

UTILITY COMPANY COORDINATION

Sometimes permanent utility connections, including power, telephone, gas, water, and sewer, involve installation and monthly use fees to be paid to private utility companies. Generally for new connections, the A/E will contact the utility companies and other providers to determine the interest in providing utility service; system capacities, and proposed rate structures, rebates, etc. for the project. The information is addressed in the project specifications. When feasible, the construction contractor is then responsible for connections and service until the building is turned over to the Government.

There may be a dual responsibility for construction (i.e., contractor installs a meter socket and power company installs the meter and primary line) which should be coordinated early in the project between the contractor, utility company, park, and the Washington Contracting Office (WCP) to ensure that the service is furnished when needed and that the fees are paid. Usually, the contractor will arrange for the hookups and pay the use fees until the project is accepted and turned over to the park, at which time the park assumes responsibility. Before the permanent utility connections, the contractor is usually required to provide services at contractor expense. If any questions arise about the utility hookup, the Job Captain and appropriate design engineers should be contacted.

WCP is the NPS Denver-based office that negotiates major utility agreements for some of our projects; their number is 303-969-2353. Coordinate with this office when dealing with utility agreements negotiated by them; contact Project Manager if you are unsure of their involvement.

In some jurisdictions it is necessary to provide a certification to the utility company that the downstream service meets code requirements before energizing (transformers, secondary electric, etc.). When this is a requirement, make sure the work has been appropriately inspected by a qualified inspector and draft a letter for the Project Manager's signature.