

SUBSECTION 8.14
UTILITY COORDINATION, DOCUMENTATION, AND MONITORING
RESPONSIBILITIES

A. - GENERAL

In accordance with the provisions of Section 8.00 Prosecution and Progress, utility coordination is a critical aspect to this Contract. This section defines the responsibility of the Contractor and MassDOT, with regard to the initial utility relocation plan and changes that occur as the prosecution of the Work progresses. The Engineer, with assistance from the Contractor shall coordinate with Utility companies that are impacted by the Contractor's operations. To support this effort, the Contractor shall provide routine and accurate schedule updates, provide notification of delays, and provide documentation of the steps taken to resolve any conflicts for the temporary and/or permanent relocations of the impacted utilities. The Contractor shall provide copies to the Engineer of the Contractor communication with the Utility companies, including but not limited to:

- Providing advanced notice, for all utility-related meetings initiated by the Contractor.
- Providing meeting minutes for all utility-related meetings that the Contractor attends.
- Providing all test pit records.
- Request for *Early Utility* work requirements of this section (see below).
- Notification letters for any proposed changes to Utility start dates and/or sequencing.
- Written notification to the Engineer of all apparent utility delays within seven (7) Calendar Days after a recognized delay to actual work in the field – either caused by a Utility or the Contractor.
- Any communication, initiated by the Contractor, associated with additional Right-of-Way needs in support of utility work.
- Submission of completed Utility Completion Forms.

B. - PROJECT UTILITY COORDINATION (PUC) FORM

The utility schedule and sequence information provided in the Project Utility Coordination Form (if applicable) is the best available information at the time of the bid and has been considered in setting the contract duration. The Contractor shall use all of this information in developing the bid price and the Baseline Schedule Submission, inclusive of the individual utility durations sequencing requirements, and any work that has been noted as potentially concurrent utility installations.

C. -INITIATION OF UTILITY WORK

The Engineer will issue all initial notice-to-proceed dates to each Utility company based on either the:

- 1) Contractor's accepted Baseline Schedule
- 2) An approved Early Utility Request in the form of an Early Utility sub-net schedule (in accordance with the requirements of this Subsection)
- 3) An approved Proposal Schedule

C.1 - BASELINE SCHEDULE – UTILITY BASIS

The Contractor shall provide a Baseline Schedule submission in accordance with the requirements of Subsection 8.02 and inclusive of all of the information provided in the PUC Form that has been issued in the Contract documents. This is to include the utility durations, sequencing of work, allowable concurrent work, and all applicable considerations that have been depicted on the PUC Form.

C.2 – EARLY UTILITY REQUEST – (aka SUBNET SCHEDULE) PRIOR TO THE BASELINE

All early utility work is defined as any anticipated/required utility relocations that need to occur prior to the Baseline Schedule acceptance. In all cases of proposed early utility relocation, the

Contractor shall present all known information at the pre-construction conference in the form of a 'sub-net' schedule showing when each early utility activity needs to be issued a notice-to-proceed. The Contractor shall provide advance notification of this intent to request early utility work in writing at or prior to the Pre-Construction meeting. Prior to officially requesting approval for early utility work, the Contractor shall also coordinate with MassDOT and all utility companies (private, state or municipal) which may be impacted by the Contract. If this request is acceptable to the Utilities and to MassDOT, the Engineer will issue a notice-to-proceed to the affected Utilities, based on these accepted dates.

C.3 – PROPOSAL SCHEDULE - CHANGES TO THE PUC FORM

If the Contractor intends to submit a schedule (in accordance with MassDOT Standard Specifications, Division I, Subsection 8.02) that contains durations or sequencing that vary from those provided in the Project Utility Coordination (PUC) Form, the Contractor must submit this as an intended change, in the form of a Proposal Schedule and in accordance with MassDOT Standard Specifications, Division I, Subsection 8.02. These proposed changes are subject to the approval of the Engineer and the impacted utilities, in the form of this Proposal Schedule and a proposed revision to the PUC form. The Contractor shall not proceed with any changes of this type without written authorization from the Engineer, that references the approved Proposal Schedule and PUC form changes. The submission of the Baseline Schedule should not include any of these types of proposed utility changes and should not delay the submission of the Baseline Schedule. As a prerequisite to the Proposal Schedule submission, and in advance of the utility notification(s) period, the Contractor shall coordinate the proposed utility changes with the Engineer and the utility companies, to develop a mutually agreed upon schedule, prior to the start of construction.

D. – UTILITY DELAYS

The Contractor shall notify the Engineer upon becoming aware that a Utility owner is not advancing the work in accordance with the approved utility schedule. Such notice shall be provided to the Engineer no later than seven (7) calendar days after the occurrence of the event that the Contractor believes to be a utility delay. After such notice, the Engineer and the Contractor shall continue to diligently seek the Utility Owner's cooperation in performing their scope of Work.

In order to demonstrate that a critical path delay has been caused by a third-party Utility, the Contractor must demonstrate, through the requirements of the monthly Progress Schedule submissions and the supporting contract records associated with Subsection 8.02, 8.10 and 8.14, that the delays were beyond the control of the Contractor.

All documentation provided in this section is subject to the review and verification of the Engineer and, if required, the Utility Owner. In accordance with MassDOT Specifications, Division I, Subsection 8.10, a Time Extension will be granted for a delay caused by a Utility, only if the actual duration of the utility work is in excess of that shown on the Project Utility Coordination Form, and only if;

- 1) proper Notification of Delay was provided to MassDOT in accordance with the time requirements that are specified in this Section
- 2) the utility delay is a critical path impact to the Baseline Schedule (or most recently approved Progress Schedule)

E. - LOCATION OF UTILITIES

The locations of existing utilities are shown on the Contract drawings as an approximation only. The Contractor shall perform a pre-construction utility survey, including any required test pits, to determine the location of all known utilities no later than thirty (30) calendar days before commencing physical site work in the affected area.

F. - POST UTILITY SURVEY – NOTIFICATION

Following completion of a utility survey of existing locations, the Contractor will be responsible to notify the Engineer of any known conflicts associated with the actual location of utilities prior to the start of the work. The Engineer and the Contractor will coordinate with any utility whose assets are to be affected by the Work of this Contract. A partial list of utility contact information is provided in the Project Utility Coordination Form.

G. - MEETINGS AND COOPERATION WITH UTILITY OWNERS

The Contractor shall notify the Engineer in advance of any meeting they initiate with a Utility Owner's representative to allow MassDOT to participate in the meeting if needed.

Prior to the Pre-Construction Meeting, the Contractor should meet with all Utility Owners who will be required to perform utility relocations within the first 6 months of the project, to update the affected utilities of the Project Utility Coordination Form and all other applicable Contract requirements that impact the Utilities. The Contractor shall copy the Engineer on any correspondence between the Utility Owner and the Contractor.

H. - FORCE ACCOUNT / UTILITY MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

The Engineer will be responsible for recording daily Utility work force reports. The start, suspension, re-start, and completion dates of each of the Utilities, within each phase of the utility relocation work, will be monitored and agreed to by the Engineer and the Contractor as the work progresses.

I. - ACCESS AND INSPECTION

The Contractor shall be responsible for allowing Utility owners access to their own utilities to perform the relocations and/or inspections. The Contractor shall schedule their work accordingly so as not to delay or prevent each utility from maintaining their relocation schedule.