

UTILITIES

Draft Methods and Data Report

July 19, 2006



Title VI

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1. Utilities

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this discipline is to identify the impacts of alternatives being considered on privately and publicly owned utilities and to estimate the direct and indirect costs of those impacts. Direct costs are those reimbursable costs that will be borne by the project and indirect costs are those non-reimbursable costs that will be attributed to the utility owner.

Costs to be considered are the actual costs of relocating or modifying a utility to maintain the same potential level of service. Costs for upgrading a utility to increase its capacity, for temporary disruption in availability or to improve reliability are not included.

1.2 Analysis Area

In general, the analysis area is limited to the Primary Area of Potential Impact (API). As appropriate, however, the area will be expanded on a case-by-case basis in situations where the impact to a utility extends beyond the Primary API. **Parametrix to provide a figure showing the Primary API.**

1.3 Relevant Laws and Regulations

There are no specific laws or regulations that pertain to the analysis for this discipline. While the individual utility operators are required to operate under a number of laws and regulations, those that relate to relocating or modifying a utility (typically safety, design, and construction requirements) will be implicitly included in the related cost estimates.

1.4 Data Sources and Data Collection Methods

To assess the impacts on utilities of each alternative, a “database” of mapping and engineering data is being developed using MicroStation (a computer-aided drafting [CAD] software program). The base mapping upon which the utility data is being overlaid includes color ortho-aerial photography, existing highways and streets, and property boundaries.

The types of utilities included in the analysis are:

- Water
- Sanitary sewers
- Stormwater sewers and drainage facilities
- Power
- Natural gas
- Communications (telephone, television, fiber optic, etc.)

1.4.1 Physical Data

An initial list of potential utility owners was assembled through discussions with WSDOT and ODOT staff, Internet searches, and information gathered as part of the proposed Delta Park project. This list was further expanded through discussions with owners of utilities in the vicinity of the project.

Each utility owner has been or will be contacted by phone to set up an initial meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to determine what facilities each owner might have in the project area, especially those that might be considered critical to their operations, and the most appropriate means of providing information on those facilities. Follow-up meetings will be held on an as-required basis to:

- resolve conflicting information;
- obtain additional data considered necessary for this analysis; and
- discuss cost estimates for utility relocation.

As-built data is being furnished by utility owners in electronic and/or hard-copy forms. In addition, WSDOT and ODOT have provided a list and, in some cases, paper copies of permits and franchise agreements for utilities located within the I-5 right-of-way. Also, electronic files were provided for the Delta Park project, part of which overlaps with the south end of the Primary API. The information provided by WSDOT, ODOT, and for the Delta Park project will be used for quality control (QC) purposes.

In most cases, the data provided shows only the general location of facilities. This level of accuracy is considered appropriate for this analysis. Field surveys to locate utilities are not being proposed for this conceptual phase of the project. Such information is not considered necessary to assess impacts and costs of alternatives. Where a greater level of precision is deemed necessary, it will be developed using information on the base map, such as manholes or pole locations, and/or through visual verification. While not part of this phase of the project, it is anticipated that field locates and surveys will be required as the project moves through preliminary and detailed design.

A QC process will be implemented to ensure the completeness and accuracy of the data. Measures will include:

- Back-checking the transfer of information from paper drawings against the original document(s).
- Comparing data provided with permit and franchise information provided by WSDOT and ODOT.
- Overlaying electronic information for the Delta Park project with information provided by utility owners.
- Sending plots to utility owners for verification.
- Conflicting information will be resolved with individual utility owners.

1.5 Significance Thresholds

Not yet determined.

1.6 Long-Term Operational Impacts Approach

Not yet determined.

1.7 Short-Term Construction Impacts Approach

The short-term impacts to a utility will be limited to the cost of relocating or modifying that utility to facilitate construction. As such, the impact will be implicitly included in the costs.

1.8 Cumulative and Indirect Analysis Approach

Not yet determined.

1.9 Mitigation Measures Approach

Not yet determined.

1.10 Appendix

Not applicable.