

Will County Division of Transportation (WCDOT)
Policy for abandoned and retired utilities
3/29/2016

The County Engineer requires abandoned utilities, regardless of conflict status, be removed from or properly retired in the right-of-way. Utilities not removed are considered retired in place and owned by the utility in perpetuity; abandoned utilities are not allowed.

The Will County Ordinance (Permit and Access Control Regulations) Paragraph 3.1.5-8 states in part, “The County Engineer, in his opinion, may require that utility facilities (underground and above ground) being abandoned as part of the permit work be removed from the right-of-way.”

The following requirements are set forth:

1. Retired utilities under existing pavement (including within 2 FT outside existing pavement):
 - a. If the retired utility is above proposed subgrade (in the cut), the utility owner is responsible for removing and properly disposing of it. Coordinate with the Resident Engineer and contractor to remove during road construction.
 - b. If the retired utility is below proposed subgrade (below the cut), the utility owner is responsible for removing it in its entirety and properly disposing of it. Backfill to the top of subgrade as follows: CLSM (flowable fill) in open cut trenches within intersections and at transverse (perpendicular to centerline) crossings. Trench Backfill in long run trenches longitudinal (parallel to centerline). Coordinate with the Resident Engineer and contractor to remove during road construction.
2. Retired utilities outside existing pavement and within proposed pavement (including within 2 FT outside proposed pavement):
 - a. If the retired utility is above proposed subgrade (in the cut), the utility owner is responsible for removing and properly disposing of it, prior to construction. Backfill with dirt to the existing elevation.
 - b. If the retired utility is below proposed subgrade (below the cut), the utility owner is responsible for removing and properly disposing of it, prior to construction. Backfill with Trench Backfill up to the proposed top of subgrade. Backfill with dirt to the existing elevation.
3. Retired utilities outside existing and proposed pavement - remove utility prior to construction and backfill with dirt to the existing elevation.