the requirement for a utility easement.
98			Easements may not encroach upon berms or any crossing detention basins.

CHART F-1: Review Process - Road & Water Crossings

Comment Number	First Date: _____	Second Date: _____	Review Criteria
99			Clearly indicate road bores (casing, carrier pipe sizes, and materials) on both the plan and profile view (see Table I-3).
100			Ductile iron pipe with concrete encasement at all joints or HDPE is used for wastewater transport beneath waterways that have a continuous flow of water or as described in the approved ARAP permit. Use of clay water stops on both sides of waterway are required per TDEC.

CHART G-1: Review Process - Abandonment & Removals

Comment Number	First Date: _____	Second Date: _____	Review Criteria
101			Clearly label abandoned lines throughout proposed project
102			Abandoned sewer pipes 12 inches and larger shall be filled with flowable fill if not completely removed from the ground
103			Abandoned sewer pipes located under existing/proposed buildings are filled with flowable fill if not removed completely from the ground regardless of size.
104			When manholes are abandoned, a note indicates that KUB Standards and Specifications have been met for manhole abandonment.

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CHART H-1: Review Process - Notes

Comment Number	First Date:	Second Date:	Review Criteria
Wastewater Flow Control Notes			
105			Wastewater flow must be maintained in the existing sewers, in accordance with KUB Sewer Flow Control measures. Whenever pipe-laying progresses to the point where this flow must be interrupted, the CONTRACTOR shall plug the sewer upstream of the construction and provide by-pass pumping to the downstream manhole. All downstream pipes, manholes and appurtenances must be tested and acceptable to the OWNER to receive wastewater flow. Discharging raw wastewater to natural waterways will not be permitted. The CONTRACTOR shall provide, maintain, and operate all the temporary facilities such as dams, plugs, pumping equipment (both primary and back-up units) as necessary to intercept the sewage flow before it reaches the point where it would interfere with his/her work, carry it past his/her work and return it to the exiting sewer downstream of his/her work. CONTRACTOR will be liable for clean-ups, fines, and any other problems that may occur.
106			The CONTRACTOR shall submit to the OWNER, for approval, a description of the bypass pumping methodology, and bypass pumping plan before the CONTRACTOR commences sewage bypass pumping.
107			Provide adequate capacity and size to handle existing flows plus additional flow that may occur during periods of a rainstorm. Estimate peak amounts of flow to be bypassed and provide bypass flow capacity of at least 125 percent of peak flow estimate.
108			Operate and maintain flow control system 24 hours per day, 7 days per week including holidays, as required to control flow.
109			Refer to Sewer Flow Control of KUB Standards and Specifications for required submittals and requirements.
Wastewater Construction Notes			
110			Road right-of-ways shall be graded and sloped to required specifications or as approved by KUB prior to staking and installing wastewater mains.
111			The Developer's Authorized Representative shall stake the proposed wastewater main layouts, property corners, and easement locations, etc…prior to construction to allow ample time for KUB's inspectors to inspect the layouts prior to construction. KUB will determine if staking may be required prior to approval of plans.
112			Construction materials must meet KUB specifications. KUB representatives must approve materials submittals prior to construction.
113			Wastewater main installation must be inspected by KUB. Contact KUB field services at least three (3) working days prior to construction at 558-2786. Trenches shall be left open and not backfilled until inspected by KUB.
114			Contact KUB field services at least three (3) working days prior to construction at 558-2786 to inspect from cleanout to structure when project is located outside of City of Knoxville Limits.

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CHART H-2: Review Process - Notes

Comment Number	First Date: _____	Second Date: _____	Review Criteria
Wastewater Construction Notes (continued)			
115			Contractor must have a valid State of Tennessee municipal utility license for construction of wastewater mains.
116			An A-lock or Z-lock gasket shall be provided for each wastewater main or lateral connecting to a new manhole. Each tap to an existing manhole must be mechanically cored and properly booted.
117			The contractor must install laterals installed across streets before any surface cover is finalized to include paving, concrete driveways, etc.
118			Water stops shall be installed on both sides of all stream crossings or as directed by KUB. The stops shall consist of compacted clay at least three (3) feet thick from the bottom of the trench to the top of the trench. The stops shall be cut a minimum depth of two (2) feet into both walls of the trench.
			****NOTE: ONLY INCLUDE NOTE THE FOLLOWING WHERE APPLICABLE**
			Manhole and Main Line Abandonment Procedures:
			Cut all pipes on the outside of the manhole and plug with brick and mortar.
119			Brick and mortar all pipe openings inside the manhole including drop connections and laterals
120			Remove the manhole ring, lid, and grade rings. Disposal of all manhole Materials shall be at the discretion of the OWNER. Precast cones and risers shall also be removed if they are exposed.
121			Manholes shall be filled with backfill material as specified in KUB specifications for Unclassified Excavation and Backfilling for Utilities.
122			Lines to be abandoned that enter an existing manhole to remain shall be cut on the outside of the manhole and the inlets shall be plugged with brick and mortar to ensure a watertight structure.
123			Abandoned pipe 12 inches and larger shall be filled with flowable fill if not completely removed from the ground.
124			Abandoned pipe underneath existing/proposed buildings shall be filled with flowable fill if not completely removed from the ground.
General Wastewater Notes			
125			All sanitary sewer lines and appurtenances shall be installed in accordance with the Knoxville Utilities Board's Standard Sewer System Specifications and Details.
126			Location of all existing utilities is approximate. Contractor shall field locate all existing utilities prior to excavation.
127			All pipes shall be installed in the presence of the Owner.
128			Utilities shall be installed after grading has been completed and approved before any surface cover is finalized to include paving, concrete driveways, etc.

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129			Trench design and safety for pipeline construction is solely the responsibility of the contractor and shall conform to all applicable local, state, and OSHA regulations.
130			Requirements for proper trench and backfill operations must meet or exceed City of Knoxville, Knox County, and TDOT Standards.
131			After completing each section of the sewer, all debris and construction materials shall be removed from the work site as well as smoothly grading the disturbed ground surface on the project site.
132			The Contractor shall obtain plastic warning tape for wastewater mains and bury it one foot above the entire length of each lateral. A 3/8-inch diameter steel rebar shall be driven into the ground at the end of each lateral and painted green. The buried end of the rebar shall be bent to form a hook.
133			Sanitary sewer flow control (KUB Standards and Specifications) requirements are fully understood and implemented in the wastewater project.
134			The appropriate KUB representative must approve any field changes to approved plans before construction.
135			A copy of the latest approved set of utility plans designated by the KUB RED stamp must be present during all times of construction of the appropriate utilities.
Gravity Sewer Notes			
136			Lasers shall be used to install all wastewater lines.
137			All requirements for installation of gravity sewer (KUB Standards and Specification) are to be understood by the contractor and fully implemented in the entire wastewater project.
138			All requirements for sewer laterals (KUB Standards and Specification) are to be understood by the contractor and fully implemented in the entire wastewater project.
139			All requirements for testing of gravity sewers (KUB Standards and Specifications) are to be understood by the contractor and fully implemented in the entire wastewater project.
140			The minimum wastewater lateral has a 6-inch diameter PVC (SDR 26) from the main to the property line or edge of easement.
141			All sewer laterals shall include 6-inch tees of the same material as the sewer mains.

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142			Two-way directional cleanout tees will be required on all laterals. Cleanouts should be located at the property line or easement line in most cases and shall be SDR 35 manufactured by Plastic Trends, Inc.
143			All laterals and cleanouts shall have caps with screwed plugs installed.
144			All sewer appurtenances are required to have watertight fittings.
145			All requirements with flexible couplings and saddle tees (KUB Standards and Specifications) are to be fully understood and implemented.
146			Sewer service laterals shall be connected to cleanouts in accordance with KUB Standards and Specifications.

TABLE I-1: Gravity Sewer Calculations – Example

TABLE I - 1 Gravity Sewer Hydraulic Calculation Sheet

KUB KNOXVILLE

Project:
Location:
Designed By: Date:

Line	Upper MH STA	Lower MH STA	Length (ft)	No. Lats	Sum of Lats	Total Lats Served	Avg Sewage Flow (gpm)	Peak Sewage Flow (gpm)	Manning's n =	Pipe Diameter (in)	Upper MH (elev in ft)	Lower MH (elev in ft)	Sewer Slope (ft/ft)	Sewer Slope (%)	Velocity Flowing Full (fps)	Capacity Flowing Full (gpm)
Line A	0+60	0+00	60.00	1	1	1	2	8	0.013	8	922.00	917.30	0.078333	7.83	9.689181	1518.164

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TABLE I-2: Minimum Slope Percentages (Traditional Method)

Sewer Size (inches)	Minimum Slope* (feet per 100 feet)
8	0.40
10	0.28
12	0.22
15	0.15
18	0.12
21	0.10
24	0.08

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TABLE I-3: Minimum Wall Thickness for Steel Casing Pipe for E72 Loading

Carrier Pipe	Casing Pipe	Nominal Thickness
2	6	0.344 inch
4	8	0.344 inch
6	12	0.344 inch
8	16	0.375 inch
10	20	0.407 inch
12	24	0.469 inch
14	27	0.505 inch
16	30	0.505 inch
18	30	0.505 inch
20	36	0.595 inch
24	36	0.595 inch