



Illinois Department of Transportation

Memorandum

To: Studies and Plans Squads PPM 50-07
From: C. D. Latham Revised: Tim Brandenburg
Subject: Storm Sewer & Field Tile Responsibilities
Date: August 1, 1988 Revision Date: May 5, 2004

PLAN PREPARATION MEMORANDUM 50-07

BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURE

Based upon IDOT policies and years of District 5 practices, there are three basic situations involving responsibilities for storm sewer within a municipality:

1. If the storm sewers (and appurtenances) were constructed by the State with our original construction of the highway or subsequently, the responsibility for maintenance (cleaning, minor repairs, etc.) normally is given to the municipality by a joint agreement. The responsibility for reconstruction or replacement lies with the State.
2. If the storm sewers were constructed by the municipality prior to the State's original construction of the State highway, the responsibility for maintenance and reconstruction or replacement lies with the municipality.
3. In either of the above situations, the adjustment of the facilities is the responsibility of the State if such adjustment is made necessary by the State's improvement of its highway.

Exception to the above responsibilities may occur due to specific agreements between the local-government agency and the State.

The following are our general practices concerning field tile in rural areas:

1. When a new pavement is being constructed – especially Interstate, Supplemental Freeway, and Primary relocations – exploration trench is utilized to locate existing tile. These tile are replaced within the right-of-way with storm sewer and inspection wells. In some cases, a tile is relocated on private property as a right-of-way consideration, or construction change.

Care should be taken to keep underground water underground and surface water on the surface wherever possible. This is not always possible in cuts due to new ditch lines.

2. R.S. and W. & R.S. construction usually does not involve field tile work. If they do, care should be taken to protect existing tile.

If damage occurs, the responsibility for the repair and/or replacement will be determined by the operation causing the damage (i.e., contractor work habits or plan ditch work, resulting in repair, relocation, or replacement).

Local agencies sometime have a more liberal approach to field tile replacement with their own funds. These cases should be coordinated with the Bureau of Local Roads for funding eligibility.

3. Tile complaints received by any bureau should be coordinated with the Bureau of Operations. The final action decided upon should be based upon as much history of the particular situation as possible.
 - a. Permit – usually delineates the maintenance responsibility.
 - b. Agreement – drainage district, municipality, county township, or private party.
 - c. Highway Plans – original and subsequent improvements give some idea of tile's location and origin.
 - d. Field Investigation – could reveal poor connections or other roadway features leading to present problem.
 - e. Utility Construction – often another party failed to properly repair damage.

4. Field tile that do not directly benefit highway drainage by means of a catch basin, etc. are not considered our maintenance responsibility. Our position on field tile is similar to that of other utilities in that it is the responsibility of the owner to repair any non-functioning existing tile. We will issue a permit to accomplish this. If a catch basin, etc. is connected, shared responsibility may exist.

Often the Bureau of Operations is helpful in locating the problem and doing minor repair or cleaning work on a case-by-case basis. These repairs are done for safety and convenience of motorists and are intended to avoid undue delays in repairing a highway hazard. The repair of these tiles are always done with the understanding that they are not the Department's responsibility.

Exceptions to the above guidelines should be evaluated on case-by-case basis.