DC Water Request for Information Instructions

DC Water will supply a permit applicant or their representative with basic information on the existing water and sewer system which in most cases should be adequate for design. Requests are processed on a first come, first serve basis and there is no process to expedite any requests. The types of available information are as follows:

Countermaps/GIS Snapshot/Water Service Tap Information: DC Water has both water and sewer countermaps. The water countermaps show the sizes, locations, and installation dates of water mains in public space, the locations of fire hydrants, valves, blow offs, and other appurtenances, the sizes and locations of large water services (typically 3” diameter and larger), and references to as-built drawings (hyperlink symbols). The sewer countermaps show the sizes, locations, and installation dates of combined, sanitary, and storm sewer mains in public space, the locations and invert elevations (and occasionally rim elevations) or existing manholes, existing storm inlets, and references to as-built drawings (hyperlink symbols). DC Water also has the ability to print a GIS snapshot that will show the information shown on the countermaps. In some instances, DC Water has limited information regarding small water services, including size, material, date of installation, and occasionally location of the curb stop of the small water service.

DC Water will provide up to four (4) water countermaps and four (4) sewer countermaps for a single location (depending upon location of the project). Requests for countermaps will be processed in 1-2 weeks.

Example countemap:
As-built drawings: As-built drawings can be requested after you have received countermaps. This request must be made in person during a project review (CPR) meeting so that staff can assess what information is available and what is necessary. DC Water has a limited number of water and sewer as-built drawings. The as-built drawings show more detailed information than a countermap shows, sometimes including length and material of pipes, more detailed elevation information, and relationships to other public utilities. DC Water does not have access to as-built drawings for all locations, and some as-built drawings are illegible due to age of the document and quality of the scan. The applicant should call 202-646-8600 and schedule a meeting to discuss and collect available as-built drawings. Allow 2-3 weeks to process.

Example as-built drawing:

Letter in Lieu of Flow Test: A letter in lieu of a hydrant flow test can be requested for small projects with a proposed fire demand of 100 gpm or less. DC Water will provide an applicant with a letter that provides the pressure zone, site elevation, and proposed static water pressure (psi) at a single location. Requests for letters in lieu of a flow test will be processed in 1-2 weeks. There is a separate request form for this information.

If you have any questions about this information, please call our office at 202-646-8600.